

The Parish Pump

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



Issue 171 – Summer 2025

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



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Community News

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Summer Edition of The Parish Pump!

As summer beckons it's time to look forward to cream teas, art exhibitions, concerts, summer fairs, fetes, a musical picnic at Pevensey Castle and much more.

The annual Pevensey Village Fete, plus dog show, is being held at Pevensey Recreation Ground on 27th July, where visitors can browse the many stalls, and enjoy live music from 11am.

A little later in the year the Pevensey Community Information Day provides an opportunity for residents, young and old, to meet some of the many dedicated volunteers who run the wide-range of local groups and organisations.



Pop along to St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, on 27th September, from 10am, to see what's on offer – and maybe discover a new hobby.

My thanks goes to Kay Wickenden, from Pevensey Bay Art Group, for her front page watercolour painting 'Coastal Meadow'.

Finally, another appeal for new

volunteers 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 172 DEADLINE

Local groups and organisations should email details of events and activities between 1st November 2025 - 28th February 2026 to: theparishpump13@gmail.com by

14th September 2025

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

ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

The summer season is now under way. We started with a performance in Tenterden at the Old Dairy. Two weeks later we performed at the Kent and East Sussex Railway 20th anniversary celebrations and appeared on Meridian news! As I write this, we have just performed at The Bell and Jorrocks beer festival in Frittenden.



We have 28 events booked for the season and are very busy. Most of our new dancers and musicians have performed in public and are gaining in confidence with every performance.

Come and see us perform at the following events:

13th July, Gun brewery and tap room 1pm, followed by The Horem Fete; 19th July, St Luke's Fete, Stone Cross; 24th July, The Hassocks Hotel, 7.30pm; 31st July, 7.30pm, The John Harvey Tavern, Lewes; 7th September, Bodiam Steam Railway hop festival; 16th September, The Royal Oak and Castle, Pevensey, 7pm. Other events are listed on our Facebook page.

Shirley Deans





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BAY COMMUNITY HUB

The Bay Community Hub has had a very steady autumn and winter, much busier than last autumn/winter.



Please remember the community library is free to join and free to take out books. We have a wide range of books and also a good children's selection.

Our voluntary car service for medical appointments is as busy as ever. Customers pay a small donation for fuel and the driver will wait for up to two hours to bring you home. All repeat journeys MUST be booked via The Hub for insurance purposes. We would like to welcome our new volunteer drivers.

We are recruiting for volunteer drivers and also volunteers for the library/information centre. We have in total around 35 volunteers combining The Hub and drivers.

The car show (10th May) was as always a big success and a good fundraiser for The Hub and we had over 200 people through our door. Thank you to everybody who supported us on the day and THANK YOU to our volunteers who made cakes etc. and helped out on the Saturday and to all who donated to the tombola.

As it was VE weekend our volunteers were in 1940s fancy dress. We had so much fun.

We have a new range of gifts. There is something for everyone and our jigsaws are now just £1 each throughout the summer.

With summer almost upon us we are looking forward to a busy and, hopefully, hot summer. There is free parking for one hour. Just purchase a ticket from the machine. Wealden have put in two electric car charging points, but at the time of writing they are not yet live.

So please pop in and see us. You can book transport by phone 01323 766230 or drop in to The Hub.

We have an art group using The Hub on Monday afternoons and Inkspot meets the first Friday of each month here. Does your group/charity need a space to meet? If so, contact Derek at The Hub.

Derek V Green
Chairman

BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
ROTHER VALLEY BRANCH

There's a common myth that you don't need to water cacti and succulents – it's not true! An art gallery in St Leonards had a nice *Euphorbia candelabrum*, but on closer inspection it was looking stressed. I was confidently told that it was a cactus (which it wasn't) and that it didn't need watering (which it did).

You should have started watering cautiously at the end of March, but watch for signs of growth before you start to water more regularly – every 1-2 weeks. Never let your plants stand in water. Cacti in particular like to dry out between waterings,

as they do in the desert, and that will encourage them to flower.

Not all cacti will flower on a windowsill so if you want to find out more come along to one of our meetings. We welcome non-members and they are FREE! There are always plants for sale and we provide FREE refreshments. Doors open 7pm, meetings start at 7:30pm.

Please see our Branch website for more information, including the 2025 programme: www.rothervalley.bcsc.org.uk. There you can also sign up to receive our monthly emails (you can unsubscribe at any time) and there are links to our pages on Facebook and Instagram, or just email us: secretary@rothervalley.bcsc.org.uk.

We will again be organising a **Cactus Show** in conjunction with the Alexandra Park Greenhouse Group on **Saturday, 5th July**, and our Branch Secretary will be giving a talk the next day on cultivating cacti and succulents. Come along and say hello, and bring the family for a fun day out.

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

The dry spring caused some anxiety and then, eventually, there was a little bit of rain. Surprising how even a little rain can have such an immediate effect on the greenness of the grass. Already, the beginning of May there are local farmers cutting their grass for hay. Hay, the life blood of our animal farming, is not so much a problem. Remember those days when "Make hay while the sun shines" was frequently heard. We often had hay partly spoilt by being rained on during the making. Now, in the last few years, we have grazed our 5-acre hay field instead of making hay as we have kindly been donated several of these large, half tonne bales. Indeed, as I write, there is a farmer bringing 6 large bales down from Kent, free. Last time he used his car and burnt the clutch out because of the trailer weight. This time he is using a Landover.

We are always pleased to receive visitors by arrangement - 01424 892381.

EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT
LOCAL RSPB GROUP

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



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

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

Our talks (usually on the first Wednesday) are held in St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, and take place in the



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afternoon at 2.15pm and then repeated in the evening at 7pm. The talks last around two hours with a break for (free) refreshments. We have a wide variety of speakers, usually with an illustrated presentation, talking about all aspects of nature.

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

EAST SUSSEX HEARING

East Sussex Hearing is offering free ear health checks.

If you feel you may be suffering from a build-up of ear wax, please contact East Sussex Hearing for advice.

Advice is also available about the microsuction ear wax removal services which are chargeable.

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

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

EAST SUSSEX MOVIEMAKERS

Since the start of 2025 members have resumed meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at St Luke's, Stone Cross, and in the first week of each month meetings have either been at a member's home, or have provided the opportunity to do filming at various locations in surrounding areas.



One of the Club's highlights was a visit by Dominic Hayles, a young professional filmmaker from Hastings. Dominic showed a number of examples of promotional films he has made for various companies, one being a source of gadgetry designed for use in the film making industry. Examples of latest designs in drones, and other less regularly used equipment to enable filmmakers get particular, and often unusual, types of shot. Much of Dominic's work had very fast moving imagery, and was designed for a specific market. He was interested to see examples of filming done by Club members and was complimentary in his comments.

In April, members visited Carters Corner Farm, near Cowbeech on the occasion it was open to the public in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice. The gardens and small lake provided the backdrop for some filming, and the woods adorned with bluebells and celandine provided a contrast setting.

More recently, members were encouraged to look for VE 80th anniversary events at which they might use their cameras, and two members met with a group of Swiss students who were on an afternoon visit to a day centre at Eastbourne's Venton Centre. Footage of the teenage students chatting with the mainly elderly collection of attendees, and joining in singing some of the WW1 and WW2 songs, made a good example of ways in which the age, language, and cultural differences can be bridged.

At the end of May several members went to the annual South East film festival, held each year at the Oast House

theatre, Tonbridge, and in early July a return visit will be made to a friend's Home Cinema in Haywards Heath to watch a commercial film selected by popular demand.

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. For further details please contact Malcolm Webster by phone 01323 769016 or by email: mfw Webster@btinternet.com.

For full details of each meeting, both date, time, and place, please either ring Malcolm Webster, or email Val McManus mcm anusuk@yahoo.com.

EAST SUSSEX VISION SUPPORT

East Sussex Vision Support (EVS), 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.

Our Services

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

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

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

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

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

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



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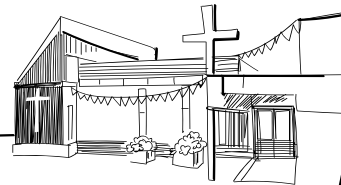
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ECOLOGICAL NOTES

Our Village House Martins

At the time of writing our local House Martins have not yet returned from Africa where they spend winter. No-one knows exactly where they go. So far the radio trackers that have been used by ornithologists to trace the migration of larger birds such as Cuckoos are too big for the tiny Martins. It may be that hunt insects in the sky above rainforest canopies where it is almost impossible to observe them.



Artist Archibald Thorburn's painting of House Martins building a nest



One of the last pairs built this nest near Westham Village Pond

Perhaps they won't come back. There have only been a few pairs nesting in Pevensey and Westham in recent years. These little birds are disappearing. The reasons are probably many. Increased hazards crossing expanding deserts probably take a toll. Flying insects are their food and these are also in decline.

The distinctive mud nests under the eaves and gables of our houses were very familiar to those of us born longer ago. In our villages there were probably hundreds of pairs earlier last century. Today, most of our children will not have seen one.

One way to help them is to install artificial nest cups. It gives them a head start and saves them a lot of energy. If they do make it back here, the village pond is a good place to see them. They swoop down to take midges over the water and flutter down to drink regularly.

Watching House Martins, Swallows and Swifts zooming high in the sky has always been an enjoyable experience on relaxed summer evenings. Those few that we have are probably the last survivors of generations that have bred in our villages for centuries. We should look out for them and be happy if they return each year.

House Martin Conservation UK and Ireland have a web-page and Facebook page with information about House Martins and how we can help them.



Artificial nests put up at Westham Village Hall

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

After the huge success of Squirrel Scouts arriving at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, the Scouts are delighted to now launch Beavers at the same venue – every Tuesday during term time, 5.30pm-6.30pm!



This next section of girls and boys aged 6-8 will master new skills and try new things, have fun and go on exciting adventures, make new friends and help others around them to make a difference to the world. They can achieve anything they set their minds to, and with a youth-led programme, they are sure to enjoy their journey through this next step of their scout journey!

None of this would have been possible without the wonderful volunteers who help this happen and join in the fun each week.

If you are interested in being a part of this too, we would welcome a chat to learn all about you and for you to find out more about Scouts. Whether it's weekly or occasionally, face to face, or behind the scenes, we would love to chat and tell you more. With all the learning you'll need, plus other opportunities to grow and develop your skills, it's a wonderful opportunity with the world's largest youth movement!

If you have any volunteer enquiries, please drop me an email at Kim.Hall@Scouts.org.uk

FOXES HOLLOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Foxes Hollow Residents' Association continues to keep strong looking after the interests of the Foxes Hollow estate. Membership is





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good which gives us funds to carry out additional works as needed to the estate.

If you have recently moved into Foxes Hollow and missed our membership subscription drive in June 2025 then please ask us for information about subscribing as members via the website at foxeshollowestate.com or calling Stuart McMillan 01323 764350.

INKSPOT

Spring, meetings and victories have formed some of the ideas and topics during the early months of 2025 within the INKSPOT creative writing group. We meet monthly on the first Friday between 3pm-5pm at the Library within the Bay Community Hub.

It's a comfortable and accessible venue and often inspiring for both stalwart and new members. We share warm up writing prompt exercises (very informal) and then have a chance to read the result of that month's topical theme which can take the form of a short story, memoir or poem (about 1,000 words for longer pieces).

We've also been able to listen and encourage members who are progressing or finalising full manuscripts with a view to being published. Sharing your precious words can be terrifying but we are a supportive and positive group of like minded writers and readers.

We have learnt from other authors too who have visited and look to other writing groups and literary festivals for keeping us fresh with ideas - eg Hastings Literary Festival and Charleston Literary Festival. There is often information about writing competitions and ideas are shared.

We also look forward to one summer meeting including a Strawberry Cream Tea!

We always have a refreshment break and pay £1 towards that alongside a £1 donation towards the Hub. New members always welcome even if you'd only like to come along and see 'what we are about' or listen.

The next meetings will be on (Fridays) 4th July, 1st August, 5th September, 3rd October.

For further information contact: pcoughlan@btinternet.com or check out our website: www.inkspotbythesea.com

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, there is 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.

THE MINT HOUSE HOME OF SUSSEX FOLKLORE

If any of you follow The Mint House on social media, you will have seen that we have had a rebrand.



Using the magnificent carved fish from the overmantle in the Oak Room as our logo and the new moniker The Mint House – Home of Sussex Folklore. This is the result of our 18 or so months of project work and trialling of events and activities.

Folklore is not just cheese rolling and stories about witches, though they are both folkloric.

Folklore is all of our cultural DNA, it is the stuff that makes us, 'us'.

It can be the stories we told in the playground and repeated down the generations, or the traditions we follow as the seasons change and can now include the memes we see and share on social media. It can include rituals that bind us as families or communities but it is not a religion...though there is religious folklore of all kinds.

We will champion folklore in all its forms and share it with all who visit us while still using this incredible building as the thread that binds all of it together. Indeed The Mint House has its own folklore and stories of which we will be telling more over the coming months.

The Home of Sussex folklore will work with museums and organisations across Sussex (and beyond) in order to bring the objects and stories that celebrate folklore but that also tell us about ourselves, our heritage and our place in the world.

By choosing to focus on folklore we will bring you more, not less, and we will celebrate Sussex in ways that nowhere else does, through creativity, narrative, experience and fun.

Over the summer we will be opening more regularly to give you the opportunity to come and meet us and find out more about what we are planning and what our next steps will be. We can't wait to share these unfolding stories with you.

Jonathan Seaman

Project Manager,

The Mint House

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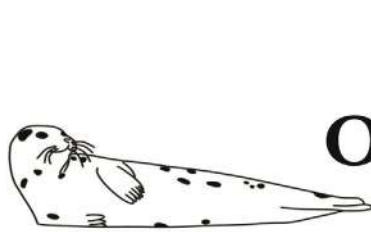
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PARISH OF PEVENSEY ST WILFRID & ST NICOLAS CHURCHES

We are blessed to have two wonderful churches in Pevensey Parish.

St Nicolas is ancient and beautiful and offers a cool, peaceful sanctuary to the large numbers of visitors during the hot days of summer. In the quiet, you may be able to sense the presence of the countless pilgrims who have sat within its walls over 800 years.

St Wilfrid's may not be ancient, but it is still beautiful with remarkable



St Nicolas Church



St Wilfrid's Church



stained-glass windows. One window which depicts Jesus calling his disciples is, unusually, by a woman – Rosemary Rutherford, who was an unofficial war artist. The three others by Arthur Buss, a renowned local artist, depict three saints associated with Sussex – St Richard, St Nicolas and St Wilfrid (pictured). I think they are exceptional and encourage all to come and take a closer look.

Stained glass windows serve as visual aids to tell biblical stories and teach religious truths. They also add beauty and a sense of awe to the sacred space, illuminating the building with colourful light and reflecting the glory of God. In these uncertain and turbulent times, we sometimes need that sense of awe and wonder at something greater than ourselves at work.

News: After several failed rounds of advertising, it has now been decided that Pevensey Parish will no longer be in formal partnership with St Luke's Stone Cross and the Diocese are looking to appoint a priest with charge of St Nicolas' and St Wilfrid's only. When appointed, that Priest will be 'House for Duty' which means although accommodation is provided, a stipend will not. In the meantime, the churches are supported by me with help from retired clergy and Lay Ministers. All services and events continue as normal throughout this vacancy.

We warmly welcome visitors to our services. St Wilfrid's (9.30am on Sunday) is a lovely light church with excellent disabled access. St Nicolas (11.30am) may appeal to those



who prefer a more traditional style of worship with incense and choir accompaniment.

I'm always happy to respond to anyone with queries about marriage, baptisms or funerals. Please do not hesitate to get in touch and keep an eye on our website: www.pevenseyparish.org which is regularly updated with details of all events and services.

Rev. Merriel Woodward

Associate Vicar St Wilfrid's & St Nicolas

Rev.d.merriel@hotmail.co.uk/01323 509891

PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS CLUB

We are experiencing some beautiful weather as I prepare this article and thoughts turn to planting up one's tubs and the garden.

By June all chance of frost should be past and runner beans, courgettes and other tender vegetables, plus those less hardy flower plants can safely be planted out now. If the weather is dry, remember to water so the little plants don't struggle and give a weak feed on a regular basis rather than a strong one now and again to keep the plants flourishing.

If you enjoy things related to gardens, why not come along to our meetings? We have some interesting topics in our programme for the rest of the year including the Sussex Dolphin Project, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and in September 'I Rowed the Atlantic'! All open to visitors. In August we have our members Cream Tea.

See the Diary for details of all these events, or for further information telephone our chairman Keith Henderson on 01323 460523 or email him on bigk6342@gmail.com

Denise Morgan-Smith

President

PEVENSEY BINGO

Our numbers are down a little at present due to holidays, but new people are always welcome.

We open at 6.45pm on Friday evenings and finish about 9.15pm. Eyes down is at 7.30pm.

We have eleven games of bingo, football cards, raffle. Free tea and coffee in the break after 5 games. We also do a £50 draw which is drawn when the sheet is full.

Books of 10 games are £5 and the flyer is £2.

For further information call Peter on 01323 763520 or 07825 050599.

PEVENSEY CASTLE

Sunday, 17th August, 5pm to 8pm, join us at *A Picnic at Pevensey Castle* by Music Box Wealden. There are three mini-music concerts – cellist Rachel Firmager, music for voice for sisters Kitty and Gigi Casey, and medieval instrument ensemble Faronel - held





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

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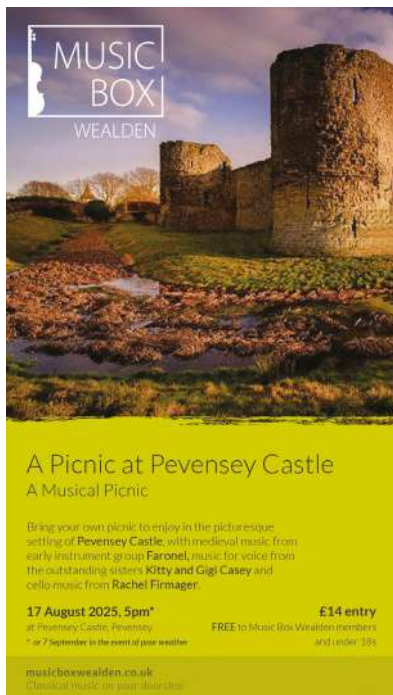
in the north, east and south tower rooms. Bring your own picnic to enjoy in the picturesque interior of the castle. Bar on site for the event.

Tickets are £14 and children free. Tickets available from www.musicboxwealden.co.uk or from the ticket office and shop at the castle.

Throughout the summer for those looking for family days there is a new children's "Folktale Creature Trail".

Uncover English folklore jam-packed with fairies, dragons and mythical beings. Discover magical creatures from English myths and legends. Complete a trail and earn a special certificate marking your achievement.

In autumn to mark Sunday 28 September – the 1066 Norman Landing Day – there are walks and talks at 11am and 2pm. Included in ticket price and free for English Heritage members.



PEVENSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Pevensey community Tuesday Lunch Club continues to thrive, two new members this month and all enjoying the club meals cooked by Dee our chef.

Our thanks go to Massilia Bay restaurant who kindly opened up on a Tuesday when they are normally closed and provided us with a lovely fish and chip lunch followed by their delicious ice cream.

We are seeking volunteer drivers under 70 years-old who have still got class D1 on their driving licence.

We also offer a fortnightly shopping trip to Asda for bit of shopping and gossip in the coffee shop.

Our mini bus costs over £3,000 a year to run and it provides a necessary service for our community.

We rely solely on donations so we are holding a Christmas Bazaar to raise much needed funds to keep our mini bus running. This will be in St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, on Saturday November 22nd. Father Christmas and his Elf have already been booked.

Gill Parsons
07495 477269

PEVENSEY CRICKET CLUB

The Mighty Pevensey Cricket Club start their 2025 season with the same friendly enthusiasm they always do as they enter their 107th year at Pevensey Recreation Ground.

Our Saturday 1st XI are aiming for back to back promotions after their success last year, with the 2nd XI looking to push on after their close 3rd place finish.

Our Sunday Development team continues to give adults and juniors alike a chance to gain experience of the hardball game, away from the competitive format of the league, but still with the effort and sportsmanship that we all love about the game.

Dynamos Cricket, softball for ages 8-11, has recently restarted on a Thursday evening with great numbers receiving expert professional coaching, and our U11s and U13s continue to make great strides in their age groups respectively.

Our Award winning Disability Section is aiming to run Day sessions during the summer months, so please watch this space for more info.

On top of this, our committee have been working hard all winter, as they raise funds through local sponsors and grant applications. We have the dual goals of continuing the great work on the ground and equipment, but also a complete refurbishing of the clubhouse, as we aim to create an amazing new facility for all who play sport at the Rec.



If anyone is interested in joining us, either as a junior or adult player, umpire, ground staff, or if you simply want to come and spectate at one of the most picturesque grounds in this part of the world, please let us know.



Club XI Combination

You can find the details of the club on: <https://pevensey.play-cricket.com/home> or can email us on: pevenseyccinfo@gmail.com

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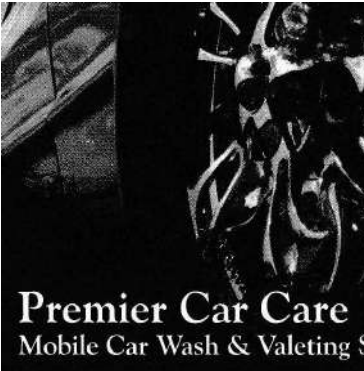
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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

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



held its Annual Council meeting on 13th May 2025. At this meeting councillors elected the chairman Cllr Peter Lowton and vice chair of council Cllr Shirley MacKinnon. We also held the Annual Parish meeting on 13th May. This meeting featured guest speakers from ESCC Public Health Team and the Environment Agency. Reports were also presented by our District and County councillors.

On 10th May 2025 the council was delighted that it was able to run the very popular Vehicles of Yesteryear event. However, this year was made extra special as it incorporated the 80th VE Day celebrations and a visit by World War Two veteran Paul Terry who celebrates his 100th birthday in July. Paul, from Pevensey Bay, served in the 12th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, part of the 8th Armoured Brigade. He served in Arnhem, Holland, Belgium and France.

There was also a military display at the top of the car park.



Paul Terry



With lots of visitors attending, local businesses, the monthly craft fair at St Wilfrid's Church Hall and the art group exhibition at the Aqua Bar benefitting. 'With the sun shining the event brought so much enjoyment for the entrants, visitors and local community. It brought the village to life!

Work continues on the other events planned for 2025. The Pevensey Village Fete will be held on 27th July 2025 at the Pevensey recreation ground. Whilst the fete will continue to harness the successful and well established dog show, this year the council is keen to showcase some of the amazing talent in and around the local area and to provide a full family day out. More details on the dog classes and entry forms are available on the council's website. The annual parish information day will also take place on the 27th September 2025 at St Wilfrid's Church Hall.

We are looking for volunteers who can give a little of their time to help with these popular events. If you can spare any time to help on the day please contact the clerk using the details below.

The parish council remains committed to promoting, via our active social media accounts, any events taking place in the villages and we will happily promote them for any local groups so please just get in touch.

PPC in partnership with Pevensey and Westham Sports Club has continued to work hard and move forward with the pavilion project. We are now at a stage where a formal tendering process is being drawn up and it will be advertised on contract finder. We still have an enormous task to raise funds to enable the works to go ahead. Therefore, council with the help of the sports club will continue to seek and apply for grants and raise money at every opportunity. Regular updates on the project are available on the council's website or at the monthly council meetings. Lastly, we would like to thank the members of the sports club for their help and expertise; it has been a real benefit for the project.



The parish council is aware of the recent incidents of graffiti that have appeared in the village. Areas which have been targeted include bus shelters, play equipment buildings, post boxes and signage. Graffiti is unsightly and tarnishes the sense of pride we have for our community. The clean-up of graffiti comes at a significant cost to the local tax payer and drains valuable resources. We understand the frustration and concern this has caused among residents and are taking the matter very seriously. We can confirm that the graffiti has been reported to Sussex Police. However, more can be done! We're encouraging residents to take action and report graffiti to Sussex Police to help us maintain the vibrancy of our villages for everyone. If you have any information or have witnessed anything suspicious, please report it directly to Sussex Police by calling 101.

Lastly, please help keep our villages clean and tidy by using the dog mess and litter bins we provide and also why not join in and come along on one of the community litter picks the parish council organises each year. They are advertised widely and are usually on the last weekends of March, May, July and September.

Contact the Clerk, Sarah Mosedale on 01323 743900
email: clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk
website: <https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>



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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 509891/07415 580651
St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay	01323 509891/07415 580651

Halls - Bookings

Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay	01323 743900
Pevensey Memorial Hall	pevmhbookings@gmail.com
St Luke's Parish Centre, Stone Cross	01323 767020
St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay	01323 460523/ bookings@swpb.uk or www.swpb.uk
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
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Water	0333 000 0365

Organisations & Societies

Anderida Border Morris	07815 426589
Bay Community Hub	01323 766230
British Red Cross	01323 412787
Brownbread Horse Rescue	01424 892381
Care for the Carers	01323 738390
Cats Protection	01323 440101
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	1stpevenseybay@eastbournescouts.org.uk
Foxes Hollow Residents' Assoc	01323 764350
Guide Dogs for the Blind Freephone	0800 781 1444
Haven Players	01323 767816
Kit Wilson Trust for Animal Welfare	01825 830444
Memory Lane	07393 834498
The Mint House Home of Sussex Folklore	07905 723964
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	07976 649388
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	07932 785557
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.
- 10am** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Sung Parish Mass (except 2nd Sunday of the month).
- 9.45am** St Mary's, Westham. Holy Communion. All ages welcome.
- 10.30am** Pevensey Bay Baptist Church.
- 10.30am** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass followed by a shared lunch (2nd Sunday of the month).
- 11.30am** St Nicolas, Pevensey. Sung Eucharist.

EVERY WEEK

- Sun 10am-12pm** Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
- 10.30am-11.30am** Gentle Hatha Yoga with Vicky.
- 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).
- Pevensey Community Support Tuesday Lunch Club. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
- 2pm-4pm** Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
- 7pm-9pm** Pevensey Ukulele Group. Practice. Holly Blue, Stone Cross (except 1st Tuesday which is at the Lamb Inn).
- Wed 9.15am-12.15pm** 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 Club, 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 Sun 8pm** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Compline.
- 3rd Sun 8pm** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Compline.
- 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.
- 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. (not August). Free entry.
- 10am-11am** NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance. St Luke's Church Parish Centre, Stone Cross.

THE PARISH PUMP

'Providing a voice for local community organisations since 1967'

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

JULY

- Tue 1st** **7pm** Pevensey Parish Council Meeting, St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 5th** **10am-4pm** Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club. Annual Exhibition. Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne.
3pm-5pm St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Cream Tea. Tickets bookable in advance.
- Sun 6th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Summer Tea Party with cakes and goodies.
- Mon 7th** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'The Way We Were': Paul Green. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 9th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Downland or more strenuous walk. Hope Gap, Seaford Head. Meet at South Hill Barn. Non-members welcome. Free. TV 504980.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. Gardening the World CWGC with Sarah Nathaniel. Guests welcome £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 12th** **10am-4pm** Westham Art Group. Annual Art Exhibition. Paintings for sale. Refreshments. Westham Village Hall.
6.30pm St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer events & concerts. An evening of hot Jazz with John Arthy's 'Dixie Six'. Tickets £16.
- Tue 15th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'Anyone For Tennis'. Free for first time visitors. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 19th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with styles and/or slopes. West Rise Marsh. Meet in car park south side of Sevenoaks Road. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 626024.
12pm start St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Summer Fair – inside and out. Live music, stalls, tombolas, BBQ, refreshments. Grand Draw.
2pm start Westham Evening WI. Open Garden Afternoon (by ticket). Information from Jan 07710 559880.
6.30pm St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer events & concerts. 'Music to Beguile You' by The Melody Magpies. Tickets £10.
- Thu 24th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. 'This is my Life'. Sharing members' memories from Yesteryear. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 26th** **6.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer events & concerts. Recital by Organist John Ross. Tickets £10.
- Sun 27th** **11am-4pm** Pevensey Village Fete, plus dog show. Pevensey Recreation Ground, Wallsend Road, Pevensey.

AUGUST

- Sat 2nd** **6.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer concerts & events. 'William's Victorious 1067 Return to Pevensey. The first ever Pictorial Restoration'. Illustrated talk by local historian Peter Harrison. Tickets £10.
- Sun 3rd** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Teas and Tours.
- Thu 7th** **2.30pm-4.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Cream Tea. Westham Village Hall. Contact Jan 07710 559880.
- Wed 13th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with styles and/or slopes. Cuckmere to the Sea. Meet at pay and display car park on south side of A259 by visitor centre. Non-members welcome. Free. TV 518994.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Cream Tea Party. Ticketed event. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 17th** **5pm** A musical picnic at Pevensey Castle. Bring a picnic and enjoy medieval music and singing. Music Box Wealden. Tickets £14. Under 18s free. musicboxwealden.co.uk.
- Tue 19th** **9.30am-12.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Summer Demonstration with NAFAS Demonstrator Duncan Ward. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 23rd** **10am-4pm** Pevensey Bay Art Group. Annual Art Exhibition. Pictures for sale. Food available. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
10am Eastbourne RSPB. Downland or more strenuous walk. Crowlink, East Dean. Meet NT car park. Non-members welcome. Free. TV 551981.

SEPTEMBER

- Mon 1st** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'Update on The Mint House': Jo Seaman. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 3rd** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. '100 Days of Wildlife in a Suburban Garden': Michael Blencowe. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Fri 5th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Summer Quiz.
- Sun 7th** **10am-2pm** Westham Village Hall Open Day.
- Wed 10th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with styles and/or slopes. Cooden Moat and Hooe Level from Little Common. Meet by 'Arden Cottage', TN39 4SR. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 709071.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. 'I Rowed the Atlantic' with Neil Furminger. Guests welcome £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 13th** **10am-12.30pm** St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair. Free entry.
- Sun 14th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Heritage Weekend. Teas and Tours.
- Tue 16th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'Wood' you rather ...? Free for first time visitors. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. £5 for non-members. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 20th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Downland or more strenuous walk. South Farm, Southease. Meet by farm buildings. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 412048.
- Thu 25th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Craft Taster Sessions. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 27th** **10am-12.30pm** Pevensey Community Information Day. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 28th** **9am** Pevensey Parish Council Litter Pick. Meet at Sea Road car park, Pevensey Bay.
5pm start St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Talent Show. Tickets bookable in advance. Ploughman's meal included.

OCTOBER

- Wed 1st** **7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Quiz. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 2^{nd-5th}** St Mary's Church, Westham. Harvest Celebration with Flowers.
- Sun 5th** **10am** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Harvest Mass.
12pm-4pm Stone Cross Windmill. Celebrating the Harvest. Teas and Tours and collection of food for local charities.
- Mon 6th** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'Ocklynge Cemetery': Kevin Gordon. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 7th** **7pm** Pevensey Parish Council Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 8th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Downland or more strenuous walk. Birling Gap and Plantation Wood. Meet Birling Gap (NT) pay and display car park. Non-members welcome. Free. TV 544960.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. AGM, followed by craft and social. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 11th** **10am-12.30pm** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair. Free entry.
- Sat 18th** **10am-11.30am** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Jumble Sale.
10am Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with styles and/or slopes. Rickney Bridge for a walk across the Levels. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 627069.
10am-12pm Table Top Sale. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Tue 21st** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening & AGM. 'Visit our Pumpkin Patch'. Free for first time visitors. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 23rd** **7pm** Westham Evening WI. Halloween-themed evening with fancy dress, games and competitions. Westham Village Hall.

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PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Well the normal indoor season has drawn to a close, and a lot of bowlers are now playing outdoors.

We as a club bowl all year round and are about to run a summer pairs league on a Monday evening. We have ten teams entered and all will play each other.

In the Wealden league we finished 3rd out of 9 teams. It all went down to the last wood of the last end to either finish second or third, but alas we only got third.

Membership fees are now due and we are open to new members. Membership is just £15 per year and £3 per session.

Opening times are Monday Wednesday 2pm to 4pm, Sunday Morning 10am to Noon. Monday evenings will be restricted for league during June and July, normally 7pm to 9pm. Tuesday afternoon is a fun group with bowls and bingo and is from 1pm to 4pm.

For further information contact Peter Winter 01323 763520 or 07825 050599.

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
- 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 popular group continues to grow with often about 40 in rehearsals.

Keith, who has returned for the practices, has built

several ukuleles and kindly donated one unusual instrument, complete with sound amplification facility, to the group. This is about to be raffled at the time of going to print and monies raised will go the local charity, Children with Cancer.

Indeed, PUGS has made several donations to this charity as well as other smaller local charities.

Alan Coomber runs the Group, often accompanied with his wife Gwen who helps with the singing. Katie is often the stand-by if Alan can't make it, and is often able to offer suggestions to make songs more interesting.

Recent performances have again been mostly in care homes like Mortain Place, Sycamore Grove, Earlsfield Court, Hailsham House and White Briars to name but a few.

The Group continues to meet at the Holly Blue in Stone Cross at 7pm on a Tuesday evening, but on the first Tuesday of the month we have to go to the Lamb Inn on the A27 Pevensey Bypass, same time.

Alan can be contacted on 01323 763061 or 07986 130034.

PEVENSEY BAY ART GROUP

Since our Christmas break we have enjoyed 4 exciting workshops.

In January, Philip asked us to make art work that looked at industrial subject matter. Part of this invited us to look into our past experiences and made for fascinating discussions and reflections.



Our next workshop, led by Peter, involved us using our imaginations and some found imagery. We made 3 drawings on a given subject; off the cuff - great fun!

In March, visiting tutor Jackie Hurwood, made a return visit demonstrating a canal scene in watercolour and she helped us individually with our personal responses.

"Zen Doodling", with Lynn was our next workshop. Some wonderful drawings were made, inspired by Lynn's highly creative work.

We held our annual meal at the Aqua Bar and we thank them for their hospitality.

On Saturday, August 23rd, we present our Annual Art Exhibition to be held in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall from 10am – 4pm. A great variety of work will be on show and for sale. We hope to see you there.

We are a growing, friendly, mixed ability art group who welcome people new to art and those who are more experienced. We hold 2 to 3 exhibitions a year which gives everyone the chance to exhibit if they wish to.

We enjoy attending visits to Art Galleries, usually to the Towner. We sketch out of doors locally, weather permitting, at least once a year. We aim to carry out a workshop each month either in-house or led by a visiting artist. During the rest of the time we enjoy carrying out our own art practice.

We meet every Wednesday morning, between 9.15 – 12.15 in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall.

If you are interested in joining us, please come along for a chat or contact us on 07790 277 986.



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PEVENSEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

We in Pevensey Bay Baptist Church are excited knowing that the summer season is announcing the time for going out to seek new opportunities, making new connections. Jesus came to offer Life in its fullness; meaningful life full of love and peace if we are happy to follow his instructions, so come close to him and experiencing 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.

Everyone is welcome. Our Sunday services are held in our church building at 10.30am.

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 at 3pm in our church building upstairs, or one in the evening at 7pm.

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

Friendship-plus is a meeting run on the first and third Thursdays 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 the meeting. For more information about activities please contact us on 01323 769002 or Melita: 07758147526.

Men's Breakfast is an activity for men looking for an 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 MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

On Saturday, 5th July 2025 from 10am to 4pm the club will again be staging its highly successful annual Model Railway Exhibition at Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE.



The venue provides full disabled access and ample free parking. No.1/1A bus stops outside.

It is anticipated that there will be fourteen working layouts of differing scales/ gauges and size providing a good insight into the scope and variety possible within the hobby. As well as visiting layouts, a couple of members' private layouts will also be on show. Additionally, there will trade stands in attendance. Refreshments will also be available to buy.

Model railways without doubt are of interest to many people of all ages, young and old, so why not come along and enjoy the show.

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

A warm welcome is guaranteed to anyone who would like to attend our club nights and understand and learn what the club can offer. No experience of the hobby is necessary.

For more information please visit our website:

<http://pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com>

or contact: secretary@pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM
COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

Thanks to abundant rain in early spring followed by abundant sunshine, our forest garden has had an excellent spring season with masses of blossoms on our fruit trees, which hopefully augurs an abundant harvest of fruit in summer. The fruits we harvest are apples, pears, plums, quinces, medlars, blackcurrants, blackberries, honeyberries, redcurrants, whitecurrants, gooseberries, greengages, as well as a cross between an apricot and a plum, called an aprium!

We have some mature apple trees on site that include Golden Delicious, Charles Ross, and James Grieve varieties. Our newer apple trees are Discovery, Red Falstaff, and Court Pendu Plat. All being well, we should have a great surplus of apples this year, so we will endeavour to deliver some of that to local foodbanks and community larders, which always welcome fresh fruit for their clients.

We have also planted a fig tree, a cherry tree, a walnut tree, and some hazelnut and cobnut trees, although harvesting them before the local wildlife does is a challenge in most years! The may blossom on our hawthorn trees has been truly spectacular as has been the elderflower blossom on our many elder trees.

We are now part of a community water testing programme organised by Strandliners and the Blue Heart Project to keep a check on the quality of our local waterways. We will be responsible for regular checking of the water quality in the



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Langney Sewer which runs alongside our forest garden and which is a vital part of the drainage system for the Pevensey Levels. The checks will help with early detection of any pollution incidents in our local waterways.

New volunteers are always most welcome. Any local community groups wanting a tour of the forest garden are also most welcome. Please phone or message Andy on 07402321382 if you are interested.

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.

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 come to a Demonstration instead!

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

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

As we approach the end of the season, Pevensey & Westham Football Club wishes to extend our sincere gratitude to all volunteers, parents, and players for their steadfast support.



This season has been filled with impressive successes, notably our Men's team achieving 2nd place in the East Sussex League and winning the Cup Final with a commendable 2-0 win over Mountfield.



Our Under 18 Girls also had success in the Sussex County Women & Girls Football League Challenge Cup. They played Mile Oak in the final which was 2-2 at full time, but our girls won 7-6 on penalties.

Also, our Under 14 Girls reached the SCWGFL semi-final against Burgess Hill Town Juniors. The home tie finished 2-2 at full time, with the girls just losing 2-4 on penalties.

Moreover, our U18 Girls, U14 Girls Juniors, and U13 Vipers teams proudly secured 2nd place in the league.

We appreciate everyone's commitment and hard work.

For anyone interested in joining or establishing a new team within our club, please contact Tim Hilton at 07854 237809.

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hello Everyone,
It's summer again and we are into our 2025 Summer Programme.

We kick off in July with Paul Green and 'The Way We Were'. In August we have our traditional Summer Break. On September 1st we welcome Jo Seaman with an update on The Mint House.

Kevin Gordon is our speaker on 6th October on 'Ocklynge Cemetery'.

November will be our AGM and we would like some more members to join our Committee. The Committee is getting much smaller and we could use some more help. It would be great to welcome some new members to our Committee Group and keep our Society moving forward.

Look forward to seeing all of you soon.

The Committee



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RVS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

We are pleased that the club is well supported. At the moment we have no vacancies.

There had been two further outings since Christmas. We were able to give our members a special Easter Lunch due to a donation from one of the volunteer's firm as she gives up her day off each week. Easter bunny was the escort around the village.

We hope to take everyone out again in the next months.

Many thanks to our team of volunteers who enable us to run the club.

Christine Wood
01323 768019

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, STONE CROSS

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



We are still in interregnum presently.

However, Reverend Canon Colin Luke Boswell and Reverend Pat Gibbs have continued to care for us spiritually in church and socially in the Parish Centre. Reverend Clive Woodward has also stepped in to deliver occasional services. We are grateful to them all, as we benefit from their Sunday sermons and weekly services, including the extra ones given during Lent and Holy Week.

Looking forward, we continue to have our regular weekly services, plus Compline is now twice monthly. Please see our "What's On" section for details of our Church Services and Community Events. Everyone is very welcome to our regular Sunday Sung Parish Mass, which is now held at the new time of 10am, except the 2nd Sunday of the month which starts at 10.30am, followed by a shared lunch.

Our Parish Centre has been very busy over the spring and early summer seasons. We are open for weekly Friday Coffee Mornings, Children's Parties, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts' meetings, Little Luke's Baby and Toddler Group, different Dance and Keep Fit Groups, various NHS sessions, Tai Chi, East Sussex Moviemakers, a new East Sussex Early Days' group and LOTS of other events besides!

We are having quarterly quizzes at the Parish Centre, as well as regular Jumble Sales and other fundraising events. We had our annual Spring Fair in March and a lovely VE Day Celebration with members from church and the local community.

Our Cream Tea is on 5th July in our hall, whilst our Summer Fair will be held on 19th July in our hall, alongside stalls and live music outside, weather permitting! There will be a Summer Quiz in the hall on 5th September. On 28th September, there is a Talent Show in the hall, whilst in October there is another Jumble Sale. 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 Summer!

Chrissy Norris

Parish Administrator

01323 767020, email: saintlukestonecross@gmail.com

www.saintlukestonecross.org.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

Our Easter celebrations saw many of all ages attend and we needed extra seating for all to sit comfortably! Our next big seasonal celebration will be Harvest which will also include our annual flower festival over the first weekend in October.



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.

Our monthly café and churchyard tidy continues to be held on the first Saturday of the month (10am till noon), until October. 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 bookings@swpb.uk and have a look at our new website to book straightaway online- so easy at: www.swpb.uk

The hall is used for activities and events including:

- art, dog training, drumming, a variety of hobbies and community organisation meetings
- lots of Pilates classes on several days per week and Flexercise classes
- Craft Fairs on every second Saturday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm
- Table Top sales twice per year- next one 18th October, 2025
- for boys and girls we are pleased that we have a Squirrels Drey Group, every Tuesday from 4.15pm for 4 and 5 year olds. And new from June to follow on, we now have a Beavers group for 6 years up from 5.30pm

These events provide somewhere to meet up for the local community and help to provide funds for the next phase of refurbishment work, which is needed to ensure the hall is secure from the elements.



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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 and Friday mornings, 9.15am to 12.15pm. On Tuesday, Wednesday, 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, 9.00am to 12.00pm and Monday to Friday afternoons, 12.00pm to 3.00pm for children aged 3 to 5 years. There is a maximum of 25 children per session. Morning and afternoon sessions can run consecutively.

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

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

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

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

Stone Cross Pre-School Staff and Committee

STONE CROSS SURGERY

Our local community is expanding which in turn means that we have more patients registering with the surgery. It is important to understand that this effects demand and we do not have any more capacity to increase our appointments with a clinician.

We would therefore like to make you aware of other options that can be explored in the first instance.

Your local pharmacist can give you advice and prescribe for the following conditions:

Sore throat; Earache; Sinusitis; Impetigo; Shingles; Infected insect bites; Uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women (16-64).

NHS 111 can be accessed either by phone or online at www.111.nhs.uk you will be asked a series of questions about your condition which concludes with advice and where to go for help. You may be directed to A&E, an Urgent Treatment Centre or to make an appointment with your doctor or access another service.

Engage consult allows patients to communicate safely and securely with the surgery regarding non urgent matters. There is a wealth of information when accessing this service, but first you will need to register. Why not sign up today and be prepared to explore the options available to you. www.stonecrosssurgery.co.uk and then follow the link for online consultations.

When calling the surgery, the receptionist will ask about your symptoms to direct you to the most appropriate clinician. This could be a phlebotomist, physiotherapist, healthcare assistant, paramedic practitioner or practice nurse.

You can also 'self refer' to the following services:

Help with your mental health – text SUSSEX to 85258 for free confidential support

Health in Mind offer free talking therapies. Call 030 003 0130 (9am to 5pm Mon to Fri) or visit their website www.healthinmind.org.uk

Papyrus – Prevention of young suicide 0800 068 4141 or visit their website www.papyrus-uk.org

Muskoskeletal Therapy Services – visit their website www.sussexmskpartnershipeast.co.uk

Problems sleeping visit their website www.sleepio.com

Maternity Services visit their website www.esht.nhs.uk

National Unplanned pregnancy advisory services 0333 004 6666 or visit their website www.nupas.co.uk

Did you know that in 2024 GP's alone carried out 40,659 appointments. It is disappointing that for 310 of these the patient failed to turn up with no notification. Whilst we do recognise that 'things' happen, please do try to notify the surgery so that appointments can be reallocated. If any emergency has occurred, please still let us know as soon as you are able to. Across all clinicians appointments there were 2,746 missed appointments last year. This equates to missed opportunities for other patients.

Blood Test Results – please note that it is your responsibility to contact the surgery for your test results. Please dial 01323 761461 and select the option for test results (this option opens at 11am).

STONE CROSS WINDMILL

Membership of Stone Cross Windmill is an essential source of income that helps with on-going expenditure such as insurance, utilities, council tax and essential maintenance. If you are a member please try and send in your money to the Trust (full details are on the website). A number of existing members have been extremely generous with donations. Please continue to support the Windmill as grants are becoming more difficult to access.



I am sure everyone enjoyed VE celebrations in May, but many people do not realise that the Windmill played an essential role in WW2. William Brooke Joyce (nicknamed Lord Haw Haw) in a broadcast from Germany during WW2 asked that the Windmill remain intact so that Luftwaffe pilots could use this iconic building as a guiding point to the Downs and then across the Channel and safety.

The Army also used the Windmill as an observation post and the cap was removed to enable the installation of a gun at the top of the roundel. These snippets from the past need to be remembered and retained as part of our local history.

The opening of the Windmill in April was very successful and visitors were treated to homemade soup and bread - everyone reported that the soup was delicious and the Trust will repeat this in September.

On Sunday, 11th May the Long Man Morris provided a fantastic display seen by over 60 visitors helping to raise an overwhelming amount of money towards the maintenance of the Windmill.

The Trust hope to begin milling local grown wheat and further details will be available on the website when wholemeal flour is available to purchase.

Please continue to 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

The Eastbourne Aikido school is open to everyone. It is practiced worldwide and we have welcomed students (aikidoka) from many countries over the years. These visitors have often trained in their home country and want to continue while in Britain. Our homegrown students have gone abroad and continued their study while away. Aikido is international and can be a lifelong study.

'Aikido' is formed of three words. Ai, ki, do, harmony, spirit and way. The way of harmony of spirit and this attitude can stay with us into everyday life. Incidentally, Aikido dojo (training hall) are in my experience, one of the few where people seem to be enjoying themselves.

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. The only person you are in competition with is yourself.

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 and helps to develop skills which can be used in everyday life.

If you're looking for something new and different to try, come along. Don't be shy, give it a try, we were all beginners once.

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.

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 available on all our craft tables 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: 07932 785557, email: jean.dolmeg@gmail.com

WESTHAM ART GROUP

Summer is here and with it the opportunity to get outside and connect with nature giving us inspiration to for our art.

We visited Sissinghurst Castle at the end of May a beautiful place to visit. We got there and back by coach which is funded by our weekly subscriptions.

We are excited to announce our art exhibition where we get to exhibit our work. This will be held at Westham Village Hall on 12th July at 10am where you can purchase original art work, cash only as we don't have any card readers. There are many different styles and media on show. Refreshments will also be available to purchase, so please pop in and have a browse.

In the autumn we are planning to have an afternoon tea at one of our local hotels, date to be arranged. We are also looking to arrange a couple of visiting artists to demonstrate different skills using different mediums.

We have a few vacancies for any budding artists. We are a friendly group and always welcome new faces at our group.

If you would like to come along, we meet on Wednesdays 1pm – 4pm at Westham Village Hall and charge a weekly subscription of £5. Out of the money we have a tea break with possibly homemade cakes and biscuits but it also allows us to go on outings.

If you are interested in joining our group then please contact Brian Gage on 01323 461433

WESTHAM EVENING WI

The beginning of the new WI year also means, of course, a new programme and Westham Evening have a variety of talks and events to look forward to in the coming months.

Before the summer, there will be the Annual Meeting, with grateful thanks to committee members standing down and a welcome to those taking up the challenge.

Some outdoor events have been arranged for the summer and so there will be many crossed fingers that the sunny weather of spring this year will continue. These are an Open Garden, a Treasure Hunt and a Coach Outing.

One evening, members are going to share their memories of days gone by in 'This is My Life', which is sure to be

enlightening. For the crafty members and those who want to develop these skills, there is a Craft Taster evening.

The Groups continue to flourish, with subjects that will appeal to many, including Book Club, Theatre & Lunch Club, Walking, Gardening and Baking.

The monthly members' meetings take place, usually, on the fourth Thursday of the month in Westham Village Hall at 7.30 pm, where a friendly welcome awaits any newcomers.

Liz Lash

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It's that time of year again with lots of bank holidays, nice weather and lots of visitors and people out and about passing through our villages.



So Be Aware of doorstep callers, phone callers and anyone driving by who stops to offer you any repairs to missing roof tiles, driveways or patio repairs or replacements at cheap prices.

Remember if an offer is too good to be true it normally is, so please don't fall for these drive by offers and look out for elderly and vulnerable neighbours who maybe approached and pressured into accepting these offers for repairs.

Report any cold call, doorstep, or drive by incidents to the police on 101.

Speeding is still a major issue and concern through our villages, High Street, Stone Cross and up and down Peelings Lane for local residents and parents at school times.

Please report any incidents of speeding you witness or feeling unsafe as a priority to the police on 101.

We now have 5 baby Canada geese goslings born this week on our village pond. Please be extra careful and vigilant when driving around the pond area when the parents are taking them for walks across the roads.

As the weather is getting better and warmer remember to close and lock all windows and doors when you go out.

Remember : Neighbourhood watch is the eyes and ears for our village. Stay safe.

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 PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings are held throughout the year at either the Amenity Hall, Stone Cross School, or at the Westham Village Hall.

All the public are welcome to attend these meetings.

At the monthly Parish Council meetings a County Councillor usually attends to bring Councillors up to date on County Council matters concerning East Sussex County Council.

At the April Council meeting Councillors were told that weed spraying would be carried out on 22nd July in the Hankham, Stone Cross and Westham areas.

The County Councillor had attended a meeting with the Police, National Highways and the MP for Bexhill and Battle (Westham is in this constituency) to discuss the accidents that occur on the A259. It was agreed that a road safety survey should be carried out.

Finally, Councillors were asked to report any poor signage that they came across in the Westham parish area.

The Wealden District Councillors who are present give a report on the latest developments at the District Council.

In April, the following items were reported.

The Local Plan Report, and its Appendices, have been published. The section related to Westham, and Peelings Lane in particular are on Pages 151 - 155 of Appendix A.

The responses are being collated so that officers can see if there are any common themes emerging.

Officers report that they have not yet considered the details of individual comments and that will be done in the course of the spring and summer.

The MP for Lewes, which includes Stone Cross, will be visiting the area in August. He would like to meet as many residents as possible. The visit will be in the August Parliamentary recess. A date given is Saturday, 16th August.

At the Parish Council meeting Councillors follow closely the crime figures for the area which are now available for the public. The crime figures for each month are circulated to Councillors and discussed.

The new solar lighting was installed during the Easter Holidays and is now working well. The path and car park is now well lit at night with the lighting being set with sensors. The cost of installing the lighting was over £22,000.

The outdoor adult gym equipment in Adur Park is very well used and is now showing signs of wear and tear after being in place for the last few years.

A quotation was received, but was considerably higher than expected. Another quotation will be obtained from a leading playground supplier which would be presented to



Councillors. Also, grant funding for the new equipment would be sought.

It was decided that this year the war memorial at St Luke's Church should have a thorough cleaning and any maintenance needed carried out.

The memorial has now been cleaned, repointed and all the letters repainted earlier this month. A reputable firm from East Sussex that carried out this type of work for Councils had been engaged to carry out the remedial work.

Previously Stone Cross School had employed a lollipop person twice daily to escort children across the road. Unfortunately, the current lollipop person has left and recruitment of a new person has been found to be difficult.

There were still no applicants for the position of lollipop person at the time of the April Full Council meeting.

There is now a dedicated East Sussex County Council Road Safety Officer for this issue and they have stated that the funding is in place for this position and they are keen to appoint.

The Parish Council has asked for regular updates from the Road Safety Officer on the progress of this position.

Unfortunately, the parking at 'pick up' times at Stone Cross and Westham Primary Schools is now becoming unmanageable with cars left on yellow lines and on the pavement. The Police are unable to help with road safety at these times.

Finally fly tipping of garden refuse has become a problem in the area.

When the Parish Council have sent contractors to carry out work to reduce hedges, trees etc., they have found behind fences piles of garden waste blocking the entrance to pathways. In some instances items such as microwaves and television sets have been found.

The Council will take away any shrub or tree waste that is part of the maintenance work, but it will not remove dumped garden waste. The dumping of garden waste on to Council land may affect work being carried out in the area.

Wealden District Council have a regular service for removing garden waste with twice monthly visits to remove garden waste.

WESTHAM VILLAGE CONSERVATION GROUP

You may remember that between March and May last year, Wealden consulted on a new draft local plan.

Overall, the draft plan included almost 16,000 houses over the plan period to 2040, including 150 houses in Westham immediately north of Peelings Lane.

As a rural parish, Westham has had far more than its fair share of development over the last 30 years with the rural character of Stone Cross being totally obliterated with the addition of more than 2,500 houses.

Nevertheless, in addition to the 150 houses off Peelings Lane, the draft plan included a further 199 houses on six other sites, mostly in Stone Cross.



When the draft plan was published last March, the government's figure for Wealden's so-called 'local housing need' was for 1,197 houses/year. The draft plan proposed 953 houses/year for the District and there is concern that the government may reject this reduced figure.

Unfortunately, the new government considers the route to economic growth is by turbocharging housebuilding and has changed the rules meaning that Wealden's 'local housing need' has increased to 1,433 houses/year.

It is noted that where other authorities have submitted a draft plan to the government proposing a housing figure below the so-called need, that most of these plans have been rejected.

Thus, it is likely that Wealden will be under great pressure to allocate further sites for development in the next version of the plan due for consultation somewhere between October and December, meaning that they will be reluctant to remove sites like Peelings Lane from the plan.

But it gets worse, the Planning and Infrastructure Bill currently being considered by Parliament drastically reduces the protection offered to areas like the Pevensy Levels, thus removing one of the strongest reasons not to develop the fields north of Peelings Lane.

We will have to make sure we object strongly to the next version of the local plan in order to prevent more of our green fields from being concreted over.

WESTHAM VILLAGE HALL

By the time you read this we hope you have enjoyed your spring as we step into the further sunshine of the summer.

Your Hall has had a busy start to the year with our regular groups and weekly events, but unfortunately has suffered in quick succession the breaking down of our kitchen water heater and main boiler, with front door frames also deciding to let us down after many years of service.

Alongside our Volunteers regular fundraising, we will also be holding a Westham Village Hall Open Day on 7th September for the Community to see what your Hall has to offer you and to meet our Volunteers and regular Groups for a tea or coffee to support your Hall.

Volunteers continue to keep the Hall alive and running as they have for over 40 years, with running repairs often paid for by themselves to ensure the hire fees, fundraising and occasional grants cover the Hall requirements for the day to day running costs and the building's maintenance and insurances.

With the ever-rising costs of doing this, we would like to ask you for your help to keep your Hall safe and secure for at least another 40 years!

We therefore ask, is it worth a £1 to have your Village Hall as part of your community?

If you think it is, would you be willing to donate a £1 (or more of course!) to support your Hall?

The Hall is a registered Charity, Number: 279082.

If you would like to support your Hall, you can drop a donation into the Hall or attend our Open Day where we will have a donation box or even BACS it to our HSBC Bank Account number 31070983, sort code 40-20-05, or even set up a direct debit to our charity.

We look forward to seeing you on 7th September and thank you for the support of your Village Hall.

Westham Village Hall Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE POND

Writing this in early May we have experienced an unusually dry March and April. There were grass fires in some parts of the country.

We are lucky to have our ancient pond with its lush green vegetation.

The summer native water plants and marginals include Water Lilies, Yellow Loosestrife, and Marshmallow. All of which you may spot on the Pevensy Levels Wildlife area. But you would often need access to private land to see them.

Last year's thick covering of Duckweed has mostly been killed by winter frost, but the few leaves in odd corners can quickly multiply with warm temperatures and high nutrients levels.

At present the water is clear. Volunteers have not been able to carry out the official BWAP (Biological Monitoring Party), scientific water quality monitoring.

But pond dipping has shown healthy levels of small Stickleback fish, Freshwater Mussels, Damselfly larvae and busy Water Boatmen. Bees have been visiting the bright Yellow Flag Iris and Comfrey.

The Reed Warbler returned to nest and was heard chattering in the western reed bed. Moorhens built their intricate nest here too.

Five fluffy Goslings hatched again this year. Tiny water birds need a diet of beetles to give them the best start. The natural food provided by water creatures and plants gives water birds the best digested diet.



Moorhen on Nest. Photograph: Robert Turley

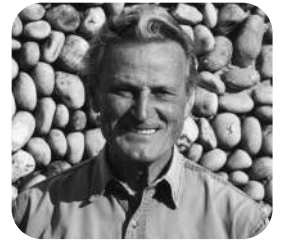
Bread causes indigestion, it is kindest not to feed them anything at all. This also reduces the amount of wildfowl faeces contaminating the pond water.

Westham Parish Council Pond Volunteers help to maintain the vegetation on the bank. We meet several times a year for some gentle gardening.

If you would like to come along to help or just to learn more about the pond please email the Parish Council: clerk@westhamparishcouncil.org

Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



I got up early this morning to make sure I had time to start my Nature Notes and on opening my curtains I was greeted by Jonno, our seagull, who had already arrived in anticipation of his breakfast.

He was perched on our tall windbreak, patiently waiting. So, down to the kitchen to get a large slice of wholemeal bread, give it a generous spread of butter and cut it into squares to take out for him. It doesn't take long for him to devour his breakfast and then he's off, not to be seen until tomorrow's breakfast. As a rule the whole flock of gulls does not appear now, but if they do then, if time permits, I give them their breakfast too.

The House Sparrows continue their "gymnastics" taking their "birdseed" from the feeder in our "Seaside Garden", lucky us! Having eaten some, a lot of them start flying back to their nest boxes with some of it. These nest boxes are "semi-detached" and so can take two families. I made them some 30 years ago and have placed one just under the gutter on a side wall close to the front and one on the front itself. So we can take four families and enjoy their company!

This was unusual! Jonno just turned up in the early morning as usual, and, instead of waiting for his usual breakfast, started pecking at our hanging birdseed feeder causing lots of seed to spill. He then flew down to peck up as much as he could, then flew to the bird bath for a drink before making off, but not before he noticed that I added some of his usual breakfast to the seed on the ground for him. All great fun! Our two Magpies arrived when all this was over, hoping to find such spilled seeds which they did, plus morsels of bread. In all, a good period of active entertainment in which our Collared Doves took part, a little later.

I now wish to include the results from our friend Barry Erlam's favourite entertainment. Happily, one of ours too, "Bird Watching". Seeking them out or just sitting in your garden to watch out for feathered visitors.

Walking in the vicinity of, and around, Pevensey Marshes Barry has seen: Willow Warblers, Reed Warblers (also Reed Buntings), Sedge Warblers, Marsh Warblers and Cetti Warblers, plenty of Chiffchaffs and "heard" the beautiful Skylarks, and a Black Tailed Godwit. Barry disturbed a Hare, saw Red Kites and Canada Geese. Chilley Farm was where he saw the rare Duke of Burgundy Butterfly, Coots nesting on Chilley Pond, and Buzzards nesting in the same nest as last year when they raised three chicks. Finally he saw, on 4th April, his first Swallow.

Many thanks for all this wonderful information Barry. It tells us what we may see if we choose the appropriate areas and spare time to visit them.



Duke of Burgundy Butterfly

We are lucky to have another "Nature" writer. Our friend Hazel who has written in the same way as Barry and me. That is, how we are so much affected by, and interested in, Nature. I'm sure you will enjoy them all.

This seems the right time to hand you over to Hazel for her latest article.

Hello my friends,

Well, we are well on our way to summer, let's hope that it is a splendid warm one. As for me, because I'm a hot house flower that just love's to be warm, I think it's been a long dreary winter.

I would like to tell you about my dear friends Fran and Mike, who live in Pevensey. They were telling me that their fish pond had been depleted of goldfish which were large and a strong variation of different colours.

The culprit was a very large bird, the Heron, so sad as the pond was protected as much as it could be.

On a brighter note, I'm lucky to sit with my friends and watch the various birds flying in and out, too many to mention, but having said that the one which caught my attention was the beautiful Greenfinch.

They were abundant at one time in my garden at Pevensey Bay until the arrival of the parasite-induced deadly disease Trichomonosis – that prevents the birds from feeding properly. We, as avid bird feeders, were asked to make sure we kept our feeders clean as possible to help stop it spreading.

I myself have taken note of the humble Dunnock, not much to look at, also known as the Hedge Sparrow. Even though it's not actually a Sparrow, but a member of a small family of birds called Accentors.

The Dunnock is a streaky brown and grey bird, with a dark grey head and very thin bill. Also much thinner and longer than the House Sparrow. It came to my notice in spring of last year – the beautiful song was unlike anything I have heard. I will even go on to say it compares with the early morning Blackbird in my garden.

I am very lucky to live so close to the beach, so much wildlife coming and going in my garden which is the size of a postage stamp.

It just shows that by putting in shrubs and trees you can create a safe haven for all manner of critters. Enjoy your summer. **Hazel Wood**

Thank you Hazel.

I will finish by saying that it was such a cold, dark winter, that our seaside garden was devoid of all bird life, apart from Jonno and his mates. This is the reason for the slightly different style for this summer issue of Nature Notes – hope you still enjoy it!

Alan Everard

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne **Coastal Management Scheme**

Over 18,000 properties are at risk from coastal flooding within the Pevensey Bay and Eastbourne area. The Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne team is working closely with others to design an approach to mitigate this risk beyond the end of the century.

Short-term (2025-2027)

As of 1 June 2025, the Environment Agency (EA) has officially taken over responsibility for managing the Pevensey Bay frontage, following the successful completion of a 25-year contract with our long-term delivery partner, Pevensey Coastal Defence Limited (PCDL).

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone at PCDL for their dedication in protecting the community from coastal flood risk over the past two and a half decades. Their commitment to operational excellence and the seamless transfer of knowledge has ensured a smooth transition into the Interim Project phase.



Paul Levitt has been appointed as the new EA Pevensey Beach Manager. He will lead the day-to-day management of the 9km frontage, continuing efforts to safeguard thousands of homes and businesses from flooding. The beach will continue to be managed in a similar way to PCDL, with familiar activities such as shingle re-profiling, recycling, bypassing, and recharge carried out by our contractor VolkerStevin.

To stay informed about beach management activities, you can sign up for email updates from Paul by completing a short survey on our website:
www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk

If you see Paul out on the beach, feel free to say hello or ask any questions. You can also reach him directly via email at: pevenseybeachmanager@environment-agency.gov.uk

Medium-term (2027-2037)

As we look ahead to the medium-term phase, we are now entering the final stages of design for the beach improvements - including upgrades to some of the existing groynes. Everything remains on track for work to begin in summer 2027, taking over from the short-term team.

We will continue to keep you informed as plans develop over the coming year, using our usual communication channels.

We are especially grateful to local community groups in Old Martello Road, Pevensey Bay, and Herbrand Walk for their valuable input and ongoing support. If you would like to get involved or share your views, please visit our website: www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk

Long-term Strategy (future phases from 2037)

We are developing a long-term coastal strategy in



response to our changing climate. This strategy will guide the coastal management interventions needed from 2037 onwards.

Sea levels are projected to rise by over a metre by the end of the century, and storm patterns are also expected to change. While beach management updates and groyne improvements are suitable for protecting our communities in the medium-term, different approaches will be required in the long-term.

We are at the beginning of this important process - and we want to hear from you. What does this coastline mean to you? Your input will help us understand its value and your hopes for its future.

The survey takes just 5-10 minutes to complete and will play a key role in shaping our 100-year coastal management plan, starting in 2037. Please share the QR code widely to help us gather views from across the community.



Further Information and Contact Details:

Visit our webpage to subscribe to our newsletter:

www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk

You can also follow us on social media:

Facebook: 'Pevensey and Eastbourne Coast'

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Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne
Coastal Management Scheme

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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.

 www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk

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