

The Parish Pump

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



Issue 173 – Spring 2026

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



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Community News

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

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

As we start 2026 the international spotlight is already falling on the Parish with news that the Bayeux Tapestry – depicting the 1066 Norman invasion at Pevensey – is to return to England for the first time in over 900 years.

Local residents, schools, social groups, charities and businesses are being encouraged to think of creative ideas, over the coming months, to mark the historic and pivotal role Pevensey played in the conquest.

Look out for local publicity, including social media, as activities and events start to come together.

The 70m long tapestry – which tells the story of the conquest – shows William the Conqueror landing at the then strategic coastal port of 'PEVENESÆ' before defeating English forces at the Battle of Hastings.

The tapestry - thought to have been embroidered in England in the 1070s and then sent to Normandy – goes on show at the British Museum in the autumn.

On a similar theme in May, dozens of solar-powered kit vehicles will stop off at Pevensey Castle as they follow William the Conqueror's route from Normandy to Battle Abbey as part of The Vhélio Trophy.

Meanwhile, other local events to look forward to include the ever popular 'Vehicles of Yesteryear' on 9th May, along with art exhibitions, summer concerts, craft fairs and a myriad of activities offered by the many clubs and organisations run by dedicated volunteers.

My thanks goes to artist Louise Cooper, from Pevensey Bay Art Group, for her front page pastel 'Hare in Meadow'.

Finally, if you can spare a few hours, three times a year, to help deliver The Parish Pump, please drop me an email.

Sara Cheesley
Editor

07799 374049
theparishpump13@gmail.com

ISSUE 174 DEADLINE

Local groups and organisations should email details of events and activities between 1st July 2026 - 31st October 2026 to: theparishpump13@gmail.com by

14th May 2026

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

ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

As I write this, practice season is well underway. We are currently learning 4 new dances for the coming season. Another 5 new members have joined the ranks and are busy learning dances and making their tatters.



2026 is an exciting year for us as we are the host Morris side for the revival of the Eastbourne Lammas Festival on 1st and 2nd August.

A new format and a new location, the festival will be held entirely within Hampden Park. There will be Morris dancing, bands, trade stands and more. All profits from the festival will be donated to WRAS.

Although Eastbourne council is very supportive of the festival, there is no funding available and so various





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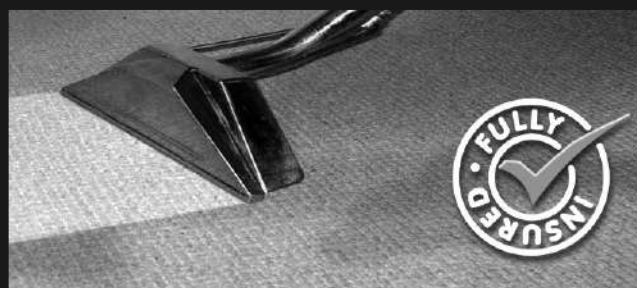
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fundraising events are proposed and a go fund me account has been set up. If you would like to donate, the link is attached. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible throughout the year and especially at Lammas. <https://gofund.me/fce817747>

Shirley Deans

BAY COMMUNITY HUB

I'm very pleased to say that the Bay Community Hub had another amazing year, on average, 400 people a month access the services we offer, so this is a well loved, and well used community asset.



We provide three main services, firstly, there is the Hospital Car Service, if you are in need of a lift to a health service appointment we should be able to help you. Our team of volunteer drivers will collect you from home, take you to the appointment, wait for you and take you home again, for a nominal fee. If you'd like to use the service please call the Hub during our opening hours (Monday to Saturday 10am to 1pm) on 01323 766230.

Secondly, we have lots of information for residents and visitors, maps, leaflets, forms and lots of local knowledge in our wonderful volunteers. Finally, we have a community Library, free to join and use, with over 2,500 books available on loan.

We are in desperate need for some more Drivers, if you could give a few hours a week to take someone to an appointment, we would love to hear from you. We reimburse your mileage. If you could see your way to doing some driving for some of the more vulnerable members of our community, it would make a big difference. Please either call the Hub number or pop into see us at the Sea Road Car Park site.

We're very grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund who have been part funding us over the last year and have enabled us to get a strong footing financially.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to Derek Green. Derek has been the Chairman of the Information centre for many years and worked with me to create the Hub as you see it today. Derek immediately saw what a great advantage there was with the Library and the Information Centre joining forces to ensure that both survived. Derek took on the Chair of the new Hub and led us through the enormous change that took place. Derek has decided to take life more easily now and all of us volunteers, trustees and users of the Hub thank him very much for all his outstanding work.

I am very pleased to have been asked to take over as acting Chair until the Trustees select a new one in the new year.

Daniel Brookbank
Acting Chair
Bay Community Hub

BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ROTHER VALLEY BRANCH

Brrrr Cacti and succulents certainly don't like the cold weather! No cacti are frost hardy in the UK, although species native to Patagonia and the Andes have evolved to cope being covered in dry snow when they are dormant. The only succulents that can withstand the cold are the alpine species (eg, sempervivums), not the desert ones.

If you keep your cacti and succulents dry in the winter most will tolerate temperatures approaching freezing for a few hours but 5-10C is best. Some of our members only grow cacti and succulents that can survive in an unheated greenhouse but that severely restricts what they can grow. A heated greenhouse is essential for the serious enthusiast.

If you keep your plants indoors, be sure to put them in a colder room, such as a bedroom. An unheated conservatory should be fine as it's attached to the house and will get some residual heat.

Cacti and succulents mostly have a strict growing season of late March to early September. Start watering your plants gently from the end of March but never let them stand in water. Wait for signs of new growth before watering more frequently, and give them some cactus and succulent fertilizer occasionally over the summer.

Apart from Christmas cacti and some 'other succulents' (as we call them), all need a sunny, south-facing window sill



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to ensure they grow well. It's difficult to generalize though so take a look at our website for more information.

For a FREE cultivation booklet please email your details to: secretary@rothervalley.bcscs.org.uk

Our club meets on the second Thursday of the month (except February this year – please see our website) at Sedlescombe Village Hall - doors open 7pm, meetings start at 7.30.

We have a great programme of talks lined up for 2026, ranging from habitat exploration to the cultivation of some of the weird and wonderful plants that make our hobby so fascinating.

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

Our Branch website has more information, including the 2026 programme:

www.rothervalley.bcscs.org.uk.

You can sign up to receive our monthly emails (and unsubscribe at any time) and there are links to our accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

There's always ups and downs on a farm and, yes, it's usually associated with the dark winter months when light is needed in barns and stables for feeding and attention to an equine's care. So, not unusually our lights have failed, and we have to run around with head torches, but most equines are afraid of head torches so other methods of seeing in the dark have to be conjured up. Fortunately, the lights are back on for our eighteen equines.

Hay prices have hit the roof as the dry Spring hit haymaking. We have been blessed with two or three significant donations of hay. Some, the big round bales we manage to get ourselves, two in a trailer, while others were kindly brought on a low loader, the transport cost being well worth the heavy work. Only 50 years ago I remember all hay was man-handled; very heavy work!

We look forwards to a Spring with pony heels kicking the air in delight at the new grass. Tony Smith 01424 892381 or 07711 924472.

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.

NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance sessions are held at the

East Sussex Hearing Centre in Chantry House (ground floor), 22 Upperton Road, BN21 1BF on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm.

Details of other NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance sessions, including at Langney Community Library, are available on the East Sussex Hearing website.

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

When you read this, we will have already resumed meeting after our Christmas and New Year break. If you have read our Club news in previous editions, you will know that we meet at St Luke's Parish Centre, Stone Cross on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm until 4pm. On the 1st Tuesday of the month we meet in a member's home, or, during the late Spring to early Autumn, we could be out filming.

You may wonder how we spend our time when we meet; it usually includes watching films, which members have made. In earlier years, when our membership was around 16 or so - several with good film making experience - means that we have a good archive of films made in our 'heyday', using video cameras. Nowadays the mobile phone has largely taken over for taking photographs, and likewise for recording moving images. However, the art and skill required to make a good film, one you can share with family and friends, in most instances, requires a video camera and an editing programme installed on the home computer.

We would always welcome anyone, particularly if you have a little experience of using a video camera. Or, if you want to make a start in film making, even if only of grandchildren or pets, or the family celebrating a special event. We have some good second hand cameras very enticingly priced, and the money is donated to the Parkinson's Society.

As offered previously, if any group is looking for something different to include in their programme of meetings for the year, consider having a few films to watch. We have comedies, documentaries, dramas - three to four films would fill an hour. Someone would come with a projector etc., and screen if necessary, - in return for a pre-agreed donation in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice.

If you want to know more, or would like to chat with someone before meeting with us please contact me, Malcolm Webster tel. 01323 769016, email me mfw Webster@btinternet.com, or email our Secretary, Val McManus at valmcm Manusuk@yahoo.com.

Alternatively, be bold; come to St Luke's, no charge for the first couple of meetings, not even for a cup of tea and a biscuit!



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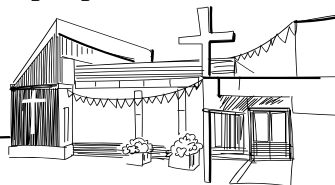
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EAST SUSSEX VISION SUPPORT

East Sussex Vision Support (EVS), formally The East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People, was established in 1921 when social inclusion was at the top of its agenda.



This is still the case today and we remain dedicated to providing vital services to blind and partially sighted people who live within East Sussex, Brighton and Hove.

Whilst aiming to increase the independence, confidence and well-being of blind and partially sighted people, we also work to promote the understanding of sight loss in local communities.

Perhaps one of the worst times in a blind or partially sighted person's life is when they are first diagnosed with sight impairment or when it changes or worsens. Such experiences normally take place at an eye clinic.

We are there to help when someone has a new diagnosis or if a sight problem changes or worsens.

The consultant can refer the patient directly to ESVS where we are able to provide advice, care, comfort, sign posting, support and ensure they have full advice and guidance at this very difficult time.

Our Services

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

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

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

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

We currently provide 10 social groups run by 100 volunteers.

These offer a vital lifeline to over 300 of our members who would experience social isolation and exclusion without the opportunity to get together once a month.

For further information about any of our services or to get in touch with us.

Please ring our HQ on 01323 832252, email: info@eastsussexvisionsupport.org or visit our website for further information: www.eastsussexvisionsupport.org

ETHEL WOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Ethel Wood Community Centre is your community hall and the perfect venue for every occasion.



It is located in the heart of Pevensey Bay on Coast Road and is an amenity for the whole community.

Key features and amenities include:

- spacious main hall with a seating capacity of 50
- well-equipped kitchen facilities
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- accessible for all abilities
- outdoor space

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

Interested in booking? Please visit the below website to access the booking system which includes the hall's availability, how to book and pricing or contact Sarah Mosedale: email: clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk; phone: 01323 743900/07849 124319; website: <https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/#bookethel>

FOXES HOLLOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Our thanks to the residents of Foxes Hollow Estate who have again joined our residents' association this year. Membership is currently just over 75% of the households on the estate.



Over winter we have progressed with updating signage in Dallaway Drive and Glessing Road that has faded. We have maintained the entrance removing and replacing the small tree growing over the footpath as well as tending to some of the other maintenance issues in the estate.

Our thanks to members who have volunteered to keep an eye on gardens for householders who are finding the work a bit too much and a notable well done again to Darren & Louise who organised a Christmas collection of gifts for Children and teenagers who otherwise may have missed out on Christmas presents.

Our AGM should be scheduled for late spring 2026 and we will circulate the date to all residents in advance with an invite.

If anyone has moved onto Foxes Hollow and has missed receiving a welcome pack or needs information about joining please contact us on 01323 764 350 or via our website at foxeshollowestate.com, regards Stuart McMillan Chair FHRA.





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THE HAVEN PLAYERS

We are a very friendly group who meet at Stone Cross Hall every Wednesday and Thursday at 7.30pm.

We welcome anyone interested in singing, acting, working backstage, in sound or lighting, costume or helping in any other way.

We aim to put on 5 productions a year and our next offering is "Cluedo" - a madcap comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist - on May 1st and 2nd.

See our website www.havenplayers.co.uk for more details.

INKSPOT

"Words are of course the most powerful drug used by man" - RUDYARD KIPLING

Our group slid from hot summer sessions into autumnal contemplation, and then to the edge of chillier winter solstice.

All these led to Christmas and New Year with the theme of 'Celebrations' - even the chocolate variety!

We meet monthly in the Library at the Pevensey Bay Community Hub on the 1st Friday from 3pm-5pm. It's a friendly group of creative words and voices, some just starting and some with a prospective novel in the pipeline.

We welcome short stories - no more than 1000 words - or poetry or even life stories. We also encourage you to visit to listen if you don't want to share orally as it offers feedback and a shared positive feeling to the meeting. Sometimes we start with a 'warm up' to get those writing brain muscles moving, but we've also had a musical 'warm down' which was a fun and stimulating change (we may have more!)

Our themes have also broadened to a visit to the Mint House in Pevensey. Such a place of history and mystery, and a small group of us took photographs and read about its history to later write up responses to the building and maybe many of its past inhabitants. I loved the discovery of so many ancient metal pins in clusters (possibly swept up after drinkers in the Inn!) and how they held our clothes together prior to buttons and zips! Thanks to Jo Seaman there for hosting us and we wish his team much success with their plans for the Mint House.

We also wrote on 'Castles' 'Earth, Air, Water and Fire' and 'Darkness' - perhaps many reflecting the season changes.

Each meeting has a refreshment break for tea/coffee and biscuits/sometimes cakes! and we pay £1 donation to the Library for use of the room and £1 towards our funds for trips out.

Our next meetings will be on Friday 6th March, Friday 3rd April, Friday 1st May and Friday 5th June. We look forward to welcoming new members.

We are having a special author visit at the May meeting. CLARE FLYNN is a prolific Eastbourne based author and her WWII novel 'The Chalky Sea' is based on the many true bombings of the town and makes a fascinating read.

For further information contact pcoughlan@btinternet.com or checkout our Facebook Inkspot page www.inkspotbythesea.com

MEMORY LANE

Memory Lane is a local registered charity providing support and social activities especially for people with dementia and their carer. Whether you live in Eastbourne, Polegate, Westham or anywhere locally you will be very welcome.

Our activities are varied and include singing or games at 2pm every Wednesday at Christ the King Church Hall, Princes Road, Eastbourne (just off Langney roundabout). Parking available, and bus stops nearby.

Once a month on a Saturday there is a themed lunchtime group with homemade soup and a roll. Additionally there is 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, and from time to time there are other activities members are invited to take part in.

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.

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Memory Spring Awakenings

The last year has been full of excitement and a lot of behind-the-scenes work at The Mint House. After having our busiest year so far (over 1000 people came to our last market for one!) we are launching into 2026 with a full programme of events and exhibitions and our longest period of being open to the public in many years.

The fun starts with our Spring Market on Sunday 22nd March where there will be plenty of stalls, entertainment and our buzzing tattoo studio. Then our first exhibition - Mr Dobbs and the Pharisees opens on the 28th March for the Easter Holidays and beyond. This exhibition is going





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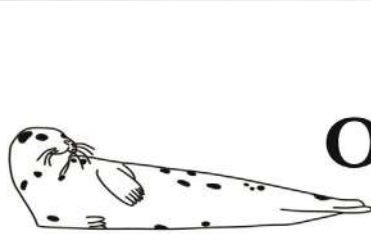
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to explore Sussex and wider faerie lore and stories, including what the people who stayed in the Tudor Mint House would have thought of them, a journey through the Other Realm and how the faeries have inspired art and artists.

Then over the summer holidays we are presenting Long Man – Tall Tales, looking at our local hill figure, The Long Man of Wilmington and seeing why he still inspires and intrigues us. We will see what archaeology tells us about his origins as well as the folk stories that attempt to explain why he is still standing proud on Windover Hill.

Expect controversy, conversation and a lot of creative fun for everyone!

This is just a taster of what is to come, so please do check out our website and social media for details of everything we are offering over the year.

Behind the scenes we have been working hard on a number of successful funding bids, notably from Historic England for a full condition survey of the building, the Architectural Heritage Fund to continue our work engaging with the public and the Pilgrim's Trust for the second phase of investigation into our unique range of wall paintings throughout the building.

All of this work is slowly preparing us for our biggest challenge, that of restoring the fabric of the building and helping to make The Mint House a vibrant and sustainable feature of Pevensey High Street for many years to come.

We can't wait to welcome our local supporters this spring and don't forget to follow us on Instagram (@the_mint_house_pevensey), Facebook @Friends of the Mint House and at www.minthousepevensey.co.uk



Makers Market, November 2025



17th Century wall painting



Wall painting

PARISH OF PEVENSEY ST WILFRID & ST NICOLAS CHURCHES

It is possible that by the time you are reading this I will have retired as Associate Vicar of Pevensey Parish. My final Sunday will be 15th March - Mothering Sunday.

My husband, Clive, who has been supporting the parish alongside me, will continue until 29th March - Palm Sunday.

I have no idea where the last 4 and half years have gone, but gone they have, and extremely quickly!

As I write (early January) there is no sign of a new Vicar, but I am hopeful that the 'right' person will be called to serve this community very soon. There are two beautiful churches and a recently purchased, and stunning, house in Coast Road awaiting them.

After our departure, church services will be covered by visiting clergy. There are many things I will miss about Pevensey Parish but the journey from my home in Willington Trees is not one of them and has become increasingly tiresome. There are also many people I will miss who have accompanied me on this journey and offered support and friendship - thank you so much.

My favourite verses in the bible are my prayer for you:

I pray that....Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16, 18-19.

Please see the 'What's On' section for details of particular services or events.

All are welcome to our regular Sunday services - St Wilfrid's at 9.30am and St Nicolas' at 11.30am.

Please get in touch with our Churchwarden, Ken Phillips (07415 580651) with enquiries about marriage, baptism or funerals and keep an eye on the parish website: www.pevenseyparish.org which is regularly updated.

Rev. Merriel Woodward

Associate Vicar

01323 509891

revd.merriel@hotmail.co.uk



St Nicolas Church



St Wilfrid's Church

PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS CLUB

The gardeners club has enjoyed an entertaining 2025 with some interesting talks, not all about gardening.

Looking forward to 2026, we have a full programme of interesting meetings, including a talk about The Sussex Dolphin project in April.





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www.hankhamschool.co.uk

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You don't have to be a gardener to enjoy our club. We do try and vary the subjects of our meetings which are held at St Wilfrid's Hall at 2.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month. Visitors are most welcome.

Sec. Jean Payne 01323 761204
Treas. Gill Parsons 07495 477269

PEVENSEY BINGO

New people are always welcome to join our bingo sessions.

We open at 6.45pm on Friday evenings. Eyes down is at 7.30pm. We finish about 9.15pm. We have 11 games of bingo, football cards, raffle. Free tea and coffee in the break after 5 games. We also have 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 of 01323 763520 or 07825 050599.

PEVENSEY CASTLE

Pevensey Castle spring opening from Saturday, March 28th, from 10am to 5pm we will be welcoming back visitors to our new 2026 season and site activities, walks and talks and new children's folktale creature trails.

Spring brings the re-waking of the natural environment that surrounds us at the castle. Delve into nature and attend:-

May 2nd 10.45am for 11am Pevensey Levels Nature and History illustrated talk by Evan Jones (in south tower). Entry free for English Heritage members and ticket prices apply for non-members.

We begin our spring community events with Friday 15th May the Vhélío Trophy which will come to Pevensey Castle. Around 80 participants and their Vhélios will begin the final leg of their journey from Pevensey Castle to the finish at Battle Abbey.

The Vhélío Trophy is a French initiative which encourages participants to assemble their own Vhélío - a solar-powered kit vehicle. In 2026, teams will race 140km,

starting near Rouen in Normandy to finish at Battle Abbey, using modern roads to retrace the path of William the Conqueror's victorious route. The Vhélío Trophy aims to raise



Vhélío

public awareness of sustainable mobility and promote technical cooperation.

Vhélío Trophy - The challenge of solidarity-based solar mobility: <https://tropheevhelio.com/>

Free entry to this community event. For exact timings check our posters on site at Pevensey Castle or Pevensey Castle and Battle Abbey Facebook pages.

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Tuesday lunch club has enjoyed a busy few months to the end of year.

A Christmas fair was held at the end of November to raise some much needed funds. A special Thank You to those who had a stall and especially to those who made the delicious cakes to sell. A total of £643 was raised.

A lovely festive turkey lunch was held in December cooked by our great chef Dee and her team who cooked an amazing 40 lunches.

Our list is full at the moment but if you would like to be placed on a waiting list please get in contact.

Also, we have walkers and wheelchairs available for loan in exchange for a small donation.

Gill Parsons 07495 477269
Somei Back 07960 094541

PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

As a club we bowl all year round and welcome new members.

Bowling sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday 2pm-4pm; Monday evenings 7pm-9pm; Tuesday afternoon is a fun group with bowls and bingo from 1pm-4pm; Sunday morning 10am-noon.

Membership is just £15 per year and £3 per session.

For further information contact Peter Winter on 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



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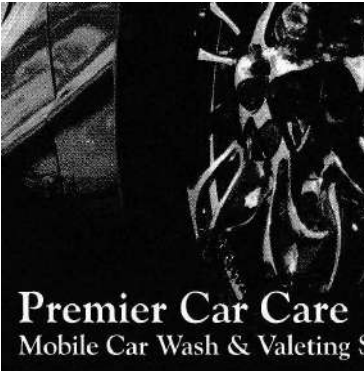
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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

2026 will be another active and exciting year for Pevensey Parish Council (PPC) with various events including the return of the popular Vehicles of Yesteryear event and works commencing on renovating the sports pavilion.

**Update on the pavilion project**

Progress on the Pavilion Project excelled in 2025 with planning permission being granted for the works. During the spring and summers months the council appointed a specialist company to draw up a full tender pack and specification for the refurbishment. Then in the autumn council put the tender pack out to potential bidders to undertake the refurbishment works in 2026, subject to funding. The council received a total of 9 bids for the project which had to be scored by using key principles and the specific scoring methodology to ensure a fair, objective, and auditable process. Following this in-depth process, the council were pleased to award the contract to Hawes Building Limited in January as they offered the best value for money by providing an optimal blend of quality and price.



Council are working with a fundraiser in order to put bids to various funding bodies, for the overall refurbishment costs, which are in excess of £450,000. It is critical as without urgent refurbishment, we risk losing the ability to host the next generation of athletes.

Save the dates

The Bayeux Tapestry is coming to the British Museum in September 2026 from France and the 1066 Country is working on promoting Pevensey and other local areas. This will undoubtedly be a great boost for the local economy and our communities, and it will hopefully bring more visitors to the village. Please keep an eye out for more information.

The Vehicles of Yesteryear car show will make its return this year and will be held on Saturday 9th May 2026 at Sea Road Car Park, Pevensey Bay. Keep a look out for more information as the event draws nearer. We are looking for volunteers to help out, if you are interested in vintage vehicles then come along and volunteer!

The other planned events include:

- Community Information Day on 26 September at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Litter picks will be held on 28 March at Sea Road Car Park, 30 May in Pevensey, 25 July in Beachlands and 24 October at Sea Road Car Park.

- In view of the planned refurbishment work for the pavilion, we cannot hold the village fete and dog show this year but are already planning for its return in the Summer of 2027.

In other news.

- So far this year council has provided comments on over 30 planning application received by the local planning authority.
- In January's council meeting we approved a quote to convert the remaining 11 heritage street lanterns in Pevensey to LED which will continue to reduce the environmental impact and running costs the council has year on year.
- Don't forget the council has published its own emergency plan self help guide which includes helpful advice on what to do in the event of an emergency and includes some help links and information. The guide can be found on the council's website at <https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/emergency-plan-information-and-links/>

Lastly, if you haven't already we recommend that residents sign up to the local flood warning system at sign up for flood warnings Flooding – GOV.UK. There are different warnings depending on which part of the parish you live in.

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

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

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

Twitter: @PcPevensey

Or please feel free to contact the Clerk on 01323 743900 or at:

clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk about positive feedback or any matters of concern.

➔ **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ➔

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Pevensey Needs

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PARISH COUNCIL

**CAN YOU HELP AT ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS?
OR HELP RAISE MONEY TO REFURBISH
THE SPORTS PAVILION?**

Please give a little time to help at the amazing Vehicles of Yesteryear Car Show on 9 May 2026 or at the next community litter pick at Pevensey Bay beach on Saturday 28 March 2026 (equipment provided)

To donate to the Sports Pavilion project please scan the QR code

For more information or about how you can get involved just

email: clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

or call on: 01323 743900



Local Community Organisations' Directory

Churches

Pevensey Bay Baptist Church	07365 723665
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
https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/#bookethel	
Pevensey Bay Baptist Church	07365 723665
pevenseybaybaptistchurch@gmail.com	
Pevensey Memorial Hall	07710 034087/07787 812829
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, cldr.daniel.brookbank@wealden.gov.uk	
Cllr Dan Upton, Stone Cross Ward	
07748 150540, cldr.daniel.upton@wealden.gov.uk	
Cllr Paul Coleshill, Herstmonceux & Pevensey Levels Ward	
07552 621066, cldr.paul.coleshill@wealden.gov.uk	
Cllr Mark Fairweather, Herstmonceux & Pevensey Levels Ward	
cldr.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

Hankham Primary School	01323 763265
Little PAWS Nursery	07344 103121
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

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Stagecoach	0345 241 8000
National Rail Enquiries	03457 48 49 50

Emergency Numbers

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Gas	0800 111 999
Water	0333 000 0365

Organisations & Societies

Anderida Border Morris	07815 426589
Bay Community Hub	01323 766230
British Red Cross	01323 412787
Brownbread Horse Rescue	01424 892381
Care for the Carers	01323 738390
Cats Protection	01323 440101
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	07982 376025
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
pevenseybaymrc@gmail.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 656435
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.

EASTER SERVICES (APRIL)

Maudy Thursday - 2nd

- 7.30pm** St Nicolas, Pevensey. Commemoration of the Last Supper.
8pm St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass and Watch till Midnight.
8pm St Mary's, Westham. Communion Service.

Good Friday - 3rd

- 10am** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Stations of the Cross.
10am St Mary's, Westham. Childrens craft event for Good Friday.
2pm St Mary's, Westham. Traditional reflection for Good Friday.
2pm St Nicolas, Pevensey. Liturgy.
3pm St Luke's, Stone Cross. Liturgy of the Word.

Easter Sunday - 5th

- 6am** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass at Dawn (check time).
8am St Mary's, Westham, BCP Holy Communion.
8am-9am Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Beach communion service by Sea Road car park, followed by breakfast at the church.
9.30am St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay. Easter Sunday service.
9.45am St Mary's, Westham. Worship for All Ages celebrates Easter.
10am St Luke's, Stone Cross. Sung Parish Mass.
10.30am Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Easter Sunday service.
11.30am St Nicolas, Pevensey. Easter Sunday service.

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.
 Pilates with Tracy: www.eastbournepilates.com/timetable.com St Wilfrid's Church Hall, 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).
1pm-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 Pilates with Tracy: www.eastbournepilates.com/timetable.com St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

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+).

7.30pm-10pm The Haven Players. Stone Cross Memorial Hall.

Fri Pilates with Tracy: www.eastbournepilates.com/timetable.com St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

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 (from April).

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.

4th Sun 6.30pm St Mary's Church, Westham. Worship with Coffee & Cake.

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.

1st Thu 10am-12pm Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Friendship Plus.

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.

2nd Sat 10am-1pm St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair. Free entry.

THE PARISH PUMP

'Providing a voice for local community organisations since 1967'

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

MARCH

- Mon 2nd 7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. 'Anne of Cleves': Helen Poole. Westham Village Hall.
- Tues 3rd 7pm** Pevensey Parish Council Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Fri 6th 3pm-5pm** Inkspot creative writing group. Bay Community Hub, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 12th 1pm-3.30pm** Westham Knit and Natter. Westham Village Hall. Carol White 07759 822692/Diane Parris 07732 341940.
- Sat 14th 10am-1pm** Craft Fair. Free entry. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- 12.30pm** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Spring Fair with stalls and refreshments.
- 7.30pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Fundraising quiz. Chiddingfold Village Hall.
- Tue 17th 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice evening. Free for first time visitors, then £4. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 26th 1pm-3.30pm** Westham Knit and Natter. Westham Village Hall. Carol White 07759 822692/Diane Parris 07732 341940.
- 7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Birthday meeting with Marco's Magic. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 28th 9.30am-11.30am** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Coffee morning. Refreshments, flowers, raffle, tombola and more. Westham Village Hall.
- 10am-12pm** St Wilfrid's Church Hall. Table Top Sale. Pevensey Parish Council Litter Pick. Meet Sea Road car park, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 29th 10am** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Palm Sunday. Mass with procession.

APRIL

- Fri 3rd 3pm-5pm** Inkspot creative writing group. Bay Community Hub, Pevensey Bay.
- Mon 6th 7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. 'Pavilions and Bungalows Bexhill': Alan Starr and David Hatherell. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 7th 7pm** Pevensey Parish Council Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 9th 1pm-3.30pm** Westham Knit and Natter. Westham Village Hall. Carol White 07759 822692/Diane Parris 07732 341940.
- Sat 11th 10am-1pm** Craft Fair. Free entry. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 12th 12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill Opens. Spring Fair.
- Tue 21st 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Flower arranging demonstration by Mig Kimpton. Open to all. £6 for non-members, to include refreshments. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 23rd 1pm-3.30pm** Westham Knit and Natter. Westham Village Hall. Carol White 07759 822692/Diane Parris 07732 341940.
- 7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Monthly meeting, quiz & games. Westham Village Hall.

MAY

- Fri 1st 3pm-5pm** Inkspot creative writing group. Visit by Clare Flynn, Eastbourne-based author of The Chalky Sea. Bay Community Hub, Pevensey Bay.

7.30pm The Haven Players present 'Cluedo'. Stone Cross Memorial Hall.

- Sat 2nd 2.30pm & 7.30pm** The Haven Players present 'Cluedo'. Stone Cross Memorial Hall.
- Mon 4th 7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. 'Wonky Eastbourne': Alan Wenham. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 7th 1pm-3.30pm** Westham Knit and Natter. Westham Village Hall. Carol White 07759 822692/Diane Parris 07732 341940.
- Sat 9th** Vehicles of Yesteryear. Sea Road car park, Pevensey Bay.
- 10am-1pm** Craft Fair. Free entry. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- 11am-3pm** Pevensey Bay Art Group. Exhibition. Aqua Club, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 10th 12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. National Mills Weekend.
- Tue 12th 6pm** Pevensey Parish Council Annual Meeting. **7pm** PPC Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Tue 19th 2.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Fun bingo afternoon. Westham Village Hall.
- 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice evening. Free for first time visitors, then £4. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 21st 1pm-3.30pm** Westham Knit and Natter. Westham Village Hall. Carol White 07759 822692/Diane Parris 07732 341940.
- Sat-Mon 10am-5pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Flower **23rd-25th** Festival.
- Thu 28th 7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Annual Meeting and 'Westham Village Pond': Peter Birchall. Westham Village Hall.

JUNE

- Mon 1st 7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. 'Ocklynge Cemetery': Kevin Gordon. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 2nd 7pm** Pevensey Parish Council Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 4th 1pm-3.30pm** Westham Knit and Natter. Westham Village Hall. Carol White 07759 822692/Diane Parris 07732 341940.
- Fri 5th 3pm-5pm** Inkspot creative writing group. Bay Community Hub, Pevensey Bay.
- 7.30pm** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Summer Quiz.
- Sun 7th 12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Open.
- Sat 13th 10am-11.30am** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Jumble sale.
- 10am-1pm** Craft Fair. Free entry. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- 6.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer Concert. The Cuckmere String Quartet.
- Thu 18th 1pm-3.30pm** Westham Knit and Natter. Westham Village Hall. Carol White 07759 822692/Diane Parris 07732 341940.
- Sat 20th 10am-4pm** Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club. Annual Exhibition. Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE
- 6.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer Concert. John Arthy Jazz Concert.
- Thu 25th 7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Monthly meeting flower demonstration and 'Have a Go'. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 27th 3pm start** St Luke's Church Hall. Afternoon tea.

St Nicolas Church, Pevensey

ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 23rd - 10am to 5pm
 Sunday, May 24th - 11am to 5pm
 Bank Holiday, Monday, May 25th - 10am to 5pm

SUMMER CONCERTS

Saturday, June 13th - 6.30pm
 The Cuckmere String Quartet

Saturday, 20th June - 6.30pm
 John Arthy Jazz Concert

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 Answerphone available at other times.

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PEVENSEY UKULELE GROUP

Our numbers continue to increase where we rehearse at the Holy Blue in Stone Cross at 7pm on a Tuesday evening. Fortunately, all 40 members don't all come at the same time.

Our bookings usually include one a week mostly in care homes, sheltered housing or in village/church halls for disability groups. Birthday parties are common at the Holly Blue and inevitably we are asked to play Happy Birthday to the party when they hear us rehearsing.

We were sad to lose Christine who died in December and used to be a member of our group. She and her husband also came to Spain with us when we were invited to play in Southern Spain. They used to run the fish and chip restaurant in Westham.

Performances recently have been for the Dementia group at Westham Village Hall, Sycamore Grove near Polegate, Saint Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, Victoria Care Home and Woodside Hall both at Polegate, Whitecliff in St Leonards, Carlisle Lodge, Eastbourne to name but a few.

We normally charge £50 for the hour session, but most of that money we give to charity and this is often the local Children with cancer. For information ring the leader, Alan Coomber on 01323 763061 or 07986 130034.

PEVENSEY BAY ART GROUP

This Autumn has been a very busy and successful time for the Art Group.

In October we had our AGM and we were delighted that some of our newer members have now joined our Committee.



We are currently looking forward to introducing new technology including a projector to improve the accessibility for all to our workshops.

Between October and December we enjoyed three workshops, Pastels, collage and an interesting morning which involved pebble painting. These workshops were presented by members of the Group and we thank them for their input.

In November we had another successful exhibition/coffee morning. We were pleased that so many people attended and some artwork was sold during the Exhibition.

The New Year will see more workshops. Still life drawing and 3D boxes, also we have booked external workshops from established artists. All these workshops inspire our members to try different mediums.

Another Exhibition is booked for 9th May at the Aqua Club, this is the same day as the Vehicles of Yesteryear. We hope that this will showcase the depth of ability in our Group.

We have been able to welcome some new members to

our group over the last few weeks. It is always inspiring to welcome new members with different and exciting skills to bring to our group but novice painters, like myself are always welcomed and existing members are always happy to advise and the workshops certainly give you something to aim for.

We meet every Wednesday between 9.15am and 12.15pm in St Wilfrid's Hall, Pevensey Bay, and refreshments are always on hand. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us on 07790 277986.

Sue Poore

PEVENSEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Whether you are looking to be involved in a vibrant church family, or are curious about exploring life, faith and meaning with us, we look forward to offering you a friendly welcome.



We are a community of people who truly believe in the life-changing power of Jesus. We experience God's love and unity through the Holy Spirit, and aim to love both God and our neighbours, while serving our local community.

Our gatherings are for everyone - no matter your age, background, or nationality. We would love to connect with you and get to know you better.

Sunday Services (10.30am-12pm)

We meet every Sunday in the church hall for our Sunday Service. You will find a very friendly welcome, 90 minutes of worship, teaching, and an opportunity for you to ask the team to pray for you after the service. There will be a time to chat together over refreshments after the service.

Prayer Meetings (2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7pm-9pm)

The church gathers together twice a month to encounter God and pray for each other, our families, our community, and for events happening in the world.

Life Group (1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays, 2.30pm-4.30pm)

Life groups are a place to gather with friends, to grow in faith together, to build each other up to share our needs and care for one another.

Friendship Plus (1st and 3rd Thursdays, 10am-12pm)

Friendship Plus is all about friendship...plus trips out, special interest events and coffee mornings. We love making new friends - everyone is welcome!

Knit & Craft (2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2pm-4pm)

Knit & Craft meets together to either knit for charity or bring along our own craft projects to do, whilst having a cuppa and a chat.

Men's Breakfast (1st Saturday of the month 8.30am-10am)

Men's Breakfast is an opportunity for men to meet up and fellowship over breakfast at a café or pub.

ALPHA

Curious about Faith? Alpha is a place for you to explore the Christian faith on your terms. Each session unpacks a big question on life, faith and purpose and is designed to



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spark conversation. There's no pressure or follow up, and it's free! Keep an eye on our website for our next Alpha course.

EASTER – Sunday, 5th April

On Easter Sunday we have an early morning communion service on the beach (8am by Sea Road car park), we then head back to the church for breakfast (about 9am) and at 10.30am we have our Easter Sunday Service.

For more information or if you would like to come along to any of our activities, please contact us or visit our website.

Pevensey Bay Baptist Church

34 Eastbourne Road, Pevensey Bay
07365 723665 (phone, text or WhatsApp)
pevenseybaybaptistchurch@gmail.com
pevenseybaybaptistchurch.org.uk

PEVENSEY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

The Monday evening club nights continue to be busy with ongoing work on three projects, each at various stages of development.



The newest layout is in the planning stage and is a n gauge based on the London Underground.

The other n gauge (Ohlstadt) is based on a fictional continental layout based in the style of a German/Swiss railways of the 70s/ 80s era. The scenery is under construction, it features a lake, bridges, town buildings, and illuminated station.

The oo gauge (Pevensey Beach) is being rebuilt, with new boards, tracks, lighting, and a refresh of the scenery.

If you are interested in joining the club, a warm welcome is guaranteed to anyone who would like to attend. No experience required, so come along and meet us at the Ethel Wood Community Centre, Monday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm.

If you are unable to commit to joining the club, then why not come along to our annual exhibition on Saturday, 20th of June 2026. The club will again be staging its successful annual model railway exhibition at the Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE. The doors open from 10am to 4pm. The venue has ample free parking. The 1/1A bus stops outside, and the venue is fully accessible. There will be at least twelve working layouts of different scales, gauges, and sizes. As well as trade stands selling a variety of goods, including the club's own stand. Refreshments will be available to buy.

The club buys and sells pre-owned model railways items, including locomotives, wagons, coaches, and any model railway accessories.

If you require any further information about the club nights, the annual exhibition, or any other model railway queries, please contact us:

New website: pbmrc.club
Email: pevenseybaymrc@gmail.com
Phone: 07562 095349

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

Winter has been a busy time for us with lots of tree and bush pruning, path maintenance and improvement, as well as repairing and building up our fences and dead hedges. Thanks go to our core team of dedicated volunteers who turn out even on the freezing cold days to keep the forest garden in good order ready for the spectacular greening and blossoming time in Spring.

The recent very cold spell has been very beneficial for our many apple trees, which need cold winter days to break winter dormancy, allowing their flower buds to properly develop and open in spring, ensuring successful pollination and fruit production. Without enough cold, buds may fail to open, bloom irregularly, or produce poor fruit, whilst failing to conserve energy for vigorous spring growth and killing pests.

We have been blessed in recent months by the arrival of quite a few new and enthusiastic volunteers, which is just as well given that much needs to be done now that our activities have expanded over the ten years we have been in existence.

As well as the forest garden, we now run a new community orchard next to Pevensey Castle, home to nearly thirty fruit trees. Our volunteers put in many hours to look after these fruit trees, all of them heritage varieties which local people are free to scrounge for fruit (hopefully when they've been allowed to ripen properly!). You will be able to admire the colourful blossoms in Spring when walking along the public footpath running through the orchard.

We are very happy to take on more volunteers, not only for the manual work but also for administrative tasks, and assisting the community workshops we're planning for 2026.

Contact: pawforestgarden@gmail.com, phone/text Andy on 07402321382, or leave messages on our Facebook page.

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM FLOWER CLUB

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

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

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

Our annual subscription is £30, with entry to the meetings being £3/£4 for Practice Evenings and £5/£6 for demonstrations.



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Here's to our journey so far – and the many more milestones ahead.
Thank you for being part of The Home Bees family.

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

March sees our annual "Coffee Morning" - which is always a well-attended, fun event.

We comprise a happy mix of beginners and experienced members – and there is no judgement on your abilities! Just come along and have a go!

Your first visit to a practice evening is FREE - so what is there to lose!?

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

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hello Everyone,
Happy 2026 to you all and many thanks for your continued support.

We had a few hiccups last year so I'm crossing my fingers that all is well this year!

Helen Poole is our speaker for March with 'Anne of Cleves', followed in April by Alan Starr and David Hatherell with 'Pavilions and Bungalows Bexhill'.

May brings one of our favourite speakers Alan Wenham with 'Wonky Eastbourne'. Another favourite in June is Kevin Gordon with 'Ocklynge Cemetery'. As you already know in October 2025 there was a bit of a problem, so we welcome Kevin again!

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

The Committee

RVS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

The Monday Lunch Club Christmas lunch was very different on the 15th of December. I was asked if we would ask Rosemary Shrager, as she had joined the national RVS, Morrisons and the media to highlight loneliness that is happening to the elderly all over the country.

She wanted to see for herself what a difference a club like ours makes to people. Rosemary went all round the room talking to everybody. She even joined in with our entertainer, Philip of Rocking Robin, even got some of them dancing.

I must say a very big thank you Sam Taylor of Volker Stevin Ltd for the wine and sweets, Morrisons for the food and goody bags, Sainsburys that gave us mince pies and satsumas, and anyone



who has given apples and pears and vegetables during the year.

Many Thanks also to the Chairman of Pevensey Parish Council, Peter Lowton who had taken time to join us. By the time you read this, we will have taken the members to the pantomime at Stone Cross and out to lunch while a new boiler was being fitted in the hall.

Christine Wood,
01323 768019

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, STONE CROSS

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



We are still in interregnum presently. However, we have benefited from many Sunday sermons and weekly services from Reverend Canon Colin Luke Boswell for over two years, as well as spiritual guidance and care from Reverend Pat Gibbs, our Assistant Priest, who has just recently delivered her final Sunday and Tuesday services as she begins her retirement.

In January, Archdeacon Russell Dewhurst officiated for us at our "Family Service" and joined us for our shared lunch. We shall soon be preparing for Lent. Please see "What's On" for further listings.

Looking forward, we have our Easter Services: Palm Sunday Mass with Procession on Sunday, 29th March, followed by Holy Week.

Masses will be held nightly at 7.30pm, on 30th and 31st March; then on 1st April. There will be Mass on Maundy Thursday, 2nd April, at 8pm, and then a Watch until Midnight. The Stations of the Cross will begin at 10am on Good Friday, 3rd April, with the Liturgy of the Word at 3pm. On Easter Sunday itself, there will be Mass at Dawn at 6am* (check website to confirm time), with our Sung Parish Mass at 10am on 5th April.

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

We are having quarterly quizzes at the Parish Centre, as well as regular Jumble Sales! Nothing is Real, gave us another night to remember The Beatles in November, and will be back again in 2026.

We also had our annual Christmas Fair with a Tree Festival in December.

Our Spring Fair will be in the hall on 14th March. In June, the Summer Quiz will be in the hall on 5th, as well as a Jumble Sale on 13th and an Afternoon Tea on 27th. Look out for other community events and timings via our website!



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

Chrissy Norris

Parish Administrator

01323 767020

email: saintlukestonecross@gmail.com

website: www.saintlukestonecross.org.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

To the many who came to our Christmas services we hope it was a meaningful and uplifting time for you. Despite the poor weather our Carols by Candlelight was very busy, whilst we were absolutely full to the gunnels for our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve! It says something about the strength of the Christian story in our day and age as topsy-turvy as it presently is.



The next major festival is that of Easter. If the Christmas story is one of the coming of divine hope into the world as a baby, so the Easter story tells of that hope in action.

The lead-up to Easter is called Lent and to help explore that theme we are holding our annual Pancake Party for Children and their parents/carers on Saturday, 14th February, 10.30am till 12.30pm. We will mark Ash Wednesday (18th February) with a simple Communion Service at 10am.

Then, in what's often known as Holy Week, there will be an evening Communion Service, 8pm, on Maundy Thursday, 2nd April, a children's craft event exploring events of Good Friday on 3rd April, 10-11.15am, alongside a reflection for adults in the afternoon, 2pm, focusing on why Christians see Good Friday as so valuable. Our Easter Day celebrations begin at 8am with Holy Communion (BCP) and then a family communion service at 9.45am.

Our twice monthly 'Worship for All Ages' services carry on at a pace on the first and third Sunday of the month (9.45am) with the remaining Sunday morning services being more traditional in nature. A warm welcome to all who would value exploring Christian spirituality within the complexities of today's world. Do check our website for more information or for any date changes.

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 the 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 meetings
- Lots of Pilates classes on several days per week and Flexercise classes
- Craft Fairs on every second Saturday of the month between 10 and 1pm
- Table top sales twice per year- the next one will be on 28 March
- For Boys and Girls there is a Squirrels Drey Group, every Tuesday from 4.15pm for 4 and 5 year olds and 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 works to maintain the hall. We are now looking to replace the kitchen and put in new flooring and redecorate the meeting room.

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 2 to 3 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.



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To book a visit or for further details please contact the Administrator on e-mail admin@stonecrosspreschool.org or mobile 07864295888.

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

STONE CROSS WINDMILL

Last season was very successful.

The Trust welcomed many new visitors to enjoy exploring the Windmill followed by refreshments including an array of home baked scones and cakes.



The Trust is grateful all our local residents who readily support the Windmill with tombola gifts and donations.

The volunteer team has seen the addition of two local residents who have contributed to the essential weekly maintenance.

Like all heritage buildings the Windmill requires constant maintenance and subject to obtaining a suitable grant the maintenance team hope to prepare the Windmill Tower (that is looking very sad) for re-painting.

The volunteer maintenance team meet every Monday morning at the Windmill and if you fancy helping please contact the chair for further details.

One of our volunteers has arranged a fund-raising quiz evening on Saturday, 14 March, 7.30pm at Chiddingfold Village Hall.

Further details regarding booking a table can be found on the Stone Cross Windmill web page.

Wholemeal flour using local grown wheat will be available for our enthusiastic bread maker visitors to purchase when the Windmill opens on 12 April.

Please continue to visit the Windmill as this historic building needs your support and donations.

Private groups can book the Windmill for mid-week and weekend tours when it is closed and this also includes refreshments or a cream tea.

Trustees can also provide talks to local groups for a donation to the Windmill.

We look forward to meeting all our friends at the Windmill when it opens on Sunday 12 April (a week after the Easter weekend) 12 to 4pm.

Updating information can be found at:
www.stonecrosswindmill.co.uk.

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

TAI GYOKU RYU AIKIDO CLUB

Happy new year one and all! The Eastbourne Aikido School is starting the new year with an introductory session on 11th February at the Ethel Wood Community Centre from 6:30 pm. All are welcome, so if you have any interest or are just inquisitive, please come along.

We are a long-standing club, with roots in traditional Japanese martial arts. Although Aikido was developed in the 1930's, its origins go back over 900 years. It is a 'soft' martial art, it does not rely on strikes. We seek to control a situation and don't meet force with force.

Students practice in a spirit of cooperation to improve their ability. Aikido is not competitive and fosters cooperation through partner and group training and, helps to develop skills which can be used in everyday life.

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.

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

1066 COUNTRY

The iconic Bayeux Tapestry – depicting William the Conqueror's 1066 invasion at Pevensey – is returning to England for the first time in over 900 years – sparking a hive of regional activity to mark the conquest.



The 70m long masterpiece, embroidered in wool thread on linen, tells the story of the invasion by the Normans and the Battle of Hastings.

It is thought to have been made in England in the 11th Century and sent to Normandy – where it has remained.

Now, the Tapestry is being loaned to the UK and will go on show at the British Museum providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see it in this country.

Regional activities and events are being co-ordinated by 1066 Country - a public and private partnership – whose brand is built around a stunning 378-square mile area of historic coast and countryside that includes Battle, Bexhill, Hastings, Pevensey, Rye and stretches from Herstmonceux to Camber and north to the Kent border.

With an annual economic value of over £900m and supporting 21% of jobs – tourism and the visitor economy is vital to our region.

The team at 1066 Country is also leading regional co-ordination of the European Year of the Normans in 2027 as part of the commemorations to mark the Millennium of William the Conqueror's birth.

These historic opportunities offer a powerful platform to elevate the story of 1066 and drive national and international visibility for our area.



It is our aim to make the most of the opportunities presented to the region over the next few years. In order to do this, joined up planning across tourism, heritage, culture, education and community partners is essential.

We welcome contact from organisations who would like to host activities linked to the Bayeux Tapestry or Year of the Normans.

If you have an event, project, idea or campaign you would like included in our stakeholder mapping, or if you're interested in collaborating, please get in touch: visit1066country@rother.gov.uk

TRADITIONAL SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB

Shotokan Karate is one of the major Japanese styles of Karate with origins that go all the way back to Okinawa before going to mainland Japan in 1922.

Through Shotokan's rich history you can develop the warrior spirit which helps you achieve your life goals and improves your health, fitness, flexibility, strength, coordination and all-round mental and physical wellbeing. Training with likeminded 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 7 - 8pm every Thursday night at the Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall).

The club is open to anyone age 16 to 80. Should you have any questions or be interested in joining us just come along 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 our caning, painting, textile and woodcarving 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 check our webpage or contact: Jean Wilson. Mob: 07932 785557, email: jean.dolmeg@gmail.com

WESTHAM ART GROUP

After a Christmas break it's lovely to get back to our art group. We meet every Wednesday 1pm till 4pm at Westham Village hall. We are always happy to see new members.

We don't have any fixed agenda our members bring along their art projects and use various mediums. Some use pastels others watercolours, acrylics and pen work. We are a friendly lot and spend time talking and encouraging one another on our projects. We take a break part way through with tea and coffee provided and more often than not homemade cake all included in our weekly subscription of £5.

We go on a few outings during the year (this is normally paid out of our subscriptions). We visited Sissinghurst castle, a beautiful place and well worth a visit and later in the year visited a church in Goring that depicts a replica of Michelangelo's Sistine chapel. This was then followed up by an afternoon tea.

We had an inspiring demonstration by Keith Collins who painted a rainy scene. He gave really useful tips on colours to use for perspective and different types of brushes to achieve various effects.

We always have our Christmas dinner at the end of January which we are all looking forward to as everyone tends to be quite busy in the run up to Christmas and it's nice to have something to look forward to in the new year.

We have an art exhibition each year where we show and sell our art creations to the general public. This will be in October this year details nearer the time.

If you think you would like to join us then please get in touch with Brian Gage on 01323 461433.

WESTHAM EVENING WI

January 2026 started the New Year with some proper winter weather change, even some snow and proper frosty mornings! Not something that has been experienced in this area for quite a few years.

The members of Westham Evening WI join together to



welcome the year, with a meal at the Langham Hotel. The next celebration will be their Birthday Party at the March Members' Meeting, which will include a magician to entertain everyone.

As well as the Annual Meeting in May, other meetings include one to stir the brain cells with a quiz and games, a speaker about Westham pond and one where the subject matter will keep people guessing as it is an unusual hobby!

Looking further ahead, hopefully towards a good summer, there is an open garden planned in July.

The additional groups with particular interests continue to flourish, including baking, theatre trips & lunch, book club, walking and gardening; although, those last two maybe more 'indoor' until the weather becomes more Spring-like. This is a WI which offers a wide variety of events and pursuits, suitable for many ages.

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

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

As we begin 2026, a new year, with new challenges, and the overwhelming threat to Westham Village residents of the proposed planning application of 150 homes development on Peelings Lane.



A big thank you to Maggie, all her team, and the many supporters of Friends of Peelings Lane for all their hard tireless work and commitment, and for everyone who submitted their objections to this development.

If anyone missed the deadline at the end of December to submit their objections you can still do this up to March 2026 by email: planning@wealden.gov.uk Quote Reference : WD/2025/2269/MAO

Parking and speeding are still a big issue along the high street and the village pond area.

The grass verges opposite the kitchen shop, by the high street, have been completely destroyed by cars and large vans parking on them.

There are still people parking on double yellow lines, across pavements, blocking driveways, with total disregard to the safety of residents, pedestrians and the wheelchair bound.

With long dark cold winter months now with us, this is the time when thieves and burglars are at their most active.

Make sure your cars and vans are securely locked, and if possible park in well lit areas near street lighting.

Also if you're going to be away from your home for long periods make sure all doors, windows and garages are securely locked and bolted and leave some lights on to make it look like you're at home.

Remember if you see something or someone acting suspicious or doesn't look right, report it to the police.

Stay warm, stay safe and remember Neighbourhood Watch is your eyes and ears. WE ARE WATCHING YOU !!

WESTHAM POP-IN

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

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

We have a variety of pre-read books for sale with a range of jigsaws for you to hire.

We do hope you can join us, the cost is just one pound to include a tea/ coffee and biscuits.

We hope to welcome you at the Westham Pop-In very soon.

Westham Pop-In Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE CONSERVATION GROUP

In last summer's edition of the Parish Pump, we talked about the threat of further development in the parish arising from the government's push to "Build, Baby Build". Unfortunately, this threat has not abated, but has become even greater.

The draft local plan, consulted upon in 2024, had a local housing need (Note: it is nothing of the sort, simply a large number imposed by government) of 1,197 houses/year across the District. Now, the government "need" figure has increased to 1,457 houses/year.

The day this piece was written in January, Wealden's cabinet voted on whether to accept a second draft local plan to go out to consultation in February and March. The draft plan from two years ago proposed 933 houses/year, whilst this latest one proposes 977 houses/year, totalling 16,609 houses to 2042. But, the plan also includes option sites – around 27 of them, with a further 8,329 houses. We anticipate that most of these will be included in the next version of the plan due out this summer. Thus, the 16,609 will considerably increase.

For our parish, the current draft plan has included 350 houses obliterating Sharnfold Farm, with a further 75 houses immediately to the east. This will urbanise the whole triangular area between Hailsham Road and the bypass from the bridge over Hailsham Road to the Golden Jubilee Way roundabout.

Elsewhere in Stone Cross, the draft plan identifies a further five sites with an additional 93 houses.

In Westham, a small site for seven houses is included south of Rattle Road, plus another site for 150 houses north of Peelings Lane. A planning application for this latter site is currently under consideration by Wealden. It has gained

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ➔

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Westham Parish Council would like to wish all residents a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

The Parish Council will continue to work for the residents during the coming year.

Recently the Parish Council has worked with the County Council transport department to investigate installing a bus stop clearway for the westbound bus stop in Castle View Gardens, Westham.

This stop has now been added to the bus stop clearways list and will be included within a 2026 bus stop clearways programme.

Protecting fields and green spaces in the Parish area with the Fields in Trust Organisation

The following areas are now classed as "Fields in Trust" –

Adur Park,

Butchers Field in Westham,

Castle Bolton open green space and play areas,

Westham Parish Council has spent the last two years legally protecting the precious open spaces and recreation grounds.

This has taken a considerable time collating deeds, land registry documents and original maps of the area. This has been carried out to stop development on our green spaces and resist pressure for more development.

Fields in Trust is a leading UK charity dedicated to protecting parks, playing fields, and green spaces so they can be enjoyed by communities forever. Established in 1925, the organisation has spent a century championing the idea that access to safe, high-quality green space is not a luxury, but a vital part of healthy, thriving communities.

At the heart of Fields in Trust's work is the legal protection of green spaces. By working with local authorities, schools, sports clubs, and community organisations, the charity helps ensure that land used for recreation and sport is safeguarded against development and loss. Once protected, these spaces are preserved for future generations, giving communities confidence that their local park or playing field will always be there.

Fields in Trust also plays a key role in shaping national conversations about green space. Through research, guidance, and advocacy, the organisation highlights the social, physical, and mental health benefits of access to nature and outdoor sport. Its work supports better planning, improved standards for green spaces, and stronger policies that put community wellbeing at the centre of decision-making.



Green spaces are essential to everyday life. They provide places for children to play, for people of all ages to be active, and for communities to come together. They also support biodiversity, help improve air quality, and offer vital breathing space in increasingly built-up environments.

Despite their value, many parks and playing fields face ongoing pressure from development and underinvestment. Fields in Trust exists to meet this challenge, ensuring that once land is set aside for sport, play, or recreation, it remains protected in perpetuity.

Across our local area, green spaces are under increasing pressure as demand for new housing and infrastructure grows. While development plays an important role in meeting community needs, the loss of parks, playing fields, and informal open spaces can have lasting impacts on health, wellbeing, and the character of neighbourhoods.

This is where the work of Fields in Trust is especially relevant. By securing long-term legal protection for green spaces, the charity helps communities balance growth with the need to preserve places for recreation, sport, and relaxation. Protected spaces give residents reassurance that vital community assets will not quietly disappear over time.

As local green spaces face difficult choices about their future, Fields in Trust provides expertise, guidance, and a powerful voice for communities who value the role these places play in everyday life. Protecting green spaces is not about standing in the way of progress, but about ensuring development happens in a way that supports healthier, more sustainable communities.

➔ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

considerable local opposition as it will be intrusive into the countryside, urbanise a popular country lane and destroy views across the Pevensy Levels. Wildlife will also suffer a major degradation.

We urge you to object to this Peelings Lane application and also make your thoughts known to Wealden about the draft local plan. Stone Cross is unfortunately now a suburb of Eastbourne and we don't want Westham to follow.

WESTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Firstly, your Hall Committee wishes you all a happy, healthy and peaceful 2026. The Hall saw a busy Christmas period with events and parties alongside our regular weekly group activities.

We are delighted to report that we have had our new front doors installed, which happened just in time as the original doors were becoming increasingly difficult to open, close, and lock to keep the Hall secure. We would like to extend our grateful thanks to everyone for their help in making this happen, from personal donations to those supporting our grant applications and to the installation of the doors themselves.



Alongside the doors, the Hall's new boilers are working well, providing ambient warmth at all times which in turn provides the Hall with lower energy bills and a reduced carbon footprint.

There are many regular Groups at the Hall, Dance Mavericks, Pevensey and Westham Flower Club, Westham Art Group, The Historical Society, Stitch and Knit Group, Westham Pop-In, Rebel Art Group, perhaps there is something here you might like to attend or join?

If you would like to host an event or have an activity or Group you may wish to hold at your Hall, please give our helpful booking clerk Julie a call on 07821377110.

When the Hall opened, a tablecloth was embroidered with signatures of local parishioners, a beautiful piece of our Hall and Village history.

The Committee have decided to continue this idea with a twist, by asking for signatures on a bunting pennant that will then be embroidered and hung around the Hall.

If you would like to join in the fun, the bunting pennants can be found in our Library/Meeting room for which we ask for a £1 donation which will go towards the upkeep of your Hall.

Westham Village Hall continues to serve as a hub for our Community, with our seating area outside the front of the Hall being a welcome spot to sit with neighbours, family and friends.

This area is proving to be an inclusive space for everyone in our community to enjoy, not just for those using the Hall.

We hope to see you at your Hall soon.

Diane on behalf of Westham Village Hall Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE POND

Last Summer residents were shocked to see another Swan killed by a vehicle driving too fast down Peelings Lane from the north. A duck was also killed earlier in the year.

Thank you to the Westham Neighbourhood Watch group for reporting some incidents.

More people need to report safety incidents to Sussex Police - Operation Crackdown website anonymously. Registration Number, details and a photograph helps, if possible. Offenders receive a letter, repeat offenders and hot spots are identified.

Parking illegally on double yellow lines obscures sight lines dangerously and children are at risk when crossing in between parked cars.

Parking restrictions are not enforced by Wealden District Council. This can be reported by Telephoning 101 or online.

Westham Parish Council will be replacing the rusting duck warning signs.

Pond island - trees here were coppiced over the winter.

This was last done in 2022. The willows grow back rapidly, log piles have been enhanced providing more hibernaculum habitat for amphibians. The Black Poplar Tree was pruned.

Contractors continue to manage plants in the pond and remove some silt.

The work of WPC and volunteers continues, over the last 7 years we have improved water quality.

The water has been clear now for 4 years. Stickleback fish and a grass snake were observed last year. Any duck feeding increases water pollution. Residents have minimised feeding, reducing harm to our beautiful pond.



Three-spined Stickleback. Credit: Derek Middleton

Listen out for the rapid, chattering shrill notes of the Reed Warblers in the western reed bed in May. They fly in from Africa and build an intricate round reed nest.



Reed Warbler

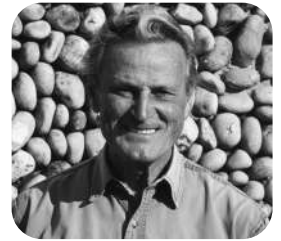
If you would like to meet up occasionally to help other volunteers with maintaining the unusual wild flowers on the bank or just to come along and learn more about our pond please email the Westham Parish Council Clerk: clerk@westhamparishcouncil.org



Westham Village Pond in July with local wild wetland flowers, Marsh Mallow, Purple Loosestrife and Teasel

Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



Christmas and the New Year are now just behind us and there is one bird most closely associated with this period, the "Robin", so I'll start with what is also most people's favourite bird.

Our best Christmas present was the arrival of one on our seaside patio and garden on Christmas Day. It stayed long enough to accept a "seed lunch" and thus entertain us joyfully.



A Robin painted by Alan Everard

The male and female Robins are so similar in both size and colouring that I could not say which it was. I checked in one of my bird books and read: "The sexes are so similar in both size and colouring that even the Robins themselves have to check one another before mating, by behaviour rather than any distinctive plumage difference". This very unusual situation is also said to be present in one other bird, the "Great-Crested Grebe". I must admit that I find this almost beyond belief as Nature has resolved most problems like this over its long-term on our Planet Earth. So I checked and found a confirmatory picture of two of them shooting up out of the sea water face-to-face and looking identical. This was, of course, part of their mating ritual!

Now I would like to hand you over to Hazel for her latest article.

Hello my friends

What a welcome edition this is - just saying spring and summer fills me with anticipation of new life and gardens awash with calm and colour, newly planted bulbs, shrubs and trees.

The wildlife in my garden this autumn and winter has been incredibly high, especially on the very cold wintry, short

daylight hours. Much larger birds have been coming to visit me, Crows, Jackdaws, Collard Doves, too many to mention. My neighbours have often remarked how they enjoy watching all the chirping and fighting for poll position on the many feeders.

Please remember to put fresh water out daily. I try to remember to empty some of my watering dishes at night so that they can be refilled early morning so they don't all freeze.

My friends at Pevensey tell me that their hedgehog box seemed very active late this autumn, so hopefully we may get some more baby Hoglets, fingers crossed. I will, of course, keep you updated.

Their garden has also been very busy with rabbits which they don't mind, apart from the holes they are leaving behind. They also have many foxes coming and going and an abundance of birds. My favourite is the beautiful Woodpecker, reds and greens fabulous.

On my recent walk up to Beachy Head to my favourite seat looking out to sea, it's early morning, the cold has created dew on the grass with a very slight frost, so peaceful and calm. I take out my flask of hot coffee and of course a cheese sandwich, no traffic noise, not a sound, perfect. I'm soon joined by a beautiful Magpie, and lurking in the background is one of my favourite birds Mr Blackbird - how complete is my morning, I do share my sandwich with both of them - you wouldn't not would you? How wonderful it is to live near such a lovely part of the world. **Hazel Wood.**

Thank you Hazel. I would now like to hand over to my friend Barry Erlan who has a few words:

With summer now long gone and my last sighting of swallows was back in mid-October at Chilley Farm the Pevensey Levels are making way for its winter visitors. Lots of Snipe, Ducks and a pair of Egyptian Geese. Little Egrets becoming regular visitors, the Lapwings are making a welcome return with a flock of 100 birds which was a normal sight back in the 1970s. Let's hope the sound of 'Pee-Wit' fills the Levels once again.

I'll finish this with an amusing event involving our local field mouse, Mickey. To avoid friction between our Seagull Jonno and other local birds, I had laid out on the furthest edge of our patio three separate offerings of birdseed. Obviously, Mickey had been watching my activity because as soon as we came in and sat down in our sun lounge, we saw Mickey hurtle out from under our side gate and across to the furthest pile, snatch some seeds in his mouth and hurtle back to his den. He then hurtled out again to the middle pile to do the same and finally, of course, the third pile. I think he was a little disappointed to find that all the seeds were the same, but I am sure he enjoyed the results of his capers. Let's hope he doesn't expect all this again until next Christmas!

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and wish you well for 2026!

Alan Everard

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne **Coastal Management Scheme**

What's been happening and what's next

Short-term (2025-2027):

It's been a very busy winter on the beach, with multiple large storm events in December and January. We've been on the beach day and night, sometimes seven days a week, working hard to keep you safe.

We would very much like to thank everyone who sent in kind words of support and for your patience during these important works.

At the time of writing, we have just experienced Storm Goretti. We had been monitoring the weather front closely and were well prepared, having rebuilt the beach following the previous storm. Storm Goretti brought large waves, strong winds and a high overnight tide, resulting in significant shingle loss across the beach frontage. The eastern end, from Cooden Beach to Normans Bay, appears to have been the most affected. Repair work began promptly, with machines addressing the damage.



**Storm Goretti recovery works on Pevensey beach,
9th January, 2026**

These winter storms show the scale of the challenges we all face from our changing climate. This is exactly why we're planning and preparing for future phases now.

To stay informed and prepared, we strongly encourage residents to:

- 1) Sign up for Environment Agency flood warnings:
www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings
- 2) Subscribe to Beach Manager email updates through our short-term works page:
www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk/short-term-phase-2025-2027

Signing up means you'll receive timely updates during severe weather and coastal events.

Medium-term (2027-2037):

The Phase 1 project remains on track to take over from the short-term works in 2027.

We're busy with everything from design work and computer modelling to environmental reports and getting the licences we need. Landscape consultation will start soon, focusing on enhancing accessibility, celebrating local heritage, and strengthening natural habitats.

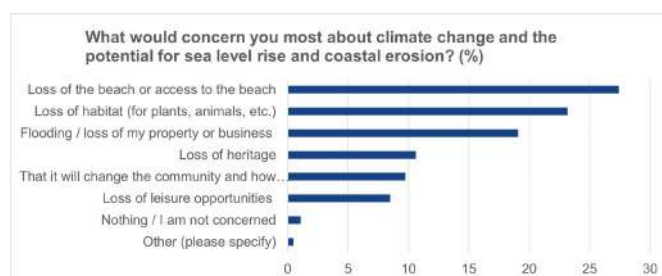
Don't forget - your area has a community representative on the Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group. The members are well informed and up to date on the latest project news. You can find out more on our website: www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk/stakeholder-engagement

Long-term (future phases from 2037):

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent survey - we had over 1,000 responses!

Your feedback has given us valuable insight into how people use the coastline today, your hopes and concerns for the future, and how aware people are of our plans. It also helps us understand the best ways to keep communities involved. You can view a summary of the findings on our website: www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk

Here's a quick snapshot from one question:



We've also made an important decision: rather than continuing work on a 100-year strategy document, we're starting early development of a large complex coastal management project from 2037, called Phase 2. This is because the case for future investment is so strong.

In the meantime, technical studies are underway to guide future phases. This includes modelling to show how long the beach can continue to act as a flood defence.

Community engagement will remain a priority, and we'll be in touch when it's time to get involved in the long-term again.

Further information and contact details:

Visit our webpage to subscribe to our newsletter:

www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk

You can also follow us on social media:

- Facebook: Pevensey and Eastbourne Coast
- Nextdoor: Environment Agency- Solent and South Downs
- X: Environment AgencySE

Or email us: pevenseyandeastbourne@environment-agency.gov.uk

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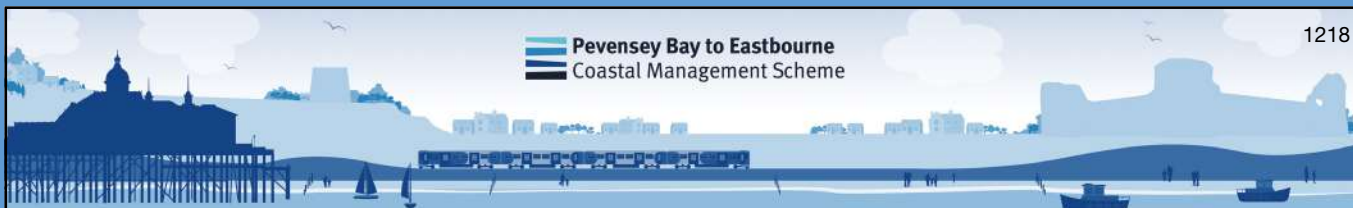
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The Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme is one of the largest coastal flood defence projects in England covering 15km of coastline from Holywell in Eastbourne through to Cooden Beach.

 www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk

 www.facebook.com/PevenseyandEastbourneCoast

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