

The Parish Pump

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



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Issue 163 – Winter 2022-23

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

This my last edition as Editor and Advertising Manager and these functions will be taken over for the next edition.

My involvement in The Parish Pump began in the Spring 2014 edition in which I wrote the following:

'Having responded to the previous editor's pleas for someone to take over either as Advertising Manager or Editor I have now taken over as Editor for the Spring Edition and, hopefully, other future editions! I, for one, believe very strongly that the continuation of The Parish Pump in its present format is important for the communities which it serves. Where else would we find the range of information it contains about clubs and other groups? When looking for a local tradesman where do we look first? The Parish Pump, of course.'

On the sad death of Jan Barron I took over the role of Advertising Manager as well.

By the time you read this all the ceremonies associated with the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will be over and we will be settling into resolving the problems of the nation. I was amazed by the number of people who queued for hours to pay their respects in Westminster Hall. This shows the great affection for HM The Queen. My wife and I were fortunate enough to be invited to a reception on board the Royal Yacht 'Britannia' when the Queen & the Duke of Edinburgh visited Saudi Arabia in 1979.

Nicholas Munro, Editor
07507 480084

MESSAGE TO ADVERTISERS

Please make sure you let me know if any of your contact details change. Address, Phone Nos, e mail address.

Contact for Advertising Manager:
e mail parishpump13@btinternet.com
tel no **07507 480084**

PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL Volunteer Bookings Secretary

Pevensey Memorial Hall already has a well established schedule of regular bookings ranging from dance classes to a playgroup, however there are still some slots available for hire. The Hall Committee are seeking an enthusiastic volunteer to co-ordinate regular users and one off lets alike.

Tasks include: show round to one off booking enquirers, key handover, issue and return of Booking Form, liaising with Treasurer to ensure hire payment made prior to booking. Attendance at Committee Meetings (approx. 6 per year).

Interested? Please email the Secretary:
Jayne.howard@btinternet.com

ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

Anderida have been busy with our first dance season since January 2020. Our new dancers have settled well into the group. We have enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new friends at Festivals and pub stands around Sussex and Kent. Many of the festivals we attend there are lots of different styles of dancing to watch and a real mix of costumes and music. It's like one big family when we all get together.

We are now holding regular workshops over the autumn and winter months to encourage more new dancers and musicians to join us in preparation for 2023, so if you are interested watch out for posters around Pevensey, Westham and Eastbourne. We also have a social media profile on Facebook and Instagram.

Please feel free to drop into any practice sessions on Tuesday evenings between 8.00 pm -10.00 pm. There is plenty of free parking on site and the first session is free with only a small weekly fee of £3.00 per person. It's a great way to make new friends and keep fit! We meet at Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. Contact Jane on our Facebook page Anderida Border or email at anderidamorris@gmail.com



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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL DEDICATED PAGE

Pevensey Parish Council (PPC) has continued to work on various projects as well as following its 3 year plan commitments. Some of the matters that PPC has been dealing with recently include:

The removal of the timber play structure at Wallsend Recreation Ground which unfortunately had to be removed for safety reasons. The Parish Council at their meeting on 6/9/22 have, despite financial challenges, agreed to replace it with a wonderful new piece of equipment as soon as possible. The piece of equipment is called "Treetops" which ironically is where HM The Queen was when she found out that she had become Queen on 6th February 1952. We are therefore planning to dedicate the equipment in her memory when it is installed. With this in mind, the Council is very grateful for the generous donations from Pevensey Coastal Defence Limited for £1500 and from The Friends of Pevensey Playgrounds for £1460, which will go towards the cost of the new piece of equipment. If any other business, organisation or individual would like to make a donation please contact the Clerk.

-

Councillors have held several meetings with East Sussex County Council to raise some of the issues about our roads, including speeding, and about the need for pedestrian crossings as well as a range of other matters including grass cutting and road signage. These meetings will continue and PPC will continue to work with ESCC to ensure that the issues are dealt with.

PPC has continued to be consulted about various planning applications. We have continuous contact with Wealden District Council (WDC) planning department and our District Councillors to raise concerns on behalf of local residents.

-

Council is working closely with the Sports Association to ensure that the Pavilion and Sports Ground are maintained;

PPC monitors crime issues and antisocial behaviour, liaising with our District Councillors and Sussex Police. Updates are provided on the Council's website and social media channels on this and other issues of local interest

PPC is working to prevent speeding, particularly around the Castle, along Coast Road and in Beachlands. This includes trying to obtain monitoring equipment.

If you or any one you know would like to help tackle speeding on our roads, then you can help by joining one of our local Community Speed Watch schemes. (CSW)

Pevensey Parish is very fortunate to have two CSW groups, supported and promoted by Sussex Police and PPC. CSW is highly valued and helps to tackle the problems of speeding in the villages. However, both groups need more volunteers, so if you can spare a little of your free time to help tackle speeding in our villages, please contact Steve O'Connell at CSW@sussex.pnn.police.uk

This summer, after two years, PPC was pleased that it was able to run the 2022 Dog Show on the 26th June at Wallsend Road Recreation Ground. The event was very popular with dogs competing in 8 classes including Best in Show. It also included stall holders, charities, entertainment, attractions, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and Sussex Police. The show was also lucky to include a demonstration from Newfoundland Dogs (NWEFS in Action).

The show was held to recognise good dog ownership as well as to raise awareness of the issue of dog fouling in our villages. The Parish now has 23 dedicated Dog waste bins and 2 dog waste bag dispensers. Ordinary litter bins can also be used for bagged Dog waste.

Contact 01323 743900 to contact the Clerk or at clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

ADVERTISING POLICY

The Parish Pump accepts all advertisements from local businesses and others in good faith and hopes that they will provide useful goods or services to the community. However, The Parish Pump does not have the resources to vet advertisers and makes no warranty whatsoever or in any respect on behalf of the advertisers in this publication. It remains entirely the readers responsibility to access the authenticity and suitability of any advertiser, and readers are advised never to part with money before delivery of goods or completion of services.

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The advertisements are prepared between April and July each year to appear in the Winter, Spring and Summer editions.



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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 Normans Bay. The project has a new website, please visit www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk to see the latest updates.

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ANDERIDA WI

The first meeting of a Women's Institute in the UK was held at Llanfairpwll, North Wales in 1915. Anderida W.I. (Pevensey Bay) do not go back that far but we have recently celebrated our 61st Birthday. The ladies provided a superb afternoon tea and a celebration Birthday cake was made especially for the afternoon. Two of the 'original' ladies cut the cake, Vi Everard and Naomi Chapman. Two very loyal ladies to Anderida throughout the years.



'The Pink Panthers' provided the musical entertainment for the afternoon. The group consisted of four semi-professional lady jazz musicians each playing a different musical sound on their individual saxophones. The instruments produced a wonderful listening sound and the music played had all the ladies tapping their feet to the rhythm. Superb music!

We have had one disappointment this year. Diane Gould, the Pearly Queen (as appearing on 'The Repair Shop') was unable to speak at the June meeting due to attending the funeral of a dear friend. Robert Slater, the Ghost Walk host from Pevensey, very kindly came to our rescue and gave a very entertaining talk on 'Ghosts'.

There is still a lot to look forward to for the rest of the year. Unfortunately, closure rears its ugly head once more. Costs are rising and our membership is not! We try to promote Anderida W.I. as much as possible to no avail. As an afternoon group, we probably will not attract the younger ladies as they may work. A lot of the older ladies are still loathe to venture out due to the wretched pandemic. The National and East Sussex Federations do not help. Nearly everything now is 'online'! Less than half of our ladies have access to a computer. Yes, a lot have a mobile telephone with the information, but it is usually in very small print. So much better to have for instance, the East Sussex Federation monthly Newsletter as a magazine to read in the old-fashioned way. A decision will be made at the Annual Meeting in October for the possible closure in March 2023. Until then, we have a great range of speakers.

Shirley Clark

*President, Anderida WI (Pevensey Bay)
01323 769236, sscgypsy@hotmail.com*

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

Activities on a farm have to go on whatever the weather and, similarly, on most farms, during the pandemic work carried on much as usual. Oh yes, some notices about the two metre distance and visitors requiring a mask if they entered the farm may have been put up but, working from home was always a hard but pleasant occupation.

At Brownbread Horse Rescue in Ashburnham this was much the case. Our 2 metre notices are still pinned up on trees near the entrance. Otherwise the work rescuing equines carries on as normal. Similarly, folk continue to bring donations of tack, horse rugs and general equipment for horse and rider. We constantly get phone calls from folk wanting a horse or pony on loan.

Sometimes they want a companion for one of their animals but also some want a horse on loan to ride. Such a rideable horse commands a price and is not likely to need rescuing. We very rarely have to rescue a rideable horse, though, having said that we had one elderly horse recently where the owner was ill and couldn't look after it any longer. Even though the horse is rideable we won't let it out on loan because of its age; like humans it needs to enjoy its retirement.

Another point about that rescue is that, for many years, the owner made a Direct Debit to a large, national horse rescue charity. Then came the time she asked them to take her horse; they refused! Why do people send money to the big national charities that are rich anyway, when there is a struggling charity on their doorstep? Not only on their doorstep but often run by volunteers where all the money donated actually goes to the work the charity does and not to pay for advertising, offices, people and their mortgages.

While we don't have formal Open Days now, we still have visitors both as groups or individuals by arrangement.

Tony Smith

*Trustee, Brownbread Horse Rescue, (Charity 1029341)
Brownbread Street, Ashburnham, Battle, TN33 9NX
01424 892381*

EAST SUSSEX MOVIEMAKERS

Having said goodbye to the summer months, our autumn programme is now upon us. Members will be watching the results of filming which took place in St Luke's Church in the late Spring. Two violinists played music especially composed for a duet. It was very melodious, but challenging to film, so the finished articles should be entertaining to watch and hear.



In recent weeks, members have been using a very short script with the intention in one of our autumn meetings to recreate 'a film studio experience' Hence we are on the lookout for a male and female in their 20s. to do a bit of acting for us (see contact details below) Our AGM will be on 19th October when plans for 2023 will be discussed, and made.



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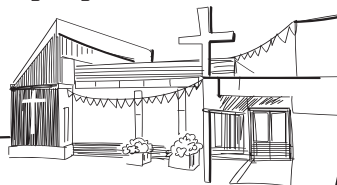
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With a mix of member's films due to be viewed in November, the year will conclude with an afternoon tea, courtesy of our Treasurer James and his wife Kate's hospitality.

We are a very small, but very friendly club, and will always welcome anyone with an interest in making or watching films made by keen amateur movie makers. We always manage to find time for a cup of beverage and a biscuit. Come and spend an evening with us at no initial cost except your time. Car parking is in the church grounds off Rattle Road, Stone Cross. For more information call 01323 769016.

Malcolm Webster
(Co-chairman with Alan Tutt)

EAST SUSSEX VISION SUPPORT

East Sussex Vision Support (ESVS) was established in 1921



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

Perhaps one of the worst times in a blind or partially sighted person's life is when they are first diagnosed with sight impairment or when it changes or worsens. Such experiences normally take place at an eye clinic. We are there to help when someone has a new diagnosis or if a sight problem changes or worsens. The consultant can refer the patient directly to ESVS where we are able to provide advice, care, comfort, sign posting, support and ensure they have full advice and guidance at this very difficult time.

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

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

Our Telephone Helpline is based locally at our Hailsham HQ. The service is available from Monday to Thursday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

We currently provide 15 social groups run by 200 volunteers. These offer a vital lifeline to over 500 of our members who would experience social isolation and exclusion without the opportunity to get together once a month.

A new Service to East Sussex Vision Support, the Higher Intervention Service is aimed at assisting clients who have more complex needs or are looking to deal with a range of issues that may be affecting their life.

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

FRIENDS OF THE MINT HOUSE

Friends of the Mint House was established in April 2021 to preserve the Mint House building at the top of the High Street and create a resource that adds value to our community.

We have spent the year doing initial professional archaeology, formally registering as a charity, talking to people that can help us form both a national and local perspective, and setting up the processes and plans that will enable us to progress. Adding to our growing list of adult volunteers, we now have a small team of youth helpers, including a Duke of Edinburgh volunteer who has completed his Bronze Award with us and has already started on Silver!

Already, the emerging story of the building is fascinating. It is even more intriguing than the tall stories of ghosts and adventurers jumping from windows that we heard about the building when we were younger. We know it started life as some sort of commercial building, one big hall with a large separate kitchen, but what was its purpose? Was it a market hall, guildhall, town hall, warehouse or something completely different?





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And when we answer that question the second big question leaps out at us, why turn it into a residential building around one hundred years later, circa 1600?

The historical written evidence is patchy while the archaeological finds and the fabric of the building itself currently only help with our understanding of the building, not its place in the rich history of Pevensey.

Then there is the big question of how we preserve a six-hundred-year-old building in a way that is sustainable and in keeping with modern principles of energy conservation and minimal impact upon the environment?

If this intrigues you as much as it does us, come and talk to us as we still need people to help in various ways; from volunteering on an ad-hoc basis with open days, archaeological work, and gardening, to providing specific expertise. Please email: friendsmint@mail.uk, ring 07572 601334, or write to: Friends of the Mint House, The Mint House, High Street, Pevensey, BN24 5LF.

INKSPOT

Inkspot is a creative writing group meeting in Pevensey Bay on the first Friday of each month at 6pm. We have moved to a new home, and are delighted to have use of the Ethel Wood Hall along Coast Road. It's a perfect meeting place for us with plenty of space, ventilation and a bright and modern kitchen.

During the summer we enjoyed our 8th annual 'Strawberries and Stories' event sharing our written work, strawberries and a literary quiz in the lovely setting of the Ethel Wood garden.

Each month we write on a different theme, and as well as sharing our written work at our meetings, we bring our stories and poems together in a monthly anthology. Our current themes are either A Right Royal Affair or The Homecoming.

We're on Facebook ([inkspotbythesea](https://www.facebook.com/inkspotbythesea)) where we regularly post details of upcoming meetings and writing themes. We can be contacted by email at inkspot@gmx.com.

One of our members has recently won second prize in the annual Wealden Writers short story competition. Outside of group meetings some of us also meet socially to attend events such as the Haven Players productions, and a future visit to Charleston is planned. We were very happy to be able to make a contribution to the St Nicolas Flower Festival from our funds, and several of us very much enjoyed this wonderful event, not to mention the cakes!

New members who wish to share their creative writing, or find inspiration to write, in a supportive group are welcomed. On occasion we move our meeting date to fit in with perhaps member's holidays, so it's best to drop us an email beforehand if you are thinking of joining us. There is no charge for first time visitors, subsequent contributions are £5 per meeting which includes really lovely snacks!

Jacky Long

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

Despite the horrendous, record-breaking heatwave we experienced this summer, our forest garden coped very well. The extensive shade from the many mature trees on site protected our fruit and nut trees and bushes - and our volunteers - pretty well from the excessive heat and helped prevent the ground from drying out too much, thereby ensuring that our fruit harvest was almost as abundant as in previous years. This demonstrates how forest gardening is one of the ways food growing systems can adapt creatively to the challenges of climate change.

This contrasts with the poor harvest of fruit from the Platinum Jubilee orchard we planted earlier in the year next to Pevensey Castle, which does not enjoy the same degree of shade that the forest garden has. Nevertheless, all the fruit trees we planted - except one - survived and remained healthy thanks to the hard work of our volunteers in watering and mulching them. Talking about the Platinum Jubilee, we're very sad about the recent death of Queen Elizabeth II, but immensely proud that the orchard we planted will be a small part of the immense legacy she has left for our country. The new orchard was an official part of the Queen's Green Canopy Project that Her Majesty initiated to commemorate her Platinum Jubilee, and we have fond memories of the wonderful Jubilee Picnic we held there in her name back in June.

Given that severe droughts are probably the new normal in this part of the world most summers now, it's just as well that we have significantly increased the number of water butts and rainwater cisterns on site to ensure adequate watering of our young trees and bushes. Conserving rainwater is such an important part of any kind of gardening now!

If you would like to visit our forest garden, please contact Andy on 07402321382 or email us at pawforestgarden@gmail.com.

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PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM HISTORY SOCIETY

Hello Everyone, hope you all had a lovely Summer break as we now resume into the Autumn. Our programme continues in October with Alan Wenham 'Burgs to Boroughs' (a 1000 years of local governance).

He is followed in November with Jo Seaman 'Excavations at Motcombe Dovecote' (Subject to Change).

December will be Tim Jacobs 'Vintage Post Boxes of Eastbourne'. Very relevant for our Christmas Meeting!

There will be NO meeting in January 2023, but in February we welcome Eric Huke and 'The Mary Rose - Lost and Found'.

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

The Committee

PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS' CLUB

A difficult year weather-wise is drawing to a close, so let's hope next year will be a bit kinder to us gardeners. Sadly due to the unusually hot weather, and its affect on our gardens and produce we had to cancel our annual show. We did manage to hold our smaller Afternoon Show in June although this was considerably reduced in exhibits to normal, but well done to everyone who managed to put an exhibit in.



As I write the Schedule for 2023 is being prepared and an interesting programme planned for the year. After the AGM in October, we plan to show you how to make a bee/insect hotel for your garden. In November there is a festive look to the meeting when Sue Davis will be demonstrating sweet making for Christmas, and in December the members are having a buffet lunch at 1.00 pm. The speaker for December is TV personality Jim Whelan who has been in Coronation Street, The Royles and Home Fires to name but a few. Visitors are welcome to this part of the meeting. Jim's talk will begin at 2.30 pm and visitors entrance is £3.00.

New members are always welcome to our club. Membership is £12 pa. Further information from the chairman Keith Henderson on 01323 460523 or bigK6342@gmail.com

Denise Morgan-Smith
President

PEVENSEY BAY ART GROUP

We are again safely ensconced in the hall at St. Wilfrid's and enjoying being "home". We have had some very interesting workshops over the past few months.



A caricature and cartoon session was led by Zoe and Marie, opening our eyes to the skill and imagination shown in the work of the professional satirists. The depiction of animals in a variety of media with Hazel and Jill was very popular and produced some lovely pieces. Colour exploration led by Lotte, helped us to look at the role of colour in our work more closely. A fascinating morning listening to music was Mick's contribution, encouraging us to clear our minds of everything and be imaginative, to make art work inspired only by the sounds we were hearing. Still to come before our AGM, on 12th October, we have lino cutting and two watercolour workshops led by Alan and Brenda.

Our main Annual Art Exhibition, held on Saturday, 27th August, was a great success with a steady stream of viewers attending. We enjoyed discussing our art work with visitors and we received many compliments on the variety and skill shown in the pieces exhibited. Our sales were very healthy. Congratulations to everyone who took part.

We look forward to our next event, a Coffee Morning and Art Show in St. Wilfred's Church Hall on Saturday, 19th November, 1000 am – 1.00 pm. We hope to see you there.

We are a mixed ability art group, who meet on Wednesday mornings in St. Wilfred's Church Hall, from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm. We welcome new members. If you are interested in joining, please drop in to the hall or contact us on 07790 277 986.

Dinah Jones

PEVENSEY BAY AND DISTRICT INFORMATION & CARING CENTRE

It is such a privilege to have been elected as the new chairman of Pevensey Bay information and caring centre.



I would like to thank our previous chairman, Mr Alan Vaughan, for his dedication and hard work over the past years and we wish him well in his retirement.

We are doing a mini makeover in our visitor centre, why not pop in and have a look. We are currently open from 10.00 am-1230 pm, Monday to Saturday.



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Tel: 07568 473917

1186

Apart from local information we have a range of gifts and pre loved books and we provide volunteer drivers to take people from the local area to medical appointments (doctors, hospital, dentists etc) for a small donation to cover fuel costs, the drivers will take you to your appointment and wait for up to two hours and then return you home.

We like most charities, are always on the look-out for new volunteers, pop in and see us and find us on Facebook.

Make I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

Derek V Green
Chairman

PEVENSEY BAY TO EASTBOURNE COASTAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME

As most of you will be aware the contract to manage the beach, which started back in 2000 is due to come to an end in 2025. The Environment Agency would like to thank Ian Thomas and the wider Pevensey Coastal Defence (PCDL) team for all their work in keeping the residents and business of the Pevensey Bay area safe from coastal flooding. There is a huge amount the new Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Coastal Management team can learn from the past 20 plus years, but there are also areas where we can look to develop.

The Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne scheme is a major project, looking at the 100-year future of the coastline. Developing such a project takes time and in doing so time does sometimes slip; therefore, we are developing a fall-back plan if the PevEb isn't ready in time for 2025. This contingency plan will fill any interim gap between the end of the PCDL contract and the start of the PevEb and will ensure the coastal defences continue to operate.

The challenge we face due to the unpredictability of climate change is unprecedented and if we are to give the coast the best chance of protection; we need to be looking to bold, innovative and new approaches. For this reason, the project team are in the early stages of designing a flexible management plan for the coastline, that will allow us to respond to changes in our climate and environment. We will be talking about this approach more during our public engagement events, which will be advertised locally.

In the meantime, please visit our website www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk or drop us an email at pevenseyandeastbournecoast@environment-agency.gov.uk

PEVENSEY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

After a two year enforced pandemic break, Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club, staged its seventh annual Model Rail exhibition in early July. Held at the Victoria Baptist Church in Eldon Road, Eastbourne, an interesting and varied selection of layouts was on display together with a number of trade stands.



Visitor numbers were excellent and members were delighted by the many complimentary comments about the exhibition. Emphasising the attraction of model railways a good number of families attended, more so than in years past. Chosen by the visitors to the exhibition, the club's own N gauge layout "Murrell Park" was voted the best layout in show, a further acknowledgment of the hard and detailed work by the team in its construction after featuring in a national model rail magazine in the latter part of last year.

One show finishes and planning is already underway for next year.

Club nights continue every Monday evening at the Ethel Wood Centre from 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm and members busy themselves with on-going projects. We continue to welcome new members. As always new and prospective are assured a warm welcome in a friendly and social atmosphere.

For further information visit our website pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com or e-mail pbmrc@outlook.com

PEVENSEY BINGO

We still would like to have more people attend on a Friday night for what is the longest running bingo in the area, been running for more than 60 years. it only costs 50p for entry and a strip of 6 books is just £3.

Free tea and coffee in interval. 10 games plus a flyer which is £1.20 for a strip of 6

We have a raffle in the interval - a chance to win a £50 prize after sheet is completely sold. Come and enjoy a good evenings entertainment. All proceeds to Hall funds.

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PEVENSEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

We are very proud to say that Volunteers Network has been awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary service, the MBE for voluntary groups. It's amazing to have our little library recognised with this award and its all down to our wonderful volunteers.



It's wonderful to be able to say that our Library is now fully open and providing services to our community again, and that the community is really using it too! We are open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. We have about 7000 books available for loan along with a large amount for sale too. We can lend you jigsaw puzzles, we can even get you a cup of tea and a sit down.

We are very pleased to accept donations of books, so please keep them coming, especially fiction, crime and local interest.

Daniel Brookbank

Director, Volunteers Network CIC

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our lunch club is still going strong, although we desperately need more volunteers to help in the kitchen.

Due to lack of volunteers we are having to change the format of our lunches.

We are going to be going out, hopefully, once a month and have our Christmas lunch booked at the Hydro Hotel.

If anyone has a spare few hours on a Tuesday, especially if you have any catering experience please get in touch. 07495477269.

Gill Parsons

PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL
SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

We held our internal competitions in the summer. The mixed singles was won by Peter Winter and runner-up Linda Alsop. The pairs was won by Nigel Alsop and Graham Keeley with Linda Alsop and John Wilson as runners-up.

The triples was won by Keith Goodwin, Jenny Matthews and Peter Winter. with Marie Goodwin, Rita Keeley and Trevor Martin as runners-up. Bradley mixed pairs was won by Jenny Matthews and Peter Winter, with Linda Alsop and Trevor Martin as runners-up.

Ladies singles was won by Linda Alsop with Sue Slade as runner-up. The men's singles was won by Graham Keeley who beat Peter Winter.

For further information contact Peter on 763520 or Linda 764336.

PEVENSEY UKELELE GROUP

The Pevensey Ukulele Group, who you know as PUGs, continues to perform publicly following the near shut-down during the pandemic.

The ukulele has proved to be one of the easiest instruments to play. It not only provides musical notes but allows the musician to add their voice to sing along with their own playing. This may be a reason why many schools favour the ukulele instead of the recorder; singing is not an option when blowing a recorder!

Of course, many Care Homes had strict restrictions about visitors and, even after the Government eased the rules, many Care Homes were rightly concerned about the vulnerability of their elderly residents. Even now, we find that some require masks on entry and, only a while ago, required a negative Covid test before entry.

The Group meets at the Holly Blue, Stone Cross, on a Tuesday evening, 7.00 pm -9.00 pm with a break in the middle. Normally about 35 players attend the rehearsals; it's a friendly atmosphere and help or advice is always available.

Each public performance has at least eight performers and sometimes as many eighteen. Considering that some of the performers come from up to ten miles outside Pevensey it is only fair to charge £50 for a performance. This is not to pay the performers; they play for free. The money raised is donated to local charities, the most recent £350 to the Children With Cancer Fund, (Charity 1110644) based at the head office 5, Western Avenue, Polegate BN26 6EP.

Performances, that are about an hour of traditional, well known songs, have taken place this year at the Royal British Legion home at Mais House, Bexhill, Queen Alexandra Cottage Homes, Seaside, Woodside Hall Nursing Home, near Polegate, Hellingly Hub, The Hawthorns Retirement Home, Ore Community Centre and St Georges evening celebration at Herstmonceux Village Hall.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ➔

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Local Community Organisations' Directory

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This list is published in good faith and using the information supplied to us. If the contact number for your organisation has changed, or is incorrect, please write to The Editor of The Parish Pump at the Information Centre, Sea Road Car Park, Pevensey Bay. If your organisation is not listed then forward the details, for inclusion in the next issue.

Churches:

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

Halls:

Ethel Wood Community Centre, Bookings	01323 743900
Memorial Hall, Pevensey	01323 764565
Memorial Hall, Pevensey, Bookings	01323 764565
St. Luke's Parish Centre, Stone Cross	01323 767020
St. Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay, Bookings	01323 460523
Stone Cross Memorial Hall	

secretary@stonecrosshall.org

Westham Village Hall, Bookings	07821 377110
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Medical Centres:

Pevensey Bay, Westham & Stone Cross	01323 761461
Eastbourne D.G. Hospital	0300 131 4500

Parish Councils:

Pevensey – Clerk to the Council	01323 743900
	or 07849 124319
Westham	01323 461299

Play Groups & Primary Schools:

First Steps Mums & Toddlers	01323 769002
Hankham Primary School	01323 763265
Little Castle Nursery	07568 473917
Little Lukes Playgroup	01323 461649
Pevensey & Westham Pre-School	07925 538730
Pevensey & Westham Primary School	01323 762269
Stone Cross Independent Pre-School	01323 740149
Stone Cross Primary School	01323 461002

Public Transport:

National Rail Enquiries	0845 748 4950
Stagecoach	0845 600 2299
South-East Traveline (Bus & Train info)	0871 200 2233
Cuckmere Buses	01323 870920

Social Services:

William Daly Centre	01323 484316
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Emergency Numbers:

Floodline	0845 988 1188
Electricity	0800 783 8866
Gas	0800 111 999
Water	0845 278 0845

General:

Court House, Pevensey	01323 733419
Pevensey Bay Information Centre	01323 766230
- out of hours emergencies	01323 740315
Pevensey Bay Community Library Enquiries	01323 398227
Pevensey Bay Community Library Renewals	01323 398227
Pevensey Castle	01323 762604
Pevensey Coastal Defence	01323 761202

Women's Institutes (WI):

Anderida (Shirley Clark)	01323 769236
Westham Evening	01323 762374

Voluntary Organisations & Societies:

Anderida Morris	01323 318532 or 07943 839838
Bowls Club	01323 764346
British Red Cross	01323 732471
Care for the Carers	01323 738390
Cats Protection League	01323 440101
Dickens Fellowship	01323 471615
Disability Solutions	01323 763506

disabilitysolutions8@gmail.com

Eastbourne Stroke Support Group	01273 782715
East Sussex Vision Support	01323 832252
East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre	01323 722505
East Sussex Moviemakers	01323 769016
E/Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service	

07815 078234

Foxes Hollow Residents' Assoc.	01323 764350/764590
Guide Dogs for the Blind	01323 763206
Haven Players	01323 460174
Kit Wilson Trust	01825 830444
Monday Bingo Club	01323 763583
Monday Lunch Club, Pevensey Bay	01323 469168
Pevensey Area Gardeners' Club	01323 650719
Pevensey Bay Art Group	01323 763578
Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club	07774 185651
Pevensey Bay & District Stroke Club	01323 762591
Pevensey Bingo (Friday)	01323 763520
Pevensey Church Farm Trust	01323 743301
Pevensey Church Farm (Tenant)	01323 762371
Pevensey Community Support	01323 767615
Pevensey Dreamers Social Club	01323 763750
Pevensey Villages Partnership	07511 835408

(www.pevenseyvillages.org)

Pevensey & Westham Adult /	
Jnr Football Club	01323 763026
Pevensey & Westham Flower Club	01323 736257
Pevensey & Westham Historical Society	01323 728277
Pevensey & Westham Wives' Group	01323 766019
Pevensey & Westham Cricket Club	01424 773725
Pevensey & Westham Sports Club	01323 469003
Royal British Legion	01323 764641
Royal National Lifeboat Institution	01323 351674
Samaritans	01323 721511
Stone Cross Whist Drive	01323 763246
Stone Cross Windmill	01323 483470
Sussex Wildlife Trust, Eastbourne	07946 753135
The Beach Belles	01323 762187
The Tuesday Club	01323 767615
View Craft	01323 505764
Wealden, Hastings and Rother	
Lost & Found Dogs	01424 490034
Westham Art Group	01323 461433
Yoga Classes (Vicky)	07566 228445

The Parish Pump:

Editor: Nick Munro	07507 480084
email: parishpump13@btinternet.com	

Advertising Manager:

Nick Munro	07507 480084
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What's On

PLEASE NOTE THAT ACTIVITIES LISTED BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT ADVICE AND MAY NOT TAKE PLACE AT ALL. YOU ARE ADVISED TO TELEPHONE THE ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED AT THE NUMBERS LISTED ON PAGE 19 TO CHECK IN ADVANCE OF ATTENDING.

WEEKEND LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

Sundays
8.00 am St Mary's, Westham – BCP Holy Communion.
9.30 am St Wilfrid's Pevensey Bay – Holy Communion.
9.45 am St Mary's, Westham – Holy Communion – All ages welcome.
11.30 am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey – Sung Eucharist.

EVERY WEEK

Sundays
10.00 am – 12.30 pm Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club – now open.
10.30 am – 11.30 am Gentle Hatha Yoga with Vicky – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
10.30 am – 11.30 pm Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club – now open.

Mondays
10.00 am St Mary's Church, Westham open.
 RVS Monday Lunch Club – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club – now open.
7.00 pm – 9.30 pm Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club – now open.
7.00 pm – 9.30 pm Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club – Ethel Wood Community Centre.

Tuesdays
10.00 am Pevensey & Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground Car Park.
10.00 am St Mary's Church, Westham open.
2.00 pm – 4.30 pm Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club – now open.

Wednesdays
9.00 am – Noon Pevensey Bay Art Group – St Wilfrid's Hall, Pevensey Bay.
9.30 am – Westham Pop-In – Westham Village Hall.

Thursdays

10.00 am St Mary's Church, Westham open.
11.30 am – 12.30 pm Chair-Based Yoga – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
2.00 pm – 4.30 pm Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club – now open.
6.30 pm – 7.30 pm Hatha Yoga for All – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
10.00 am St Mary's Church, Westham open.
10.00 am Pevensey & Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground Car Park.

Fridays

1.00 pm – 3.00 pm Parent & Toddlers Group – Noah's Ark (during term time) – St Mary's Church, Westham.
10.00 am – 11.00 am Chair-based Yoga – at Langney Community Centre.
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

Second Wednesday

2.00 pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club – St Wilfrid's Church Hall.

NHS HEARING AID BATTERIES

Second Saturday Monthly

10.15 am – 11.15 am Kamsons Pharmacy, Mimram Road, Stone Cross.

NOVEMBER 2022

- Tue 1st** **11.00 am** Anderida WI – Coffee Morning – The Aqua Bar.
- Sat 5th** **10.00 am – Noon** Royal British Legion (Westham, Pevensey & Stone Cross Branch) – Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning – Westham Village Hall.
- Mon 7th** **7.30 pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society – 'Excavation of Motcombe Dovecote' – Jo Seaman – Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 8th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Craft Afternoon – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Wed 9th** **2.15 pm** Pevensey Area Gardens' Club – Sweets for Christmas with Sue Davis. All welcome – St. Wilfrid's Church Hall.
- Fri 11th** **10.45 am** Royal British Legion (Westham, Pevensey & Stone Cross Branch) – Remembrance Day gathering at the Memorial Garden – St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 13th** **10.45 am** Royal British Legion – Remembrance Service – St Nicolas Church, Pevensey.
- Tue 15th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Games Afternoon – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Fri 18th** **4.30 pm – 6.30 pm** Yoga with Vicky – Restorative Yoga & Relaxation Workshop – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Sat 19th** **10.00 am – Noon** Stone Cross Windmill – Winter Fair at the Windmill.
- Sat 19th** **10.00 am – 1.00 pm** Pevensey Bay Art Group – Coffee Morning and Art Exhibition – free Entry – St Wilfrid's Church Hall.
- Tue 22nd** **2.30 pm** Anderida WI – Ken Pollock 'A Celebration of Christmas' – St Wilfrid's Church Hall.
- Thu 24th** **7.30 pm** Westham Evening WI – 'History of Pantomime' – Pete Allen – Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 29th** Anderida WI – Fifth Tuesday Lunch.

DECEMBER 2022

- Thu 1st** **7.30 pm** Westham Evening WI – Christmas Party & Handbell Workshop – Westham Village Hall.
- Fri 2nd – Sun 4th** St Mary's Church, Westham – Christmas Tree Festival, refreshments provided.
- Sun 4th** **3.00 pm – 4.00 pm** Stone Cross Windmill – Carol Service – St Luke's Church, Stone Cross.
- Mon 5th** **7.30 pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society – 'Vintage Post Boxes of Eastbourne' – Tim Jacobs – Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 6th** **11.00 am** Anderida WI – Coffee Morning – The Aqua Bar.
- Fri 9th** **4.30 pm – 6.30 pm** Yoga with Vicky – Restorative Yoga & Relaxation Workshop – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Tue 13th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Craft Afternoon – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Wed 14th** **1.00 pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners' Club – Members only Buffet Lunch – St. Wilfrid's Church Hall. 2.30 pm Afternoon Meeting – 'Christmas with the Stars' – Guests welcome £3.00.

- Sat 17th** **4.00 pm** 'Angel Encounters' – a creative and imaginative for all ages – St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay'.
- Sat 17th** **6.00 pm** 'Nine Lessons and Carols' – St Nicolas' Church, Pevensey.
- Tue 20th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Christmas Party – Ethel Wood Community Centre – Entertainment by 'Recycled'.
- Tue 20th** **6.00 pm** Carols by Candlelight – St Mary's Church, Westham.
- Sat 24th** **4.00 pm** Christingle Service, St Mary's Church, Westham.
- Sat 24th** **11.30 pm** Midnight Mass – St Nicholas' Church, Pevensey.
- Sat 24th** **11.30 pm** Midnight Communion, St Mary's Church, Westham.
- Sun 25th** **9.30 am** Holy Communion – St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 25th** **10.00 am** Worship for Sunday Morning (very family friendly) St Mary's Church, Westham.
- Sun 25th** **11.30 am** Sung Eucharist – St Nicolas' Church, Pevensey.

JANUARY 2023

- Tue 3rd** **11.00 am** Anderida WI – Coffee Morning – The Aqua Bar.
- Tue 10th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Craft Afternoon – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Wed 11th** **2.30 pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners' Club – Afternoon meeting. Social afternoon with refreshments. All welcome.
- Tue 17th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Games Afternoon – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Tue 24th** **2.30 pm** Anderida WI – Social Afternoon – St Wilfrid's Church Hall.
- Thu 26th** **7.30 pm** Westham Evening WI – 'Resolutions Meeting' – Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 28th** **10.00 am – Noon** Jumble Sale – Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 31st** Anderida WI – Fifth Tuesday Lunch.

FEBRUARY 2023

- Wed 1st** **7.00 pm** Holy Communion for Candlemas – St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay.
- Mon 6th** **7.30 pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society – 'The Mary Rose- Lost and Found' – Eric Huke – Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 7th** **11.00 am** Anderida WI – Coffee Morning – The Aqua Bar.
- Wed 8th** **2.15 pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners' Club – 'Two Walls and a Fence' with Derek Briggs – St Wilfrid's Church Hall. All welcome.
- Tue 14th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Craft Afternoon – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Tue 21st** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Games Afternoon – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
- Thu 23rd** **7.30 pm** Westham Evening WI – (Speaker to be confirmed) – Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 28th** **2.30 pm** Anderida WI – Making Jewellery – St Wilfrid's Church Hall.

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 entirely by unpaid volunteers. Editor: Nick Munro (parishpump13@btinternet.com)

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1024

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Recently several of the players arranged to have a few days at the Warner Hotel on Hayling Island. This is an ideal opportunity to perform unofficially as a group.

For information contact Alan on 01323 763061 or 07986 130034

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (WESTHAM, PEVENSEY AND STONE CROSS BRANCH)

November will see the start of the Poppy Appeal for this year. Our collection boxes will be out in various places and some places will be manned.



On 5th November we will be holding our Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning at Westham Village Hall, 10.00 am to noon. Any donations or assistance would be greatly appreciated.

We will be gathering at the Memorial Garden outside St. Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay, on Friday 11th November at 10:50 am. All are welcome.

St. Nicholas Church, Pevensey, will be holding a Remembrance Service at 10:50 am on Sunday 13th November.

We are still desperately looking for someone to take over as Secretary of our Branch. Please contact us on 01323 764641 or 01323 460274 should you be interested.

RVS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

We are very pleased to say the Monday Lunch Club is doing well. We had a special lunch for The Queen's Jubilee which went very well. Our guests were met at the door by 'The Queen'.

Then there was a quiz organised by Jane which was followed by a lunch of Roast Beef and all the trimmings, sweet fruit flan made with raspberries, blueberries, white grapes and cream.

There was wine to toast The Queen and it was a very happy day with a lot of fun.

We did close on 18th July due to the very hot weather, it made a change as the usual course is snow and cold.

The PSG mini was hired to collect and return our guests, we do need relief drivers. Can any body help? You do need to be under 75 years and have D1 on your licence.

Christine Wood

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

Greetings from St Mary's Church! We're pleased to say that parish life is once again flourishing after the upheavals of the pandemic albeit that we're very aware of the challenges that many are now facing with energy bills and the like. The Church now holds a repository for Eastbourne Foodbank donations and cans etc. can now be left here.



We are already planning for the Christmas season and all are welcome to attend our services and special events. Full details will be on our website (www.stmaryschurchwestham.co.uk), but some of these events include our Christmas Tree Festival over the weekend of 2nd to 4th December (refreshments available). Christmas services include our Candles by Candlelight on Sunday 18th December at 6.30 pm, with a Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 4.00 pm. Other Christmas services will be Midnight Communion, 11.30 pm and then Worship for Christmas Morning at 10.00 am.

We are planning for the church to remain open daily through the winter period. It will be cool in the church, but do drop by for a refreshing moment of stillness and the opportunity to say a prayer in a church that has been in our village since 1080!

ST WILFRID'S HALL, PEVENSEY BAY

Following major refurbishment work to the roof, ceiling, lights and flooring the hall has reopened and groups have been able to meet again. A variety of activities are held at the hall, including art, music, health classes and dog training.

The hall was formally re-opened by Fr James Vine, on 6th August at the monthly Craft Fair. The Fairs are held on the second Saturday of every month between 10.00 am and 12.30 pm.

Fundraising possibilities are being considered by the Hall committee to raise funding for other refurbishment work which is needed at the hall to ensure its safety and security from the elements.

There are slots available to hire, at competitive rates, so do contact our bookings clerk on 01323 460523. Keith will do his best to accommodate your requirements whether for a one-off event or a regular booking. He, or one of the Committee, will be happy to show you the benefits of this large facility with ample car parking and is fully accessible for disabled users.

Shirley MacKinnon
Secretary to Hall Committee



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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 to Friday mornings, 9.15 am to 12.15 pm for children aged two to three years. There is a maximum of 30 children per session. The Memorial Hall premises include use of the main hall, a second smaller room, kitchen and small enclosed garden area.

The Nursery Unit premises are open Monday to Friday mornings, 9.00 am to Noon and Monday to Friday afternoons, Noon to 3.00 pm for children aged 3 to 5 years. There is a maximum of 24 children per session. Morning and afternoon sessions can run consecutively.

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

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

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

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

STONE CROSS WINDMILL

Stone Cross Windmill is now closed for the season enabling the volunteer maintenance team to undertake essential work. The Trust are sad to report the death of Bob Herbert a long serving member of the maintenance team and Board who contributed a wealth of skills and knowledge ensuring the life of this iconic building - he will be missed.



The Windmill is unique in the position that it occupies on the high ground to the north of Eastbourne and visible from many places in the town. It was marked in the Admiralty charts as a reference point for shipping.

The following Millers were part of the growth of the Windmill: Samuel Dallaway 1876 – 1878, Frederick Dallaway 1878 – 1895, Henry Dallaway 1895 – 1937 names that are still very much part of the area.

In 1928 two of the four sweeps were seriously damaged in a gale and were removed but milling continued using two sweeps until 1937. The Windmill was an observation post for the army during WW1 and a gun was mounted on the roundel. Some of the soldiers etched their names onto the woodwork. Lord Haw Haw mentioned the Windmill in his broadcasts from Germany during WW1 reminding raiding aircraft not to bomb the building as it was used by pilots as a guiding point to the coastline helping them cross the channel. In 1952 English Heritage granted the building a Grade II* listing.

Stone Cross Mill Trust has insufficient volunteers to prepare refreshments or guide tourists and many visitors were disappointed on arrival to find the Windmill closed resulting in a fall in income that helps maintain this iconic building. If you have a spare Sunday afternoon and would like to volunteer please contact the chair.

Group visits can be arranged throughout the winter and also talks to local organisations. Contact the chair for further information.

Barbara Molog, Chair on behalf of SCMT
scmt2012@yahoo.co.uk



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TEMPLAR AQUILA LODGE NO. 9450

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



Nationally, we recently approved a Major Capital Grant of £1.25 million to support hospices in England and Wales.

On a local and more modest scale Templar Aquila Lodge consider and approve requests for grants to local causes. If you know of a cause who might benefit from some financial assistance please get in touch with me.

Tony Padley, Charity Steward
CharityTAL9450@gmail.com

VIEWCRAFT

VIEW Craft is a small independent voluntary organisation which runs a weekly art and craft group for blind and partially sighted people living in the Eastbourne and Wealden district.

We meet on Tuesday mornings during term times at Herstmonceux Village Hall from 10.00 am – Noon. We 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 £5) towards the cost of the craft materials. Transport is free and is provided by volunteer drivers some of whom also help with the activities. There is a very friendly atmosphere with plenty of help and support to produce many lovely items.

We have just completed our first year back at View Craft since all the lockdowns due to covid. It has been a very happy year even though our numbers are a little depleted. We have several vacancies in all crafts, so we would be delighted to welcome more visually impaired people as members.

We are still very short of drivers and we would be very pleased to welcome new volunteer drivers. We pay a mileage allowance of 45p. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to join us, please get in touch.

For further information please contact Jean Wilson. Tel No 01323 505764, email: jean.dolmegg@outlook.com . Or check our website for more information: www.viewcraft.org

VILLAGE IN BLOOM

The judging took place for Village in Bloom on a glorious sunny day in July. Once again the entries were disappointing but the gardens that did enter were outstanding.

The winning Best Front Garden was Tina Fennimore, Noja, 30 Westham Drive, Pevensey Bay. This garden was a riot of colour and it was difficult to know where to look first. Second in this category were Alan & Vi Everard, 168 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, third were Mandie and Jo Fuller, 17 Bridge End, High Street, Pevensey.

The Best Hanging Basket/Container section was won by Chris Houghton, 3 Penthouse Cottages, Pevensey. 'Different', was the comment from the judge. Second was Eileen Dyson, 5 St Anns Court, Pevensey Bay.

The Best Coastal Garden was won by newcomers Janie Webber and Martin Bignall, White Horses, Old Martello Road, Pevensey Bay. This coastal garden was absolutely stunning with sea views to die for! Second place was another newcomer to Village in Bloom, Heather Ornsby, Blue Dolphins, Bay Avenue, Pevensey Bay. Another stunning coastal garden but completely different to White Horses.

The Best Community Garden was awarded to The Aqua Bar, Sea Road, Pevensey Bay.

All the winners were presented with a trophy and a voucher courtesy of Pevensey Parish Council and Lovelands Flowers in Pevensey Bay. Mr Kevin Loveland was the judge this year as Mrs. McIntosh was unwell on the morning of the judging. Mrs McIntosh has judged Village in Bloom for several years now but Mr Loveland thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Unfortunately, this will be the last year that Village in Bloom takes place. The competition was started by Pevensey Community Action Group and Shirley Clark has run the event since 2011. The entrants have dropped year by year. Pevensey Parish Council came on board four years ago but the numbers still did not rise. It is with great sadness that the Village in Bloom has come to a close. If things are not supported then this is the only outcome. Sorry Pevensey and Pevensey Bay!!

Shirley Clark, Event Organiser,
01323 769236, sscgypsy@hotmail.com



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WESTHAM EVENING WI

As the year moves into its final months, many may be reflecting that it has not been an easy one. With the concerns about increasing fuel and food prices, winter may not look as comfortable a place as usual.

To provide a respite from the gloom of darker months, remember that a friendly welcome awaits you on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm in Westham Village Hall when Westham Evening WI holds its monthly meetings.

The Annual Meeting takes place in October and, with that, thoughts turn to the programme of speakers and activities for next year.

In addition to the monthly meetings in Westham Village Hall, other monthly activities include a Walking Group, Knit & Knatter/Craft, a Book Club, Solos, a Baking Group, the Night Owls who to look at activities in the evenings for members who would prefer to meet then to during the day and a Gardening Group; for those interested in gardening and learning more and, also for those who like to visit lovely gardens where others have done all the work and, always, enjoying tea/coffee and cake on any visits.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Liz Lash

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Historically this has been by attending meetings, but now it is all online, with alerts from all the agencies involved.



To sign up to the scheme go to the website: www.ourwatch.org.uk. Enter your postcode to find your local scheme and apply to join. The new NHW system also allows the co-ordinator to send out emails on information and alerts for any local issues. In Westham we have now merged various "old" schemes to form one.

We are actively working with: the headmaster @ Westham School, the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council, our local Wealden Councillors, the Westham Conservation Group and our PCSO.

The Westham Conservation Group wrote an article in the last Parish Pump, to highlight the issues of speeding on Peelings Lane.

We continue to address anti-social parking/speeding matters. With the change in the highway code, anti-social/dangerous parking is a chargeable offence. We are trying to educate offenders and these are being reported via Crackdown.

Some reports have been raised but, more people rather than "moaning", need to report to ensure the police are fully aware of issues in the area.

Current Issues are:

- Speeding around the lanes
- Damage to cars along the High Street
- Parking at the end of Peelings Lane onto the High Street, restricting exit/entry
- Parking around Westham pond, especially at the junction with Mortain Road, which restricts any delivery access to Castle Farm

Neighbourhood Watch is ultimately about building a caring community and we want to continue this.

We plan to engage with other schemes locally, to gain information and provide support.

Westham Neighbourhood Watch

WESTHAM POP-IN

Westham Pop-In provides a morning of friendship, chat, tea, coffee and biscuits and we hope that you will join us on Wednesday mornings between 9.30 am and 11.30 am at Westham Village Hall. The cost is just one pound and we politely ask if you would bring the correct change to reduce money handling issues. We have a large number of pre-read books for sale at 30 pence a book. Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Westham Pop-In Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE CONSERVATION GROUP

Westham includes a section of the designated Pevensey Levels Site of Special Scientific Interest for aquatic flora and fauna. Including birds, rare snails, spiders, insects and plants. The Levels are of international importance being the most biodiverse UK wetland.



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This large area of Wetland Grazing Marsh is managed to keep the land as wet as possible to conserve wildlife. Farmers graze the land sensitively. Keeping the grass at correct level to encourage threatened bird species like Lapwing and Redshank and creating open areas of water for them. The water levels and high water quality are administered by the Pevensey and Cuckmere Management Board. Wetlands also sequester carbon helping minimise the effects of climate change.



The Eastbourne Levels to the south of us also contain a rich mix of important wildlife species. Land surrounding Westham was much wetter in Anglo Saxon times. Boats travelled up to Herstmonceux. Extensive drainage works were undertaken over the centuries to increase the value of agricultural land.

Part of the SSSI boundary starts North of The Butchers Field, running North West across Castle Farm. The Public foot path from Peelings Lane leads through the Castle Farm land across to Chilley Farm shop and cafe. The border of the SSSI is near the river just before the A27 Bypass. Take care when walking across this road. Wellington boots will usually be needed across fields in Winter. An interesting return stroll can be made eastwards along the Pevensey Haven river, then south to Pevensey Castle. Public foot paths are still important communication networks. Many years ago Pedlars, Higgles, (who sold chickens) and farm workers relied on them.

Some of the fields surrounding our important wetland areas may be threatened. They are a crucial part of our beautiful landscape. Important species need them to maintain the water quality and the setting of the levels. Our tourism relies on this. These are some of the factors which will need to be explained for future protection.

Currently, Wealden has delayed issuing its draft local plan as they are waiting clarity from the Government on the housing numbers they should include.

WESTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Our Hall continues to serve as a central hub for our Community, and as such we have been renovating and providing new facilities in the hope that this will continue for many years to come.

We have recently welcomed new Groups and have had many family parties and get-togethers running alongside our long-standing Groups. We still have availability, so please get in touch with our helpful booking clerk Julie on 07821377110 if you would like to hire your Hall.

We are delighted to have finally been in a position to have our new flooring installed, which has received many complements and requests for the installers details as many would now like the flooring in their own homes! Our thanks are extended to you for bearing with us while our renovations take place.

The Committee will hold the ever-popular January Jumble on Saturday 28th of January 2023, with doors opening at 10.00 am closing, at noon. Entry is free and refreshments will be available. Please leave good, clean jumble in the foyer from Monday 23rd of January. We hope to see you at your Hall soon.

Diane on behalf of Westham Village Hall Committee

ISSUE 164 DEADLINE

Local voluntary groups and societies should send news of forthcoming events and activities for the period 1st March 2023 to 30th June 2023 by email to parishpump13@btinternet.com no later than

14th January 2023.

Brief details (date, time, subject and venue) of any events for inclusion in the 'What's On' section need to be listed separately and sent via a separate email.

WESTHAM VILLAGE POND: FOUR PICTURES OF CLEANER WATER

➔ **Yellow Loosestrife Bee:** This rare bee appeared after we planted wild Yellow Loosestrife last year. It collects oils from the flowers to waterproof its nest. It is our only marshland bee to flood-proof its babies. Many insects were seen at the pond for the first time this year. Restoring wild plants has brought them back.



◀ **Reed Warbler amongst Lesser Bulrush:** Newly restored reedbed has been found by Reed Warblers who have raised two families in nests attached to the reed stems. They are shy birds specially adapted to hunt insects amongst reeds. The reeds not only give them a home but also help purify the pond water. Only clean water can support enough insect food.

➔ **Emperor Dragonfly:** Eight species of dragonfly now live in the pond. There were none three years ago. This is our largest species. The male is bright blue but this green female is laying her eggs amongst pondweeds. The nymphs will spend a year or two in the pond before hatching. Without the pondweeds there would be no pond animals to feed them. Pondweeds appeared for the first time this year. All they needed was light to grow. Sunlight can only penetrate clear, clean water.



◀ **Little Egret:** These little herons now visit to catch Sticklebacks which feed on insects that in turn feed on pondweeds. The pondweeds grew for the first time this year because the water was clear, so it is just because of the cleaner water that these beautiful birds visit.

Thanks to everyone for observing the request not to feed anything to the water birds here. It is just that one simple thing has made the water cleaner and has allowed life to return to the pond.

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL DEDICATED PAGE

Community Governance Review

By the time you read this article Stage 1 of a Community Governance Review of this area will be complete.

Following the submission of a petition from 483 signatories in 2019 the Wealden District Council recently commenced a consultation on the Community Governance proposals for the Stone Cross and Westham areas.

In Stage 1 Wealden District Council requested that all views for their review be submitted by 16th September 2022.

Stage 2 will be a 6-week period of consultation on the C.G.R draft recommendations and this will begin in early October.

Stage 3 will start in Mid – December and will involve a 2-week period for submission on final proposals.

Final recommendations will be agreed and published on 18th January 2023.

The next Parish Council elections for this area will be in May 2023.

Westham Parish Council presently consists of 3 wards – Dittons (2 councillors), Stone Cross (6 Councillors) and Westham (5 councillors). Hankham is part of Stone Cross. It is not a separate ward.

The Parish Council has been asked many questions about the review, including – ‘How much will it cost’? There will, of course be a cost and this will be covered by the District Council. However, the cost will ultimately fall upon the local Council Taxpayers.

We have also been asked what will happen to the Dittons Ward? To date we have heard of no proposals for the Dittons ward.

The current Westham Parish Council jurisdiction enables the resources within our 3 villages to complement each other.

Geographically and historically, a shared landscape, mature trees and wildlife within the WPC boundary are valued highly by most residents. This contributes towards our tourism, agriculture and amenity value. There are sections of the internationally renowned

Pevensey Levels National Nature Reserve included in Hankham and Westham. There are at least 12 Grade 2 listed historical buildings in Hankham and 13 in Westham. Residents in all the villages value the amenities such as shops, Adur Park, Doctors Surgeries, Village Halls (which we provide community grants to), railway station, industrial estate, village pond and schools. Many families walk between the villages to use these facilities several days a week. There is a strong sense of place and community.

We will, of course provide you with any updates as and when we receive them.

Adur Park Update

As the Parish Council is to carry out a number of projects in Adur Park, the Council is to go ahead and register Adur Park as a Field in Trust to safeguard it for future generations.

Fields in Trust is an organisation that supports our parks and green spaces by protecting them for people to enjoy in perpetuity. This will mean that Adur Park will be protected in future years.

A consultation by the current Parish Council was held with the residents of Stone Cross regarding the future of ADUR PARK. The Parish Pump magazine asked residents what they would like to see in Adur Park.

This included:

- An all-weather, all access track around the perimeter of the park – this has now progressed to the tender stage for quotations with the work to be carried out next Spring.
- New children’s play equipment – planning for this is now underway with quotations being sought from major play equipment suppliers. This could happen in the next few months.
- A new Council community centre with facilities – this is included in this Councils planning. The next step is to move the Parish Office out of Stone Cross School into premises that can be used by the community.
- A Multi Use Games Area – the base for this is there and quotations will be sought

All these projects can be funded through grants and CIL funding

A Sovereign Event

by Tony Smith

"But you can't do that, Jerry; you'll have the law on you in no time." Stan paused with the fork and over-cooked sausage inches from his open mouth.

Jerry fixed his eyes at Stan as he gently placed his knife and fork on the plate of his half-eaten full breakfast. "You're missing the point, Stan." Jerry continued with measured words, "It's only illegal if anyone sees!"

"But there's usually several boats out; they're bound to see what we're up to." Stan diverted his gaze to the bacon fat that he started to cut off with the precision of a surgeon. "What do you propose doing so folk can't see; put up some sort of smoke screen?"

With just a few wipes of bread on the egg yolk left on his plate, Jerry looked straight at Stan while thrusting the last morsel into his mouth. "Stan, what do you know about meteorology? You've been at sea as much as I have. Surely you have always checked the forecaste before putting to sea?"

"Yes, of course. Even before leaving home I always check the winds on the internet. I don't go out if it's force six or above. So?" Stan glanced up at the café waitress as she smiled while collecting the dirty plates from the next table. Quite a dish, he thought; I'll come here again. Then turning back to Jerry, "So, what exceptional powers do you have to change the weather?"

"No", replied Jerry, "we're just going to let nature take it's course. We're going to sail out when the forecaste is fog."

Stan placed his teacup gently on the saucer, reflecting on the thought of sailing out in fog in the Channel. After a moment of hesitation, and under his breath, said, "Yes, we could do that, but it is dangerous. OK, we have a radar showing the positions of other ships, but it's still dangerous."

"Stan, isn't the risk worth the result?"

Stan shrugged his shoulders in resignation of acceptance.

"Can I clear your plates, now, gentlemen?" The waitress hovered and started to clear the table as both nodded with a grunt.

The Autumn leaf colours produced their flaming selves as Jerry and Stan continued to make plans. Stan had got to know the waitress, Marilyn, quite well and they spent time together on Stan's boat. She had, she said, been sailing quite a lot in her youth and Stan noticed how adept she was with her knots and handling the sails.

The expected phone call from Jerry came one Friday evening mid-November. "Hello", Stan answered, realising that it was Jerry ringing.

"OK, Stan, it's going to be tonight. Thick fog is forecasted and that will give us excellent cover as well as the darkness; also, there's no moon tonight. Can you be at my boat in half an hour?"

"Yes, OK, Jerry, see you at your boat in half an hour; about ten?"

"Yup", replied Jerry. "See you then."

Picking up his sailing gear Stan made his way to the front door then stopped in his tracks. Oh, hell, he thought, I was going to see Marilyn later, and with that thought turned briskly to the phone and, dialling her, left a message that he had to go out.

Jerry was already on the boat as Stan dumped his gear below and started to take the sail covers off. The engine started on the button as Jerry had made sure that the batteries were always on charge in the marina berth.

"With this fog, there won't be much wind, Stan, but we'll put the sails up anyway. Let go for'ard; I'll let go aft." Jerry untied and threw his mooring rope ashore, put the engine into forward gear and the boat eased away from the pontoon. The lock-keeper was surprised at their going out in the foggy darkness but Jerry muttered excuses about needing to get into Rye on a tide.

Exiting the lock, Stan hoisted the sails although there was little wind other than caused by the forward motion of the boat. Returning to the cockpit Stan adjusted the sheets to the sails and said, "OK, Jerry, what's the plan?"

Jerry was at the wheel steering almost due south by the compass towards the Sovereign light, about 7 miles out. "Well", replied, Jerry, "I rang Claude, the French skipper, and he's meeting us a quarter mile south of the Sovereign. He assures me that he has the goods onboard."

"Just as well we have radar on a night like this to get there," Stan had his eyes on the dark, fogged-view of the white mainsail that alternated between flapping and filling. "When do you think we will get to the rendezvous?" Stan sat down on the cockpit seat partly illuminated by the warm glow of the compass light.

"Oh, I reckon, about eleven thirty. His trawler can easily cross the Channel in the time since I rang him. Hey, Stan, have you thought of what he will return with and what we will return with? He'll be fishing on his way back to Boulogne with a load of fish and we'll be returning with..."

Jerry stopped abruptly as the engine cut out with its throbbing noise being replaced by silence other than the yacht's slower motion through the water. The sails now became filled by the gentle easterly breeze. "Oh, Damn", muttered Jerry. "I forgot to take on fuel, Stan. All my fault. Sorry! I don't have a spare can of diesel, but we are under sail and will still get there." Jerry reached down and switched off the engine ignition.

The two spent the next half hour watching the radar and discussing whether the radar dots were the buoys, the Royal Sovereign or simply other boats that they couldn't see because of the fog.

Jerry reached for the VHF intercom; "Pamplemousse, Pamplemousse, this is yacht, "Ladybird"; come in please, over".

Jerry was just about to repeat the VHF call when the trawler, Pampalmousse replied, "Bon soir, good ev-en-ing, Ladybird. Theese is Trawler "Pamplemousse" Over".

"Ah, Trawler "Pamplemousse", go to Channel six, Over".

Jerry retuned the VHF set to Channel six and called the trawler again, "Trawler "Pamplemousse"; are you receiving? Over."

"Oui, er, yes, Ladybird, receiving you well. I see you on radar a quarter of a mile to my port side. Are you able to take the cargo you wanted and how are you going to pay? Over."

"Pamplemousse, Pamplemousse, this is Ladybird. We pay cash in US Dollars as you wanted. Can you come alongside as we have no engine? Over."

"Ladybird, yes, I come to you now. You get ready receive cargo, please. Over."

"Pamplemousse, the money is ready here for you and we wait to receive the cargo. I can see your lights now through the fog. Out"

Jerry and Stan watched as the trawler came near but keeping a safe distance apart.

"Chuck me a line", shouted Jerry as Stan quickly furled all the sails and the yacht became motionless in the water.

One of Claude's crew members threw a line over to Jerry which he managed to catch and tied to a cleat.

Claude appeared out of the trawler's doghouse shouting, "Hey, Ladybird, hey Jerry; you have chosen a foggy night to come out but fortunately this night is also good for us fishing. I have your cargo here, that you can see; can I see the money?"

Jerry opened the package to reveal the US dollars illuminated by his torch and tilting so Claude could see.

"OK, Jerry, you pass the money over and you can have your cargo." Claude directed one of his crew to stand ready to catch the money package.

As Jerry stood on the deck ready to throw the money across a siren shrilled behind him from another large, grey vessel flashing a blue light. It was a British Border Force ship which Jerry had noticed on previous occasions when out sailing.

The loud speaker from the ship blurted out, "Trawler "Pamplemousse" turn off your engine. Yacht "Ladybird" we are going to bord your vessel now." The border force vessel came alongside, made ropes fast and three jumped onto Ladybird's deck. The trawler, realising that the border force vessel couldn't arrest two vessels at the same time, immediately revved its engines, cut the line that tied it to the yacht and disappeared into the fog in just a few minutes.

The third person boarding Jerry's yacht was a woman who said, "Hello, Stan! We had some good times together sailing but I got suspicious overhearing you plotting when I was waitressing. What you didn't know is that that I am also a Naval reservist and we've been watching your every move".

Stan threw out his arms in surrender, "Marilyn, how could you do this to us. I thought we shared passion and close friendship together."

"We are still good friends, Stan." Marilyn gave Stan a big wink, continuing, "I'll say a few nice words for you when you're in court charged with smuggling."

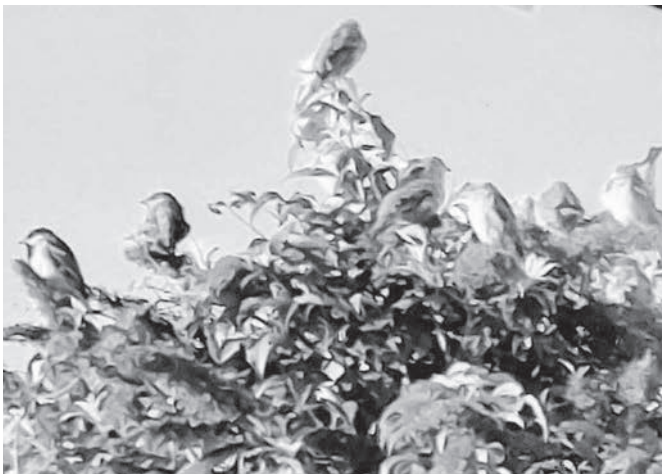
Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



Hello Nature lovers, this time we are starting with some Nature observations from our friend and fellow Nature lover Hazel Wood whom I mentioned in our last edition.

They start on 15th of August this year. "Monday morning I couldn't believe my eyes when, sitting with my cup of tea and looking up at my pocket-sized garden there appeared a very thirsty Squirrel having a much needed long drink from the Bird bath. He followed this with a little wander around the garden, then went off about his way. A few mornings later, this time with a cup of coffee, looking up at the garden as usual, about 50 - 70 House Sparrows suddenly descended onto my Buddleia bush. Wonderful! but I couldn't understand why such a mass of Birds suddenly appeared. My only conclusion was that it was after the first cold night and as the Sun was out they were all warming up and preening themselves." Hazel included a photo of the event taken by her friend Dan which we include here.



Hazel also tells us of our friends, Fran and Mike who have the good luck to live near Pevensey Castle and have a gorgeous Hedgehog in their "Hog House" who had 3 baby "Hoglets" in their beautiful one acre garden. They also have a very naughty Mouse which gets into the bird feed bin to steal seed and nuts. This they do not mind and he's often found sitting in the bin. When they open the bin he gets a little fright at the unexpected intrusion but they are happy that he's getting his daily breakfast.

House Sparrows appeared in Hazel's contribution but I shall also mention them. We often have the

pleasure of seeing them taking the seed from fir cones fallen from the Fir trees we planted in our seaside garden nearly 25 years ago. They take some, as usual, to their young in our nest boxes and it's lovely to see the young heads and beaks popping out of the entry holes in anticipation. They live in great comfort too, as the last time we had our dog, Mickey's coat cut, we spread the fur over the garden and the parents quickly gathered it up and took it to their nests. Later we happily watched as the young gathered on our patio under the feeder from which the parent birds collected seed to push into their upturned, begging beaks.

Another, "In our last edition" quote. Mary Larlham tells us she had seen a Redstart in her garden. Well she's gone one up now and tells me she has seen a Red Kite flying over her garden and off across the fields. What a splendid bird to see with that unusual red, forked tail.

I'm going to the foot of our garden now, to the Sea, where we have often seen "Sammy" our local Seal. Recently, our friends, Katie & Neal were out swimming with another neighbour and were hoping to see Sammy but no such luck. Katie, for a laugh called out "Sammy!" and to everyone's surprise and delight up from the depths popped Sammy. We presumed it to be a co-incidence but apparently that was not the first time it had happened, so, who knows?

I thought "Sammy" would be the last paragraph, but, no. A Feral Pigeon has just flown into our Sun lounge, caused a bit of havoc there, then continued through the living, eating areas to the kitchen. There, he naturally flew into the window and played havoc with the row of orchids in pots along the window sill. Fortunately, there, I was able, gently, to take hold of him without any damage to his wings. I took him back to the garden patio and released him. For a while he flew haphazardly from perch to perch, then gathered himself and off he flew - Wow!

Nature gives us a never-ending source of interest, doesn't it?

Bye for now.

Alan Everard

Sea Defences

Ian Thomas, Project Manager with Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd, describes the work being done to maintain our local sea defences.....

Having looked at waves, in the final instalment we will look at storm surges and how they work with tides and waves to occasionally threaten our defences. Previously we examined how and why tides occur, wave generation and the influence both have in producing storms. The final element in the equation is the "storm surge". Many people living close to the shore, and thus at some risk of flooding from the sea, become avid storm watchers. With improved weather forecasting, reasonably detailed television reports and internet resources that are now freely available, it is relatively easy for the keen amateur to become quite knowledgeable about the subject. Indeed a lot of what we have discussed already can be derived from watching the sea with a set of tide tables to hand. The one aspect that is almost impossible to predict without scientific help is the storm surge – probably the most important part of all.

Essentially surges are caused by high winds pushing on the surface of the sea, although at least five processes can be involved in altering tide levels during storms;

- Winds acting on the surface of the sea push water forward and cause it to pile up higher than the ordinary sea level.
- Low pressure at the centre of a weather system allows water levels to rise higher than they would under normal atmospheric conditions
- Bathymetry, the shape of the sea bed, has an effect too. Deep inshore water will result in small surges but higher more powerful waves. Shallow bays result in bigger surges but with smaller waves.
- Wind stresses cause a phenomenon referred to as "wind set-up", which is the tendency for water levels to increase at the downwind shore, and to decrease at the upwind shore.

- The earth's rotation, and believe it or not, rainfall, also play a part

It is not just because of their complexity that they are difficult to forecast. They are only a real threat to us when they coincide with high water. A 1.0m surge is a significant event for the south coast, and surges of this size are usually not sustained for more than an hour or two, so timing is especially important. On many occasions since 2000 when we first started managing the defences, we have experienced large surges that have either coincided with neap tides or away from high water.

Although an extra metre of water might sound horrific, we by no means have the worst of it. When conditions combine to drive a storm down the North Sea from Scotland, Sheerness, on the Isle of Sheppey, can get 2.0m of extra water, whilst the funnel-shaped coastline of the Bristol Channel has been known to raise levels by almost 3.0m at Avonmouth. But even this pales into insignificance when compared to surges generated by tropical storms. In the United States, the greatest recorded storm surge was generated by 2005's Hurricane Katrina, which produced one of 9.0m in the town of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and in surrounding coastal counties.

Interestingly surges can be negative as well as positive. A negative surge is a good thing in terms of flood defence, but not so welcome if you are the skipper of a container vessel negotiating the shallower patches of the Strait of Dover or the southern North Sea. Sheerness can experience -2.0m surges as well as +2.0m

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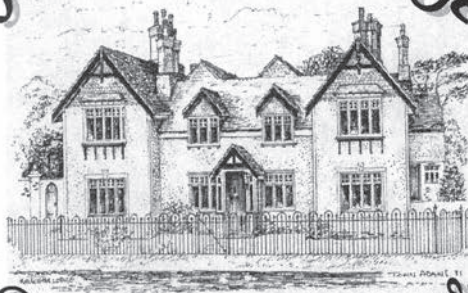
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