

The Parish Pump

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



Issue 164 – Spring 2023

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 the new editor of The Parish Pump my first task is to thank outgoing editor Nicholas Munro for his hard work and commitment for almost a decade. His efforts are very much appreciated and I hope he will now enjoy being a reader without the demands of producing the magazine.

The Parish Pump is a mine of important and wide-ranging information for our communities and a big thank you to all our regular contributors - but of course new ideas are always welcome. If you have a suggestion about articles for possible use in the future or subjects to be covered please email me at parishpump13@btinternet.com

Thank you also to our advertisers as The Parish Pump is solely financed from their revenue.

Unlike many parish pumps nationally we are fortunate that ours is free. We rely on a team of dedicated volunteers to deliver the magazine to thousands of homes three times a year, but, unsurprisingly, we could always do with more help. So, if you would like to deliver in Pevensey Bay, Pevensey or Stone Cross please email me here at The Parish Pump.

Without doubt, 2023 is a momentous year in the history of our country with the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III alongside The Queen Consort at Westminster Abbey.

Keep an eye out for publicity about local events and activities to celebrate this historic occasion in May.

To co-incide with the Coronation weekend much-needed new play equipment in Pevensey Playground, Wallsend Road, is being officially opened and dedicated to the memory of the late HM Queen Elizabeth.

It has been named 'Treetops' after the 'Treetops Hotel' in Kenya where, in February 1952, the then Princess Elizabeth and husband Prince Philip were staying when she was told that her father King George VI had died and she was now Queen.

Meanwhile, two highly popular local annual events are back again. In April, 'Vehicles of Yesteryear' returns to Pevensey Bay following last year's parade of more than 90 cars and vehicles dating back to the 1920s, and June heralds the Pevensey Community Fete and Dog Show at Pevensey Sports Ground. Again, keep an eye out for local publicity.

And finally, a big thank you to artist Cynthia Fiddy (Mavis Sellings) from Pevensey Bay Art Group, who painted the front cover watercolour picture 'Perfect Holiday'.

Sara Cheesley, Editor
07799 374049

ISSUE 165 DEADLINE

Local voluntary groups and societies should send news of forthcoming events and activities for the period 1st July 2023 to 31st October 2023 by email to parishpump13@btinternet.com no later than

14th May 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.

ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

A lot has happened since the last parish pump was distributed. We now practice Wednesday evenings at an earlier time which hopefully will suit more people. We have also gained new dancers and musicians which is looking positive for 2023.

Anderida have danced at two Wassail celebrations for 2023. The first at The Royal Oak and Castle organised by the wonderful Pentacle drummers on 7th January. This was a great success, even though it rained heavily at one point. This did mean that the waking up of the apple trees was performed on the Square in front of The Royal Oak and Castle as the walk down to Anderida park was too wet. The second was at Michelham priory on 21st January. This was a sold out event and again proved to be successful and great fun!





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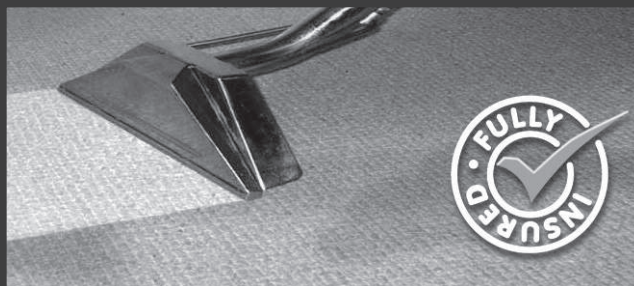
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Wassail for anyone who has never heard of it is a popular traditional ceremony performed around the Twelfth night which often is around 6th January but can be as late as 17th January. Wassailing apple orchards is done to wake up the apple trees to ensure a good harvest. The apple trees are blessed with cider to awaken them from their slumber and often traditional songs are sung around the trees.

Anderida will also be preparing to dance out at other pubs and venues around Sussex and Kent over the coming year. If you are interested in giving Border dance a go please feel free to pop along to Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. No experience is required and its a great way to enjoy light exercise and make new friends.

Our email is anderidamorris@gmail.com or we can be contacted on our Facebook page "Anderida Border". We can also be contacted on WhatsApp 07943 839838.

ANDERIDA WI

Reprieve! A temporary relief from trouble! The ladies of Anderida W.I. (Pevensey Bay) have decided to keep going! Yes, there will be difficulties. Hall fees going up, speakers fees going up, membership NOT going up. Wherever you turn, people are still very reluctant to try to get back to normal. Anderida W.I. is lucky. Our ladies are striving to get things back to normal. Our monthly coffee mornings are still going strong at the Aqua Bar in Pevensey Bay. Our monthly Craft and Games afternoons are still going strong at the Ethel Wood Community Centre in Coast Road, Pevensey Bay.

Recently, the son of a founder member of Anderida W.I. contacted the group having read the last article in the Parish Pump. His mother was Violet Baker-Beall. Unfortunately, none of our present ladies recollect the name (well it was 61 years ago!). Mr Baker-Beall recalls that the group were predominately in their 30's to 50's. I think it is safe to say that our ladies are a lot older than that! He goes on to say that maybe the original ideas behind the W.I. could be used to help our ladies keep up with advances in technology! Dare it be said – most of Anderida W.I. do not want to be bothered with modern technology. Not that I would want to go back to a typewriter. Yes, a land line for telephone calls instead of a smart phone would be good. Letters instead of emails would be good (subject to Royal Mail!)

So, just to confirm. Anderida W.I. (Pevensey Bay) meet on the fourth Tuesday each month in St Wilfrid's Church Hall at 2.30 p.m. Our coffee morning is the first Tuesday each month in the Aqua Bar at 11.00 a.m. Our craft and games afternoons are the second and third Tuesdays in each month in Ethel Wood Community Hall at 1.30 p.m. We also have regular lunch trips on the fifth Tuesday in the month

when it occurs. If there is any reader of the Parish Pump that would like to be our speaker of the month, we would love to hear from you. We would pay a reasonable fee and travelling expenses. Any subject, any suitable topic would be great.

We welcome new members so please contact us.

Shirley Clark

President, Anderida WI (Pevensey Bay)
01323 769236/07768567092, sscgypsy@hotmail.com

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ROTHER VALLEY BRANCH

Many of us have the odd cactus or succulent plant in our house and they are easy to buy in many different places nowadays.

But for a group of people in East Sussex these plants are taken more seriously and learning about them becomes a hobby and a passion.

The local branch has a wide area of coverage in Eastbourne, Pevensey, Wealden and west Kent. We meet on the second Thursday of each month in Sedlescombe village Hall. Doors open at 7 pm and illustrated talks begin at 7.30. We have a very broad range of countrywide experts at these talks. They bring knowledge of their plant hunting travels and their passions of cultivating these fascinating plants. There are also lots of more unusual plants for sale from local enthusiasts. Meetings are free and non members are always welcome. So if you are drawn to this fascinating group of plants why not come along. Here are the next few meetings:

March 9th. A few more days in Patagonia
April 13th. AGM and plant auction
May 11th. Adventures in Chile in 3D. 3D Glasses provided!

You can also sign up to the monthly email so you know what is happening.

www.Rothervalley.bcscs.org.uk or phone Ronnie Hall 07702064231 for more information.

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

This charity was formed in 1972 so last year was our 50th. During the intervening years we must have rescued, rehabilitated or helped thousands of horses, ponies and donkeys.

Folk usually think only of the animals but behind every pet, big or small, is an owner. It is not unusual to have the owners on the phone in tears explaining their situation,



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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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so, when seeing the words, "Horse Rescue" we have to remind ourselves that often it is the owners that we help as well.

Keeping a horse entails considerable financial outlay. Horses are often big! Half a tonne of animal takes a lot of feed and associated items like grass, hay, straw, rugs, buckets, muck fork, wheel barrow, vet bills, farrier, teeth care, grooming items not to mention tack, (saddle and bridle if the animal is ridden). Yes, a horse is a "luxury".

Whenever there is a recession, as there is now, it is usually the luxuries that have to be given up and that has been so over the last 50 years for us, as it is now.

I am proud that Brownbread Horse Rescue is run mainly by volunteers so that any money donated goes entirely to the welfare of the horses and not to pay salaries and pensions. It is demanding for volunteers who give up their precious time and find ways of earning a living in other ways. Fortunately our Head of Welfare, my wife, Dinty, and I are on a pension now so we are able to carry on holding the reins.

We have over 70 acres available for our animals which currently number about 25. Visitors are welcome by arrangement, (01424 892381) and we will endeavour to provide a cuppa and show you our pretty farm in Ashburnham and what we are about. Please visit.

Tony Smith

*Chairman of Trustees,
Brownbread Horse Rescue, Brownbread Street,
Ashburnham, Battle, TN33 9NX.*

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

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

Across Sussex and nationally, Community Speed Watch Groups (CSWG) have been set up, run by volunteers. This means giving up a bit of time to attend a short training course and a few hours per month running sessions locally to try to identify and report those who are speeding. Pevensey CSWG urgently needs more volunteers to help, if the campaign to reduce speeding is to have any impact and effect.

Please do offer to join this Group which can help all our residents. Contact Keith Henderson on 01323 460523, who will be happy to explain how you can help and what you time would involve.

EAST SUSSEX MOVIEMAKERS

As some of our members dislike driving at night our meetings, when they resume mid-February, will be held at a different time and probably on a different day of the week.



Anyone who likes watching good quality amateur films or any other aspect of making films should contact either the Chairman, Malcolm Webster on 01323 769016, or email Valerie McManus valmcmanusuk@yahoo.com for up to date information. Mid to late Spring it is expected we will resume our meetings at St. Lukes, Stone Cross on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month at 7.0pm.

We are a small friendly group, and we would welcome anyone who cares to come and meet us and find out more about what we do.

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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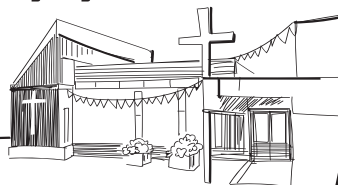
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sight loss to be independently mobile inside and outside their homes.

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

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.

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

ETHEL WOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

The hall, owned by Pevensey Parish Council is managed by a small committee consisting of Parish Councillors, local residents and hall users. If you would like to be part of the Management Committee, please contact the Parish Clerk at the details below.

The facilities, at 129 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NS, include the main hall, back garden, private parking, a commercial kitchen, ladies, gents, and disabled toilets and Free WIFI.

All hall activities and how to book can be found on the Parish Council website. Alternatively, you can contact Sarah Mosedale, the Parish Clerk.

<https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/ethel-wood-community-centre/>
clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01323 743900

FOXES HOLLOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

We continue to have good strong membership of nearly 130 out of the 175 households on the Foxes Hollow estate. We collect membership subscriptions January each year but have changed this year to summer time and so have extended the 2022 membership to June 2023.

If you are new to the estate or missed membership last year please contact us via the foxeshollowestate.com website or call us 01323 764 350.

Last year we raised £660 in membership and spent

£670, with 90% of that being spent on gardening and maintenance at the estate entrance as well as throughout the estate.

We continue to promote the estate and make it a good place to live in, always keen for members' suggestions and ideas to either of the contact methods as above.

Stuart McMillan, Chairman

FRIENDS OF THE MINT HOUSE

Firstly, a happy new year to everyone. It's been a very busy few months – indeed, year – at the Mint House. The end chimney had to be deconstructed in July last year for safety purposes, though this was just the top, late-19th century/early 20th century part. The Tudor bricks remain at the bottom, and the chimney will be rebuilt. Perhaps our most significant piece of news is that we are now on Historic England's 'Heritage at Risk' Register. We are delighted about this and want to thank



Archaeology drying in Andrew Boorde Bedroom (top) and a medieval chest key (bottom)





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all the people, experts and official bodies who helped us with this; it will mean that this iconic Grade II* listed building is further protected and will hopefully ensure it receives the conservation it needs and deserves. We were pleased and surprised to feature in several national newspapers, and to be interviewed by both the BBC and Seahaven FM.

We are very happy to be part of the local community, and it is a delight to see people at the regularly-held charity quizzes – which is usually between 25 and 40 people each time; our thanks to all in the community who organise and attend those, as well as to the many people who donate raffle prizes. We are very grateful to all the people who drop historical artefacts such as postcards, guidebooks and photos of the Mint House from its 20th-century era through our letterbox; these will eventually go in our museum and exhibitions. It's always exciting when we hear from places as far as the USA, with people sending us photos of furniture bought at the Mint House over 40 years ago, and is now sitting in their house in Atlanta, Georgia! Over two thousand books on archaeology, history and the local area have been lent to us on long-term borrow by two very august institutions, so we are grateful for those, and they will form part of our research library; again, this will eventually be made available to the public for free. It is super to meet all the visitors on our open days, especially the child visitors who enjoy our free craft sessions.

Since education is our focus, we enjoy seeing all the children return time and again, as the house holds a fascination for people of all ages and backgrounds. In the summer, we had our Jubilee celebrations where the children made crowns, and in autumn, we held our first ever Children's Archaeology Day, where children aged 4 to 16 came to help clean the many finds – some of them hundreds of years old – that have been found in the Mint House back garden. The Mint House archaeologist trains the volunteers in cleaning the finds, and often, it's children who are the most careful with them. The archaeologist has been digging two test pits and has found a wealth of information about the previous occupants over the centuries – including an 11th-12th century carved gaming token made from bone, a medieval chest key from the 13th-century, and a child's shoe from the mid-19th century. There are lots of medieval and Tudor pottery shards too. Our team of volunteers has grown to over 40 people, but we always welcome more – and our Duke of Edinburgh volunteer is now doing his Silver volunteering with us – he is so competent that he now trains some of the adult volunteers! The youth volunteer team is slowly growing, especially for those too young for the DofE scheme, and they are just as capable as the adults.

Several of our team, many of whom are historians, archaeologists, charity professionals or those from the architecture and heritage sector, have been delivering lectures and talks to many local organisations and will continue to do so throughout the winter months.

The Mint House was decorated beautifully for the Christmas season by our team of volunteers – and we wonder when the house was last decorated like this as a home! We sadly had to cancel our Christmas Fair that would have been on 17th December – since we are constantly doing risk assessments, we felt that it just would not have been safe to open in the icy weather and there were sheets of ice blocking the fire exit at the back, so we took the advice of the Fire Service and decided to reschedule. However, we hope to use these winter months for grant-writing and making funding applications, and will re-open again for a Spring Fair in the next two months or so – do keep an eye on our website, which is: www.minthousepevensey.co.uk, or email: friendsmint@mail.uk. We're on Facebook: Friends of the Mint House, or you can ring: 07572 601334, or write to: Friends of the Mint House, The Mint House, High Street, Pevensey, BN24 5LF.

Harriet Tait, Chair of Trustees

Friends of the Mint House, UK Reg'd Charity no. 1197900

INKSPOT

Inkspot is a creative writing group meeting at the Ethel Wood Hall, Coast Rd, Pevensey Bay on the first Friday of each month at 6pm.

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. Recent themes have been 'The Night Before Christmas' and 'Fallen Leaves'. We displayed our Christmas themed writings in the Community Library.

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.

Inkspot members got together to give Pevensey Bay's new restaurant 'The Massilia Bay' a try which was a pleasant and sociable experience. We're soon off to the Haven Player's panto!

We were enormously sad when one of our original members, Colin Hilliam, passed away recently. We felt it fitting that our December anthology should begin and end with stories written by Colin. It was a tiny tribute to a man of whom we were all so fond, and full of admiration for his creative writing skills.

One of our members, Stephen, expressed all our feelings when he wrote

'Colin was indeed a radiant light in Inkspot. His memory will continue to cheer/bless our meetings. A truly gentle man. We will miss him hugely. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.'





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New members who wish to share their creative writing, or find inspiration to write, in a supportive group are welcomed. On occasions 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

PARISH OF PEVENSEY

Springtime greetings from the Parish of Pevensey! As part of the Christian community in this area we welcome anyone to either of our churches. St Nicolas, Pevensey offers an ancient and beautiful place to worship in traditional choral style using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer (with incense). At the rather more modern church of St Wilfrid's our growing congregation uses modern language liturgy in a less formal environment. Our regular Sunday services are 9.30am at St Wilfrid's and 11.30am at St Nicolas and both congregations will welcome you to join us for refreshments afterwards.

As we journey through Spring and witness the glorious unfolding of the created world, we also make our personal journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter and contemplate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please see the 'What's on' section for details of services.

Do take a look at our website for more information. www.pevenseyparish.org. Or telephone 01323 765481 or 07415 580651. Many thanks.

Ken Phillips
(Churchwarden Pevensey Parish)

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

This winter the very cold snap and prolonged wet period following it has hampered the amount of maintenance work we've done. Despite this, progress has been made in clearing away bramble undergrowth from part of the impressive reed beds alongside the Langney Sewer that runs past our site. We now have easier access to the riverside to enjoy the wildlife that thrives there such as swans and reed warblers. We also held a Clay in the Wild workshop in December, with one of our volunteers, an expert ceramicist, guiding us in making objects from clay to fire in her kiln.

We are now pruning the apple trees on site to maximise their health and productivity for the season ahead. We

are also pruning and pollarding any crack willow and buddleia that has become overgrown, as well as cutting back any brambles and nettles encroaching on access paths. There's always something to do!

It has been gratifying to see how all our paths have grassed up nicely over the years. When we first took over the site, there was no grass at all due to the dense shrub, bramble and tree cover, meaning that any paths we created rapidly became muddy tracks in heavy rain and cracked open badly in summer heat. Now the grass paths can cope with weather extremes quite well and serve to make the site ever more accessible and pleasant to walk through. Grassy areas are an important component of a healthy forest garden ecosystem anyway and, together with the gaps in the tree canopy we have created, allow pleasant surprises to happen, as wildflowers and make their appearance, sometimes for the first time ever, as in the case of some orchids we spotted.

We welcome any new volunteers, so please contact us at pawforestgarden@gmail.com or phone Andy on 07402321382.

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 qualified, professional demonstration - and prove to be very entertaining and inspirational and are ALWAYS well attended.

Our annual subscription is £25.00, with entry to the meetings being £2/£3 for practice evenings and £4/£5 for demonstrations. We have a beautiful raffle every month (£1 a strip!) and lovely refreshments, which are included in the price of your entry.

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.



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PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hello Everyone. Hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and are all set for 2023!

Reluctantly, we have had to put our fees up this year to £10 to maintain our high standard of speaker.

Our programme this year starts in February with Eric Huke on 'The Mary Rose - Lost and found'.

This is followed in March by Kim Adams with 'The Dukes who made Eastbourne'.

Graham Kean is our speaker in April on 'The History of Hailsham'. May brings us Sally White on 'The Patching Hoard' - Roman gold and silver.

Geoff Mead is our June speaker on 'The Knepp Castle Estate'. In July we have Kevin Gordon on Ellis Kelsey - Sussex Photographer'.

Hope to see you all soon.

The Committee

PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS CLUB

By the time you read this, hopefully the weather will have improved from the constant deluges of rain!

The club has a full programme for 2023 arranged from windmills to wreath making as well as our show in June and August together with social events.

For details of the next few months please see the calendar in this issue.

In the meantime as the weather begins to warm up, and the days get longer it is time to start sowing seeds, planting bulbs and taking cuttings. Remember daytime warmth may be followed by cold nights so consider covering or protecting emerging seedlings.

If you are interested in joining our club, we meet at St Wilfrid's Hall, Pevensey Bay on the second Wednesday of the month at 2pm and visitors are always welcome. 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

It was good to welcome everyone back for the New Year 2023. We have had a busy last few months after the summer. We enjoyed various workshops including lino cutting, two watercolour workshops with Alan and Brenda. Alan concentrated on demonstrating a beautiful sunset and Brenda showed us how to use innovative watercolour techniques in our paintings. Anne led a very successful portrait session with Hazel and Steve modelling for us.

On November 19, our Coffee Morning/ Art Exhibition was well attended with lovely food on offer and compliments made about our exhibited art work. Our end of year party was great fun. We were asked to "guess the name of the artist?" We each showed an art piece without our signature on it and the idea was to attribute a name to each art work. Interesting!

Future workshops will include devising a Fantasy Sky with Steve, using pastels aiming to stimulate our imaginations. Other workshops will include working on Abstracts, painting with Found Objects, Palette Knife Painting and Pen & Ink Work. We also intend to carry out a group visit to Towner in the Spring.

On Saturday, April 1st we are holding an exhibition in the Aqua Bar from 11-4. This event will be happening at the same time as the Vehicles of Yesteryear Show held in the Pevensey Bay Car Park. We look forward to welcoming you to our show.

We are a friendly, mixed ability group with a varied programme of events throughout the year. Our members are always happy to share their knowledge and skills with each other. New members are very welcome. We meet on Wednesday mornings, in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall from 9.30-12.30. If you are interested in joining, please come along to the hall, meet us and have a chat, or contact us on 0779 0277 986.

Dinah Jones

PEVENSEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Greetings: We are very excited thinking what this new season can bring to all of us as community in Pevensey Bay and surrounding areas. We hope that we will be able to enjoy a good weather with the reborn of new crops, but more than that we wish for all of us a peaceful time even though economic and social conditions look quite dark. We want to share a positive message for all of us. The bible tells us that our God is a loving and good father, who want the best for all of us, more than that it is great news to know that he cares for what is happen to humankind and willing to help those



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who trust him. The message for this new season is not to despair or allow our hearts to be in trouble, but rather to encourage you that if we to put in practice God's views or way of living using his values he promises to be on our side and guide us throughout this difficult time.

Our Sunday services are running in our church building at 10:30am. Pevensey Baptist Church is a friendly and welcoming church. Everyone is welcome to join us in worship. Just come and enjoy our freeway of worshipping God.

We are willing to carry on serving our local community with our Toddlers Group, however at the moment we are experiencing short of supporters for the core team. Our plan is to reopen it as soon it is possible, if you are interested in bringing your children please contact as on 01323 769002 or 07511 297680.

Easter at Pevensey Baptist Church. For our church this is special time in which we celebrate Jesus life with us on earth and the manifestation of his love for us through his sacrifice in the cross bringing salvation for all those who receive him. Easter activities details are in the 'What's On' section.

Everyone is welcome to take part in all our Celebrations. For more information please call on 01323 769002 or Mobile 07511297680.

Edwin Pena

Minister, Pevensey Bay Baptist Church

PEVENSEY BAY AND DISTRICT INFORMATION & CARING CENTRE

Well what a good end to 2022, with us almost back to our previous booking levels of volunteer drivers for medical appointments after all the covid lock downs.



It's great to see so many people using our services. In 2022 we had over 1,900 people through our doors and over 400 locals using the medical car service so thank you.

We have some new office volunteers as well as new drivers, so we are all set to serve in 2023. We will be holding our ever popular cake store and tombola on the 1st April to coincide with the cars of yesterday show at sea road car park. so if you have any items you would like to donate for the tombola then please pop them into us,

We have a wonderful media screen which provides all the information of up and coming shows and events in Eastbourne, as well as pre-loved books from 30p, gifts and postcards. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Derek V Green

Chairman

PEVENSEY BAY TO EASTBOURNE COASTAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme

is a complex project which looks at the flood and coastal erosion risk management between Holywell and Cooden Beach over the next 100 years.

For the delivery of the scheme, the project work will take three main strands; 1. The management of the current flood risk using shingle beach management techniques 2. Phase 1 of the PevEb works looks at the short to medium term flood risk management solutions; 3. The 100-year flexible strategic plan delivers solutions up to and beyond 2100.

The short-term project, referred to as 'interim', is primarily shingle beach management work which delivers flood risk management in a very similar way to has been done over the past 20 years in the Pevensey Bay area. Starting from 2025 this beach management work will be in place for the short term and will seek to continue the good work done over the previous decades. This initial beach work allows time for the two more complex strands to be developed to a stage where they can be delivered on the ground.

The phase 1 works is the commencement of the Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme. This first phase looks to build upon and further develop the previous approaches used to defend the coastline. It will seek to focus on the most vulnerable locations and install new approaches which better manage the risks in response to climate change and sea level rise. The expected duration of this first phase of works will be confirmed soon.

Thirdly, the 100-year flexible flood risk management plan will layout a route to managing flood risk from the sea in the long term. The plan will allow the project to make different choices in the future, within the framework it sets out, as we continue to respond to a changing climate. The flexible plan will allow multiple projects to be delivered,



CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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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
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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 (Jan Bailey)	07710 559880

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	07790 277986
Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club	01323 656425/07864 645399

secretary@pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com

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 Villages Partnership	07511 835408

(www.pevenseyvillages.org)

Pevensey & Westham Jnr Boys & Girls, Adult Ladies	07718 915315
	pevenseyfootballsec@outlook.com

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 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

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What's On

Activities are subject to changes in Government advice and may not take place. You are advised to check with organisations before attending. Contact details Page 19

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.
10.30 am Pevensey Bay Baptist Church.
11.30 am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey – Sung Eucharist

EASTER APRIL CHURCH SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

Wed 5th **10.00 am – noon** Pevensey Bay Baptist - Fasting and Prayer.
Maundy Thursday - 6th
11.00 am – 1.00 pm Pevensey Bay Baptist - Recreation Last Supper
7.30 pm St Nicolas, Pevensey. Commemoration Washing of the Feet and Last Supper.
8.00 pm St Mary's, Westham – Holy Communion.
Good Friday - 7th
11.00 am Pevensey Bay Baptist & St Wilfrid's - Walk of Prayer.
2.00 pm St Mary's, Westham - a reflective service.
2.00 pm – 3.00 pm St Nicolas, Pevensey – Liturgy.
Easter Sunday - 9th
8.00 am Pevensey Bay Baptist – Beach service top of Sea Road car park Pevensey Bay.
9.30 am St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay – Holy Communion.
9.45 am St Mary's, Westham – Family worship.
10.30 am Pevensey Bay Baptist.
11.30 am St Nicolas, Pevensey – Holy Communion.

EVERY WEEK

Sundays
10.00 am – Noon Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club
10.30 am – 11.30 am Gentle Hatha Yoga with Vicky – Ethel Wood
5.30 pm – 7.30 pm Tai Gyoku Ryu Aikido Club – Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
Mondays
RVS Monday Lunch Club – Ethel Wood Community Centre
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm & 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club
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

Wednesdays
9.00 am – Noon Pevensey Bay Art Group – St Wilfrid's Hall, Pevensey Bay.
9.30 am Westham Pop-In - Westham Village Hall.
11.30 am – 12.30 pm Chair-Based Yoga – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club.
6.30 pm – 7.30 pm Hatha Yoga for All – Ethel Wood Community Centre.
7.00 pm – 8.00 pm Traditional Shotokan Karate Club – Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall. Age 16+).
7.00 pm – 9.00 pm Anderida Border Morris – Practice – Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay,
10.00 am Pevensey & Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground Car Park
1.00 pm – 3.00 pm Parent & Toddlers Group - Noah's Ark (during term time) – St Mary's Church
Fridays
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).

Thursdays

Fridays

EVERY MONTH

Second Sat **10.15 am – 11.15 pm** NHS Hearing Aid Batteries – Kamsons Pharmacy, Mimram Road, Stone Cross.
Second Wed **2.00 pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club – St Wilfrid's Church Hall.

MARCH

Mon 6th **7.30 pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society – 'The Dukes who made Eastbourne' – Kim Adams – Westham Village Hall.
Tues 7th **11.00 am** Anderida WI – Coffee morning – Aqua Bar.
Noon – 4.00 pm Benefits Day – claims advice – St Wilfrid's Church Hall.
2.15 pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club - Afternoon meeting - Pottery to Potting Shed - with Chris O'Donoghue - St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
10.30 am Friendship-Plus – Harmonise/Exercise – Pevensey Bay Baptist Church.
1.30 pm Anderida WI – Craft – Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. Venue may change. Ring 01323 761406 (Molly Robinson).
1.30 pm Anderida WI – Games – Ethel

- Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. Venue may change. Ring 01323 761406 (Molly Robinson).
- Thu 23rd** **7.30 pm** Westham Evening WI – Birthday Meeting – Cheese and Wine Birthday Celebrations and Wine Tasting – Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 25th** **10.00 am – 12.30 pm** Tabletop Sale - St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay - £10.00 per table.
- Tue 28th** **2.30 pm** Anderida WI – Murder Mystery Afternoon – St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

APRIL

- Sat 1st** **10.00 am – 3.00 pm** Sea Road car park 'Vehicles of Yesteryear' – Organised by Pevensey Parish Council, sponsored by masonbryant.
- 10.00 am – 1.00 pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club – Spring Festival - Raffle, Tombola, Plants, Refreshments – St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- 11.00 am – 4.00 pm** Pevensey Bay Art Group – Art Exhibition – Aqua Bar.
- Mon 3rd** **7.30 pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society – 'The History of Hailsham' – Graham Kean – Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 4th** **11.00 am** Anderida WI – Coffee morning – Aqua Bar.
- Sun 9th** **2.00 pm – 4.00 pm** Stone Cross Windmill opens.
- Tue 11th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Craft – Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. Venue may change. Ring 01323 761406 (Molly Robinson).
- Wed 12th** **2.15 pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club - Afternoon meeting - Carr Taylor Wines - St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Guests £3.00.
- Thu 13th** **10.30 am** Friendship-Plus – Pevensey Bay Baptist Church.
- Tue 18th** **1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Games – Ethel Wood Community Centre. Venue may change. Ring 01323 761406 (Molly Robinson).
- Tue 18th** **7.00 pm for 7.30 pm** start. Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Floral demonstration 'How Bizarre' by Graham King – Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 22nd** **10.00 am – Noon** Stone Cross Windmill – Coffee and Cake morning.
- Tue 25th** **2.30 pm** Anderida WI – St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 27th** **7.30 pm** Westham Evening WI – Monthly Meeting - Celebrating the Coronation. 'Wealden Women at War' – Penny Harris - Westham Village Hall.

MAY

- Mon 1st** **7.30 pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society – 'The Patching Hoard' (Roman Gold and Silver) – Sally White-Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 2nd** **11.00 am** Anderida WI – Coffee morning – Aqua Bar.
- Mon 8th** **10.30 am** - Formal opening of new play

Tue 9th

Wed 10th

Thu 11th

Sat 13th

Sun 14th

Tue 16th

Thu 18th

Tue 23rd

Wed 24th

Thu 25th

Sat 27th-29th

Mon 29th

Tue 30th

- equipment – Pevensey Playground. Organised by Pevensey Parish Council.
- 1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Craft – Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. Venue may change. Ring 01323 761406 (Molly Robinson).
- 2.15 pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club – Afternoon meeting - Nutley Windmill with Robert Pike – St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. All welcome. Guests £3.00.
- 10.15 am** Friendship-Plus - Hampden Park Walk – Advance booking - Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. .
- 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm** Stone Cross Windmill – National Mills Weekend.
- 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm** Stone Cross Windmill – National Mills Weekend.
- 1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Games – Ethel Wood Community Centre. Venue may change. Ring 01323 761406 (Molly Robinson).
- 9.30 am** Ascension Day – Holy Communion - St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay.
- 2.30 pm** Anderida WI – St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm** Traditional Shotokan Karate Club – Free Ladies Self-Defence Class – Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall. Age 16+).
- 7.30 pm** Westham Evening WI – Monthly Meeting – Craft Taster Evening – Westham Village Hall.
- 'Sussex by the Sea' Flower Festival – St Nicolas Church, Pevensey.
- 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Anderida WI – Lunch – Venue to be advised.

JUNE

Mon 5th

Tue 6th

Thu 8th

Tue 13th

Wed 14th

Sat 17th

Tue 20th

Thu 22nd

Sun 25th

Tue 27th

- 7.30 pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society – 'The Knepp Castle Estate' – Geoff Mead – Westham Village Hall.
- 11.00 am** Anderida WI – Coffee morning – Aqua Bar, Pevensey Bay.
- 10.15 am** Friendship-Plus – Ashburnham Walk – Advance booking – Pevensey Bay Baptist Church.
- 1.30 pm** Anderida – Craft – Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. Venue may change. Ring 01323 761406 (Molly Robinson).
- 2.30 pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club – Afternoon show. Entrance by donation. St Wilfrid's Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- 10.00 am – Noon** Stone Cross Windmill – Summer Fair.
- 1.30 pm** Anderida WI – Games – Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. Venue may change. Ring 01323 761406 (Molly Robinson).
- 7.30 pm** Westham Evening WI – Monthly Meeting – 'Coastal Cocoa' – James Bridger – Westham Village Hall.
- Noon – 4.00 pm** Pevensey Community Fete and Dog Show – Pevensey Sports Ground. Organised by Pevensey Parish Council with local sponsorship.
- 2.30 pm** Anderida WI – St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

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: Sara Cheesley (parishpump13@btinternet.com)

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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL DEDICATED PAGE

2023 will be another active year for Pevensey Parish Council (PPC) with various exciting events and projects planned.



PEVENSEY
PARISH COUNCIL

Our Annual General meeting this year, which is open to all members of the public will be held on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 6pm at St Wilfrid's Church Hall. Do come along or come to a monthly council meeting to see how your Parish Council, made up of 13 volunteer councillors, works.

PPC is very conscious of the difficult financial times facing local people. To address the financial pressures and budget increases, the Parish Council has worked hard to cover the majority of these increases, including inflation, by reallocating a number of the Council's existing funds. This means that the increase to the annual precept for 2023-24, will add an additional £0.08 pence, for example, to a Band D household a week.

Despite the financial strain, PPC intends to hold its popular annual events, which are helped by sponsorship from local businesses and includes:

- Vehicles of Yesteryear 1 April 10am - 3pm at Sea Road car park
- Community Fete and Dog show 25 June 12pm - 4pm at Pevensey Sports ground
- Community Information Day 30 September 10am - 12.30pm in Pevensey Bay Church Halls

On 8 May at 10.30, PPC will formally open the new play equipment at Pevensey Playground, which will be dedicated to the late HM Queen Elizabeth and is called "Treetops". This was where she was in 1952 when she learnt that she had become Queen. Please come along and bring your children so they can try out the new inclusive equipment. PPC has been fortunate to receive Grants and donations from local businesses, groups and residents to help towards the costs of the equipment and a new pathway to help make the playground more accessible.

His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 and PPC is planning to mark this event by pulling together a leaflet to advertise events across the parish, as was done for the Platinum Jubilee last year.

During the Winter, PPC, jointly with the Library and St Wilfrid's Church Hall, provided warm spaces facilities, helped by volunteers across the Parish, which we hope helped local people.

Some of the ongoing work and projects that PPC will continue to work on includes:

- Continuing to have meetings with East Sussex County Council to raise issues about our roads and the need for pedestrian crossings as well as a range of other matters including grass cutting and road signage;
- Consulting about various planning applications and liaising with Wealden District Council (WDC) planning

department and our District Councillors to raise concerns;

- Working closely with the Pevensey & Westham Sports Club to ensure that the Pavilion and Sports Ground are maintained and raise funding to improve the facilities for the teams using the ground.

- Monitoring 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;
- Striving to ensure that Dog Fouling issues are dealt with. 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. The Council holds formal Litter picks, but residents are also urged to take litter home or collect litter when they are out walking. Please do join us on formal litter picks, which this year will be on 25 March, 27 May, 30 July and 23 September; look out for posters providing details;
- Working closely with the Authorities to ensure that a renewal of the Sea Defence Contract beyond 2025 is in place;
- Ensuring that street lighting is replaced with LED lighting and maintained;
- Monitoring the public grass cutting programme. The 2023 urban grass cuts will be arranged and organised by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and their appointed contractor. The first urban verge grass cut will be determined by ESCC and the schedule can be found on their website <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/our-services/vegetation>. Pevensey will receive 6 cuts spread throughout the year. The Recreation Grounds have regular cuts throughout Spring and Summer paid for by PPC. The rural grass verge cutting and spraying of the weeds on the roads, pavements, drains and gutters remains the responsibility of ESCC;
- Pevensey Parish is fortunate to have a Community Speed Watch (CSW) group, supported and promoted by Sussex Police and PPC. CSW is highly valued and helps to tackle the problems of speeding in the villages. However, the group 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 or our local representative, Keith Henderson on 01323 460523.

The Parish Council has a popular and growing Twitter account and an active Facebook page complemented by a fully compliant and informative website. We are always happy to promote village events and businesses, so do get in touch. You can find regular updates from the Parish Council on the below links.

<https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/PevenseyParishCouncil>
 Twitter: @PcPevensey

If you would like to help and get involved with CSW, any of the Council events or as a volunteer please get in touch with the Parish Council Clerk who will be happy to assist. Contact the Clerk on 01323 743900 or at clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk about any matters of concern.



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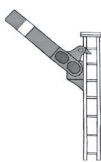
following on from the end of phase 1 works, into the next century.

These three areas of work mean that we can both focus on managing the present-day coastal flood and erosion risk, whilst planning for potential different futures under a range of different climate change scenarios beyond 2100.

Over the coming 12 months we will be working on these three separate streams of work and sharing our ongoing work from each with you. We are keen to work with local people and groups who have an interest in the coast and the coastal landscape. Please get in contact with us at PevenseyandEastbourneCoast@environment-agency.gov.uk

PEVENSEY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Following the success of last year's Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club annual exhibition, we are pleased to announce that we are holding another this year. It will be on 15th July 2023, starting at 10am until 4pm at Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne BN21 1UE. There will be a variety of layouts from other model railways clubs (as well as our own) and trade stands. We look forward to seeing you there.



In the meantime, club members continue developing various layouts. Our members are working to extend our Murrell Park N gauge, work also continues on Pevensey Bay an OO gauge, and we are in the initial stages of designing another N gauge layout. Some of these will be on display at various venues throughout the year including our exhibition in July (dates and venues will be on our website once dates are confirmed). We also have members working on their own layouts, be it building scenery, designing control panels, or repairing locomotives and rolling stock.

Club nights continue every Monday evening at the Ethel Wood Community Centre, 129 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NS. We meet from 7.00pm to 9.30pm. We continue to welcome new members. As always new and prospective will receive a warm welcome in a friendly and social atmosphere.

For further information visit our website:
pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com
or e-mail the club secretary:
secretary@pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com

PEVENSEY BINGO

We still have bingo every Friday at Pevensey Memorial Hall. Doors open from 6.45 Eyes down at 7.30.

We had a fabulous Christmas party on 23rd Dec. where everyone brought food. All participants had a free prize provided by an anonymous member, to whom we are very thankful. We had 44 people attend that night.

Sadly since then back to normal numbers under 30, does make you wonder where people find out about party?

We look forward to new people attending for a cheap night of bingo

Peter
01323 763520

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 it's 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 10am to 1pm and on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm. 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.

For the last few months we have been part of the Parish Council 'Warm Space' initiative, providing a friendly, welcoming and warm place for people to come and relax, have a hot drink and enjoy the company of others. We opened for an extra day on Wednesdays to add extra time to this. We are always happy to be part of these initiatives.

We are pleased also to host the wonderful writings of Inkspot on our noticeboard, do come in and have a look at their work.

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



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PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Short mat bowls is played in Pevensey Memorial hall. It is played on a carpet 6 feet wide and 45 feet long. Conventional bowls are used. Come and have a go. Tuition is available for those who want it. You can play as a friendly bowler (rollups) or for those who are more competitive we have two different leagues, one where we play on a home and away basis at other halls, or a Sunday afternoon Aussie pairs league.

For the even more competitive you could play for the East Sussex County or even England, we have all the contacts.

Sessions are on Mondays 2pm to 4pm and 7pm to 9pm. Wednesdays 2pm to 4pm. Sunday mornings 10am to 12 noon.

Why not come and have a go contact either Linda on 764346, or Peter 763520.

PEVENSEY UKULELE GROUP

Our Pevensey Ukulele Group (PUGs) has got back into its usual pre-covid activities with regular practice at the Holly Blue carvery in Stone Cross. No, we mostly don't eat there but the venue likes our free, live music that encourages their patrons on a Tuesday evening, between 7 and 9pm. Actually we get there at least half an hour earlier to tune up and chat although there is also a break about 8pm when we have a chance to natter or buy a drink. There is plenty of parking there.

Some of our group come from about 10 miles away so it can't be bad.

Many schools have now changed from playing recorders to the ukulele mainly because it is an easy instrument to play but also because it relieves the mouth so the students are able to sing as they play. One thing about playing the ukulele with us is that we play only the chords; the actual tune is sung so, fortunately, all the tunes we play are tunes that you know; words and the chords are provided and there is always a friendly player near you that can help with fingering the right chords.

Ukuleles are cheap starting about £30 online. This will get you going. I wish I had bought mine online as they are better than the one I bought in a shop!

Apart from rehearsals on a Tuesday we also have gigs performing in public. Mostly these are Care homes which have opened up again to performers. Recent gigs have been at Church Bailey, Eastbourne, Hilliers Stone Cross, Morrisons Eastbourne, Normanhurst Bexhill, St Andrews Seaside, Alfriston Care Home, Sovereign Court Eastbourne

and Ashley Gardens Eastbourne. For two years running we were invited and played in Spain. We would enjoy going abroad again.

Our Director of Music (he would love that title) is Alan Coomber on 01323 763061. There are about 30 plus at the moment but room for more to this exciting way of enjoying music and friendship.

We extend our sympathies to the families of Fred and Beryl who's passing was attended by PUGs members.

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

The Westham, Pevensey & Stone Cross Branch of the Royal British Legion has been in place for many, many years and we had a successful Poppy Appeal last November raising over £6,300 but, sadly, the Branch is now closing.



We have been advertising for someone to take over as Secretary/Membership Secretary of the Branch for a number of months now but have had no response. Therefore, the Branch will be merging with Eastbourne.

Thank you for all your support in the past.

RVS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

We have had a very good Year.

The year finished with a free Christmas lunch on 19th December. We must say a big thank you to Morrisons who donated a chocolate Father Christmas for every member.

We are planning to celebrate the Coronation of our new King Charles III.

We have vacancies for people living in Pevensey Bay. If you are interested in joining us for lunch and meeting new friends, please get in touch.

We meet at the Ethel Wood Community Centre. If you need transport we can arrange that. You will get tea or coffee on arrival and a two course hot meal.

Christine Wood
01323 768019



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ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

Life at St Mary's carries on apace following a busy Christmas season. It was especially joyful, with COVID having affected recent years, to see the church so full for many of our special services – our Christingle service becoming standing room only! A date for the diary for next Christmas is the 2023 Christmas Tree Festival which will be over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd December 23, with contributions from the wider community welcome.



The church's seasons now move towards Easter. This year will see services on Maundy Thursday (6th April) at 8pm with a quiet service of Holy Communion; Good Friday will see a reflective service at 2pm whilst a special family service at 9.45am on Easter Day will include chocolate!

With spring doing its stuff, our monthly Churchyard Tidy re-commences on the 1st Saturday of the month, 10am till noon. If you want to come and help simply come and join in. Tea and cake provided!

Of course, our usual worship pattern on a Sunday morning continues with more details on our website, www.stmaryschurchwestham.co.uk

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. Have a look at our website to see what you could join! www.stwilfridschurchhall.webs.com

Craft Fairs are held on the second Saturday of every month between 10 and 12.30. A Tabletop sale will be held on 25 March between 10-12.30; like a car boot sale, but indoors so you can keep warm and dry! Why not have a clear out of things you no longer need and book a table - £10 each but come along and have a look to buy too. Refreshments will be available. Phone Shirley on 461692.

These events help fundraising for the Hall's next phase of refurbishment work which is needed at the hall to ensure its safety and security from the elements.

There are hiring slots available at competitive rates; contact the 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 will be happy to show you the benefits of this large fully accessible facility with its ample car parking.

Shirley MacKinnon
(Secretary)

STONE CROSS INDEPENDENT PRE-SCHOOL

Stone Cross Independent Pre-School has charitable status and have been operating since 1952 from the local Memorial Hall. In 1999, the Pre-School expanded to include a purpose built Nursery Unit within the premises of the local primary school.

The Memorial Hall premises are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings, 9.15am to 12.15pm and Tuesday, Thursday 8.45am to 2.45pm for children aged two to three years. There is a maximum of 30 children per session. The Memorial Hall premises include use of the main hall, a second smaller room, kitchen and small enclosed garden area.

The Nursery Unit premises are open Monday to Friday mornings, 9.00am to 12.00pm and Monday to Friday afternoons, 12.00pm to 3.00pm for children aged 3 to 5 years. There is a maximum of 25 children per session. Morning and afternoon sessions can run consecutively. We are pleased to now be able to offer an extra hour before school hours which are chargeable. We also offer a lunch club which gives an extra hour after the morning session times.

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

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

To book a visit or for further details please contact the Administrator on e-mail admin@stonecrosspreschool.org or mobile 07864295888. Registered Charity 1030338.

Stone Cross Pre-School Staff and Committee

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 Phyllis Wenman last November who contributed a great deal of her time and energy to our various fund-raising events – she will be missed. Also a big thank you to her friends and family who donated money to the Windmill.

The Windmill re-opens on Sunday 9 April 2 to 4pm for teas and tours.



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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

The Windmill will hopefully start milling flour shortly and once this is available there will be a notice on the website.

Many thanks to Father James from St Luke's Church who conducted a well-attended Harvest festival at the Windmill and a Carol Service at the Church.

The first fund raising fair for 2023 will be a coffee and cake morning at the Windmill on Saturday 22 April 10 – 12 with the usual stalls selling cakes, bread and jams.

Please continue to support the Windmill by renewing your membership, providing donations, and joining/renewing the 100 club so that it can remain open to the public. If you know of anyone who has recently moved to the area, especially the new estates that are adjacent to the Windmill, please inform them of this iconic building in the heart of our community - a reminder of our heritage.

Further information will be on the website:
www.stonecrosswindmill.co.uk

Many thanks for your continual support.

Barbara Molog Chair SCMT
scmt2012@yahoo.co.uk

TAI GYOKU RYU AIKIDO CLUB

Tai Gyoku Ryu Aikido Club has been training at the Ethel Wood Community Centre for more than twenty years. So without rushing into things it seems about time to introduce ourselves in the parish magazine.



Aikido is a traditional Japanese martial art and our club can trace its English roots back to the 1950's. It is a non competitive 'soft' martial art which seeks to control a situation and does not rely on strength. Aikido aims to redirect an aggressors momentum and intent to take control of a situation.

We practice a series of exercises and frequently train in pairs. This fosters mutual cooperation and respect. Much of the training is empty handed, although not exclusively so and does not rely on strength.

It can be practiced by anyone, old or young, big or small as long as you can concentrate for a couple of hours. Perhaps the most useful abilities to learn are to break free and to fall or roll to avoid injury.

Practice also stimulates mind - body coordination and attitudes learnt in the dojo (training hall) end up transferring into everyday life and apart from being physically and mentally stimulating it is fitness with purpose.

Personal skills and well being develop though increased awareness, balance and confidence. Some exercises can be practiced at home. All in all it's a practical 'keep fit' and while it is not for everybody, it is for anybody.

If you're interested come and visit us at the Ethel Wood Community Centre, Sundays 17:30.

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 and £50,000 to support Ukrainian people living in communities across 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

TRADITIONAL SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB

The Traditional Shotokan Karate Club is a long-established martial arts club and we would like to offer a free ladies self-defence class on Wednesday May 24th. This lesson will be fun and light hearted and will cater for ladies with little or no self-defence knowledge.

The Traditional Shotokan Karate Club has been in existence for many years with experienced instructors registered with the Amateur Martial Arts Association, the club meet every Wednesday night at the Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall) training in traditional Shotokan karate and one or two traditional weapons. The club has a wealth of knowledge which allows all students to have a much deeper understanding of martial arts.

The classes are only £3 and are pay as you go per lesson and are open to anyone age 16 to 80, should you be interested in a karate class or would like to take part in our free ladies self-defence lesson please contact Phil on 07792 091503.



VIEW CRAFT

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 – 12.00. We are all looking forward to a new year of making more craft items. We have spaces on all our craft tables which include 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 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 in helping or know of a visually impaired person who would like to join us, please get in touch.

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

WESTHAM EVENING WI

Pam Britton was presented with a variety of gifts when she stood down as President at the Annual Meeting in October 2022, after many stints of service on the committee over the years. In her speech to members, she commented that she had first joined the WI at 25 and was stepping down at 85!

Jan Bailey took on the role of President, with the support of her new committee, comprising existing and some new members.

Westham Evening began the new year with a meal at the Langham Hotel, when a wet night did not dampen spirits inside and it was much enjoyed.

A variety of meetings will be available in the coming months, including artisan chocolate, celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and wine tasting.

There are several monthly groups that include the book club, Scrabble, cakes, gardening, crafts, walking and Night Owls, offering a variety of interests.

There is always a friendly welcome at Westham Village Hall, on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Please ring Jan on 07710 559880 for more information about the meetings or any of the other groups mentioned above.

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The main activity in the area is "hit and damage to cars on Westham High Street.



We hope some of these have been reported, if not, we have no evidence for the police. **Everyone must take the time to report.**

Please will residents/business owners along the high street, sign up to the scheme and support us in the parking issues. It must affect your footfall to your businesses.

It would also help to know what CCTV is available and "ring door bells".

Parking on the "zig zag" lines has been a problem by the school. This has been reported to the police and is being actively progressed/enforced.

Various attempts have been made by the Village Hall committee to reduce the time limit on the car park to 4 hours. We will endeavour to pursue this with the help of the committee.

With the new Highway Laws, parking on yellow is enforceable (without pavement signage) along with parking across pavements/verges.

These can all be reported via Operation Crackdown, very simple, it is a **SAFETY ISSUE**.

We encourage everyone to do so.

Monitoring devices are still being pursued with SSRP (Sussex Safe Roads Partnership) for Peelings Lane, to then be able to take more action in reduction of **SPEEDING**.

Most of this is due to overdevelopment in the area, all residents are opposing development to try and reduce the traffic flow and lack of infrastructure.

Since our first Parish Pump article more members have been enrolled in this scheme and other "old" schemes are being shut down.

We are continually supported by the headmaster at Westham school and our local Wealden Councillors.

Westham Neighbourhood Watch



WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL DEDICATED PAGE

Community Governance Review - Update

In the previous edition of the Parish Pump, we outlined that a Community Governance review of Westham area was being undertaken. This was prompted by the submission of a petition of 483 signatories to Wealden District Council in 2019. The District Council commenced a consultation on proposals for the Stone Cross and Westham areas and their consultation was completed on 30th November 2022.

On Wednesday 11th January 2023 the Audit, Finance and Governance Committee of Wealden District Council met to discuss the review. The purpose of the meeting (relating to Stone Cross and Westham) was to –

“Note the progress with the current Community Governance Review (CGR) in respect of Westham, Willingdon and Jevington, and Framfield parishes” and

“To approve final draft recommendations that see the retention of a single Parish Council for Westham based on existing parish and internal ward boundaries alongside an adjustment to ward representation.”

The committee heard that a consultative ballot was administered by an independent electoral services specialist and 6080 ballot packs were issued.

At the close of the ballot 1302 valid ballot papers were received (a 21.4% response rate).

The ballot firstly asked electors whether they supported the petition proposal seeking a separate council for Stone Cross and Westham. 55.1% of respondents (708) did not support the proposal. 33.6% (478) did support it and 8.3% (108) had no opinion on the issue.

The committee agreed that the single Parish Council for Westham based on existing parish and internal ward boundaries be **RETAINED**.

Please see the Wealden District Council website for further details and information.

The Community Governance Review also outlined – Identities and interests of the local community, effectiveness and convenience, Community cohesion and size, population and boundaries, population changes and additional housing developments and it was noted that “There does appear to be an understanding and acknowledgement on both sides of the issue that the Stone Cross area has grown and changed in recent years.....”

The committee heard that levels of representation between wards and that the consultative ballot and

community consultation exercises in Westham “seem to indicate that at the present time there is not a strong case for structural change”.. However, officers recommended that “Governance arrangements might be enhanced by adjusting levels of representation across the Westham wards.”

At present the current number of parish councillors at Westham Parish Council is – Stone Cross – 6 Dittons – 2 Westham – 5

Three possible options were presented to the committee for consideration –

- A) Stone Cross – 5 Dittons – 3 Westham – 5
- B) Stone Cross – 6 Dittons – 3 Westham – 4
- C) Stone Cross – 6 Dittons – 3 Westham – 5

Officers at Wealden District Council considered that option B would go some way to addressing issues of under representation and creating a balance across the area.

Having considered the 3 options, the committee voted for ‘Option B’ i.e., Stone Cross 6 councillors, Dittons 3 Councillors and Westham 4 Councillors.

There will be a further consultation by Wealden D.C. on that option.

Please see the Wealden District Council website for further details and information.

However, there have been many positives for the Parish Council including:

Residents that have come forward and joined the Council so we have been able to co-op a full Council and use their expertise.

We want to enable residents to have more say in what they would like to see in the area and a new website has been developed as well as a Facebook page. Stone Cross has its own drop-in centre at the Church every third Friday of the month.

By listening to the pond working group, who have put in a considerable number of hours for no cost, Westham pond is now healthy and full of wildlife.

A great deal of work has been done to clear paths and work on damaged trees. Despite regular health checks on the trees, it appears that the last three years has seen the need for major work on many of them.

Perhaps our most time consuming and difficult work of the past four years has been our efforts to stop the overdevelopment in the area. Although this has met with limited success we will continue to object to any more development in the Parish.



The Council is concerned not only about the impact of Climate Change but also the environmental issues that have been caused by the overdevelopment in the Parish. We will be looking at ways in which we help combat these changes including rewilding some of the open spaces we control.

We have managed to sign off a contract to build a path around Adur Park which will hopefully encourage residents to exercise in the area. At the same time, we will build a mound along the Friday Street boundary. The play area will be re-surfaced and a fence installed around the play equipment. We can then look at turning Adur Park into a fully functioning leisure facility.

One of the ideas we had at the beginning of this term of office was to change the name of the Council to Westham and Stone Cross Parish Council. Perhaps we can look at this again now.

Throughout this difficult financial period and careful financial controls, we have been able to keep the precept for the Parish either the same or just rising by inflation. This has sometimes meant that we were the only part of your council tax to go down. We will work hard to ensure that this continues in the future.

After the elections in May 2023, we will hopefully have a full council and move forward with even more bold and exciting plans.

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 9.30am and 11.30am 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. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

Westham Pop-In Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE CONSERVATION GROUP

Planning and new housing targets for Wealden. The new draft Wealden Local Plan is delayed again until at least May. There was some hope that the government minister responsible for housing Michael Gove would allow a reduction in Wealden's new housing targets. Local groups have been talking with councillors and the planning team but the criteria for reduction is vague.

We had to cope with an extremely wet winter with more extensive flooding than usual in fields. Especially on either side of the Rattle Stream on the western edge of Westham. Water covered areas of the fields designated as "Low risk", by the environment agency. This section is described by Wealden District Council as the "Climate Change Buffer Zone". Surface water flows into the road on the Western side of the bridge here and traffic was impeded for several days at a time. Thank you to Environment Agency teams which worked long hours all over Sussex. Also to tree planting initiatives such as "Sussex Flow Initiative" along rivers. This helps to slow flooding down stream.

More new houses will be built to the west of these flooded Rattle Stream fields. Interestingly an Archaeological dig has discovered part of the Roman Road from Pevensy to Barcombe on that site.

Spring time we enjoy and celebrate the beauty of our local wild flowers.

In April last year a few of the pretty Cuckoo Flowers were seen on the wide grass verge to the east of the cannon corner grassland. Most years there are many within the pasture meadows across the levels. If you are lucky you may hear the Cuckoo too.

In May see the spectacular Greater Stitchwort display on the north bank of Peelings Lane east of the foot path stile which leads across the fields to the Pevensy Levels. Children called the white starry flowers, "Shirt Buttons".

WESTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Our Hall continues to serve as a hub for our Community. As we go into 2023, we welcome new Groups and clubs, look forward to family parties and events and with our long-standing Groups continuing to provide friendship and enjoyment to our community we have a busy year ahead.

We still have availability for bookings, so please get in touch with our helpful booking clerk Julie on 07821377110.

Your Hall Committee continues with the refurbishments and we look forward to events this year which will be advertised on our outside and inside notice boards, plus of course here in the Parish Pump. Wishing you all a happy, healthy 2023 and looking forward to seeing you at your Hall soon.

Diane on behalf of Westham Village Hall Committee



WESTHAM VILLAGE POND

Three years ago the pond was in a bad way. Since then the Parish Council and Pond volunteers have worked hard to restore biodiversity. We can now report really good results:

- Clearer water that is healthier for all wildlife including water-birds.
- Pondweeds that appeared from seeds dormant in the mud. The cleaner water lets light in causing them to germinate.
- Many attractive wild plants with beautiful flowers now form wildlife habitat around the pond.
- Return of Reedbed habitat with seven types of reed that cleans water and supports wildlife.
- Reed Warblers bred in this little Reedbed for the first time this year!
- Frogs have returned to breed. Three years ago there were none. A few arrived in the first two years but there were over a hundred last year!
- Toads have begun to breed again, but only a few so far.

- Smooth Newts and Palmate Newts have returned. Excitingly a Great Crested Newt was seen last year. We now have all three UK Newt species in the pond.
- Grass Snakes have been seen and Slow-worm lizards live on the banks in the longer grass.
- RSPB Nest Boxes placed around the pond have been used by Blue Tits and Great Tits.
- RSPB Bat Boxes on bankside trees are used by Pipistrelle Bats and possibly other species.
- Bees, Butterflies, Moths and other insects have returned. Eight species of Dragonflies were counted.
- Moorhens, Mallards and Canada Geese bred.
- Kingfishers visited regularly as did Herons, Little Egrets and Cormorants.
- Other birds including Blackbird, Chiff-chaff, Willow Warbler, Dunnock, House Sparrow, Starling, Blackcap, and Wren have nested.

Thanks to everyone reducing pollution by not feeding anything at the pond. Clean water is essential for all wildlife. If we work together we can save these wetland plants and animals for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.



Some of the hundred or more frogs found breeding in Westham Village Pond



Gatekeeper butterflies have become common around the pond as their caterpillars feed on the longer grasses



Goldfinches are seen feeding on Bulrushes and Teasels

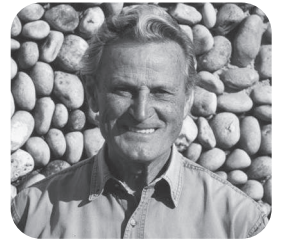


Grey Wagtails are regular visitors in the Spring and Autumn



Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



Hello Nature Lovers we shall start with Hazel Wood's interesting and practical article on birds first after which I shall introduce one of my favourite birds, The Long Tailed Tit.

Hello my friends, did you ever wonder how our small birds survive this harsh, cold weather? The wintry nights can often be a killer for all wildlife especially our very small birds. They deal with this by feeding all day and consume a vast quantity of food, as much as 30% of their body-weight for the necessary fat reserves to get them through the long, cold nights. They will roost in shrubs, trees and empty bird houses and any other spots that have had sunlight (if any) through the day which, in turn, will have some residual heat. We, as bird lovers, can help them with supplements such as wild bird seed and fat balls and any household scraps. Most important is water; nothing can survive without water.

Many thanks Hazel, very true! A few days before Christmas Vi spotted through our kitchen window a small flock of Long Tailed Tits apparently feeding on insects in a small holly tree in our front garden. They scattered as I came up our steps, unaware of their presence, so I only got a fleeting glimpse of them. These beautiful and delightful birds are one of our smallest apart from their very long tail. They are widespread, though in small numbers, in Britain apart from the colder northern areas as their small body size makes them vulnerable to cold weather. Woodland with large shrub-land areas is their favourite nesting area and they don't move far from their nests and then only in small flocks. In our 28 years here we have been lucky enough to see two flocks in our garden and I'll now add the delightful fact that they have been known to help each other in their nest building.

Just as rare and mentioned in our last Nature Notes was Sammy the Seal and recently there was another seal event. A seal pup had been found up the beach in a garden in Coast Road, Pevensey Bay. Fortunately, it later made its own way back to the sea, so, no harm done! It is the practice of mother seals to take their pups up onto a safe place on the beach where they feed it for about three days then leave, go back to the sea to feed and mate again. The pups can spend up to two weeks, including mum's feeding time before they decide to

return to the sea. In this case however, the chances were that the strong winds and heavy seas that day had washed it up onto the beach and it had taken refuge in a pile of rocks there and made its way back to the sea as soon as it was able.

Pretty well everyone's favourite insect is the butterfly and no wonder when you see the Peacock, Red Admiral etc. plus, of course, the various blues. It is such a shame that, like so many of nature's beautiful insects, their numbers are declining. Smaller gardens and hedges dug out to make larger fields are two major reasons for this decline but a bigger reason for butterflies is, of course, the over use of insecticides. This we can all do our bit to control so let's try.

On that note I will close and wish you all a happy "Nature Loving" year.

Alan Everard



Sea Defences

Dominique Townsend, PhD student at the University of Southampton is working with Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd to understand more about the nearshore zone of Pevensey Bay

A research project, led by the University of Southampton, is entering a new and exciting phase understanding how waves and currents flow across the subtidal zone within the bay. This involves the collection and analysis of data on the properties of the sea using scientific instruments sat on the seabed. You may ask why are the University of Southampton interested in Pevensey Bay – it is a bit far away from Southampton isn't it?

Pevensey Bay is of immense interest to coastal managers and scientists, not only because it is the most surveyed beach in Britain, but also because the mix of sand and shingle, cobbles and mud is a relatively understudied and complex environment. This beach forms the focus of a research project which began in 2019, run by the University, and part-funded by the Environment Agency and Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd (PCDL), who utilise the beach as a flood defence through active beach management. The Environment Agency and PCDL are interested in understanding more about the loss of sand from the lower foreshore which has been observed from their survey work over the past 20 years. In the past coastal studies have typically focused on the upper beach, exposed at low tide and easily accessible by surveyors. This however poses an issue in that the waves and tides do not only act on the beach between the low and high tide mark, but also further offshore. This study seeks to use novel technology, such as radar-derived seabed mapping and rapid survey vessels to study changes in the seabed in detail not seen before. The past two years have focussed on understanding how

the bed levels fluctuated about a cross shore transect and studying the changes observed in profile and shape of the nearshore zone, which extends down below the low water mark.

Most recently, data has been received from eight instrumented arrays which are located on the seabed

offshore of Pevensey Bay. The instruments are mounted on train wheels, which are heavy enough to keep all the heavy scientific instrumentation the right way up, even during intense storms where waves stir the water column. The instruments are retrieved every three months to collect the data they have recorded and to clean the barnacle growth off them! Each time, before being placed on the seabed, a video camera is used to check the bottom to make sure it is safe to deploy. The instruments are collecting data on waves and currents, as well as suspended sediment content and turbidity. It is hoped that collecting this data will allow us to understand how the behaviour of waves change as they move inshore, which will help improve our knowledge of the driving forces acting on the seabed and beach face across the site. This information will contribute to any decisions about the future management of shingle beaches across the UK and further afield.

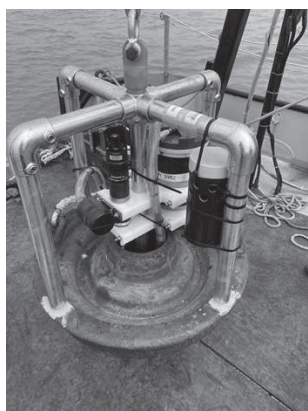
Dominique Townsend,

PhD student at the University of Southampton

PEVENSEY BAY COASTAL COMMUNITY GROUP

Pevensey Bay and Normans Bay now has an established community group which discusses matters relating to coastal flood defences, this is called the Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group. The group meets every three months and has community representatives from across the Pevensey Bay and Normans Bay area. The group is co-chaired between the Environment Agency and Pevensey Parish Council to achieve balance and transparency within our discussions. The purpose of the group is to be the key point within the community for discussion and sharing of information relating to the Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme.

If you would like to be involved or submit questions for the group, can you do so by contacting us at PevenseyandEastbourneCoast@environment-agency.gov.uk. The group is especially interested in seeking input from businesses within Pevensey Bay, as this group are not currently represented. If you run a business and would like to get involved, please get in touch!



One of the eight instruments currently collecting data on the seabed at Pevensey Bay.

Image credits Dr Hachem Kassem & Partrac Ltd

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