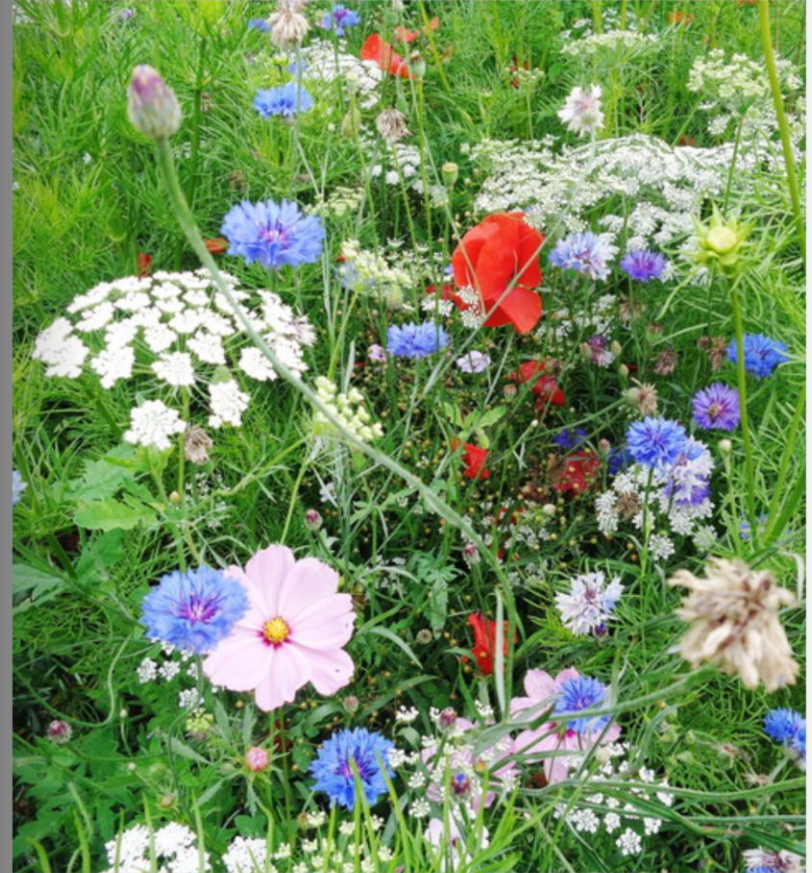


Pett and Pett Level News

Pett & Pett Level News
May 2026

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then press PLAY to continue, thank you.**



May 2026

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Front Cover: Courtesy of Tony Howard

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Pett & Pett Level News is printed by Impression IT, St Leonards, 01424 852116

The New Beach Club

2026 Gigs and events

Sunday May 3 rd	3pm	Kytes
Sunday May 10 th	3pm	Sarah G and the Other 3
Sunday May 17 th	3pm	Bear & I
Sunday May 24 th	3pm	Rye Bay Crew
Sunday May 31 st	3pm	Stuart Bligh

Welcome to our May issue. Firstly, many thanks to Tony Howard for our May front cover photo. We had lots of wonderful contributions this month and it was hard to make a choice, but Tony's captured the essence of the new month.

As usual there's lots going on in Pett and Pett Level. Don't forget this month welcomes the return of Pettfest from 22-25 May. There should be something for everyone, with live music, great food and a choice of beers and ciders to sample.

Inside this issue you should have received the schedule for the annual Pett Flower Show and Fayre on 25th July. The theme is '100 Years of Television' which should provide some interesting entries.

We didn't realise we had a football legend in our midst! See page 23 for a report of East Sussex Over 60s football team winning the National Cup against Worcestershire in Alton, Hampshire on Sunday, 19th April. It would be great to hear of other sporting successes so please do remember to let us know.

Donna and Louisa

Pett Village Hall AGM 2026

The Annual General Meeting of Pett Village Hall
will take place in the Catharine Hollman Room at
6pm on Tuesday 26th May 2026, all are
welcome.

Pett Parish Council Update *David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council*

The council met briefly in April, principally to consider some planning applications, but also to look at its donations policy and decide what grants it will make in the current financial year, which started in April. As I briefly referred to last month, the council also met informally to discuss the development of a business plan; in other words, to take a fresh look at what its strategic aims should be and to try and plan its activities for the next few years, particularly regarding its assets; mainly the recreation ground, the tennis court and the children's playground. It was agreed that, before a plan can be developed, parishioners should be consulted about how they, or should I say *you*, would like the village to develop. In view of this, the council is planning to hold a survey to find this out. I will write more when this is going to happen. The council is also working on a resilience plan, but this needs to consider the relevant plans of both the district and county, so that it can be tailored to fit in with these.

As far as consulting the parish is concerned, the annual parish meeting will take place on Tuesday 16 June at the village hall. This provides me with an opportunity to review the year, but, more importantly, it gives you a chance to raise any issues to do with the parish. We have not so far arranged a speaker, as we have done in the past, but, if you have matters that you would like discussed, please put the date in your diary. More information in due course.

As I am sure you are aware, there will be elections to the county council on 7 May. The parish council is not involved and is not concerned with party politics and, indeed, bodies are prevented from making announcements about any new or controversial government initiatives that could be seen to be advantageous to any candidates or parties in the forthcoming election. However, I understand that, after many years of service, Councillor Keith Glazier has decided not to stand for East Sussex County Council. Party politics apart, I would like to record the thanks of the community for all the work Keith has done at all levels, but particularly for Pett, over these many years.

As you probably know, the parish has three noticeboards, by the village hall, at the entrance to the recreation ground and just inside the entrance to Nicholas's church at Pett Level. We try to post agendas, minutes and other relevant papers on all three, as well as posting them on Pettnet. The board at St Nicholas's has been causing problems for some time; the locks have seized, and the perspex has become more and more difficult to see through. Together with the churchwarden, we have decided to remove the perspex (and therefore the locks). This has been done by Al Evans, to whom many thanks, so that notices are now easy to read.

The district working group on local government reorganization has met a couple of times and, to help develop suggestions as to how parish and town councils will relate to the unitary authority - the level of government above them - has been addressed by representatives of other councils that have already gone through this change. Unfortunately, the government has postponed making a decision on how Sussex is to be divided between unitary authorities, so all work must be in anticipation of this decision. However, a draft proposal as to how communication might work, by the establishment of what have been called Neighborhood Area Committees (NACs, although other names have been suggested), has been developed and, once the unitary body is in existence, this plan will be put before them. It is proposed that the NACs should not only include representatives from town and parish councils, but also from bodies such as the police, fire authorities and the NHS, although the voting powers of these bodies has not been established. Indeed, the NACs may have no power (much as parish councils have very little power) and only be advisory.

I have been asked about John and Beryl Rootes, who lived in the village in the 1980s and 1990s. If you knew them, please let me know and I can provide more information.

Finally, I must report the death of Peter Woodroffe at the age of 97. Although in recent years he has been in a home elsewhere, Peter was for many years a resident of Pett Level. The Woodroffes, Peter and his father and grandfather, were responsible for significant parts of the development of Pett Level and its sea defences. Our sympathy goes to Peter's family.

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Services and Events

The Parish of St Mary & St Peter, Pett and St Nicholas, Pett Level
winchelsea-icklesham-churches.org.uk

Sunday 3rd May

St Nicholas, Pett Level
8:30am

Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer

Sunday 10th May

St Mary & St Peter, Pett
09:15

Rogation Sunday Prayers
See poster for details of Rogation
Sunday Benefice Walk

Thursday 14th May

St Mary & St Peter, Pett
18:30

APCM
Annual Parochial Church meeting

Sunday 17th May

St Mary & St Peter, Pett
09:15

Parish Eucharist
Service of Holy Communion

The Rector: The Rev'd Nathanael Hayler

Email: rector.wip@gmail.com | Tel: 01797 308531

Churchwarden: John Case

Email: churchwardenforpett@gmail.com | Mob: 07536 998530

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10th: Midnight Riders
17th: The Blues Cats
31st: Something Else

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Rogation Sunday: A Forgotten Tradition

From the Early Middle Ages, churches have celebrated the lesser-known and increasingly forgotten festival of Rogationtide. Early celebrations included the tradition of “beating the bounds” of the parish – praying for God’s blessing upon agricultural land and thus the well-being of a community.

The word rogation comes from the Latin verb *rogare*, meaning ‘to ask’, reflecting the act of beseeching God in prayer for protection from calamities. As the Book of Common Prayer puts it, ‘Rogation Days precede Ascension Day (Thursday 14th May) and they are especially devoted to asked for God’s blessing on agriculture and industry.’

This year, Rogation Sunday falls on 10th May and provides an opportunity for our rural Benefice to seek God’s blessing – for our communities, residents and visitors, for businesses and charities, and for every endeavour that serves the common good.

To mark this special Sunday and embrace this endangered Christian tradition we will be embarking on a Rogation Sunday walk between our three parishes. Please see the adjoining poster for more details on this, noting that the usual service times will change on this day.

On our walk we will pray for God’s blessing on the communities of Pett, Pett Level, Icklesham, Winchelsea Beach, and Winchelsea. As the Rector, I’m looking forward to this day of prayer and celebration, please join me for some or all of our Rogation Sunday Benefice Walk.



O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Coffee Morning and Community Library

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Our Library is free to join, we have over 200 books which are refreshed regularly.



Robert from East Sussex Hearing will be there for your NHS hearing aid needs and batteries.



The Jigsaw library has a large selection of puzzles to suit all tastes.

There is always a member of the Parish Council on hand should you wish to speak with them. 500 Club Winners will be drawn during the morning.

All proceeds are donated to charity so please **come and join us;**
we would love to see you!

Charles & Co.

ESTATE AGENTS

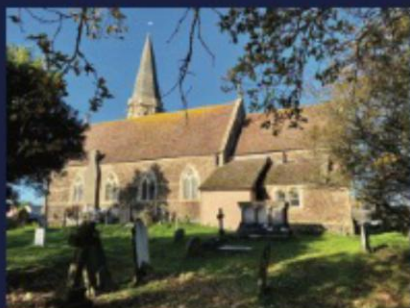
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We have a selection of games on offer, or you can bring your own to share.

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The Benefice of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett

Rogation Sunday

Sunday 10th May 2026



Pett



Icklesham



Winchelsea

9:15 - Morning Prayer

at St Mary & St Peter, Pett

Walk from Pett to Icklesham

12noon - Midday Prayers

at All Saints & St Nicolas, Icklesham

Lunch break at Icklesham Church*

Walk from Icklesham to Winchelsea

16:00 - Choral Evensong

at St Thomas, Winchelsea

*Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be provided in church.

Join us to embrace this ancient tradition of offering prayers of blessings upon our communities this Rogationtide!

Read more in the adjoining article...



Dawn Turner
HHTT, MHTT

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Part of the TRAVEL CHAPTER

Nature Notes by Alan Kenworthy

While sorting out and recording some old photographs from Australia recently, I came across a photo of a Spear Thistle. Now, the Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*) is a familiar plant in the UK, we've even found them in our garden, but the same species also thrives very well round the other side of the world in Australia. The recording system lists it with a big red letter 'I' meaning 'introduced!' with the legend 'arrived in the region via anthropogenic means', which seems to suggest that it may not be welcome there. Indeed, the powers that be in Australia have declared it a 'noxious weed'. It has also met with similar opprobrium where it has been introduced in the Americas. So, do we uphold our regard for this native plant of ours, that is after all the national emblem of Scotland? Of course we don't - it was designated an 'injurious weed' in the UK Weeds Act of 1959.



There are lots of reasons to dislike the humble Spear Thistle, not least of which is its sheer prickliness, not to mention its ability to seed itself in our precious flower borders. However, one fact that I found out while reading about the Spear Thistle is that it has a particularly high rate of nectar production. It was listed sixth in a survey of nectar-producing UK plants performed by the Agriland project, supported by the UK Insect Pollinators Initiative, and third in a similar survey of meadow seed mixes. The close cousin, the Marsh Thistle came top in the Agriland survey, so maybe that is the species to grow if you want to attract pollinators, though it is nowhere near as pretty or as architectural as the Spear thistle.

It's probably the way my mind works but I do sometimes get bogged down in the details, and I got to thinking - how do you go about measuring nectar production? I mean Wikipedia even came up with the figure of 2300 micrograms (± 400 micrograms). Sadly, that figure is meaningless because they didn't state the time period, i.e. per hour, per day, or even per flower.

Measuring nectar production is to make like a bumblebee - not with your tongue but with a fine capillary tube inserted into the flower which then draws up the nectar. Then you can weigh the tube and subtract the weight of the empty tube to determine the weight of the nectar. But you haven't finished yet, because as every bumblebee knows, the flower will slowly fill up its nectar tube again, so it is worth going back to the same flower after a while, to repeat the extraction process. And even then, the quality of the nectar has to be considered as in the concentration of sugar in the sample. Bumblebees don't worry about measurement, of course, they just know what tastes best and which flowers produce the most nectar.

Should you be wondering about the thistle in the photo above, it is an Australian specimen, and it's not even upside down.



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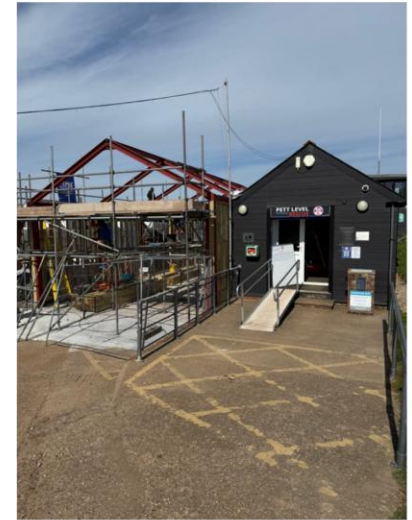
*International Yoga Alliance Diploma and Premier Training International Diploma. 10 years' teaching experience.

News from PLIRB

If you've visited the beach at Pett Level recently you will have seen the work on our boat house extension. In line with the schedule, the groundwork has now been completed, the building frame erected, and work has begun on the new roof and electrics. The new space will make a massive difference to our operation, not only for storage of our two boats but protected space for training in all weathers. We can't wait to move in.



Ground works completed.



New Steel frame up and being fitted out.

One Wednesday afternoon at the beginning of April, we were tasked by Solent Coastguard to help a kite surfer off Camber, who had got into trouble in some squally weather. Thankfully we arrived to find the surfer had recovered and was on the beach. However, on our return we experienced a loss of power from our engine. We managed to return to the boat house, only to discover the cause of the problem was a big hole in the lower piston; not a simple fix by any standards.

PLIRB put out an appeal for help on social media and the fine team at Peter Leonard Marine in Newhaven kindly said they would be over in the morning to pick the engine up, with a view to stripping it down to see if it could be repaired. A spare engine was offered by some of our crew members, so work began to remove the old engine and fit the spare; the amazing result was that we were back on service by the Saturday morning. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone that offered help, especially Peter Leonard Marine and Fairlight Parish Council, and to the volunteers for all the work in swapping the engines over.

Sadly, on the 7th April we said a final goodbye to our Launch Vehicle Driver Kev, who passed away in February. The sun came out and we had a very fitting Funeral service with PLIRB volunteers providing a Guard of Honor and a send-off at the Robin Hood, RIP Kev.

Continued on page 23

P.J. Turner

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PLIRB Upcoming Events

- **PettFest Beer Festival**
22-25 May. Pett Slip Buoys, beers, ciders, music and food
- **FairFest**
20 June. PLIRB BBQ and Pett Slip Buoys

Please donate

The cost of our recent engine malfunction will be over £4000, so if you would like to donate to help us make up the shortfall, please use the link below, or scan the QR code, and as always, thank you for any support you can give.

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Pett Level Resident Helps Bring National Football Title to East Sussex

When David Tasker moved to Pett Level in September 2021, local residents might not have had him down as someone about to help put East Sussex on the national football map. They'd be wrong. David, a former parish councillor in the village, is the founder and organiser of the East Sussex Over 60s football team, and on 19 April 2026, that team became national champions, defeating Worcestershire 2-0 in the Over 60s FA Cup Final at Alton FC's Exclusive Networks Stadium in Hampshire.

It has been quite a journey. David built the team from scratch roughly four years ago, growing it to over 30 players. This season the side beat the reigning champions in the group stage, survived a penalty shootout in the quarter-finals, and overcame a formidable Lincolnshire side in the semi-final, playing for much of the game with key players missing through injury. David plays as well as organises, wearing the team's orange and black kit with the same commitment he brings to running the whole operation behind the scenes, from fixtures and logistics to the team's media presence.

For a small coastal community like Pett Level, it is a reminder that remarkable things can happen quietly, without fuss.



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MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERS

ArchiveResourceCentre@outlook.com

You will have seen an article in last month's magazine where we reminded existing ARC members that May is the time to renew their annual membership, and invited non-members to join and support ARC. I would like to repeat this message again this month.

We need a steady income to cover our ongoing costs, which chiefly consist of room rental and website fees. Increasingly, we are finding that potential funding organisations will only provide grants for capital costs (e.g. new equipment). However, our costs are almost entirely ongoing running costs, and so we are increasingly reliant on annual membership fees to pay all our bills.

Of course, as has been mentioned before, not only do we need funding, but we also need volunteers. We are a very small team and sadly too much of our time is taken with administration, and too little of our time is spent on the subject matter itself, so we need to share this work with others.

The work done by volunteers takes many forms. We most definitely need help in cataloguing and posting information on our website, as we are always running with a considerable backlog. At the moment this work is done solely by Fran Rogers, and as such is an endless and onerous task for her.

However, in addition we would like help with carrying out research using both the material that is held by us, and that which is available in the public domain.

Just as a couple of examples, we are trying to gather as many copies of property deeds, abstracts of title and other papers so that we can get an idea of who lived where, when that was, what they did and maybe when the property was built, and so get a richer picture of the village in the past. This requires a level of effort that we cannot achieve without help.

It has long been one of my aims to build a picture of Pett and Pett Level over the years, by creating snapshots of the area at, let's say, 50-year intervals. So, by using census information (where available), old maps, old photos and various other sources we could create a view of what properties existed, who lived in those properties, and what those people did for a living. We can also add in any stories/folklore that we know about for these people. In this way we would eventually create a booklet or similar for each of 1951, 1901, 1851 and so on back through time (these dates may have to change to match information that is available for those years).

I understand that very few people would want to do such work during the (hopefully!) gloriously warm, sunny days over the coming months. However, I'm equally sure that many would be keen to fill their cold, wet winter days with such work! So, we are fully expecting this to be seasonal work and therefore all we would want for now is a list of names for us to contact as the winter approaches.

On the centre pages I have provided just a small handful of examples of source material that could be used for research, just so that you have an idea what is involved.

So, please let me know on the above email or on 07818 014610 if you would like to take part in any voluntary work and, of course, if you'd like to become a member.

Many thanks, Paul Petley



View from church steeple in August 1911, looking west

Photo of Dormer Cottages (at one point called Myrtle Cottage and Lilies). This property was next to Nine Acres, and was demolished in the 1960's and this land, together with supplemented land was used to build Dormers, Swallows Chase and Meadow Heights



Wheelwrights when it was owned by the Barden family and used as a wheelwrights and carpentry workshop and, we understand as a chapel of rest at one point. Behind Wheelwrights can be seen the building which is now Rock House nos. 1 & 2. Other photos of Wheelwrights from the opposite direction indicates open country to the east



Building which is now nos. 1 & 2 Rock House, when it was Billing's Stores.

The old village hall located near the Old Bakery and the Old School House



An extract of tithe map of 1839 which overlays the current village layout. This extract shows a small part of the church on the bottom right, and with the Methodist Chapel and the School House and The Bakery on the north side of the road

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The Happy Home Choosing Harmonious Artwork

Owning a work of art that is special to you has the potential to inspire your mood and enrich your life. Art makes an evocative focal point and there are many possibilities to use artwork items that go way beyond just paintings. Textiles and wall hangings, wooden carvings and metallic articles, china and ceramics, vases, sculptures and deities all constitute artwork. When you want to acquire your special piece of artwork, or you are trying to decide where to place it, drawing on the aesthetic design guidelines of Feng Shui can be very worthwhile to motivate you and to help you make your decisions with confidence.

The very first considerations are that you feel a meaningful connection and affection for your artwork, that your attention is uplifted each time you look at the piece, and that you always resonate positively with it. Fundamentally, humankind has a primal need to feel connected with nature, which is a well-recognised reason why pleasing floral compositions and natural outdoor scenes are known to be beneficial, particularly where people live in crowded urban living areas, or in an apartment that has no direct access to outside space.

Selecting Your Artwork

One of the core aims of Feng Shui is that everything in your home has a positive significance, including the images you hang on your walls and those you display on your shelves. The kind of artwork that is most likely to complement your living space is uncluttered, ageless, timeless and engaging, with a sensitive yin-yang balance of light and shade, action and calmness, and simple images that express a deeper significance.

Artwork will tend to either uplift or drain the atmosphere depending on its subject, colours and placement. For example, images of nature, serene landscapes, and flowing water scenes promote calmness, wellness, and renewal. Amusing abstract images have a similar effect. In contrast, chaotic, dark, or emotionally intense pieces would introduce a sense of unease and induce stress, even if only unconsciously. They would be particularly disruptive emotionally when placed in areas that are intended to be used for rest or relaxation.

So be sure to avoid displaying images that tend to evoke any feelings of loneliness, aggression, or sadness. Let go of any harsh, scary, dull or ugly imagery. This would include menacing facial expressions, dark mysterious images, masks, weapons, fighting scenes, tigers, lions or other creatures showing their claws (quarrels and discord), dull or depressing scenes and all items with unhappy or disturbing associations.

Placement Matters

It is essential that your artwork enhances the location where it is placed and that its colour palette is in harmony with its immediate surroundings. Where you have it is just as important as what you choose. Give it adequate space, light, and visibility, so that you can fully enjoy it. The frame can make or break the appearance and pleasure of any painting. So, select it carefully to complement the subject and definitely repair or replace any damaged frames. Strategically positioned lighting sources will illuminate the beauty of your piece of artwork, and you can augment its desirability by capturing its reflection in a mirror. You can also use a mirror effectively to amplify any other attractive object or view, to bring more natural light into an area and to open up a narrow space. A mirror with a vase of flowers placed in front of it, or one reflecting food on the dining table, will double the image, symbolizing increasing abundance.

Continued on page 31



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Continued from page 29

If the room feels uncomfortable when you put up a mirror, then take it down. The prime Feng Shui principle for mirrors is that they should only reflect beautiful images and should not distort what they reflect, which is why the use of mirror tiles or irregularly shaped mirrors is not recommended. Mirrors can disrupt harmony when they are misplaced.

Colour Choices

Colour accents in artwork and furnishing accessories will contribute to harmonising the energetic quality of a room and bring elemental balance. You can also create a meaningful aesthetic composition with a well-arranged group of photos, which you may change from time to time as your life evolves. Neutral decor tones are harmoniously complemented by accents of brighter hues in your artwork. Soft blues and greens, Water and Wood elements, are ideal for relaxation and meditation spaces, while vibrant red and orange accents, fire elements, will stylishly energise more active living areas when used in moderation. Gentle romantic scenes and pairs of attractive objects will generate a harmonious energy that initiates affection and intimacy, so they would be an excellent choice for the master bedroom.

Warm wishes, Sylvia Bennett
 Accredited Feng Shui Master, Architectural Design Consultant, Environmental Therapist
www.fengshui-living.com 07779 139187

Saturday 25 July 2026



**PETT FLOWER
SHOW & FAYRE**

What can one say about English weather? Lovely sunny days at last after the very wet spring. Could we be begging for rain soon? Fingers crossed for super weather in July.

The schedule for the show '100 Years of Television' is being distributed with the May issue of the Parish News. It can also be found on the village website www.pettnet.org.uk, from which additional entry forms can be downloaded. Copies of the schedule will also be available from local businesses and hostelrys.

There is plenty of time to check out the classes and plan your entries for the horticultural classes, as well as for the home produce and craft ones. Please note the change from previous years to some of the classes. Chillies have been added to the vegetable section and there is now an open class for hydrangeas, taking into account the different varieties.

Please also note that the Show will be opening at 1.00 pm, although the main hall with the entries will still not open until 2.00 pm.

Details of the Evening Dance are advertised in the schedule. It is great to have this event to make the show day one that everyone can enjoy. Tickets will be available in advance from the Royal Oak.

We are delighted to welcome again the judging team for the Dog Show, which is also starting earlier this year. Owners are asked to study the schedule, select their classes and check out the entry details as they may differ from previous shows. The Committee are planning all the familiar stalls and sideshows, which are kindly run by volunteers who generously give their time for the enjoyment of villagers and visitors. New faces are always welcome. If you would like to help and be part of a great village event, please contact any of the Committee members as listed on the back of the schedule.

In addition, there may be availability of pitches for local organisations and businesses. Interested parties should apply for an application form from the Honorary Secretary, Louise Bowles, Fairholme, Pett Road, TN35 4HE; phone 812296 or email lou.bowles192@gmail.com.

I hope everyone enjoys the May Bank Holidays

Philippa M. Strickland (Chairman P&DHS)

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An Annual Opportunity

One thing I learnt at school which I have been grateful for all my life, is the ability to cope with being bored. And I am sure very many others have also acquired that skill. I mention it now because I am asking you to consider attending our Annual Church Meeting at Pett Church on Thursday 14th May at 630pm and I can well imagine that one reaction to that request will be that annual meetings are boring.

I accept that not every moment of our Church Annual Meeting will be wholly scintillating BUT it will provide an opportunity to read the church review of 2025, discover how the church is run, what the Rector is like, what is the state of repair of the building, what hopes and plans there are for the future. Of course, the primary function of the church building is to provide a place where we can worship God, but it is also a village community asset and so should be of interest to all. As is the churchyard.

Angela Hawksley
Hon. Secretary, Pett Parochial Church Council

News from St Michael's Hospice

Book your tickets for St Michael's Hospice's 2026 Open Gardens

Discover a vibrant season of gardens across Hastings and Rother in aid of St Michael's Hospice. Running from May to August, you can explore a variety of private gardens, community spaces, wildlife-friendly plots, coastal gardens, and creative planting styles. Their summer-long programme has something for everyone.

Whether you're seeking gardening inspiration, a peaceful day out, or a chance to explore hidden local gems, find a garden near you. Visit stmichaelshospice.com/opengardens to get ahead of the crowds by booking your ticket today and download the free Open Gardens Guide to find everything you need to know to help plan your visit.

A spotlight on the St Michael's Hospice Wellbeing Programme.

At St Michael's Hospice, they have a Wellbeing Programme which offers a range of therapeutic activity groups, one-to-one sessions and telephone support for people living with an advanced, progressive illness in Hastings and Rother, and their carers. The groups have been designed to empower and enable. They're led by the Hospice Wellbeing Assistants and qualified clinicians from the Rehabilitation, Social Work and Spiritual Support team. All the groups are held at the Hospice. Visit stmichaelshospice.com/services to find out about their referral system.

Time as a companion. Navigating anniversaries in grief from St Michael's Hospice.

Following a bereavement, time can feel like an enemy. Minutes stretch, days blur together, and the future may seem impossible to imagine. Yet over time, something subtle often begins to shift; time, which once felt harsh and relentless, can gradually become a quiet companion. One of the ways we often feel the presence of time most strongly is through anniversaries. Everyone will have different ways of navigating anniversaries, but what matters most is allowing yourself the space to respond in the way that feels right for you. Read the full article at stmichaelshospice.com/time-as-a-companion to find tips on how to cope with significant dates.

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THE NEW BEACH CLUB

The New Beach Club at Pett Level is pleased to announce that the next (and final phase) of the "Improving Access" project is now complete. A year ago, the ramp was installed to allow those with mobility issues to access both the Club and the patio more easily, but the width of the doors and its sill were still causing problems. The doors have now been replaced with one much wider door (and a smaller "fly" door), which is of sufficient size to allow a wheelchair through - so both doors no longer have to be unlocked to allow access. For the time being, the main door can be opened by pressing the disabled button on the left-hand side of the main wall; the exit switch is the round green button on the inside.

The electrics to both this door and the side gate to the patio have also been upgraded. The gate is now routinely closed from the roadside, although those with mobility issues have been issued with a pass key which will allow them to open it. If we have overlooked anybody, please let us know; if anyone else needs this gate opened, please see a member of staff. Note also that anyone can exit the patio via this gate without a key: there is a release switch on the side wall of the passage. Passage lighting has also been installed.

The Club is once again indebted to the Community Fund (through the National Lottery) for financing this work. We also thank Hannington Gilbert electricians and their sub-contractors, MC Glass, for their professionalism and workmanship.

For those of you who are interested in joining the Club, please see their website - from where you can also download a membership application form: www.thenewbeachclub.co.uk

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Gardening Club Notes by June Harris

This month we welcomed back Jane Scotchmer, who has previously presented two diverse and entertaining talks for us, this time guiding us through the origins of Britain's public parks with a talk entitled: "Parks and Pulhamite, a Scenic Revolution."

Nowadays we take our parks and the fact that they are free to all, for granted, but not that long ago they were few and far between and meant only for the wealthy, who would gain access through subscriptions. King Henry VIII, in his own way, started the trend. Wanting to be able to hunt, but without having to travel to distant forests, he brought about the early Royal Parks; green areas in a more urban environment, although designed for a specific purpose. The 18th century expanded the concept, still for the wealthy, of private parks in residential areas; enclosed green squares surrounded by the Regency houses of the rich and accessible only to keyholders.

The catalyst for the expansion of parks for everyone was the Industrial Revolution. In a relatively short time, towns and cities grew exponentially, as the population left rural life and sought work in the new factories, but living conditions were overcrowded, insanitary, unhealthy and miserable. Derby, one of the quickly expanding new industrial towns, is credited with creating the first factory in the world, the Derby Silk Factory, in 1717. Joseph Strutt, its owner, began to understand the value to the workers of fresh air and donated the land on which Derby Arboretum was created - "a healthy open space for townspeople", which is also recorded as the first public park in England. Its design was intended to mimic the countryside, with mounds, winding paths, shrubberies, trees and areas of semi-enclosure for a cosy, comforting, safe feel. Momentum, however, was very slow until the government of the day, disturbed that the Paris Uprising of 1832 - a people's revolution against the appalling living standards of the poor - might happen in Britain, saw that green spaces with better air quality were important and as the 19th century progressed the concept of green spaces in the urban environment developed countrywide. It took a long time, but public parks, free and open to all, gradually became the norm, with fountains, statuary, lakes and bridges, waterfalls, tree-lined avenues and follies, the many features we ourselves are familiar with. Rockeries are another constant in park design, but their construction is not always what it seems...

Joseph Paxton, head gardener at Chatsworth, was tasked by its owner, the Duke of Devonshire, to create a huge rockery as a feature in the gardens and this was achieved using vast amounts of imported stone, at great cost and taking years to complete. Enter James Pulham, head of a firm of landscape gardeners and terracotta manufacturers, which exhibited and won medals at London's Great Exhibition of 1851. The firm went on to create Pulhamite, which usually looked like gritty sandstone and was a blend of sand, Portland cement and clinker, sculpted over a core of rubble and crushed bricks. It was used to join natural rocks together, or crafted to simulate natural stone features and was so realistic that it fooled some geologists of the era! It was so much easier to build rockeries and garden features with this material, that it became widely used as the new public parks and gardens were created during the 19th century. Pulhamite has proven to be extremely durable, with many of the features made from it still going strong today; it even has listed status, so will continue to be preserved for the enjoyment of visitors to the nation's parks and gardens.

Our next meeting, on Tuesday May 12th at 7.30 p.m., will be a Plant Sale and Social at Pett Village Hall.

Tara Begbie

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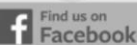
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Pett WI

by Sally Watson

Our March meeting is always left open for speakers from our chosen charities to come and tell us what their charities do. Pett WI raises funds each year and we always choose charities that align with our philosophy of helping people in the local area. Our members put forward suggestions, and we vote on which ones we would like to support each year.

We raise funds by running two very successful Fairs at Pett Village Hall - one in April and one in November. We also include the profit from running the refreshments for the Pett Flower Show and other one-off events. This year, we are supporting The Oliver Curd Trust, and Little Gate Farm. The representatives from the two charities gave wonderful presentations about their charities.

First up was Sarah, who is Oliver Curd's Mum. She told us her family's tragic story - Oli developed a brain tumour at the age of seven years old; he began treatment of chemotherapy and radiotherapy on his 8th birthday. At the time Sarah was pregnant with her third child. Sadly, although there was some remission, Oliver died when he was just nine years old. During remission the family were able to enjoy some wonderful holidays away, but Sarah and Richard realised that wasn't always possible for every family. So, they raised funds to buy a holiday home at Crowhurst Park which can be used by families for a holiday while they are going through a similar experience of serious childhood illness. Funds raised help to maintain and keep the home in excellent condition.

Our second speaker was Mary from Little Gate Farm, who is the charities fund raising manager. The farm is situated in Beckley and Claire Cordell began the charity in 2013. She has a daughter with a learning disability, and she realised that there are few opportunities for someone like her daughter to get into meaningful employment. They offer education on a range of subjects that hopefully will lead to employment in the future. They support over 100 adults every week with their varied courses, with many of the adults gaining excellent employment as well as confidence and independence.

We also of course, continue our support of Rye Food Bank, we deliver food and toiletries to them once a month and give them some of our profits from fundraising. By the time you read this we will have already run our April Fair, so funds will be allocated to our charities.

Pett WI is a vibrant fun-loving group of women of all ages. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7.30-9.30 at Pett Village Hall. Our members come from Pett, Guestling, Fairlight, Rye, Winchelsea Beach and Hastings. We do have a waiting list but if you are interested in joining, please contact us. We love to welcome new women.

I have an apology to make - in January I thanked Richard Smith from Eyemasters for his donation to fund our raffle. I said he donated £100 but his donation was a very generous £150. My apologies Richard and thank you for all your support.

Meet the Seaside Stitchers

Do you love to sew, knit, crochet, embroider or enjoy any other form of textile craft, but find it a bit solitary? Would you like to meet like-minded people who share your enthusiasm for craft? If so, you'll find a warm welcome at the Seaside Stitchers!

We're a small, friendly, informal group which meets every Wednesday at Pett Methodist Church Hall, from 1.30-4.30pm. You don't need any experience to join us, just plenty of enthusiasm, an open mind and a willingness to share ideas and skills.

For more information,
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The Sussex Kelp Recovery Story

By Kerry Williams: Communications Officer - Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Five years ago, the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project was born. The story starts with seaweed. Kelp; a large brown seaweed, used to be plentiful off the Sussex coast. Imagine this forest of the deep, creating a habitat for marine wildlife. Black Sea Bream would dig and spawn in gravel nests. Blue Mussels would provide a grounding for the kelp to attach to, and engineer further resources for others, like Starfish and Plaice.

The chalk reef outcrops would writhe with life; scuttling Spider Crabs, swaying ethereal-looking Piddocks and the occasional fin-flap of an Undulate Ray. Seals would benefit from these supreme hunting grounds. From above, Gannets would spear the surface to take their fill of the abundant beneath-the-waves buffet. And so, safely and sustainably, could we.



In the 1980s things changed. Storms, marine heatwaves and poor water quality had a negative effect, and persistent damage has been caused by intensive trawling for commercial fishing. This indiscriminate practice decimated the biodiversity of the seabed. By the end of the century, 96% of Sussex kelp was lost, and with it, a whole ecosystem wiped out, in repeated, traumatic acts of destruction. All happening under the waves; beneath our noses, yet out of sight. But some people did notice. Sussex IFCA formed a case for a Nearshore Trawling Byelaw, and production company Big Wave created *Help our Kelp*, a film narrated by Sir David Attenborough. Other organisations joined the fight, and a campaign of the same name was launched.

It worked. In March 2021, trawling was prohibited from 304 square kilometres of the Sussex coast. The byelaw is one of the largest in the UK. The collective became the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project; twelve organisations*, co-ordinated by Sussex Wildlife Trust, who have continued to monitor and advocate for the recovery of our seabed.

Benefits are underway; Black Sea Bream and Blue Mussels are on the increase. But nature takes time to recover. These five years have been focused on laying the groundwork to enable the steady return of these great forests and their inhabitants. Rewilding our ocean, piece by piece. With patience and collaboration, the story of our Sussex shores gets wilder each year. Although it started it all, really, kelp is just the beginning.

*Sussex Wildlife Trust, Blue Marine Foundation, Zoological Society of London, Queen Mary University of London, University of Brighton, Adur & Worthing Councils, Sussex Underwater, Big Wave Productions, Sussex IFCA, University of Exeter, University of Sussex

Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join



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National Trust Rye & District Association | Monthly Flyer

We offer a range of enjoyable events each month to members and non-members of our association in support of The National Trust.

Walks September-June | Talks September-June

Our 5 mile circular walks cost £3 and begin at 10.00am. All walks end with a rewarding pub lunch and a quiz. Our talks with popular guest speakers cover a range of topics and are held from 2.00pm at Brede Village Hall, and cost £5 for members/£10 for non-members – including refreshments.



Spring Lunch | Flackley Ash Hotel Saturday 9 May 12.30pm



This year we return to the **Flackley Ash Hotel**. A charming privately owned Georgian Country House Hotel set in 5 acres of mature gardens. There is a three course menu, for a special price of £39.50 pp (including coffee, mints and gratuities). A wonderful opportunity for us all to get together and enjoy good food and conversation.

Talk | The Detmold Twins Thursday 18 June 2pm



Hannah Miles, the Collections Manager from Bateman's will be talking about the lives of the **Detmold Twins** who created 16 watercolours for *The Jungle Book*. As we are providing a Cream Tea for this special talk, advance booking will be necessary so please contact: julie.etches054@btinternet.com. Association members £10, non-members £12.

Outing | Penshurst Place Tuesday 15 September



Penshurst Place is the birthplace of Sir Philip Sidney who is remembered as one of the most prominent figures of the Elizabethan age. The medieval house is one of the best surviving examples of 14th-century domestic architecture. Price is £49.00 pp which includes a guided tour of the house on arrival, and a free afternoon to look around the walled gardens.

SOME FUTURE EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR DIARY: Walk: **The Bull's Head at Boreham Street** Tuesday 12th May | **Annual Fun Golf Day, Tenterden Golf Club** Friday 11th September.

Contact: Dee Williams (membership) 07760 115413 membershipryenationaltrust@gmail.com
Julie Etches (bookings) 01797 225317 julie.etches054@btinternet.com

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Pett Village Hall Activities

Monday

Doctor Surgery	9.00am-1.00pm
Bluebells Playgroup	9.30-11.00am
Table Tennis	4.00-5.30pm
Yoga	6.00-7.30pm

Tuesday

Doctor Surgery	9.00am-5.30pm
Pilates	8.30-9.30am
The Hill Surgery Prescription Service	12-12.45pm
Yoga	6.30pm-7.30pm

Wednesday

Pett Painters	2.00-4.00pm
Dance Fitness	6.00-7.30pm

Thursday

Doctor Surgery	9am-5.30pm
Pole Dancing	9.45-10.45pm
The Hill Surgery Prescription Service	12-12.45pm
Art	12-3.00pm
Short Mat Bowls (In season)	3.15-5.15pm
Fitness Pilates	6.30-7.15pm
Lindy Hop	7.30-10pm

Friday

Badminton	10.00am-12pm
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For details of who runs each class and how to join see our website - www.pettvillagehall.co.uk

For bookings of the hall please contact Clare at clare@pettvillagehall@gmail.com Telephone 07718 518053. Doctor's appointments can only be made by contacting The Hill Surgery direct.

500 CLUB

Draw Date: 1st April 2026

1st: Malcolm Smith

2nd: Stuart Baker

3rd: Brian Blake

**PETT
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MAY 2026

RYE (HARBOUR)

Date		HEIGHTS ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
		High Water			
		Morning		Afternoon	
		Time	m	Time	m
1	F	11 03	3.4	23 20	3.5
2	SA	11 37	3.4	23 55	3.5
3	SU			12 11	3.4
4	M	00 26	3.4	12 41	3.3
5	TU	00 51	3.1	13 07	3.1
6	W	01 14	3.0	13 29	3.0
7	TH	01 38	2.6	13 59	2.8
8	F	02 15	2.4	14 42	2.5
9	SA	03 12	2.0	15 50	2.2
10	SU	04 46	1.9	17 11	2.0
11	M	05 59	2.0	18 21	2.2
12	TU	07 02	2.3	19 21	2.5
13	W	07 57	2.6	20 13	3.0
14	TH	08 43	3.0	21 00	3.4
15	F	09 28	3.4	21 46	3.6
16	SA	10 13	3.5	22 33	3.9
17	SU	10 59	3.8	23 20	4.0
18	M	11 46	3.8		
19	TU	00 08	3.9	12 33	3.8
20	W	00 56	3.6	13 23	3.5
21	TH	01 49	3.4	14 16	3.4
22	F	02 46	3.0	15 11	3.0
23	SA	03 50	2.6	16 11	2.8
24	SU	05 01	2.4	17 17	2.5
25	M	06 22	2.3	18 35	2.5
26	TU	07 33	2.4	19 45	2.6
27	W	08 28	2.5	20 41	2.9
28	TH	09 14	2.8	21 29	3.0
29	F	09 55	2.9	22 13	3.0
30	SA	10 34	3.0	22 54	3.1
31	SU	11 12	3.1	23 31	3.1

Time Zone UT (GMT)




ADD 1 HOUR BETWEEN 31st MARCH & 26th OCTOBER TO ADJUST TO BST

Customer service line
03708 506 506

Incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

Floodline
0345 998 1188

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COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES & CONTACTS	
Recreation ground and play area (except the bowling green, sports pavilions, tennis courts and cricket pitch which are leased to the Pett Sports Association)	PPC
Defibrillator and phone kiosk opposite the Royal Oak	PPC
War memorial at Pett Church	PPC
Several roadside benches, noticeboards, and village signs	PPC
Website (PettNet); Pett & Pett Level News Magazine	PPC
Roads (inc Road Markings, Road Signs, Drains, Potholes, fallen trees)	ESCC
Verges & Footpaths	ESCC
Planning (applications, decisions, appeals, etc)	RDC
Refuse & Recycling	RDC
Fly-Tipping & Pollution	RDC
Dog & Pest Control	RDC
Beach Bye-Laws	RDC
Sea Wall at Pett Level	EA
PETT PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)	
In addition to the above responsibilities PPC can also provide a parish wide view on planning applications. PPC may be able to help you find out who to contact if you have a problem, can help escalate if your problem is not being dealt with, and can assist in lobbying the relevant authorities in the event of continued poor service.	
	
COUNCILLORS	
Alan Crouch (Vice-Chair)	01424 813145 cllr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk
Andrew Dunlop	01424 813368 cllr.andrew.dunlop@pettnet.org.uk
Al Evans	cllr.al.evans@pettnet.org.uk
Richard Homewood	cllr.richard.homewood@pettnet.org.uk
George Locke	cllr.george.locke@pettnet.org.uk
Andrew Norcott	07802 729412 cllr.andy.norcott@pettnet.org.uk
David Penfold (Chair)	01424 813003 cllr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk
PARISH CLERK	
Mary Philo	01797 270790 clerk@pettnet.org.uk
Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH	
TREE WARDEN	
Marcus Foster	07812 024070 mail@marcus-foster.com
FLOOD WARDEN	
Alan Crouch	01424 813145 cllr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk
EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL (ESCC)	
www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem	
0345 6080190; www.eastsussex.gov.uk	
Councillor Keith Glazier 07957 377844	
cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk	
	
THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)	
03708 506 506	
	

VILLAGE CONTACTS			
ARC	Paul Petley	07818 014610	archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com
Badminton	Wendy Petley	07813 633013	
Bowls Club	Mary Saint	813047	mary@saintfamily.net
British Legion	Brian Green	812450	toffee35@gotadsl.co.uk
Cricknet Club	Andrew Dunlop	813368	
Dance Fitness	Laura Mitchell	07527 105352	lauramitchell6@sky.com
Flower Show	Philippa Strickland	814384	pstrickl@icloud.com
Gardening Club	Bob Harris	07947 184176	bob.june@btopenworld.com
Guardians of Pett Churchyard	Mike Wilkins	07710 080148	
Churches in Pett and Pett Level	Rev Nathanael Hayler	01797308531	Rector.wip@gmail.com
- Churchwarden	John Case	07536 998530	
- Friends	Angela Hawksley	07976 389635	
Pett Level Preservation Trust	Theresa Noutch	814370	theresanoutch@aol.com
Pilates	Belinda Weber		belinda.weber9@gmail.com
Fitness Pilates	Susan Trimmer		susantrimmerfitness@gmail.com
Pole Dancing	Jane Baldwin	07403 256148	jane@mrzen.co.uk
PVH Committee			pettvillagehall.co.uk
Seaside Stitchers	Donna Gilbert	812185	donnagilbert1@sky.com
Short Mat Bowls	Brenda Kirkham	07444 008034	beekirkham@btinternet.com
Stoolball	Janet Fuller	01303 873227	
Table Tennis	Alan Kenworthy	07835 112566	
Tennis Club	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	petttennisclub@gmail.com
Activate Youth Club	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
Village Voices	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
WI	WI Secretary		Pettwi1917@gmail.com
Yoga Class	Robin Hutt	813182	robinhutt@btinternet.com
ROOMS FOR HIRE			
Methodist Chapel	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
Sports Pavilion	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	sjw@meadowshed.co.uk
Village Hall	Clare Walker	07718 518053	clare.pettvillagehall@gmail.com
New Beach Club		812080	info@thenewbeachclub.co.uk



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Pett & Pett Level News

May 2026