

12th June 2026

Fairfest is almost upon us, and a shocking discovery has been made: the Tug of War competition still needs teams! This is your chance to gather six willing volunteers from your society, local pub, workplace or friendship group and prove, once and for all, that you are the undisputed powerhouse of the parish. For the modest sum of £2 per competitor, teams will battle it out in a series of best-of-three contests, with victory going to the side that can haul the rope beyond the four-metre marker. Winners progress to the next round, while defeated teams will spend the rest of the evening explaining that the ground was uneven and that “we weren’t really trying anyway”. Each team will need a captain, whose duties include keeping everyone organised, making sure the team appears when called, and looking confident regardless of how little they actually know etiquette and tactics. Entries must be in by Wednesday 17th June 2026, and Fairfest accepts no responsibility for sore muscles, damaged pride, or the sudden discovery that your supposedly athletic friends have all the pulling power of damp spaghetti. Meanwhile, in what may be the most unexpected appeal of the year, Fairfest is also searching for a fridge freezer. Yes, really, a fridge freezer. If you happen to have a spare one lying around, like you do, maybe gathering dust in a garage, shed or other forgotten corner of your property, the organisers would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact Jennifer at jenniferannetts@gmail.com. So, who’s up for it? Start assembling your team, plotting your route to glory, and, if previous years are anything to go by, giving serious thought to your costumes. Some would argue they’re the most important part.

The Fairlight Astronomers meet this Thursday, 11th June, at 7pm in the Village Hall. This month’s subject is water, a substance we are all too familiar with over the last couple of weeks. With several club members expected to be away, Chair Chris Smart has predicted an even rarer phenomenon than a supernova: more cake than people. It seems there is a genuine risk that the group’s Victoria sponge may survive the evening untouched, something rarer than a teenager at the Friday Lunch Club! But villagers are urged not to panic. Simply turn up, enjoy the talk, and assist with this important cake-reduction programme.

Something new is arriving at The Cove this Friday, June 12th, at 6pm, when they launch their new Painting Sessions. Whether you’re a complete beginner whose artistic career peaked with finger painting at primary school, or someone who can already tell their watercolours from their acrylics, this workshop is open to everyone. Don’t worry about turning up with an easel strapped to your back or a mysterious collection of brushes in your pocket, all resources are provided. All you need to bring is yourself, a little enthusiasm, and perhaps a willingness to discover that the “simple landscape” in your head looks suspiciously like a potato when transferred to canvas. The session costs £20 per person, with a £5 deposit required to secure your place. If you’d like to give it a try, get in touch with The Cove. Who knows? By the end of the evening you could be the village’s next artistic sensation... or at the very least have something colourful to take home.

Next Tuesday, June 16th, the Tuesday Ladies Club will once again gather in the Village Hall at the very civilised hour of 2.15pm for what promises to be a fascinating talk by Millie Rowland entitled “Boat House Drama & Millie’s Disco.” Now, before anyone starts rummaging through the loft for flared trousers, sequinned tops and platform shoes, it should be pointed out that this is a talk, not a surprise 1970s disco revival. There will be no mirror balls, no questionable dance moves, and thankfully no attempts to recreate Saturday Night Fever after tea and biscuits. For those wondering what on earth Boat House Drama & Millie’s Disco actually means, a quick visit to www.boathousetheatarts.org.uk may prevent any embarrassing misunderstandings. Members can enjoy the afternoon free of charge, while visitors are welcome for the princely sum of £3. If you’ve been looking for a friendly group to join, why not pop along? The club meets every third Tuesday in the Village Hall and offers considerably more entertainment than an afternoon spent arguing with the television remote.

After what has felt like a longer-running saga than most prime-time dramas, the village CCTV camera is finally back in action. Credit where it’s due: despite a complicated process, numerous hurdles, and the lack of support by “other authorities”, our Parish Council has successfully

brought the camera back to life. And this is no ordinary camera. Oh no. It's solar-powered. Very modern. Very green. Very impressive. Before anyone starts worrying that village security now depends entirely on the appearance of that rare celestial phenomenon known as "the sun", fear not. The system stores enough power to keep running through even the darkest periods, rather like the summer we've been enjoying so far. So, as you enter and leave the village, smile, wave, but behave yourselves, no moonies – the camera is watching once again.

The History Group are dusting off their anoraks and preparing for their annual summer outing. I must confess this came as something of a surprise to me, as I had no idea they even had an annual outing. Clearly, while the rest of us have been making history, they've been busy visiting it. This year's expedition takes them to The Fishermen's Museum in Hastings on an enjoyable evening trip. The outing is free for members, while visitors are very welcome to join for just £3 per person. If you'd like to cast your net a little wider and join the group, please contact Paul Draper on 01424 814154 and leave a message, or email paulwpdraper@gmail.com. Everyone should meet at the Museum at 6.00 pm. Of course, no visit to Hastings would be complete without fish and chips by the sea afterwards. Which brings us to a matter of considerable national importance. I know you Southerners have developed the rather alarming habit of serving salad with fish and chips. Salad! With fish and chips! Surely the proper accompaniment remains mushy peas, with perhaps a splash of gravy if you're feeling adventurous, although I accept gravy on fish and chips may be one of those topics best avoided in polite company, alongside politics, religion, and whether the village fête raffle was fixed. Whatever your views on chip-based etiquette, it promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

It seems that organised fish and chip outings are becoming something of a village epidemic. Hot on the heels of the History Group's expedition to Hastings comes news that the Friday Lunch Club is also plotting a coastal escape. On Friday 3rd July, members will be heading off to Dungeness for the day. So, if you were planning to wander into the village hall expecting the usual Friday activities, save yourself the journey. You'll be talking to an empty room while everyone else is beside the seaside. The cost is £20 for members, which includes the coach trip and fish and chips. There has been no official announcement regarding the inclusion of mushy peas or gravy, a matter which, as discussed above, remains deeply divisive. Apparently there are still a few places available, and non-members are welcome to come along for just a couple of pounds extra. If a day at the seaside sounds appealing, contact Annette on 07703 585329. Meanwhile, it's business as usual at the Friday Lunch Club, which meets every Friday from 10.00am until 2.00pm. Members enjoy a two-course lunch, entertainment, and the chance to socialise with like-minded friends and fellow villagers. Quite frankly, between museum trips, coach outings and regular lunches, I'm beginning to realise retirement is far busier than working ever was.

Not all superheroes wear capes, some simply know how to help when it matters most. On Thursday 18th June at St Peter's, Sally Hemmings will lead a free one-hour dementia awareness session for anyone who would like to better understand this challenging condition and learn how to support those living with it. People with dementia, their families and carers, along with representatives from local clubs, organisations and businesses, are all welcome. The more people who understand dementia, the more welcoming and supportive Fairlight can be for everyone. Just one hour of your time could make a real difference, and, unlike most training sessions, there's no exam at the end.

Which brings us neatly to other churchy matters. At St Andrew's, the usual Sunday morning praise takes place at 11am. Meanwhile, over at Pett Methodist Chapel, a service of worship at 3pm will round off a weekend of celebrations marking the chapel's 178th anniversary. Not many buildings can boast 178 years of service, though a few of the congregation may claim to!

Until next time, have a great week

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