

5th June 2026

If you're reading this online on Monday or Tuesday, consider this your public service announcement before someone says, "Nobody told me!" Tuesday 2nd June sees the return of Vinyl Night at The Cove, kicking off at 7:30pm. This month's theme – any artist beginning with the letter "B". Now, I haven't seen the playlist, but I'm prepared to take a wild gamble that a certain Liverpool quartet may make an appearance. In fact, if nobody brings The Beatles, there should probably be an official inquiry. No tickets are required, no vinyl is required, and no specialist knowledge is required. You can bring your own records if you wish, but equally you're welcome to simply turn up, settle in, and enjoy an evening of great music, friendly company, and a surprisingly large variety of artists, whose names begin with the letter B.

This week's big event is the Village Hall Summer Fair, taking place on Saturday 6th June from 12 noon until 3pm. Three hours may sound like plenty of time, but once you've sampled the food, gone back for a second opinion, browsed the many stalls selling all manner of local treasures, and had a go at the games, you'll wonder where the afternoon went. There'll be something for everyone, from the youngest visitors to those of us who still insist we're young, despite mounting evidence to the contrary. Best of all, entry is completely free. So get there early, not to beat the queue, but because you'll need every minute of those three hours!

The Great Southern Water Pipe Adventure continues its triumphant march through the village, bringing excitement, noise and an ever-changing selection of traffic cones to our streets. Residents of Rockmead Road and Broadway can finally enjoy a brief period of normality as work pauses for the summer. You may once again reverse off your driveway without consulting a roadworks map, and conversations can return to more traditional village topics. For those living on Channel Way, Stockdale and The Avenue, however, congratulations! Your turn has arrived. I know many of you have been watching enviously from the sidelines, wondering when you too would get to experience the unique thrill of drilling, cutting, digging and temporary traffic management right outside your front door. Well, wonder no more. Your first phase starts this week, apparently, all part of a carefully planned infrastructure improvement programme. And remember, it's all for the greater good. One day, in the distant future, when historians study the Great Pipe Replacement of the 2020s, they'll speak of the courage shown by villagers forced to navigate around barriers and temporary signs. In the meantime, please be kind to the Southern Water team. They're a friendly bunch, working hard in all weathers, and are known to be particularly susceptible to the restorative powers of a decent cup of tea and the occasional Custard Cream. Some villagers claim a packet of Hobnobs can even accelerate progress, although Southern Water's lawyers have asked me to point out that there is absolutely no scientific evidence for this whatsoever.

And whilst on the subject of Southern Water, don't forget, if you want to chat to the team about what's going on, or simply want to ask them what their favourite biscuit is, (it's custard creams, I've already told you), they will be in the village hall on June 10th between 4 – 7pm.

Got a budding Picasso, glue-stick wizard, or future glitter enthusiast at home? Then don't forget that Activate Juniors is back on Thursday 4th June! Children aged 5–8 can enjoy an hour of arts and crafts from 4.30pm at the Activate Club House on the Recreation Ground. The fun costs just £2.50 per child. Places are limited, so email youthclubactivate@gmail.com to book.

If you're a member of the Fairlight Residents' Association, your copy of the Summer Fairlight News should have landed by now. As always, it's packed with local news and produced to a standard that makes other village magazines weep quietly into their staplers. If yours hasn't arrived, or you'd like a copy, get in touch with the FRA.

Meanwhile, hot off the press comes the first-ever Preservation Trust Newsletter, explaining how the Trust is looking after Fairlight and what's planned in the months ahead. There's even a

mysterious teaser for something happening in December. A festive surprise? A secret tunnel? A village-wide conga? We'll have to wait and see. If you'd like to join this excellent organisation, contact Jill Lewing at jill.lewing@btinternet.com.

The next Women's Fellowship event takes place on Friday 5th June at St Peter's, when Sheila Fellows-Turnbull will be giving a talk entitled More About Bees and Honey. Proceedings begin at 2.30pm, but the doors open at 2pm, giving everyone a full 30 minutes to do whatever it is people do before talks. Now, when a talk involves honey, one naturally starts thinking about cakes. I have no official confirmation that cakes will be present, but it seems a missed opportunity if they aren't. So buzz along to St Peter's for what promises to be an informative and thoroughly sweet afternoon.

Meanwhile, up at St Andrew's, this Sunday's Holy Communion will take place at 11am. Simple, clear, reassuring. We know where it is, when it is, and even what it is. Frankly, it's the sort of certainty we all need in our lives. However, over at Pett Methodist Church matters are rather more mysterious. At the time of writing, I have no official intelligence regarding this Sunday's activities. What I can reveal is that something will be happening at 10.45am, somewhere, and it will be led by someone. Beyond that, the details remain shrouded in secrecy. Is it a church service? A top-secret knitting collective? A gathering of international spies posing as hymn enthusiasts? Nobody knows. Well, somebody probably knows, but they haven't told me. If you enjoy a little mystery with your Sunday morning, head to Pett at 10.45 and find out. Do report back. The village deserves answers.

If you ever wondered what really unites our community, the answer is simple: absolutely wild speculation on Facebook. This week's first hot topic is the mysterious sound of gunfire echoing around the Lower Waites Lane area in the early morning. Theories have ranged from bird scarers and rabbit control to the opening shots of World War III. As yet, no invading armies have been spotted, although several curtain-twitchers remain on high alert. Next up: the new food waste bins. Residents were assured these marvels of modern engineering were "animal-proof" and could be securely locked. Unfortunately, nobody appears to have shared this information with the local foxes and badgers. These furry masterminds have apparently cracked the system already. Rumour has it they're attending advanced bin-opening classes at night school and are expected to graduate with honours before Christmas. And finally, dogs. Yes, we all love them, of course. What we're perhaps becoming slightly less fond of is the increasingly popular pastime of allowing them to bark continuously for hours on end. However, there is a solution, and it's surprisingly straightforward. If your dog is barking non-stop, there is probably a reason, and a quick investigation might reveal what that reason is. Better still, you could take the radical option, and do something about it. A revolutionary concept, admittedly, but one that neighbours everywhere may enthusiastically support. So there we have it. Guns, bins and dogs. Another perfectly normal week in village life, where every mystery is solved eventually, or at least replaced by a new Facebook argument.

And finally.....

The house fire on Shepherds Way has been a devastating event for long-standing Fairlight residents Jo and Colin. It is impossible to imagine the distress they must be experiencing as they try to come to terms with the damage to their home. In the midst of this tragedy, however, the heartfelt messages of support and affection shared by friends, neighbours, and the wider community have been truly moving. I am sure the whole village joins me in sending Jo and Colin our very best wishes and every hope for the future.

Until next time, have a great week

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