Greetings from Owlsbury Oast. December 2025.

It's time to send our season's greetings again, and reflect on the year that has flown past, which makes us realise that old age and its problems are creeping up on us!

Sadly, we started the year by attending four funerals, one being a life-long friend of the Fermor family, John Barton. However, I also had a trip to London to hear the Crown Baptist Youth Choir singing at Westminster Chapel, which was very enjoyable.

In May we heard that the new Crowborough Burial Ground, next to Forest Fold Chapel, was to be opened. Philip had signed the deeds for the land when he was mayor, (which would have been 15-16 years ago), because the Herne Road Cemetery was nearly full. So, we went along to the Opening Ceremony.

I thought I had given up my secretarial roles, but a new church was constituted at Jarvis Brook Chapel in May, which meant it needed someone for treasurer/minute taker, so I have now been appointed for that. We have also been busy with Holiday Clubs and other activities!

The youngest of our grandchildren, Emily, started Secondary School in September. The photo with her mum is at the Jarvis Brook Primary School Leaver's Assembly. We also took our usual holiday to Pevensey Bay. The weather was very rough one day and the high tide came nearly up to our garden. The beach has been built up with a lot more shingle due to these tides. I put a few entries into the Ploughing Match as usual. It has been a bumper year in the garden for pears, grapes, tomatoes and apples, as well as carrots and beetroot.

I have made three celebration cakes this year – one for a 40th Birthday, (Samuel was 40 last December so we celebrated his birthday at New Year), one for a 90th Birthday and one for our 50th (Golden) Wedding anniversary, on 18th October. Quite a few family members came to a celebration at Five Ash Down. It was a good time to catch up with different people. We were given a picture designed by the friends at JB Chapel, at the Sunday evening service.

Philip has decided to retire from his chairman role on the Smith Fermor Trust. He took on the trustee role from his mother about 14 years ago, and was appointed chairman soon after that. He is also not taking on as much for the Ploughing Match as in the past, and I am not expecting to be involved with the Heritage Cabinet so much next year, as there is a new Town Clerk who seems quite enthusiastic about the Town's history!
We send best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026.





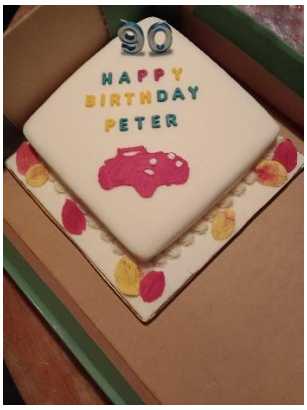





Jarvis Brook
Baptist Chapel


The LORD is my
Shepherd; I shall
not want


40


90
HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
PETER


50







