

May, 2007

GUESTLING

PETT

PARISH NEWS

Pett Level

May HIGH Tides Rye Harbour Approaches

Date	Day	Time (hrs)	Height (m)	Time (hrs)	Height (m)
1	Tue	1044	3.0	2259	3.2
2	Wed	1115	3.1	2329	3.2
3	Thurs	1145	3.1	2356	3.1
4	Fri	-----	-----	1211	3.1
5	Sat	0018	3.1	1233	3.1
6	Sun	0043	3.1	1300	3.1
7	Mon	0113	3.0	1334	3.0
8	Tue	0152	2.7	1419	2.6
9	Wed	0244	2.4	1520	2.4
10	Thurs	0406	2.1	1646	2.1
11	Fri	0541	2.1	1806	2.2
12	Sat	0653	2.4	1914	2.6
13	Sun	0754	2.7	2013	3.1
14	Mon	0847	3.1	2104	3.4
15	Tue	0936	3.3	2154	3.7
16	Wed	1022	3.6	2242	3.8
17	Thurs	1108	3.7	2330	3.8
18	Fri	1155	3.7	-----	-----
19	Sat	0017	3.7	1240	3.6
20	Sun	0102	3.6	1325	3.4
21	Mon	0149	3.2	1412	3.1
22	Tue	0238	2.7	1502	2.6
23	Wed	0333	2.4	1555	2.5
24	Thurs	0432	2.0	1654	2.2
25	Fri	0542	1.9	1802	2.1
26	Sat	0700	2.0	1916	2.2
27	Sun	0800	2.1	2016	2.5
28	Mon	0848	2.4	2103	2.6
29	Tue	0929	2.6	2144	2.8
30	Wed	1006	2.8	2222	2.8
31	Thurs	1043	3.0	2257	3.0



EDITORIAL

There is very little I can say this month other than **DO NOT WASTE YOUR VOTING RIGHT.** Yes it is election time for your Parish Council.

The 3rd May 2007 is the day on which you can vote for your seven Parish Councillors

The persons nominated for the Pett Parish Council are:

Gordon Camble, Andrew Dunlop, Gillian Green
Dr. Arthur Hollman, Martin King, Brian Roberts
Paul Stapley, Brian Woodcock

As you can see we have seven places and 8 candidates so be sure to vote on the 3rd May for the seven councillors you would like to see on your Parish Council.

I take this opportunity of wishing all the candidates 'Good Luck'.

Copy for the June edition can be sent to me on email at denise.Jordan@virgin.net or delivered to me at 5 Glebe Cottages, Elms Lane (814187). The deadline for copy is the 15th May. Any copy you can get to me before that date would be greatly appreciated.



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NATURE NOTES

One of the best wildlife encounters during March must have been the Merlin which knocked itself out flying into the conservatory window at Hunters Meadow. Luckily it was not injured and recovered to fly away, but not before it had provided some excellent close-up views of itself. Presumably it had been chasing a small bird and not looking where it was going.

Other interesting sightings included a Hummingbird Hawk Moth in the garden of Kirojoke on 7th March, and a large toad in my own garden on March 16th, which stayed around and watched me weed for quite some time, doubtless hoping I would turn up some tasty delicacies.

Guestling Wood was a delight, with wall-to-wall Wood Anemones punctuated here and there by primroses, violets and celandine. The lanes have also been full of wildflowers including Red deadnettle, stitchwort and periwinkle (very patriotic!). The daffodils planted throughout the village were lovely until the evening of 21st March when



vandals got to work and ripped many of their heads off. What sort of moron trashes daffodils? Perhaps we should plant Monkshood instead.

Different species of garden birds have a very definite pecking order on the feeders; Great Tits, as you might expect, take precedence over Blue Tits, and Greenfinches dominate Sparrows. However, size isn't everything. I have noticed that Chaffinches regularly see off Starlings, and if a Chaffinch is on the suet cage the Starlings stay away from it. I've never seen a Chaffinch actively threaten a Starling (although they do threaten Greenfinches), but the bigger birds certainly show a lot of respect for them. Watching garden birds is something which almost anyone can do, and is endlessly entertaining – well worth the price of a packet of seed and a few peanuts.

Avril Thurley

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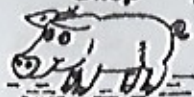
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SILENT AUCTION - SILENT AUCTION - SILENT AUCTION:

It's getting closer. July the 14th is the BIG Day! That is when the Parish Church will be holding the "Silent Auction and Social Evening" in the church at 7pm. On that evening you will be able to enjoy cheese and wine refreshments, listen to some musical entertainment and learn who has won the bidding for the auction lots.

From the end of May until the 11th of July you will be able to bid for the many items and promises available. A leaflet giving the rules of the auction and a list of 'lots' will be available from the local shops, the church and from Gill Plank or John Taylor (Sweetbriar Cottage, Friar's Hill or Paxstead, Pett Road). During this time you will be able to bid, find out how your bid stands, increase your bid, and then (if you're lucky) be the proud possessor of the item, or items, of your choice. Successful bidders will be able to receive their item(s) at the Social Evening, or will be contacted by phone or email.

It's very easy to do; it's lots of fun; there will be some really good things to bid for; there is likely to be some stiff competition for many items - so get your bid in early; and all the monies raised will help to fund our beautiful village church.

So watch this space. Next month we will list the simple rules and the

items for which you can bid. We will also let you know when and where you can get a programme for the BIG EVENT on Saturday 14th of July.

J.T.

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FISH RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Sea Bass, caught mainly off the south coast, were an endangered species in the 1990's due to over fishing. Conservation techniques were introduced to protect the species, which involved a ban on fishing of Sea Bass in river estuaries where they spawn. These measures have been a success and have led to stocks recovering, enabling us to enjoy this flavoursome fish available throughout the year. Sea Bass is classified as a white fish, and as such is low in fat. In May, when simply prepared it compliments new spring vegetables and is probably best cooked plainly, baked or grilled.

Grilled Sea Bass with Mint Serves 2

2 X 350 – 400g/ 12 – 14 oz. Sea Bass
40 fresh mint leaves
20g/ ¾ oz. unsalted butter/ olive oil
salt and freshly ground pepper
150ml/ ¼ pint dry white wine/ fish stock

Scale and fillet the Sea Bass and remove the small bones from each fillet – found just behind the head – with a pair of pliers – your fishmonger should be able to do this.

With the point of a knife, make 10 small incisions in the flesh of each fillet at regular intervals, cutting right through to the skin at about a 45 degree angle.

Place 1 leaf of mint into each incision.

Melt the butter/ oil and use a little to grease the grilling tray.

Place the fillets on this, season and brush with melted butter/ oil.

Place the fish under a hot grill. As it cooks, baste with the butter/ oil and the juices as they run off. The fillets will only take 4 to 5 minutes to cook. When cooked, remove them onto a serving dish and keep warm

Bring the wine/ stock to the boil and swirl out the grill tray with it, strain, reduce slightly over a high heat and pour over the fish

Serve with fresh local asparagus and new potatoes.

DAVE BRETT



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GUESTLING NEWS

The Parish Assembly took place on 21st March at Guestling Village Hall.

Mr Nick Morgan gave a most interesting talk about the work of the Woodland Trust. He commenced by giving a brief history of the English woodlands, which were here long before mammals appeared in the world and how necessary they were to support the world as they developed. However, humans started to clear woods to pursue agriculture and subsequently for towns and housing, as well as other industrial ventures. The Woodland Trust, having realised the consequences of the loss of ancient trees and other floral and fauna, in an attempt to control this loss, is purchasing (sometimes alone and sometimes in conjunction with other Trusts such as The National Trust) ancient woodlands to preserve them for the future (an ancient woodland is one which is over 300 years old).

The Woodland Trust, founded in 1972, has 300,000 supporters and 1,200 sites. 85% is not protected legally and only 2% of ancient woodland remains. Currently, the Trust is negotiating to purchase Sedlescombe Wood which will be one of the largest in the country.

Guestling Parish Council had contributed £1000 towards the purchase of the remaining unsecured half of Guestling Wood so the talk was topical and of interest.

The Assembly was reminded that the Parish had spent the last four years

replacing defective wooden Heritage signs throughout the Parish and that

project was now completed. Any new signs should last 50 years before needing replacement!

The Parish is also in the process of considering a replacement sports pavilion as the present one has seen better days. That will now be a matter to be taken forward by the new Council. The local football club "Guestling Rangers" now has 80 youngsters playing regular football during the season on the playing field, which is one of the reasons why there is considered to be the need for a better facility on the site.

Heavy traffic through Three Oaks to reach The Ridge and industrial estate continue to cause anxiety to the residents of Three Oaks and Chowns Hill. The drivers of these large HGV's appear to be following instructions of their Sat. Nav systems which have no regard to the restrictive nature of the carriageway and the weight restrictions in place on Three Oaks railway bridge.

Parishioners also expressed concern at the Annual Assembly about work being carried out at Coghurst Caravan Park with the felling of trees and clearing of areas of woodland.

With the onset of Spring, Guestling Parish looks lovely with its bluebells, woodland, wide open countryside and scattered dwellings.



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- Close and lock all your ground floor doors and windows when you go to bed. Secure all your doors and windows when you leave your house or when in the back garden.
- In the evening leave a light on when you go out or use a timer switch.
- Fit a door chain or bar and, if you have a solid front door, a wide angle door viewer. Don't let anyone into your home you don't know. Check identification. Official visitors won't mind being asked for ID. Be vigilant.
- Property mark your valuables by using your postcode and house number or name. Some articles are unsuitable for marking so photograph them.
- Intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars. Before choosing a system ensure it is the most suitable for your needs and see advice.

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PETT CHURCHYARD

The more observant of you will have noticed the pink planning application outside Pett Church. Don't worry; the church isn't being converted into a block of flats. Not yet! Pett churchyard is now full and in order to continue with burials, it will be necessary to move into the adjoining 'twitten'. This involves getting planning permission, home office approval and consecrating the new area. A certain amount of clearance was needed but this has been kept to a minimum in order to preserve the native bluebells. In order to keep down costs some of the maintenance of the churchyard, as a whole, is done by voluntary labour, and the church council is most grateful to Pett Parish Council for giving us a payment of £500 towards the cost of the extra work; in addition to £750 as an annual payment towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

The council is also grateful to Carol Pecorini for having a native hedge planted along the southern boundary of the churchyard in memory of her husband, John.

If you have any queries about the churchyard, or its maintenance, or would like to offer to help, please contact me on 01424 813841.

Jillian Green
Treasurer to Pett P.C.C.



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TABLE SALE

The Table Sale held on the 24th March was a very happy event and raised about £300 for the Church. The quality of the items for sale on the tables was superb and the P.C.C. would like to thank all who contributed to such a good display. Though the event was well publicised in the Local Paper, posters around the village and in the Parish News, attendance could have been better. However, all who did come to the Table Sale had some good bargains and an enjoyable afternoon

J.T.

FLOWER SHOW AND FAYRE

In March we held the AGM for the Flower Show and Fayre and voted in the Officers and Committee.

These are a body of people who year after year devote their time and energy into making the show the success and enjoyable occasion that it is. In case you wonder who does organise and manage the event, here they are:

Officers

President	Miss Cicely Perrin
Vice President	Col. Alan Parkes
	Mrs Pauline Brown
Chairman	Philip Wood
Vice Chairman	Mrs Diane Crouch
Hon. Treasurer	Philippa Strickland
Hon. Secretary	Mrs Phyllis Gerrelli
Minute Secretary	
& Publicity Officer	Jackie Richards
Hon. Auditor	Mrs Evelyn Darnell

Committee

Pauline Barker	Jenny Crisford
Betty Harknett	Jo Johnson
Matthew Barden	Malcolm Simons

This year we welcomed Matthew and Malcolm as new committee members and hope they will behave themselves!

We had to say farewell to Flora Wright who was thanked for her role as Vice Chairman, but welcomed Diane Crouch who has been Minutes Secretary for the last 30 years. I think this shows the true meaning of Village spirit and she was warmly thanked and presented with a floral tribute. I just hope I can be a worthy successor. (Cannot wait till my 30 years are up and I can get an upgrade too!)

We are hoping the schedule will be available later this month and you will notice a few changes to the classes. Don't forget to print clearly on your entry forms and keep to the sizes stated.

In case you have forgotten the Flower Show, Fayre and Dog Show will be held on Pett Recreation Field on Saturday 28th July 2007 and starts at 2pm.

Jackie Richards
May 2007

IT'S A FACT

Are you aware that if you put a match stick in the water when you are boiling eggs, they should never crack and spill out!

THE GARDENING CLUB MEETING APRIL 2007

Our meeting this month was a little different, rather than a formal talk our "speaker" wanted an informal discussion and plenty of input from the club members. Mr. Stuart Wood is a graduate of the Royal Horticultural Society and Pershore College of Horticulture and has held the unenviable job of being the Chairman of the Bexhill Horticultural Society and Garden Festival. He has been to talk to us once before on his 'first' love, Roses, but this evening he was explaining about how to 'show' our vegetables and fruit and display them to their best advantage on the Show table. It was a very stimulating evening with lots of questions about size of



vegetables, categories and whether roots or flowers should or should not be left on the fruit and vegetables, when exhibiting.

Mr Wood also touched on the role of the stewards, and how they can pass on information from the Judges to the exhibitors when often just the phrase N. A. S. (Not as

Schedule) appears on the exhibiting card. The Stewards can put a little more in explanation for the exhibitor, so they will understand why their fruit or vegetables did not win a prize...and their neighbours did!

We all had food for thought as we wended our ways home and imagined how we would all sweep the board of silver cups as our vegetables and fruit won all the accolades at the Flower Show in July!

Next month in the Village hall we will have our fund raising Plant Sale, and anyone with extra plants they are willing to donate to our club please bring them along or call me and I will be happy to collect them from you and take them along to sell for our 'Speaker Kitty'.

There will be annuals and perennials, herbs, shrubs, trees and even vegetables -- all fairly embryonic, but, they will grow!



7. 30pm on the 8th of May in the Village Hall hope to see you there! and until then Happy Gardening!

P W B 14th April 2007.

PARISH DIARY - May 2007

VH = Village Hall

RG = Recreation Ground

Wednesday 2 nd	Badminton	VH	10 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
Thursday 3 rd	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
	Flicks in the Village	VH	7.30 pm
Friday 4 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
Saturday 5 th	Bowls v Observer	RG	2.30 pm
Monday 7 th	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Tuesday 8 th	Garden Club Plant Sale	VH	7.30 pm
Wednesday 9 th	Badminton	VH	10 am
	Mobile Library	Church	10.20 am
		Chick Hill	11.10 am
		Smuggler	11.45 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
	NEW DUSTBIN DAY		
Thursday 10 th	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
Friday 11 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
	Bowls v St.Leonards	RG	2.30 pm
	Railway Club	VH	7.30 pm
Monday 14 th	Flowerpots Parent and Toddler Group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Tuesday 15 th	Parish Council	VH	7.30 pm
Wednesday 16 th	Badminton	VH	10 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
	Bowls v Battle	RG	2.30 pm
Thursday 17 th	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
Friday 18 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
	Women's Institute	VH	2.30 pm
Monday 21 st	Flowerpots Parent and Toddler Group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm

Wednesday 23 rd	Badminton	VH	10 am
	Mobile Library	Church	10.20 am
		Chick Hill	11.10 am
		Smuggler	11.45 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
Thursday 24 th	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
	Garden Club Outing	Meet VH	1 pm
Friday 25 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
Saturday 26 th	Bowls v Winchelsea	RG	2.30 pm
Monday	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Wednesday	Badminton	VH	10 am
	Bowls v Fairlight	RG	2.30 pm
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
Thursday 31 st	NEW DUSTBIN DAY		
	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am

If you would like your regular meetings or special events to be included in the Parish Diary, please drop a programme, note or fixture list in to Rectory Cottage

Avril Thurley

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Sun 13 th May:	Holy Communion, 8am - St. Nicholas, Pett Level - Christian Aid Service, 10.45am Methodist Church
Sun 20 th May:	Parish Communion, 9.30am - St. Mary & St. Peter
Sun. 27 th May:	Holy Communion, 8am - St. Nicholas, Pett Level Morning Praise, 9.30am - St. Mary & St. Peter

LIFE ON THE LEVEL - APRIL

Was I alone in feeling slightly smug on seeing the newspaper picture of a lone sunbather on Torremolinos beach next to the one of Brighton beach which was absolutely heaving with people? Homes certainly been best for weather recently.

We had our fair share of visitors to The Level over the Easter. 'Grockles' is the local name for them, which I hadn't come across until I arrived here. Paul Merton was given this word to describe in the radio show 'Just a Minute' and I was alert as to what he was going to say when the telephone rang and responding as one of Pavlov's Dogs I was driven to answer it, thereby missing what I am sure was a very amusing description. The dictionary says "it is an English West Country dialect word used to describe a visitor or tourist. It is a derogatory term by which local residents refer to the perceived hordes of tourists, particularly during the Summer months." Personally I hope any 'grockles' arriving at Pett Level are given a very warm welcome as without these seasonal visitors some local businesses would find it difficult to make a living.

Friday 13th saw the annual presentation of a cheque to the Hastings Life Boat by members of The New Beach Club. Money is raised from the 'Harvest Home' sale which was started in 1951 when the nation was saddened by the loss of

a Hull trawler with all hands. A small bring and buy sale was organised by the New Beach Club which at that time was housed in what is now 'The Smuggler' public house. This sale raised approximately £8.00 which was forwarded to the Mayor of Hull and the Appeal Organisers.

The following year (1952) the club decided to hold a similar event with proceeds to be donated to local branches of the R.N.L.I.

In 1954 the lease from the Gostic Estate was terminated and the Club moved into a small temporary prefabricated building on the site which has now become its permanent home, but in spite of the difficulties the 'Harvest Home' was held as usual. On 10th June 1955 the opening of the new building was celebrated.

Since then the 'Harvest Home' has raised thousands of pounds for the R.N.L.I due to the dedication and determination of members of The New Beach Club with Hastings and Rye Life Boats receiving £1,000 each this year.

I will keep you informed of the date for this years sale later on and hope for your support. It's a good evening, great fun and you never know what you might be taking home with you.

B.M.



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CAMELIA HEAVEN IN MY GARDEN

The unseasonably wet winter and warm early Spring has proved to be a boon for Camellias. These plants thrive on damp moist conditions and have put on a display of flower and colour this year, which is as good as any year I can remember.

I have seen flowers on seedling plants which have not produced flowers previously and which have been exquisitely beautiful.

My garden has had banks of brilliant colours produced by Donaton, Showgirl, Debbie, Bob Hope and other varieties grown from seed which have never been named.

It reminds me of the time that I visited the Camellia Islands off

Japan. We were taken on a bus around the islands and driven along roads under huge Camellia trees loaded down with flowers, which was an amazing sight.

The down-side to the wet and windy weather is that it has caused the top spur of my Californian Redwood Tree to break off and crash to the ground.

I am hopeful, however, that this giant tree will overcome this difficulty and continue to thrive.

I shall be opening my garden to raise money for The Blind in May. I hope you will be able to come.

Cicely Perring

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Red Gable, Watermill Lane, Pett

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Three members of the Parish Council will be retiring in May – June Barnes, Kevin Clifton and Chris Saint. June has been a Councillor for 12 years. In the days when we had Electric Blanket tests at the Village Hall, June used to organise them, including collecting and delivering blankets for parishioners unable to attend in person. She also negotiated the Grants from public funds which enabled the Children's Play Area in the Recreation Ground to be renewed. Kevin, who has been a Councillor for 10 years, served several years as Chairman. He has been particularly diligent in respect of Planning matters, although sadly his comments have not always been heeded at Parish or District Level. Chris has served for four years, including two as Chairman. He put in a lot of work in respect of the Post Office and Stamco projects, and latterly with regard to the signposting in the Parish.

Being a Parish Councillor is generally a pretty thankless task, attracting plenty of criticism when things go wrong and not much praise when they run smoothly, so on behalf of parishioners I would like to thank June, Kevin and Chris for all their work for Pett and Pett Level.

Avril Thurley

JUMBLE SALE

Please don't forget the jumble sale, in aid of Church funds, at the village hall, on **Saturday 2nd June**. Jumble may be delivered to the hall in the morning.

NO electrical goods or furniture,
please.

Jillian Green
01424 813841

The
BIG EASTER ART EXHIBITION
raised **£7,020** and St.Michael's Hospice would like to thank you very much for your support.

NEWS

If you don't tell us about it –
how can other people read about
it?

SLIMY SLURPERS

Fill a shallow bowl with beer and place it strategically in an area of high slug activity. Wait overnight. Slugs love stale beer. Once they get in it they will drown. Dispose of the 'brew' by adding it to your compost heap (including the dead slugs)

RYE BAY COASTGUARDS ANNUAL SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

This year the Annual Sponsored Cycle Ride will take place on **Sunday 20th May, 2007**. This is a 30-mile round trip, starting and finishing at The Coastguard Station, Rye Harbour. The starting time is from 8.30am until 9.30am,.

Organised by the Rye Bay Coastguard Company to raise money for the local branch of the Coastguard Association, St. Michael's Hospice and other Local Charities.

The entry fee is *only* £5 per person and children under 16 go *Free* but must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments are served, free of charge, en-route. The coastguards will even make you a cup of tea when you get back!

If you would like to join the ride without having to raise sponsorship then this is perfectly acceptable. You just need to pay the £5 entry fee.

Further details of this event can be obtained from David Dunlop on 01424 813018. Entry/Sponsorship forms are available from Phil (The Butcher) or David Dunlop.

Lets have a really good turn-out for this event and make it a fun family/village day.

COME, COME TO THE FAIR

On Saturday, 18th June, at PETT CHURCH, from 2 - 4 pm where you will be able to BUY homemade cakes, preserves and sweets, books, toys, plants homegrown produce, jewellery and bric-a-brac, or TRY YOUR LUCK, on the raffle, tombola or 'pick a prize' (for children), or TEST YOUR SKILL, on the treasure hunt, 'play your cards right' or guess the weight of the cake, or have a SUSSEX CREAM TEA and chat to your friends. Don't forget to put this date in your diary. Goods for the stalls may be left at the Church or 'October'. For offers of help or further information call Jillian on 0124 813841.

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PETT TENNIS CLUB

Annual General Meeting 2007



This year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 2nd May at 6.30pm in the Cricket Pavillion at the Recreation Ground, Pett.

All are welcome, members or non-members. We are especially keen to hear from anyone willing to spend a couple of years on the committee (we will be needing a new Club Secretary and Treasurer) or with any ideas to put forward.

As usual, after the meeting, the padlock to the court will be changed. Keys will be available on payment of a very reasonable annual subscription.

For further information please contact Katharine Manning, Club Secretary, on 01797 226319.

PETT VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE We are holding our AGM

At the village hall
On
Monday 14th May at 7.30pm
Everyone welcome, we value
your opinions.

PETT SPORTS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Wednesday 2 May 2007 at 7.30pm in the Bowls Pavillion, Pett Recreation Ground.

Any member of the public wishing to attend will be very welcome. One of the items on the agenda will be the refurbishment of the pavillion so do come along and give us your views on this or any other matter relating to the sporting facilities at the recreation ground.

For further information feel free to contact me on: 01424 814266.

*Heather Philpott
Hon. Secretary*



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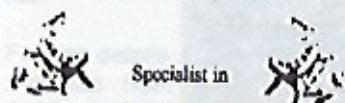
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CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 13-19 May



"Isn't the blossom lovely this year?" Yes, each Spring we say it again, marvel at the beautiful display, and look forward hopefully to the crop of juicy fruit which we expect to follow in due course.

It's not quite as straightforward in some countries. In northern Senegal drought and deforestation have turned fertile land into desert. Poor communities are struggling to survive. To tackle this, one of Christian Aid's partners is encouraging people to plant fruit trees, which will restore the arid land, and help the community to improve their standard of living.

Mairam Djiby Diallo is one of those being trained to show their neighbours how to plant saplings. As she says "Mango trees would be great because you can sell the fruit, and eat it too!" Amazingly, just £8.50 could provide mango trees for ten people in her village.

Senegal isn't the only place where Christian Aid's partners make a difference, of course. There are more than 600 of them, in over 50 countries. And a lot of financial help comes through Christian Aid Week, which last year raised £15 million.

Could you give your support again this year? Last year here in Pett we hit a record total - £1,328 – and it would be marvellous if we could equal, or even exceed that in 2007. We are planning to pop our red envelopes into as many of our village letterboxes as we can, and we hope people will feel able to give them back to our house-to-house

collectors with money inside, and if possible signed to say (if they are income-tax payers) that they would like their donation to be Gift-aided. Nationally that added £1 million to donations last year.

We'll be starting off with our usual Coffee Morning at Paxstead, Pett Road (opp Recreation Ground) on **Saturday May 12, 10am – 12 noon**, with cakes, plants, bring and buy, raffle, and sale of Tralcraft goods. The entrance fee of 50p provides tea, coffee, cold drinks and biscuits – and hopefully a nice sociable morning. Please do come if you can, and bring your friends.

Then on **Sunday May 13** there will be a special Christian Aid service in the Methodist Church at 10.45am, at which everyone will be most welcome, to start the Week off well.

Thank you so much for whatever support you can give: you really will be helping Christian Aid to live up to its motto, "We believe in life before death."

Ray Taylor (814674)

P.S. More details later, but a date to record now: On **Sunday 30 September** the service at St. Andrew's Church, Fairlight at 10.30am will be addressed by Dr. Daleep Mukarji, the Director of Christian Aid, and will be followed by a lunch in Pett Village Hall, at which Dr. Mukarji will speak again and answer questions. A wonderful opportunity to learn more about Christian Aid's work!

LETTER PAGE



Dear All

We moved to the village about a year ago from the London smog and would like to thank everyone for making us so welcome. We would also like to thank the producers and distributors of the Parish Magazine for keeping us up to date with what is going on and who does what in the Village. It has been a real lifeline.

Keep up the good work!

Cathy, Steve and Sam Childs - Woodbine Cottage, Pett

Hello Denise,

Firstly I must say how good the magazine is with balanced and varied articles and many many thanks to all concerned.

This month there is the interesting picture of the artillery gun and gunners, which sadly came out very dark. There is seldom a mention of who submitted these pictures which I personally think are wonderful and should be treasured and shared, part of Pett history. Shame we haven't got our own historical group. Did take 'photos of the gun shed in its present sad state and would love to know more of its life. I understood there was also a picture of the gun being pulled by horse over to Battery Hill which must have been quite an event in the village.

Thank you again for printing it and including the details.
Sincerely
Mary Windsor

Ed: The contributor of this picture and story was Mr. Cyril J Barden.

Dear Editor,

Please may I use this correspondence slot to say a big "thank you" to the kind person who left baby clothes and equipment in the Parish Church a few weeks ago for Family Support Work. It is much appreciated, and will be very useful.

Ray Taylor

blooms by the church were beheaded. Four young people and a big stick were observed in the area at that time.

It would be very considerate of them to come forward in the autumn and assist the flower loving residents, who are no doubt planning a finer display for 2008

Pett Villager
(Name and address supplied)

Dear Editor

Whilst working in my front garden over Easter, I was quite amazed at just how many cars go through our village. Noticeably were those that far exceeded the speed limit as they were much noisier.



I assume that most were not from the village as those that live here know of the likelihood of coming across walkers, children, horses and farm animals. They must also be aware that if exceeding 30 mph, it does not always give time for everyone to turn out of their drives in safety.

I think we should have signs either end of our village saying "If you do not intend keeping to the 30mph speed limit through our village, then please use an alternative route" What do you think?

Name and address supplied

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Dave B Sat 19th May @ 8pm

Sarah K Sat 26th May @ 8pm

Centre Page Sun 3rd June @ 4pm

Really Wild Roadshow Sat 9th June @ 8pm

Your local Family Club
Don't knock it till you've tried it

DO YOU KNOW

Do you know that there are many notable dates associated with Pett, Pett Level and this area?

Over the next couple of months it might be interesting to look back at some of the dates that could have affected the lives of the people of Pett. So we'll start way back in the thirteenth century.

- 1250 1 October: Old Winchelsea was hit by a devastating storm. 300 houses, some churches, bridges and mills were destroyed; the coastline was altered and the old town was buried under the sea. A further great storm in 1257 changed the course of the River Rother.
- 1295 The earliest mention of a church in Pett.
- 1327 In the reign of Edward III, Stephen Alard of Winchelsea sold 13 acres of land in Pett to Sampson Stonlynk and his wife Denise.
- 1360 15 March: Winchelsea sacked by the French. They struck before dawn, met with little resistance and killed many men, women and children before setting fire to the town.
- 1446 In the 25th year of Henry VI's reign, Nicholas Stokkere of Pett stole a pair of trays (worth 1d) from Robert Farnham, and was fined at the Guestling Hundred Court for the sum of 4d.
- 1545 In a will dated 7 March, Elizabeth Firkow, gives the dedication of Pett church as St. Stephen.
- 1573 Queen Elizabeth I visited Winchelsea
- 1586 16 February: Sussex told to prepare for the defence of the south coast against the Spanish Armada. The order required the

county to provide 800 men, 4,800 lbs of gunpowder and a similar amount of lead, six pieces of cast iron ordnance and six hundredweight of "corne powder for the said ordnance."

- 1588 Orders came to stand down the Sussex forces mustered to meet the threatened invasion from Spain after 129 ships of the Armada were scattered by Drake's fireships.
- 1597 1 November: Great storm washed away Hastings harbour.
- 1634 Rev. Peter Theobald, 'Parson of Pett', gave 6s 8d. to St. Paul's Cathedral in London to help repair the spire. Work began in 1638 and the Great Fire of London destroyed much of it in 1666.
- 1676 The Compton Census, carried out for the Archbishop of Canterbury, recorded that there were 49 conformists in Pett, with no non-conformists or papists (Fairlight had 5 papists!)
- 1690 The Anne, a 70 ton ship of the line was beached off Pett Level on the 1st July after being seriously damaged in the battle against the French off Beachy Head.
- 1723 Earliest surviving Pett Poor Book records local information.
- 1729 A tornado cut a swathe of devastation through East Sussex from Bexhill to Newenden. It came ashore at 9pm and hit Newenden, 20 miles away, 20 minutes later. Houses, barns, trees and crops in its path were destroyed - much at Pett and Pett Level.
- 1782 2 September: Highwaymen George and Joseph Weston ended their lives on the gallows. To their neighbours in Winchelsea, they appeared as upright citizens. It

came as a shock, when the Sheriff and his men arrested the brothers as they left church one Sunday morning.

- 1784 11 September: a balloon, 112 feet in diameter and gold in colour, was found in a field at Guestling. It had been launched from Ware, Hertfordshire the previous day, and a label on it offered a reward of two guineas to the finder.
- 1799 30 October: A small French privateer was seen from the shore to capture a Hastings fishing boat that was trawling for sole off Fairlight.

Next time we will take a look at some dates of interest from the last two hundred years.

John Taylor

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FLICKS IN THE VILLAGE

Local author Christopher Priest opens Flicks!

We are delighted to let you know that on **Thursday 3 May at 7.30pm** Flicks in the Village proudly presents **The Prestige (12A)**. Not only that, but the author of the book on which this star-studded Hollywood film is based has kindly agreed to open the proceedings for us.

Set in a world of top hats, cravats and disappearing bunnies, *The Prestige* is a superb puzzle-box thriller. Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman star as magicians in turn-of-the-century London, locked in a bitter feud after the death of an assistant in an illusion gone wrong. Directed by Christopher Nolan, this adaptation has more than a few tricks up its sleeve. You'll leave thrilled but perplexed, asking: how did they do that?

It's a film that's deliberately designed to pull the wool over your eyes. The fragmented story is full of flashbacks, often told via diary entries that prove distinctly untrustworthy. You know you're being misdirected by cinematic sleight of hand, but you can't avoid being sucked in. The two leads excel as the rival conjurers: Jackman aristocratic, Bale with a cheeky, borderline-panto cockney patois. It's an epic tale of professional rivalry that ends with some fantastically impossible hocus-pocus. moment when the crowd (confused, amazed and thrilled) applaud in disbelief. Nolan's now you see it, now you don't magic trick delivers prestige by the bucket-load. In fact, it brings the house down. Abracadabra!

Supporting turns from Michael Caine (excellent) Scarlett Johansson and David Bowie add a touch of class; yet in the end the real magician here is Nolan. Caine's retired conjuror tells us that "the prestige" is the third and final part of a magician's act, the In conclusion, may I remind all members that May the 3rd is a "Vote and View" night and we will be sharing the hall facilities with the Polling Station. I can assure you all that we will be providing refreshments in the normal manner.

Chris Saint (813047)

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VILLAGE VOICE

Do you have an event you would like to let everyone know about?

If you do then why not contact Sylvia Gutsell on 812544 who will be happy to talk to you about your event and include it in the Rye Observer 'Village Voice' section.



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PETT PARISH COUNCIL - 2005/2006

Councillors	Address	
Cllr. K. Clifton	Gatehurst Cottage, Pett Road, Pett	Chairman
Cllr. A. Dunlop	1, Lunsford Cottage, Pett Road, Pett	Vice-Chairman
Cllr. C. Saint	Southlands, Pett Road, Pett	
Cllr. Mrs. J. Barnes	Windy Ways, Pett Road, Pett	
Cllr. B. Roberts	2 Old Coastguard Cottages, Pett Level	
Cllr. A. Hollman	Sea bank, Chick Hill, Pett	
Cllr. P. Stapley	Bower Cottage, Pett Road, Pett	
(Clerk) Denise Jordan	5 Glebe Cottages, Elm Lane, Pett	01424 814187

Responsibilities:

Planning & TPO Committee	Full Council
Finance & General Purposes	Cllrs Dunlop, Barnes, Clifton
Internal Audit	Miss Avril Thurley
Village Amenities	Cllrs Clifton, Dunlop, Hollman & Cllr. Roberts to report for Pett Level
Highway & Footpaths	Cllrs Dunlop, Roberts, Clifton and C. Dean and Miss Thurley as co-opted members
Police Issues	Cllr. Roberts
Flood/Emergency contingency	Cllrs Roberts (Flood Warden), Dunlop, Hollman, Patten
Social Affairs	Cllr. Barnes
Pett Sports Association	Cllrs Clifton and Barnes
Pett Village Hall	Cllr. Saint
Rother Association of Local Councils	Cllr. Clifton

MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Name	Telephone No.	Responsibility
Phil Button	812148	Chairman
Ray Barden	812551	Vice Chairman
Jeanette Barden	812551	Secretary
Carol Pecorini	813544	Treasurer
Derek Johnson	814829	Hall Manager & Hall Bookings
Evelyn Darnell	812615	Committee Member
Tim Jury	813620	Committee Member
Philippa Strickland	814384	Committee Member
Sally Williams	812841	Committee Member