



PARISH NEWS

November HIGH Tides ... Rye Harbour Approaches

Date	Day	Time (hrs)	Height (m)	Time (hrs)	Height (m)
1	Thurs	0253	2.80	1528	2.5
2	Fri	0357	2.50	1641	2.1
3	Sat	0507	2.10	1813	2.0
4	Sun	0635	2.20	1940	2.1
5	Mon	0752	2.50	2036	2.5
6	Tues	0844	2.80	2118	2.8
7	Wed	0928	3.10	2154	3.0
8	Thurs	1004	3.30	2228	3.2
9	Fri	1040	3.30	2300	3.3
10	Sat	1113	3.30	2331	3.3
11	Sun	1143	3.30	-----	-----
12	Mon	0000	3.30	1209	3.2
13	Tues	0023	3.20	1232	3.1
14	Wed	0047	3.20	1259	3.0
15	Thurs	0117	3.00	1333	2.7
16	Fri	0158	2.80	1418	2.5
17	Sat	0247	2.50	1523	2.1
18	Sun	0404	2.20	1705	2.0
19	Mon	0528	2.20	1817	2.2
20	Tues	0638	2.60	1919	2.6
21	Wed	0737	3.00	2013	3.0
22	Thurs	0830	3.30	2101	3.3
23	Fri	0919	3.70	2148	3.6
24	Sat	1008	3.90	2238	3.8
25	Sun	1057	3.90	2324	3.8
26	Mon	1148	3.90	-----	-----
27	Tues	0012	3.80	1235	3.7
28	Wed	0059	3.70	1324	3.4
29	Thurs	0148	3.40	1415	3.0
30	Fri	0238	3.10	1511	2.6

Copy for the December 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 November. Any copy you can get to me before that date would be greatly appreciated.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2007

This report covers the Pett Parish Council meetings held on Tuesday 18th September and Tuesday 16th October at Pett Village Hall. The Council recorded their thanks to the Village Hall Management Committee for agreeing to re-locate the Waste Recycling Bins. Council noted that the new site appeared to be well kept and the previous problems of overflowing bins and fly tipping were no longer a problem. The Council have asked the Village Hall Management Committee if they would consider a more permanent arrangement, subject to agreeing a suitable service agreement with Rother DC.

The Parish Council are considering establishing a Parish Emergency Plan, as recommended by Rother District Council and the County Emergency Planning Team. The object of such a Plan is to provide the Emergency Planning Team with detailed information about local resources in the event of a major emergency which was beyond the remit of the usual emergency services response. If you have any particular expertise that you think might be useful, e.g. medical qualification or counselling skills or you have resources which could be made available, e.g. chain saw, lifting equipment, boat etc. then please send details to the Parish Clerk by post or e-mail or telephone the clerk with the information.

The County Councillor Carl Maynard and District Councillors Robin Patten and Roger Bird are regular attendees at Parish Council meetings and provide the latest information on discussions at County and District level with particular relevance to Pett and Pett Level. The October Council had detailed information on the proposed Government funding for next year which will directly impact on the level of Council Tax. Rother District Council have established a Working Group to look at how support can be given to local village shops and post offices, the future of whi9ch is of considerable concern at present. Rother District Council has also established the Rother Residents Consultation Group which is open to anyone over 16 living in Rother. If you would like to find out more information on how to join the group please contact Joanne Wright (01424 787816) or Marie Kennedy (01424 787864) at Rother District Council. You can also visit the web site at www.rother.gov.uk

The Council has received a number of concerns about the proposed reduction in services by Eurostar from Ashford International and agreed to write to Eurostar requesting a review of the proposals. Members hope to receive a

presentation on Parish Plans at the November meeting. If you would like more information about such Plans or are interested in helping prepare a Plan, please contact the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council agreed a donation of £150 to the Rural Rother Trust which provides help for a wide variety of deserving cases in the rural area.

The Parish Council considered the following Planning applications and agreed to support the proposals on each application:-

RR/2007/2440/L - Ivy Cottage, Pett Road, Pett - Change colour of external doors and porch to farrow & ball period colour castle grey

RR/2007/2495/P - The Royal Oak PH, Pett Road, Pett - formation of 3 bed & breakfast units in existing lock-ups with small extension + office/store unit in garden.

The Parish Council objected to the following application as it was considered to be over development of the site; the Council were also concerned about access, drainage and the loss of privacy of other dwellings.

Notification of the decisions on previous Planning applications were noted as follows:-

RR/2007/1802/P The Hundreds Chick Hill, Pett Level (erection of

ground floor extensions and alterations)

Granted

RR/2007/1808/P 6 Old Coastguard Cottages Pett Level (rebuilding of existing dwelling including associated extensions, dormers and rooflights)

Granted

RR/2007/1975/P 1 Rose Cottage, land adjacent Pett Road, Pett (Outline) erection of a pair of semi-detached chalet bungalows and formation of new vehicular access)

Refused

RR/2007/2190/P Fairlight Wood Caravan Club Site Watermill Lane, Pett (provision of 10 additional all weather caravan pitches)

Granted

RR/2007/2075/P Mulberry Cottage, Toot Rock, Pett Level (part demolition of existing bunker and erection of single storey extension)

Granted

Finally, the Parish Council was informed of the sudden death of Mr. Phillip Dowling and recorded their deep sadness at the news.

The Parish Council meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and all meetings are open to the public. You are most welcome to attend and there is always an opportunity in 'Public Time' for you to address Council or ask questions. If you would like any more information

please contact the parish clerk. The Parish Council has also now made arrangements for Minutes of Council meetings to be available for inspection at the Village Post Office and on the Mobile Library.

If you have any questions for the Council or wish to receive any information on Council business, please contact the Clerk, Bob Hodgson on 01424-716232 or e-mail bob_pett@pc@yahoo.co.uk



Dear Residents,

I would just like to highlight the recent graffiti that the village has suffered. I have taken photographs and informed the council so that they can clean this up. I do not know who is responsible however if anybody does know I would appreciate them contacting me. Email address or by phone.

0845 60 70 999 ext. 66280 or Christine.locke@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Chrissy Locke

COFFEE MORNING



The Friends of
Pett Church

Coffee Morning will be held at the Church on Saturday 8th December from 10 am until 12 noon. We will be selling bowls of bulbs and there will be a special Christmas Raffle.

Jillian Green

WHY DO THEY
call the airport "the terminal" if flying
is so safe?

WHY IS
abbreviated such a long word?

SUSSEX POLICE OPERATION CRACKDOWN

What to do if you see someone driving in an anti-social manner, or spot a suspected abandoned vehicle

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- write a brief description of what you saw

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VISIT OF THE CHRISTIAN AID DIRECTOR:

Thanks to the Catharine Hollman and her family - and - all the people who helped so much, the visit of the World Wide Director of Christian Aid on the 30th of September was a resounding success.

The Director of Christian Aid, Dr. Daleep Mukarji was the guest speaker at a special service held at St. Andrews Church, Fairlight, on Sunday 30th September. Dr. Mukarji spoke eloquently and passionately about the work of Christian Aid, and praised the work done by local representatives in Pett, Guestling and Fairlight, emphasising the value, not only of fund-raising, but also of prayer, and support on campaigning issues.

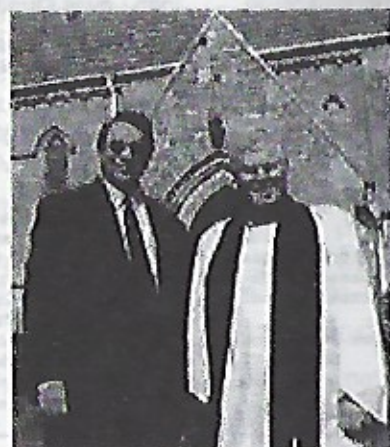
The focus of Christian Aid has always been the relief of people around the world who are living in poverty, but the organisation recognises that the root causes of poverty often lie in decisions taken by governments, and that major issues such as global warming have the most damaging

effects on the poorest and most vulnerable.

Dr. Mukarji expanded further on the subject after lunch at Pett Village Hall, and expertly fielded a number of questions on subjects such as the danger of becoming too political, and the measures taken by Christian Aid to minimise the impact of corruption (a problem which he pointed out is not confined to third world countries).

Audiences at both venues were very much impressed by Dr. Mukarji's message, including his challenge to "Live more simply, so that others may simply live".

Keith Miller



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to solve your problems.

Jennifer Sherwin
01424 813825 or 07854 039595



FLICKS FILM SOCIETY

Firstly, may I just confirm the bad news I announced at our five year celebrations in September. In order to ensure that the club continues to stay financially viable, We now need to increase the membership price from £10 to £12 to view three films. This will be the first increase in the annual membership fee since we started in 2002 and considering film hire costs have risen from £65 to £110 per film during this period, this will give some indication why it has been necessary to add the extra two pounds. The monthly membership will also increase from the current £3.75 to £4.50 for viewing one film with effect from November 07. The Flicks Team still feel joining the film club represents good value and providing the membership and attendances continue to grow, I see no reason why we should not have another successful five years of fun.

Turning now to good news, our 1st November show (not as I incorrectly stated in my last newsletter the 8th) we will be screening, **AMAZING GRACE**, starring Ioan Gruffudd as the 18th-century abolitionist William Wilberforce. Charting the long battle to end Britain's slave trade with spirit and wit, it's also cast to the nines, from young pups (Benedict Cumberbatch) to old pros (Albert Finney as reformed slaver John Newton, author of the eponymous hymn).

Happily, Gruffudd isn't upstaged by the formidable support, which also includes Michael Gambon and Rufus Sewell as wily allies opposite Claran Hinds and Toby Jones as hateful opponents

At regular turns the film seeks to deflate its preachy potential ("Is that some kind of heavy-handed metaphorical advice?" quips Pitt). On the other hand, there is something made-for-schools about *Amazing Grace*, whether it's the sexless romance between Wilberforce and his wife (Romola Garai) or the avoidance of anything too nasty involving slavery. Still, accessibility is one of the movie's virtues: without dumbing down, it makes the workings of Parliament seem as gripping as a good suspense thriller.

Our last show of the year on **December 6th** we will be presenting **THE HOLIDAY**, a seasonal film starring Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz, and Jude Law and Jack Black. More about this program in the December magazine.

Hopefully we will see you all at one or both these films here in Pett Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm with refreshments served from 7.00pm.

Chris Saint. Tel. 813047
or, chris@saintfamily.net

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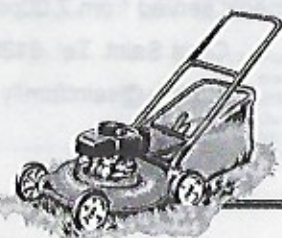
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LIFE ON THE LEVEL - OCTOBER

I am writing this early in the month as I am taking a short break in Cornwall. The weather is trying to make amends for its earlier poor efforts and I hope that it has continued this way by the time your magazine is delivered.

We have had one or two 'hopping' mornings recently, but the ones I remember from my youth, when I lived further inland, were never accompanied by the doleful sound of the foghorn out at sea that we get here. It was more the doleful shout of "All to Work" that I remember as I was usually late and two fields away from my half bin at that early hour of the morning. We were allowed our own bin when we were considered strong enough to move it ourselves, which in my case was when I was eleven. There I was expected to pick enough hops to pay for my new school uniform and hopefully be allowed a few shillings of my own by the end of the three weeks that hop-picking usually lasted. Pulling the first bine was the worst as it would be heavy with dew and you got a good soaking to start the day off, but as the sun warmed up and spirits rose the hop gardens were a lovely place to be.

Back on The Level there was a Fishing Competition on September 30th with five boats and ten anglers taking part. There was an east to north east breeze blowing of 8-10

knots, making fishing uncomfortable as the boats tend to lie across the tide, but the sporting action apparently more than made up for the conditions. At the end of the day the winner had 55lbs of mainly codling but included a 9lb.8oz cod, second place caught 35lb.15oz and included the best cod of the day weighing 10lb.9oz, and third place had 31lb.14oz. All the anglers enjoyed one of the best trips for a number of years and are looking forward to their next competition on Sunday 28th October. It's always interesting to watch them as they come in with their haul.

It was an early start on Saturday 6th for all the volunteers helping with the house to house collection and those sorting out all the items so generously given for the annual Harvest Home Auction in aid of the Hastings Lifeboats. At 7.30p.m. the Beach Club was packed with people anxious to part with their money and pick up a bargain and they certainly weren't disappointed.

Three Auctioneers took it in turns throughout the evening. One of them had been doing it for 38 years and the 'rookie' only three, but what a marvellous job they did between them. Members of



the local Coastguards did the portering, some of them having done the job for over thirty years. People came and went, bearing off their bargains, but most stayed the course and enjoyed the entertainment and the excitement of searching through their 'mystery box of assorted 'antique' china and 'crystal' glass' usually with a couple of very acceptable bottles of wine to go with it! The hammer came

down on the last lot at 11.45p.m. swiftly followed by the raffle, and at the end of the evening the fantastic amount of just over £1,900.00 was raised! Well done all those who work so hard to make it such a successful event and to all the people who manage to find something at the back of the cupboard or shed to give each year.

B.M.

THE NEW BEACH CLUB

Pett Level Road, Pett Level - 01424 812080

NEW CHEF FOR BEACH CLUB

The New Beach Club is proud to announce the arrival of our new chef Clive. Clive's new menu is exciting and dynamic and features a wide range of choices from light snacks to full evening meals and includes, sea food, vegetarian and pub grub. Also available are fresh made cakes and pastries, tea and coffee.

Enjoy a pleasant evening meal with a nice bottle of wine, or just pop in for a pint and a snack. For details of our kitchens opening hours call 01424 812080.

BAR NOW OPEN FROM 5.00pm

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The Wibbly, Wobbly, Women Wot Walk Wednesdays or Women Who Walk, or Wednesday Women Walkers ~ anyway us lot got together on a Friday for a change and held a coffee morning for Macmillan cancer care.

We had Flora and Betty on the raffles, Gill and neighbour on homemade cakes, Joss on plants, Barbara and myself on the 'bring and buy' and Jo with her daughter serving up the coffee.

As usual we had such a laugh and a really good morning. We did talk a lot and sell a lot and made a really staggering £343.14 for which we give a big thanks to all those folks who took the time to come and support us and Macmillan.

Many thanks too for the local businesses who donated raffle prizes. You Guys never fail us and we think you are great.

J.R.

Genuine GCSE Examination Questions and Answers

Q: Name the four seasons
A: Salt, pepper, mustard & vinegar

Q: What is artificial insemination?
A: When the farmer does it to the bull instead of the cow!



Q: What is the fibula?
A: A small lie

Q: What does "varicose" mean?
A: Nearby

Q: What is a terminal illness?
A: When you are sick at the airport

Q: Use the word "judicious" in a sentence to show you understand its meaning.
A: Hands that judicious can be soft as your face.

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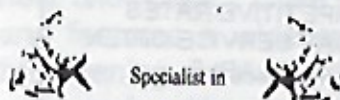
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Tuesday



Methodists in Cyber-Space

Our friends at the Methodist Chapel have taken a leap into cyber-space with the launch of their new website. On the site, you can keep up with the latest news from the local Methodist community, learn something of the history of the chapel, meet the people who worship and serve there, get access to all sorts of resources, and much, much more.

This is just one of the ways in which this chapel is embracing the challenges of the 21st century, and the site also gives information about plans for a major refurbishment which they hope to complete within the next year.

Of course, they'd love to see you personally, but in the meantime if you'd prefer to make a "virtual visit" you can find the site at www.pettchapel.org.uk

PARISH DIARY - NOVEMBER 2007

VH = Village Hall

RG = Recreation Ground

Thursday 1st	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
	Flicks in the Village	VH	7.30 pm
Friday 2 nd	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
Monday 5 th	Flowerpots Toddler Group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Wednesday 7 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
Thursday 8 th	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
	Short Mat Bowls	VH	3pm & 7pm
Friday 9 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
	Railway Club	VH	7.30 pm
Monday 12 th	Flowerpots Toddler Group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Tuesday 13 th	Garden Club	VH	7.30 pm
Wednesday 14 th	Badminton	VH	10 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
Thursday 15 th	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
	Short Mat Bowls	VH	3 pm & 7pm
Friday 16 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
	Women's Institute	VH	2.30 pm
	Naturalist Society	VH	7.30 pm
Monday 19 th	Flowerpots toddler group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Tuesday 20 th	Parish Council	VH	7.30 pm

Wednesday 21 st	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 22 nd	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
	Short Mat Bowls	VH	3pm & 7 pm
Friday 23 rd	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
Monday 26 th	Flowerpots toddler group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Wednesday 28 th	Badminton	VH	10 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
Thursday 29 th	Short Mat Bowls	VH	3pm & 7 pm
Friday 30 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm

If there are any changes to your schedule please let me know, as I still haven't managed to find a crystal ball in working order.

Avril Thurley

CHURCH SERVICES:

Sun. 4 th Nov.	Parish Communion, 9.30am - St. Mary & St. Peter
Sun. 11 th Nov.	Holy Communion, 8am - St. Nicholas, Pett Level
	Remembrance Day Service, 10.30am - St. Mary & St. Peter
Sun. 18 th Nov.	Parish Communion, 9.30am - St. Mary & St. Peter
Sun. 25 th Nov.	Holy Communion, 8am - St. Nicholas, Pett Level
	Morning Praise, 9.30am - St. Mary & St. Peter

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PETT W.I.

In September we were joined by lots of ladies from neighbouring Institutes who filled the hall to welcome Mr Rumley Dawson. His talk and slides of Wildlife along the Sussex coastline was extremely interesting and informative.

At our A.G.M. in October we were reminded of the speakers we had enjoyed, trips out which were a huge social success, the Treasurers report and a general look back over the past year. The new committee took office once again, the same few who do their jobs willingly and well. Looking back to 1987 when I first joined the W.I., the same committee ladies are again taking office and without them ---- well who knows ----!

Our next meeting is at 2.30 in the Village Hall on **Friday 16th November** when we are looking forward to Mr Albon giving us a talk about "A slow Boat in China". New members are always most welcome.

E.D.

**Pett Flower Show
Diamond Jubilee Year
2008**

Recently we held our first meeting for the Jubilee Flower show in July of next year. Many new ideas were put forward for different attractions, stalls and fund raising events. You will be amazed - and so will we be if it all comes together on time!

Next month I will print a Christmas Cake recipe from post war 1948 which was the recommended recipe from the Ministry of Food at that time. If you wanted to marzipan it, this is the recipe:

MOCK MARZIPAN

This quantity covers a 7" cake

2oz caster or icing sugar sifted
2oz margarine
8oz plain cake crumbs
1-2 teaspoons almond essence

Cream the margarine and sugar with the essence. Add the crumbs and knead the mixture. Roll out and use.

I wonder if the Palace used this recipe for Prince Charles christening cake as he was born in this year, or for the 14th Olympic Games celebrations.

Christmas



Don't forget to let us have your personal or company Christmas greetings. Special

Christmas events, menus, fund raising, hints and ideas etc by 15th November.

Contact either Jackie on
richards.jackie@yahoo.co.uk
815224 or Denise on
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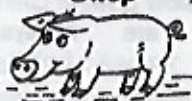
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GARDENING CLUB NEWS OCTOBER 2007

Because I missed last months meeting (on Holiday) it was quite a change to be inside. The last three meetings I had attended had been 'peripatetic' as we had been out and about visiting Nurseries and wonderful Gardens. Now as the weather is more inclement, we were pleased to be in the warmth and comfort of the Village Hall.

Adding to our comfort and feeling of well being was a speaker we all enjoy, the Reverend Dickie Dengate with his easy manner, wealth of knowledge and of course his most generous supply of wonderful freshly picked apples -- with names some of us had not heard of since our youth! Melrose, Crispin, Red delicious, Cox and all really Delicious!



We all enjoyed a very interesting and informal discussion, and then gathered a few apples to take home and savour. We were delighted to welcome three members from Three Oaks Gardening Club, who enjoyed the evening and also managed to win a prize or two in the Raffle!

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, 13th November at 7.30pm. in the Village Hall, when our speaker will be Mr. Hilary Newman talking about 'Getting full use out of your greenhouse for 12 months of the year'! Those of us with greenhouses will no doubt be very interested, and those who haven't may well be inspired to get one in time for next year! Our meetings are open to guests (for just a £1) who are always most welcome, so do come along and join us!

See you there!

PWB 12.10.2007

Always a thought provoking speaker, Dickie brought wonderful photographs of the earth, fruit, fauna and flora as a basis for a discussion on Global warming with a difference. Instead of the usual very negative side, with animal species becoming extinct, habitats being eroded and icebergs melting, he talked about the positive side, how beautiful our countryside is and the ways in which conservation is helping to sustain our heritage for generations to come - providing of course we all play our part. He did also raise some big issues i.e. the supply and price of our food and it

is clear we will all need to look hard at our lifestyles.

THE FAIRLIGHT PLAYERS

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Tickets from Fairlight Post Office from
22nd October or at the door.

J.Wren
(813098)

FLOWER FESTIVAL

During September Pett Church was transformed, as the 'Friends' celebrated their second flower festival. Based on the theme 'Song of Sussex', 36 arrangements had titles such as 'Charcoal Burning', 'Opera at Glyndebourne', 'Winnie the Pooh and Friends', 'Vineyards' and 'Smugglers'. The many complimentary comments included those from other flower arrangers, from as far away as Icklesham, Hollington and Ninfield. Praise indeed! If you missed this floral treat make a note in your diary now – **The Third Pett Flower Festival will be held on 13th and 14th September 2008.**

In the vestry, Doreen's team worked hard, feeding the inner man and woman; providing a valuable contribution under difficult conditions, not least being the wind on Sunday. Outside the church, the tombola, 'guess the weight of the cake' and stalls selling plants, bric a brac, books and produce catered to a steady stream of people. The produce stall did so well that, by lunch time on Saturday it had sold out of jams and marmalades and by close of play almost everything else. Many people went home, not to relax in front of the television, but to bake more cakes and savouries for the next day.

Our sincere thanks go to all the floral artists, sponsors, donors, caterers, stallholders and those who helped man the stalls or provided goods for sale. Finally, but certainly not least, to those who worked behind the scenes, putting up and taking down gazebos

and tables and moving boxes of goods.

The result of all this hard work was the magnificent sum of £2123 (last year's was £1527). What happens to this money? Most of last year's went towards the cost of upgrading the lightening protector (£1405). This year's will be used to pay for much overdue work to the electrical system and possibly providing better lighting.

Why not join The Friends? The annual subscription is £10 for one, £15 for a couple, £18 for a family (at the same address) and the corporate rate is £23. Ask one of us for a form or further details.

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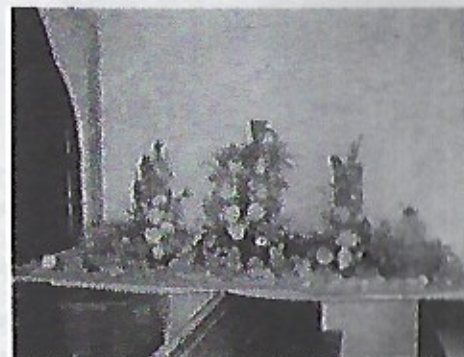
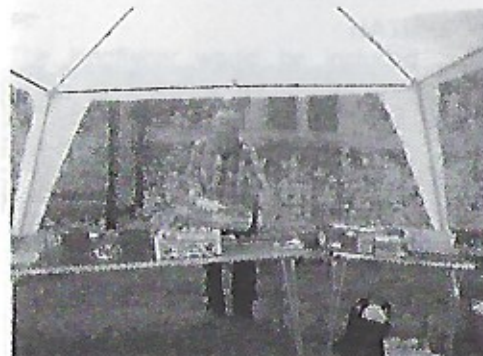
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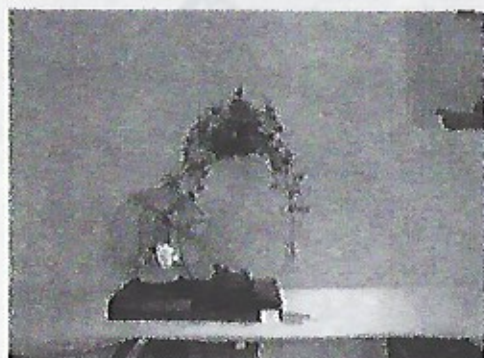
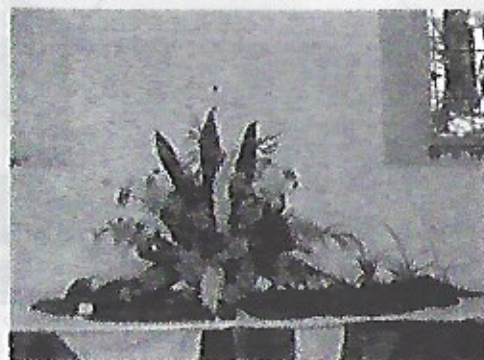
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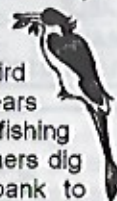
Saturday 10am-3pm





NATURE NOTES

The kingfisher would be included on most people's list of favourite birds. They are such beautiful and spectacular little birds. One of the best places to see them locally is Pannel Bridge. I should think I see one on average about every third time I go there. A few years ago I saw two together, fishing near the bridge. Kingfishers dig a tunnel in the river bank to make their nest, where they may raise five or six young.



Now is the time to look out for field mushrooms. Some years they are so numerous that you can collect enough to freeze for the winter, when they make a tasty addition to soups and stews. It need hardly be said that you should not eat any wild fungus (or berry) unless you are sure what it is, as some are poisonous.

This is a good year for rose hips. If you freeze them, you will find that when they thaw they are soft. This makes them much easier to prepare for syrup or jelly, and if you prefer to put them out for the birds they are much easier for the birds to manage.

I watched a weasel hunting in and around a rabbit warren. He must have seen me, as I made no attempt to conceal myself, but he completely ignored



me. Weasels are considerably smaller than stoats, and their short tails do not have a black tip. They also have incredibly savage little faces, whereas stoats just look alert and intelligent. Both are extremely efficient killers.

Keep a look out for the redwings and fieldfares, especially where there is fallen fruit. These members of the thrush family are winter visitors, often appearing in quite large flocks. Also, look out for flocks of mixed finches looking for seeds and berries along the hedgerows.



Avril Thurley

PETT NATS

On the 16th November our speaker will be Brian Purdy, who will give a talk on 'Wellington in Hastings'. Members who remember his informative and very funny talk on Sussex Cures and Customs will not want to miss this meeting. Visitors are welcome at £2.

*Avril Thurley
(Hon. Secretary)*



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DO YOU KNOW ?

Do you know the origin of the Sussex Bonfire Societies? Following the capture of Guy Fawkes on the 5th November 1605 and the arrest of his fellow conspirators, the Government responded immediately to this attempt to blow up the King and Parliament. An Act entitled "An Acte for a publique Thanksgiving to Almighty God everie year of the Fiftie day of November" was passed in January 1606. This proclaimed the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot should 'be held in a perpetual Remembrance' and that the day be 'a holiday for ever in thankfulness to God for the deliverance and detestation of the Papists'. This annual remembrance was to be marked by a morning service in every parish church at which a special prayer of thanksgiving was to be offered up.

The origin of the Sussex Bonfire Societies is undoubtedly rooted in this Act. They also commemorate the burning of 17 Protestant martyrs in Lewes High Street from 1555 to 1557, during the reign of Mary Tudor. And, in Mayfield, on the 24th September 1556, a further four Protestant martyrs were put to death in the village. It was not until the late 1670s that records show that anti papal processions took place in Lewes and by the eighteenth century events in Lewes on the "Fifth" were being recorded in the local press. By the early 1800s the celebrations went into decline leading the local press to comment in 1814 the 'we scarcely

remember our streets to have been so free from annoyance of squibs, rockets and other fireworks'. Enthusiasm for the 'Fifth' was rekindled during the 1820's and from that time the annual celebrations have been lively with large bonfires being built. Some years the celebrations became very unruly and dangerous. By 1850 it was recognised that some of the riotous proceedings would not be further tolerated so the 'bonfire boys' formed themselves into Bonfire Societies.

Traditionally, Guy Fawkes' night in England was remembered by large communal bonfires and general public celebrations, but in most parts of the country this has withered to family bonfires and large public fireworks displays. No one really knows why the tradition has remained so strong in Sussex, but it is the highlight of the year in many towns and villages, with not only fires, but also parades and festivals. The Bonfire Societies also collect money for various charities. The complexity of organising such a festival has led the societies to band together and take part in each other's bonfires. Currently there are something like six Bonfire Societies in Lewes and nearly thirty in the East Sussex towns and villages.

This is certainly one tradition that the Sussex folk have constantly upheld and now people from all over the world come to share in the fantastic celebrations.

John Taylor



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SKATE

Skate is a member of the ray family and are kite shaped fish which have a flat body and two wings. The wings are the only part of the fish that is consumed. Skates, like sharks excrete urea through their skin and if not handled carefully after capture, will smell of ammonia. Skate is a large fish and often exceeds 100lbs. When buying skate, look for meat that has already been skinned, as skinning the wings yourself can be extremely difficult. The wings should smell sweet and fresh. Beware of flesh that smells strongly of ammonia, which usually indicates that the fish has been sitting too long in the shop. Traditionally skate is poached or served with a butter based sauce (*rais au beurre noir* is a French favourite), however this month the recipe offers an alternative way to serve this popular fish.

Roast Skate Wings with Bacon, Chervil and Capers

4 x Skate wings on the bone
2 tbsp plain flour
25g unsalted butter
2 tsp chopped parsley
juice 1 lemon
150 ml red wine
6 x rashers streaky bacon, chopped
125g capers
2 tbsp chervil, chopped
salt and pepper to taste

Preheat the oven to 200C/ 400F/ gas mark 6.

Season the skate wings and lightly dust with flour.

Heat a large pan and add the butter. Place the fish into the hot pan (presentation side down first) and cook until golden brown, turn over.

Scatter the chopped bacon over the fish, squeeze over the lemon and capers and place in the oven for around 10 - 12 minutes. Once cooked, remove the fish from the pan and keep warm.

Return the pan back to the heat and add the red wine, chopped chervil and parsley. Reduce and adjust the seasoning.

Add a knob of butter to enrich the sauce if required. Place the skate on to a plate and pour over the juices.

Serve with sautéed potatoes and vegetables of your choice.

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JUMBLE SALE

Despite rumours to the contrary, the jumble sale in aid of Pett Church took place as arranged on Saturday 13th October. It was a very successful event, not only did we have over 100 paying customers through the doors and a clear total of £500 after expenses, but it was a very happy and friendly occasion, due to the people manning the stalls. There are too many to name individually, but many thanks to you all for your hard work.

Our next event will be a coffee morning, at the church, on Saturday 8th December, when we will be selling bowls of bulbs and there will be a special Christmas raffle.

Doreen, Jillian and Phyllis



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e.mail: bob_pettpc@yahoo.co.uk

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Pett Sports Association	Cllr. Paul Stapley
Police Community Consultative Group	Cllr. Brian Roberts
Rother Association of Local Councils Representative	Cllrs. Brian Woodcock, Paul Stapley
Sussex Association of Local Councils	Cllrs. Andrew Dunlop, Martin King
Flood Wardens	Cllrs. Brian Roberts, Andrew Dunlop
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Cllr. Roger Bird	87 Battery Hill, Fairlight, Hastings, TN35 4AL	01424 813636
Cllr. Robin Patten	5 Old Coastguard Cottages, Pett Level Road, Pett Level, TN35 4EH	01424 812479

East Sussex County Council

Cllr. Carl Maynard The Burrow, 23 Baldslow Down, Weesfield TN37 7NJ 01273 481576

Village Hall Committee

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Ray Barden	812551	Vice Chairman
Jeanette Barden	812551	Secretary
Carol Pecorini	813544	Treasurer
Derek Johnson	814829	Hall Manager & Hall Bookings
Evelyn Darnell	812815	Committee Member
Tim Jury	813620	Committee Member
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