



November, 2003

GUESTLING

PETT

PARISH NEWS

Pett Level

CWB

November Tides Rye Harbour Approaches

Add one hour to British Summer Times

Date	Day	Time (hrs)	Height (m)	Time (hrs)	Height (m)
1	Sat	0340	2.6	1622	2.4
2	Sun	0451	2.2	1748	2.0
3	Mon	0617	2.1	1833	2.1
4	Tue	0746	2.5	2008	2.5
5	Wed	0843	2.8	2126	2.8
6	Thurs	0927	3.2	2202	3.1
7	Fri	1006	3.4	2236	3.3
8	Sat	1043	3.6	2306	3.3
9	Sun	1117	3.6	2336	3.4
10	Mon	1150	3.4		
11	Tue	0007	3.3	1217	3.3
12	Wed	0032	3.3	1238	3.2
13	Thurs	0052	3.2	1259	3.1
14	Fri	0116	3.1	1328	2.8
15	Sat	0148	2.8	1406	2.5
16	Sun	0232	2.5	1600	2.1
17	Mon	0344	2.1	1652	1.9
18	Tue	0524	2.0	1812	2.0
19	Wed	0636	2.4	1915	2.5
20	Thurs	0736	2.7	2008	2.8
21	Fri	0826	3.2	2055	3.3
22	Sat	0913	3.7	2139	3.6
23	Sun	0958	3.9	2223	3.8
24	Mon	1044	4.2	2309	3.9
25	Tue	1131	4.2	2357	3.9
26	Wed			1219	3.9
27	Thurs	0043	3.8	1306	3.7
28	Fri	0132	3.6	1400	3.3
29	Sat	0226	3.2	1459	2.8
30	Sun	0322	2.8	1604	2.5

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I am the community therapist with the Sara Lee Trust, a charity which provides complementary therapies free to those with cancer. I will give £5 to the Trust for every Parish News reader who receives a treatment from me. Anyone wishing to know more about or make a donation to the Trust, please contact:

The Sara Lee Trust
25 Upper Maze Hill
St Leonards on Sea
East Sussex TN38 0LB
Tel: 01424 445177

EDITORIAL

You will see that this month we have increased the size of the magazine to 20 pages, reflecting both the interest in the magazine and the willingness of businesses to advertise. All revenues from these adverts go towards the cost of production.

We have also been asked about a postal subscription service for the magazine for people who no longer live in the area but are still interested in what happens. Avril Thurley has kindly volunteered to organise this service and we can now offer an annual subscription for £10 including postage. Again proceeds will go towards the cost of the magazine. If anyone is interested, please contact Avril at Rectory Cottage, Pett Road. Also, with the closure of the Post Office, additional copies of the magazine will now be on sale at Norris of Blackheath, Dimpleshaven, Pett Road.

On the subject of the Post Office, future plans feature in the Parish Council report this month. If anyone has any views or comments on this, we will be happy to include these in next month's magazine, space permitting.

Copy for the December edition can be sent by e-mail to:
pettbus@btinternet.com.

Alternatively, hard copy can be passed to Mary Saint, Southlands, Pett Road (813047). The deadline for copy will be Wednesday 19 November.

PETT PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Pett Playgroup has been in our village for over 30 years and I am told by many what an important role it had in the lives of village children and those from surrounding villages coming to join it.

The playgroup started as a mother & toddler group, moving on to a preschool playgroup run by mums and local volunteers. The playgroup relied heavily on fundraising and as this became harder and harder, the group needed the funding offered by Ofsted. So with a lot of hard work, the playgroup passed an inspection and employed a qualified supervisor. The playgroup then flourished and even had an afternoon group called The Rising Fives. However, the past two years have seen a semi-retired supervisor running the group to a very high standard with many different staff. During this time, we have advertised for a supervisor but with no interest.

We then moved to the New Village Hall with about 12 children on our books regularly and we were lucky to keep our supervisor on. This July we lost most of our children to school and the Playgroup Committee lost its battle as the supervisor decided to retire. We also lost two other regular members of staff. We struggled on and employed someone who was qualified but had no hands-on experience. Ofsted felt she would not be suitable. We then had to make the heart-rending decision that the playgroup could not continue with funds so tight and no staff. With this foremost in our minds, we have taken the step to deregister with Ofsted.

The village and parents would still like to see the playgroup here so we have decided to try a mother & toddler/playgroup from 9:30-11:30am on Mondays and Thursdays, starting on 3rd November. Parents are welcome to come and stay with their child from 0 yrs upwards and contribute £2.50 per session towards running costs. Also, children from 2½ yrs can be left with our staff, who have worked with children and hold First Aid and police check certificates. This will cost £4 per session.

We are lucky enough to have use of a wonderful new village hall and to have had a lottery grant for the children's garden apparatus we now have. Let's all try and give Pett Playgroup one last chance. Pett Playgroup needs support and if, as a village, we want to keep something in the village for the children of the future, please spread the word. We still hold out hope that maybe in the future, a semi-retired person or someone who has experience in this field, would like to come and reopen a morning playgroup and perhaps reregister with Ofsted. If you are this person or know someone, please contact us for more information. This is our way of trying to hold on to the village playgroup, please support us.

Voluntary help on the day is always welcome, as are donations. Thank you to the Village Hall Committee for giving us the opportunity to communicate with the village.

For more information: Zoe 01424 714084

Anna 01424 814805

-4-

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PETT PARISH COUNCIL

Post Office

It is with a great deal of regret that I have to tell you that, at the last moment, the deal to provide Pett with a new post office and shop owned by the village appears to have fallen through. In view of this, the Parish Council feels that it is important that you know what we understand has happened over the last couple of weeks.

Finalised contracts signed on behalf of the Parish Council were lodged with our solicitors some time ago, and up until the week ending 17th October we were working hard on finalising a licence (a form of lease) between sub postmaster Tony Horne and the Parish Council, which would have been effective when the shop was completed in six months time. A copy of this licence, signed on behalf of the Parish Council, was lodged with our solicitors on Wednesday 15th October, ready for exchange of contracts.

Knowing that exchange was imminent, and that we were close to finalising the licence, on Monday 13th I called a meeting of the Parish Council to be held on the morning of Friday 17th, that being the earliest it could be held by law. The purpose of the meeting was to formally agree to the finalised licence and formally agree that we were in a position to exchange contracts.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 15th we were advised by our solicitor that the owners of the garage site wanted to exchange that day. In a conversation with one of the owners later that afternoon, it was explained that all the documentation was signed, ready and lodged with our solicitors, but that for the reasons noted above we would have to wait until noon Friday to exchange. The owner advised that if we were unable to exchange on that same day (Wednesday) they would feel free to consider other offers.

Hoping that the owners would stay with our deal, we carried on with the meeting on Friday, and as we anticipated we were in a position to exchange from Friday noon onwards. The owners did not exchange and have not communicated with us prior to going to press. It has been suggested to us that the owners will now keep the post office, shop and flats that otherwise would have passed to the Parish Council.

Knowing how important this project was for the village, over the last couple of months we worked particularly hard and as quickly as we were able in order to move towards exchange of contracts. One of the things that took up much of our time was the question of providing continuity of post office services during the period of development. However, as I reported last month, cost and technical issues conspired against us and Tony and his family decided that the post office should close for the period. Following that decision we were asked to provide more funds effectively to cover Tony's income and for the period of closure, and in the interest of progressing matters the Parish Council agreed to do this.

On a separate matter, at meeting with Tony and the owners it was agreed that, before exchange, a "letter of comfort" should be provided to them in order to confirm our intention to provide Tony with rent free space for the post office within the overall scheme. This was agreed at a meeting of the Parish Council, and the letter was sent. Subsequently we were told that the owners' solicitor had advised that a letter of comfort was not acceptable and that an agreement for lease or a lease (which later became a licence) would have to be prepared before exchange. I have mentioned the licence before – suffice to say that agreeing the detailed heads of terms of the licence, preparing and agreeing the document took up most of our time in the two weeks before it was signed and lodged with our solicitors. The licence was to provide Tony with space in the scheme for ten years at a nominal rent of £1 per annum, the Parish Council agreeing to cover most of the costs such as insurance of the building and services. We had not expected to go through the process of preparing the licence before exchange of contracts, but as it had effectively been requested by the owners' solicitor we felt that all would be well, and that in any event it would save time subsequently.

I am saddened that everyone's efforts appear to have come to nothing, as I believe the deal between the Parish Council, Rother District Council, the owners of the garage and the developer was a good deal for all concerned. From the village's point of view it would have provided a wonderful asset in the form of a post office and shop which, owned by the village, would have allowed us to have been involved in making sure that these stayed open for the long term, which so many people wanted. Additionally, given a fair wind, in time the project would have generated sufficient regular net income (that is, having covered all ongoing costs and subsidy of the post office element) to help fund new village projects for everyone's benefit and/or reduce the precept.

If this project proves to be dead from Rother's and the Parish Council's point of view, we will both be left with abortive costs. Doing our best to look on the bright side, much of the funds we raised from an increased precept this year will still be available and in due course we will ask you all whether you want these funds to be used for other things and/or whether we should reduce the precept next year. We have spent an immense amount of time and effort on the post office project over the last year and I would particularly like to thank my colleagues on the Parish Council's post office committee, Robin Patten, Andrew Dunlop and Chris Saint. Such time was given freely and will continue to be so.

Mark Hall – Chairman - on behalf of Pett Parish Council

This article was considered and approved by the Parish Council at a meeting on Monday 27th October.

REFLECTIONS WHILE BLACKBERRYING

Blackberrying is one of those delightful activities where you can allow your mind to wander without detriment to the work in hand. Ideally you want a cool day, so that you can cover your arms and legs; bramble scratches are painful. Why do they have so many thorns? Not to protect their fruit from grazing animals, but to help them climb. One stem can grow yards long as it scrambles along the hedgerows.

Why are some berries plump and oozing with juice, while others – just as ripe – are small and hard? The answer to this one is that there are several types of bramble, each having slightly different flowers and therefore fruits. Rather like roses.

I always leave the lowgrowing fruits, which I call Badger berries. If you find a badger loo in autumn you will see that they've been feasting on blackberries. Foxes like them too, as do most dogs. Anna used to pick them with great care, avoiding the under-ripe ones. This led to an unfortunate incident in a friend's garden when she picked all the lowgrowing raspberries before I noticed what she was doing, which led to a steep, if temporary decline in her popularity.

When I was in my teens and the world was a safer place, we used to get on our bikes and go over Banstead Common with our sandwiches and an assortment of containers in our saddle bags. Then my Mum would spend days making jams and jellies, and bottling some of the fruit for use over the winter.

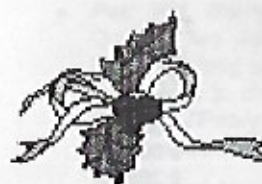
Another thing about blackberrying – you can get so absorbed that you don't notice what is going on around you. On one occasion I had filled my containers and turned away from the hedge to find myself confronted by a semicircle of cattle watching me curiously from about a yard away.

I eat very few blackberries while I'm picking them, but when I get home I like to have a big bowlful with cream. Then the rest are frozen loose on trays before being packed into bags for winter use. Freezers make you lazy don't they? Those rows of Kilner jars in my Mum's larder did look delicious; perhaps next year I'll bottle some.

Avril Thurley

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Friends are God's apology for relations".



The Royal Oak

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CHRISTMAS MENU

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STARTERS

CHEFS HOMEMADE SOUP OF THE MOMENT
SMOKED SALMON AND KING PRAWN SALAD WITH A LEMON AND DILL DRESSING
DEVILLED LAMBS KIDNEYS ON WARM TOAST
FANNED MELON WITH PARMA HAM
POTTED MUSHROOMS WITH TOMATO BREAD AND SWEET PEPPER COULIS

MAINS

PAN-FRIED FILLET OF COD WITH CAPERS, SERVED ON A BED OF HERBED POTATOES
ROAST TURKEY WITH SAUSAGE AND BACON PARCELS, SERVED WITH CRANBERRY SEASONING AND JUS
CHAR-GRILLED SIRLOIN OF BEEF WITH A WILD MUSHROOM AND RED WINE SAUCE
BREAST OF DUCK WITH CARAMELIZED SHALLOTS AND ORANGE SAUCE
BAKED ALMOND ROLL STUFFED WITH PRUNES, SERVED WITH A MUSHROOM AND ONION SAUCE

ALL MAINS ARE SERVED WITH A CHOICE OF ROAST AND DUCHESS POTATOES, WITH A SELECTION OF SPROUTS AND ALMONDS, ROASTED PARSNIPS, GLAZED CARROTS AND BROCCOLI

DESSERTS

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS PUDDING AND BRANDY SAUCE
HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE AND RUM TORTE
HOMEMADE LEMON BRULEE
CHOICE OF SORBET
CHEESE AND BISCUITS

COFFEE AND MINTS

PARISH DIARY - NOVEMBER

VH = Village Hall

MH = Methodist Hall

Date	Event	Location	Time
Saturday 1 st	Halloween Bonfire & BBQ	VH Field	6:30pm
Monday 3 rd	Mother & Toddler/playgroup	VH	9:30am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8:30pm
Wednesday 5 th	Badminton	VH	10:00am
	Quiz Night	Two Sawyers	9:00pm
Thursday 6 th	Mother & Toddler/playgroup	VH	9:30am
	Flicks in the Village	VH	7:30pm
Friday 7 th	Parent & Toddler Group	MH	10:00am
Monday 10 th	Mother & Toddler/playgroup	VH	9:30am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8:30pm
Wednesday 12 th	Badminton	VH	10:00am
	Mobile Library	Church	10:20am
		Chick Hill	11:10am*
		Smuggler	11:45am*
	Quiz Night	Two Sawyers	9:00pm
Thursday 13 th	Mother & Toddler/playgroup	VH	9:30am
	Short Mat Bowls	VH	7:00pm
Friday 14 th	Parent & Toddler Group	MH	10:00am
	Railway Club	VH	7:30pm
Monday 17 th	Mother & Toddler/playgroup	VH	9:30am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8:30pm
Tuesday 18 th	Parish Council	VH	7:30pm
Wednesday 19 th	Badminton	VH	10:00am
	Quiz Night	Two Sawyers	9:00pm
Thursday 20 th	Mother & Toddler/playgroup	VH	9:30am
	Short Mat Bowls	VH	7:00pm
Friday 21 st	Parent & Toddler Group	MH	10:00am
	Women's Institute	VH	2:00pm
	Naturalist Society	VH	7:30pm
Monday 24 th	Mother & Toddler/playgroup	VH	9:30am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8:30pm
Wednesday 26 th	Badminton	VH	10:00am
	Mobile Library	Church	10:20am
		Chick Hill	11:10am*
		Smuggler	11:45am*
	Quiz Night	Two Sawyers	9:00pm
Thursday 25 th	Mother & Toddler/playgroup	VH	9:30am
	Short Mat Bowls	VH	7:00pm
Friday 28 th	Parent & Toddler Group	MH	10:00am

* Note new times for Mobile Library

If you would like your special events or regular meetings to be included in the Parish Diary, or if there is any variation to your usual schedule, please drop a note, programme or fixture list into Rectory Cottage, Pett Road.

NOTICE BOARD

- **Pett W.I. November Meeting** – with a new committee duly elected in October, we start the new year by welcoming our speaker Brain Pendey. Brian is a long standing visiting speaker to us – and to Pett Naturalists – who never fails to charm, inform and delight his audience. His talk this month is entitled "Priory Meadow" and an extremely interesting afternoon is guaranteed.
- **Pett Level Naturalists Society November Meeting** – The Nature of Cork Wood – Part 2 – Melvin Smith.
- **Pett & Guestling Lunch Club** meets on the second Wednesday of each month, usually at the Two Sawyers. Membership is open to anyone who lives alone. Members choose their meal either from a specially priced menu or from the pub's regular fare. If you would like to join or know more about it, please contact Anne Williams (813402).
- **National Lottery Bonus Ball** Over the last four years £1000 has been paid out – at £5 per week – in prizes and £960 has been donated to the New Pett Village Hall. Congratulations to all the Saturday night winners and grateful thanks to everyone who "gambled" 20p each week. So many people have asked me to continue with this fund-raising, so watch out – WI members, friends and neighbours – you will soon be asked to participate again, to raise money for a worthwhile cause. *Evelyn Damell.*
- **The Fairlight Literary Society** meets fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons in Fairlight Village Hall at 2:30pm. The programme includes talks on art and literature, music, local history, rural themes and travel. All are welcome. Subscription is £6 for 11 meetings or £1 for visitors.
- **Remembrance Day Service** – Sunday 9th November, St Mary & St Peter, 10:30am
- **"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven"** and now the time has come for me to move close to my family, a distance of 20 minutes rather than the present 5 hours. I find myself quite unable to say goodbye to all those so dear to me but I do want to give you all my heartfelt thanks for the many happy years that both Dick & I enjoyed here in Pett. My new flat is delightful and I know that there are new friends just waiting to be made but I will never forget you my dear old friends.
Love to you all, *Peggy Jones*

THE TWO SAWYERS

DICKENSIAN FOUR COURSE CHRISTMAS MENU 2003



Starters

*Fair belle's Exotic Prawn Cocktail
Fresh Prawns with Ocean Sauce Served with warm Granary Bread*

*Bob Cratchet's Homemade Cream of Vegetable Soup
Served with a Knotted Roll and Butter*

Mr Trumbles Freshly Made Pate with Melba Toast

*The Ghost of Christmas Present's Smoked Salmon
served with Garlic & Dill Sauce & a Salad Garnish*

Main Course

*Fred Cratchet's Home Grown Prime Cut of Roast Beef
Served with Yorkshire Pudding*

*Jacob Marley's Traditional Roast Turkey
served with House Stuffing, Chipolata Sausage Wrapped in Bacon*

*Fresh Fillet of Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce
Caught by the Ghost of Christmas Past*

Jack Trumbles Homemade Vegetable Joint Roast

*All the above Dishes are Served with Goodly Variety of Fresh local
Vegetables and Oven Roast Potatoes*

Desserts

*Mr Trumbles Homemade Chocolate Log Served with Fresh Cream
Mrs Fizzwig's Hot Steaming Christmas Pudding Served with Brandy
Sauce*

Ebenezer's Sherry Trifle (Find the Sherry)

To Finish

Tiny Tim's Mince Pies Served with Double Cream

Fresh Filter Coffee or Tea Served with Mints

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Rukba

Rukba, The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association, is a charity providing life-long financial help and friendship to older people in need to enable them to live independent lives with dignity and peace of mind.

We provide security for life in the form of a small, regular, extra income. We also issue grants for repairs and equipment to increase independence, and we can provide clothing and bed linen.

Many older people face their troubles all alone. Therefore Rukba has a network of 1,000 volunteer visitors who offer friendship and support. Most of our beneficiaries have never needed help before so all assistance is given with the utmost discretion and sensitivity.

Rukba publishes a free guide for the over 60's entitled 60-Wise. It contains lots of useful contact details and telephone numbers for organisations that can help with matters such as finding help at home and staying safe and secure. Please call for your free copy on Lo-call rate 08357 585680.

If you know someone we may be able to help, please contact Rukba's local representative Annis Windemer on 01797 226508.

FLICKS IN THE VILLAGE: THE FILM CLUB OF PETT

Firstly, let me give you some good news. Having been repeatedly asked, I can confirm that **Calendar Girls** will be coming to Pett. However, you will need to be a little patient because it will not be available for our use until January / February 2004. Therefore our target date will be 5th February and we will, if agreeable to the local WI's and others, have a special afternoon performance. So keep a space clear in your diaries for this date and drop everything! Come and see the film that everyone is talking about.

Our 6th November film was chosen by our audience and will be "**Last Orders**" which stars Michael Caine, Tom Courtenay, Bob Hoskins, David Hemmings, Helen Mirren and Ray Winstone. The film is set in Peckham, South London. Jack, a butcher, has recently died of cancer, leaving instructions that his ashes should be scattered off Margate Pier. Three of his oldest friends and drinking companions, Ray, Lenny and Vic, plus Jack's son Vince, meet at their local pub to carry out his wishes. Jack's widow, Amy, doesn't join them; she has an errand of her own to attend to. During the day's drive to the sea, memories and associations crowd in on each of them, reflections on love and fate and death in richly layered profusion.

Do not forget, if you wish to join Flicks or require any further information or wish to help with the work of the Society, please contact me on 813047 or e-mail pettbus@btinternet.com. Alternatively, collect a membership form from Phil at the Butchers Shop, Pett Road.

Chris Saint

"PICK OF THE PAST":

From 40 years ago – November 1963.

There were 33 advertisements in the magazine in those far off days, some from Hastings, some from Ore, but mostly from Pett. Listed below are the names of some of the advertisers:

Barden & Sons Ltd. – Building Contractors, Decorators and Funeral Directors.
F.T. Gibbs – Lawn Mowers and shears ground and repaired – Home Cottage, Pett.
R. Whiteman – Butcher and Poulterer – Pett Road.
E.L. Morris – The Royal Oak Temperance Inn, Pett.
A.G. Thomas – The Post Office, Pett – High Class Stationery, Knitting Wools, Household Lines.
F.E. Hann – The New Stores, Pett Road – Grocer, Tobacconist, Confectioner
Pett Garage & Plant Hire – Proprietor: James Goodsell.
W. Digby – Groceries and Provisions – we deliver free
E. Goldsmith – The Market, Pett Level.
Edna M. Banger – Teacher of Pianoforte Playing, Mathay Method – The Hundreds, Chick Hill.
E.C. Aldred and Son for New Laid Eggs and Vegetables – High Elms, Pett.

And two items from the Magazine:

PETT PLAYERS autumn production will be an amusing comedy by Peter Coke called 'Fools Paradise'. Peter Coke was the writer of 'Breath of Spring' which we put on last year and which our audience seemed to enjoy very much. 'Fools Paradise' has many amusing situations and some ridiculous characters so we hope to see you 'in front' again having a light-hearted evening.
G.A.B.

W.I. PRESS REPORT: Pett at their October meeting were delighted to welcome Miss Maconchie and her very able accompanist in a charming rendering of 'The Beggar's Opera' and were heartily thanked by Mrs Dray. The Secretary, Mrs Lovejoy, gave the date of the Guestling Group meeting – Oct. 24th, the Half Yearly Council Meeting in Brighton. The Winter Fair is to be held in Pett Village Hall on Nov.28th at 6.45. The Secretary then announced that Pett had won 'The Chambers Garden Trophy' in Hastings for the fourth time, and great praise is due to Mrs Lovejoy in her ingenuity and artistic arrangements; also Miss Taylor and other members who helped in various ways. The competition Five Chrysanthemums with any foliage, resulted: 1st Mrs Webb, 2nd Mrs Woodhouse, 3rd Mrs Day. It was judged by Mrs Michael Jackson.
K.B.S.

An item from the November 1967 magazine:

PETT VILLAGE HALL FILM SHOWS: Those who braved the torrential rain on Thursday October 12th enjoyed a most entertaining evening. The films included 'Culinary Art of Japan', 'Cruising Holiday' being a description of life at sea on a short cruise on the liner 'Empress of Britain', and 'Project Bluebird' showing the preparation for Donald Campbell's Land Speed Record which he achieved on 17th July 1964. The next show is on November 9th at 7.30pm when newcomers will be made very welcome.

(Social life in Pett was really 'humming' in the 'Swinging Sixties'! J.T.)

John Taylor

NATURE NOTES

A large family of moorhens was chugging busily along the ditch, and I was standing still watching them. Out of the corner of my eye I saw something fall out of the sky and hit the ground about five yards away. Slowly turning my head I found myself face to face with a kestrel. For a long moment, we regarded each other thoughtfully, then he was gone, lifting effortlessly into his own element with a fieldmouse for his breakfast.

Kestrels are our commonest birds of prey and there are plenty to be seen locally. If you see a bird of prey hovering, it will be a kestrel. They eat mainly small rodents, but also insects, frogs and some small birds. The other common raptors, sparrowhawks, eat mostly small birds and hunt by flying very fast and low along hedges and through open woodland. They do not hover. So, as a general rule of thumb, if it's hunting vertically it's a kestrel, and if it's hunting horizontally it's a sparrowhawk. There are, of course, many other differences of shape and plumage if you are lucky enough to get a close-up view of one.

Sparrowhawks will sometimes target garden bird-feeders and while it is distressing to see your blackbird or robin carried off, it's worth remembering that hawks will only kill to eat – unlike foxes, cats and humans.

I was pleased to have a report of two kingfishers on the canal at Pett Level. I remember once seeing one in a particularly muddy drainage ditch and thinking how incongruous it looked – like a jewelled brooch on a dirty T-shirt.

Our winter visitors will be soon be back. Fieldfares and redwings, which are members of the thrush family, can be attracted to your garden by leaving windfall apples on the lawn. Don't bother to put out shop-bought apples as the stuff they spray on them, prevents them from rotting properly. (Goodness knows what it does to the innards of those people who eat the skins.) Uncontaminated apples from your own tree will rot down slowly and ferment gently, providing a feast for all sorts of wild creatures, some of whom can get quite tipsy as a result.

Keep a lookout for blackcaps, which now overwinter regularly in England – a plus point for global warming. Only the males have black caps, the females having rich chestnut brown heads. On farmland you can still see large mixed flocks of tits and finches feeding along the hedges and watercourses.

November, originally the ninth month, has a lot of detractors, but personally I enjoy the mysterious misty mornings and the way the fog rolls up from the marsh across the fields. There are still nine hours of daylight, and we often get some lovely bright, cold weather. November is also the traditional time for bonfires. Do make sure there are no hedgehogs asleep underneath the heap before you set fire to it. It's a better idea to start the fire elsewhere and add the heap to it a little at a time. Avril Thurley

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PETT SUNDAY CRICKET

Sunday 14th September at Pett: Pett 206-4 declared.

Hurst Green 179

Pett won by 27 runs

For Pett, Gary Osborn hit 93 (6 sixes and 11 fours) and added 113 for the third wicket with Andrew Dunlop who batted through the innings for 42 not out. Robin Mayes contributed 34 and Peter Harris 24. Hurst Green wickets fell steadily to the bowling of Gary Willis (5-32) and Robin Mayes (4-37), and Pett ran out winners with four overs to spare. It was pleasing to see Matthew Sams's name back on the team sheet after a gap of nearly 3 years when he was playing cricket in both Sri Lanka and Devon.

Sunday 21st September at Newenden: Newenden 243-9 declared. Pett 189

Pett lost by 54 runs.

Pett lost their final match of the season, but at least had the consolation of a lovely late September afternoon on an attractive ground, and didn't disgrace themselves. 7 of the Newenden wickets were taken by schoolboys. For Pett Chris Fletcher made 57, Gary Willis 39, Peter Harris 29, John Fitton 17 not out, Dean Daniel 15 and Andrew Dunlop 12.

Pett Sunday Cricket results for the season:

Played 19. Won 7. Drawn 4. Abandoned 1.

A very creditable performance.

A T C Dunlop

SNIPPETS FROM THE WAR - or how we defeated Adolph

1941 - Millie Denny (Millie Cloke as she then was) decided that it was time that some of the good ladies of the village should knit comforts for the forces, especially those serving from the village, and if Millie decided something should be done even Hitler might tremble.

In due course, in the middle of an Egyptian summer when it was really very hot, I duly received my parcel - a pair of thick knitted woollen gloves. I hope my letter of thanks was duly appreciative!

A T C Dunlop

LUNSFORD FARM DIARY

Extracts from my grandfather's diary for October 1907.

Friday 4th – Carter greased carts etc, took wagon wheel to Barden's. Took spiles (stakes) to Pett Barn Field, got home cartload of turnips. Got troughs to Spring Meadow and put about three loads of dung to Eastlands. Joe cleaned out and whitewashed oast. Fred chopped wood and trimming up in garden and hedge. Will Cooke and self shifting sheep. Mr Cox and Dennis off.

Saturday 5th – Carter ploughing Pett Barn Field. Joe & Dennis cutting round hedges. Fred finishing off potato pits (clamps). Mr Cox spudding thistles on Tool. Self put 120 home bred lambs on fold.

Monday 7th – Will Cooke got up hurdles from Upper Chick Hill, and dung carting to Eastlands. Got calf from Wadman – red bull. Fred cutting rubbish, etc. in garden and making up track round pond.

Tuesday 15th – Carter finished small side Pett Barn Field. Will Cooke & Joe harrowed up rubbish in Acre Spot and got rubbish to yard. Afternoon picked up load of brakes. Dennis & Fred mowing brakes. (The grass around the edges of the field was the brake – this was cut and carted for use as bedding in the yards.)

Monday 21st – Joe & Dennis & Fred lumping brakes. Carter, Will Cooke, boy & self drilling wheat in Pett Barn Field.

Tuesday 22nd – Dennis & Joe mowing litter. Fred drilling and scouring out furrows. Carter, Will Cooke & self finished drilling Pett Barn Field small side. Used exactly 4 sacks of Square Heads Master (A variety of wheat.) After late dinner started to drill winter oats.

Thursday 24th – Carter ploughing Budds, self sowed, Carter harrowed up. Fred & Dennis litter mowing. Joe & Will Cooke dung carting. Self put 4 young 1-lamb ewes, 44 ewe tegs & Quested ram to Lower Ground. Put 48 ewes and Regden ram in Ellasfield, and 20 ewes & Arthur Finnes ram in Cliff. Left 19 barren ewes in Cloke's Marsh.

Friday 25th – Carter ploughing Budds. Self sowed, and finished harrowing in driving rain & wet through. Mr Cox garden. Fred, Dennis, Will Cooke & Joe getting up brakes from Housefield. Self got 10 ewes from Toot round to Cliff & helping with brakes. Got 63 lambs off Hopgarden.

Saturday 26th – Carter finished ploughing potato grounds in Budds. Self sowed, harrowed in & finished in good time. Mr Cox scoured out furrows. Fred, Dennis, Joe & Will getting up brakes from Housefield & Ellas Brook. Self to Hastings.

Monday 28th – Carter Acre Spot, self sowed up. Fred, Dennis & Mr Cox ditch mowing. Will & Joe dung carting. Self got up sheep for Smith. Got up Christmas sheep. (These would be for the Christmas falstock show at Rye.)

In a note at the end of the diary, grandfather writes "October very wet, rain every day without exception, and November almost as bad.

Andrew R Dunlop



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Cllr. Mrs. J. Barnes	Windy Ways, Pett Road Pett, E. Sussex TN35 4HH	Finance Committee
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Mrs J. Eldridge (Clerk)	5 Brede Close, St Leonards on Sea, E. Sussex TN37 7QT joeldridge@freenet.co.uk pettpc@freenet.co.uk Tel/fax: 01424 850982	

MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Name	Telephone No.	Responsibility
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Derek Johnson	814829	Hall Manager
Tim Jury	813620	Committee Member
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Ray Barden	812551	Committee Member
Phil Button	814175	Committee Member