Thursday, November 1st.

Weather: fine to middling.
Bit of a breeze got up round half three, blew Mrs Dubai's false teeth into the canal, but otherwise calm. Derek invited me for a game of scrabble. I turned him down. Applied to the patents office for that pig blackmailing system I'm working on.
Hope to hear back soon.

Toast and duckmeat for dinner again.

Monday, November 5th.

Gut cleansing day today: green or black tea only. Caused a bit of a stir - mixed the two.

Played the clown a bit, ate a used teabag. Mavis did that snorting laugh (part-inspiration for the blackmail system).
Think I'm getting somewhere with her.
Weather dramatic early on, rain~~boughs~~ bows and hailstones. Albert drove his mobility chair into a horse. Claimed it was an accident.

Tuesday, November 13th.

Derek spent the afternoon playing twister with Mavis. Overheard one of the nurses calling it 'grotesque'. He'll pay for that.

Buttered fishcakes for lunch, beef stock dinner. Received Netto coupons in the post. No sign of anything from patents office. Thought I spotted snow today, turned out to be Jamal emptying the skin troughs from the roof. Reckons it's therapeutic

Sunday, November 18th.

Annie's family came to visit. I caught her grandson's ankle with my walking stick, was told to leave the dayroom. Spent rest of the day on the rocking horse in recreation. No-one came near. Cheered up a bit in evening - Eat-What-You-Catch-BBQ. I bagged a blackbird, and was about six inches from a squirrel. Derek pulled in the crowds with his rabbit pit, but there was no yield. I gave him a beak.

Steady rain throughout.

Monbday, November 19th.

Letter from Patent's office this morning: confirmed that 'no such system currently exists'. Have to send cheque for £42.50 to cover admin costs, then they'll go ahead with next stage. Need to raise funds fast.

Rain unabated, puddle starting to form in the yard. Sold my shoes to Jamal for a fiver (but kept the laces). Lunch was jelly and a choice of meat. I sold it back to the kitchen for a pound.

Wednesday, November 20th.

Lost to Derek at chess. Thought we were playing checkers.

Lunch: selection of crackers, then monthly nurses v residents rugby.
Match abandoned at 25-12 after Abdul and Barbara's rivalry ended badly. Barbara literally taken away in two pieces.

Steak tartare for dinner.

If anything rain getting heavier. Sold shoelaces to Jamal. Mavis produced 20 pound note in eve, asked me to entertain her. Did 45 minute medley on timpani. No encore.

Sunday, November 24th.

Woke up this morning to find nurses station washed away in night. Jamal's the only one left. Looks uneasy. Had to raid fridges for food, gorged on salmon and marmite. Abdul's chequebook washed up this afternoon, I forged his signature and got letter off to the patents' by last post.

Derek proposed to Mavis just before countdown, but he couldn't find the ring. There's still hope.

Friday, November 29th.

No sign of rain easing up. All roads cut ~~(14 trotters)~~ off for last three days.

Geoff, Lorna and I spent the morning emptying petrol cans to make ballast for a raft. We're down to dry stores for food now. We tried a 'lunch lottery'. I got a jar of English mustard and some fruit cocktail, others weren't so lucky.

If all goes well we'll take the raft out tomorrow, bring back supplies. Took six of us to put a stop to Annie's wailing today.

Saturday, November 30th.

Good news! Raft made it to town, brought back a shipment of crossword puzzles, enough rice to get us through the winter and the last few weeks' mail. Patent Office had written to confirm pending status for pig blackmail system. See no reason not to give Patent No. 191155/23 a go before weekend's out.

Some residents built a fire in dayroom, roasted onions for dinner.

Danced with Mavis, got green-eyes from Derek.

Tuesday, December 3rd.

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Thursday December 5th.

Tinned supplies running low. Counted four leaks in roof this morning. Hardly notice the rain any more. System needs some work. I'm still trapped in the sty, with no prospect of escape, but thank god the pigs are the only witnesses.

Feel certain they won't squeal. Unlikely I'll see Derek or Mavis again.

Boiled rice and a pear for supper.