

PETTISTREE HERITAGE REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

The last year has certainly been a historical one, and one we shall remember forever. Notwithstanding this the parish of Pettistree with Loudham hasn't stood still, with some notable activities and events being marked, albeit not in the usual social way.

As soon as the first inkling of a national Covid-19 lockdown became apparent local residents stepped up and offered their help, and the Pettistree with Loudham Support Network was formed. It successfully made contact with every household through a leaflet drop and also via the village email and a newly formed WhatsApp group. Prescription deliveries and essential food collections ensured everyone was able to cope with the enforced isolation. Humorous texts, supportive messages and beautiful photographs on the WhatsApp group kept people in touch with the outside world. The support continues, though mostly through neighbourly connections established, which exemplifies Pettistree's wonderful community spirit. Our lanes and footpaths saw a rapid increase in footfall as local families sought to escape the confines of their homes to take their daily exercise, and this continues.

2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII and Pettistree decked its houses and gardens with patriotic flags and bunting for VE Day in May, with residents holding their own garden parties and being serenaded along the streets with our own pipes and drums tributes. A more reflective atmosphere was apparent for VJ Day in August, again with a piping tribute, with a remembrance service taking place in the churchyard. Both occasions were beautifully recorded in Pettistree People with photographs and articles contributed by residents.

Pettistree People provides an excellent heritage record of our village events, people and places and I would urge everyone to contribute when they can, be it welcoming new residents, recording a life event or photographing our natural environment. Copies of each edition are lodged with Suffolk Record Office in the Pettistree Collection. The online version is even read in the USA, the readers contributing their own article on their appreciation of our village newsletter, via the Heritage Group, due to their ancestral connection with the village.

Cath Caudwell, Chairman, Pettistree Heritage Trust