

# Pettistree People

Issue 1

February 1996



## Quarterly NewsSheet for Pettistree and Loudham

Price 50p to Non-residents of Pettistree & Loudham.

Published by Pettistree Parish Council

## Winter Edition

Editor - Tony Franklin 746585

### What's it all about ?

This is the first edition of the **Pettistree People**, a newspaper written and published by Pettistree people for Pettistree people. It is envisaged that this NewsSheet will be published quarterly and that it will help keep the people of Pettistree and Loudham better informed about what is going on in the Village.

If you would like to contribute a piece of news, information or even a feature article, then please send it to the Editor, Tony Franklin at Scott's Hall, or **746585**.

As this is our first edition please let us know what you think of the idea of a NewsSheet for Pettistree.

### Why have a NewsSheet?

### What's it all about?

### Let us know what you think.

The Parish Council has agreed to fund the publication of this NewsSheet for a one year trial period. A budget of £150 (less than £2 per household) has been voted towards the cost of publication. It is hoped that the rest of the money needed to publish the NewsSheet will be found from grants that can be obtained from other funding bodies.

### Parish Council Column

There has been a spate of vandalism in the Village during the summer - speed limit signs, road signs and footpath posts have been damaged or removed, and just recently the Jubilee seat and the windows in the Village Hall have been smashed three times. This sort of behaviour can lead to accidents and is a considerable nuisance to us all as well as costing time and money to make repairs.

Please be vigilant and report anything you see that might be suspicious - you call either Ned Hogg or Mike Sayer our Neighbourhood Watchers (see **746585** on the back page) or the Police on **999**, and don't forget the Crimeline Information on **01473 613617**

From time to time a large crane has appeared at the Water Tower. What's going on? - mobile communication antenna are being erected. Cellnet has had planning permission to put new aerials up since 1990 and it was hoped that they were doing this to improve reception in our area - but alas no, it's Orange who are at work.

Thank goodness that the water tower has not been painted orange - what do think of the water tower's new pastel colours?

### Vandals in the Village

### Keep a look out for the culprits

### The Water Tower Do like its new colours?

**First Edition - February 1996**

# Village Hall News

## B-B-Q very well attended

## VJ Day remembered

## Over £600 raised games facilities purchased

## 100 Club The Winners

## Carpet Bowls Thriving

## Social Evening

## Good-bye and Hello at the Greyhound

## Bellringers tribute

## Welcome to Pettistree

The Annual B-B-Q held in Pettistree Park on August 27th, 1995 was a most enjoyable occasion. Over 200 people sat down to an excellent meal prepared by the Village Hall Committee and many friends. Sponsored keyboard music came from Rita Smith. During the event the 50th Anniversary of the Victory in Japan was remembered with a 2 minutes silence. Alan Hunter and Maggie Hallett organised a variety of sports to follow, echoing the type that would have been held in 1945. It was a most memorable occasion, and thanks are due to everybody who helped and contributed in so very many ways to this most enjoyable event.



The profits, some £635.35, will go towards re-surfacing the Village Hall car park. A mat has been purchased for Carpet Bowls. The piano has been paid for, and Col & Mrs P Maxwell have kindly given the Hall a table tennis top.

September 1995	1st. Alan Hunter,	2nd M Gaffney,	3rd J Hallett.
October 1995	1st Mrs Whiting,	2nd Mr Kay,	3rd Mrs Maxwell
November 1995	1st. Wendy Swain,	2nd. Val Pizzey,	3rd. Mrs Gascoigne
December 1995	1st M Hallett,	2nd.M Garner,	3rd.M Kerridge

The carpet bowls evenings which are held on every other Thursday evening are proving to be very popular. They say that practice makes perfect and that is certainly proving to be true amongst the regular bowls players. Why not come along - have some fun and enjoy some good company. Unfortunately the Derby Night scheduled for Friday 26th January had to be called off due to the snowy weather conditions.

The social evening held in November proved to be a popular event with over 60 people attending. The theme of the evening was the '50s and among the attractions of the evening there were songs and music of the era from a group of players from the Eels Foot at Eastbridge and Fred Russell playing the bagpipes.

## End of an Era the Start of a New

"The end of an era" may be a cliché, but it is an appropriate phrase for the evening of Wednesday 27 September in *The Greyhound Inn*. This is where the Pettistree's bellringers and regular visitors have congregated every Wednesday evening after ringing practice since the bells were restored in 1986, and undoubtedly by many ringers in days of old. The welcome received by the ringers from Dave and Jean Billings, has been as warm as the log fire in winter. "We have enjoyed Dave's caustic wit and have appreciated the regular donation that has found its way into the Pettistree Bell Fund tin."

Dave and Jean have been so supportive of the ringers and before they departed a peal was arranged and rung for them. A speedy calligrapher was found to record the peal, and a local picture framer managed to frame the script in record time. The resultant peal board was presented to them on their last evening, after ringing practice, with the best wishes of the Pettistree ringers and friends for a long and happy retirement.

### Message from the Greyhound

As the new Landlord and Landlady of the Greyhound we should like to thank the Pettistree Villagers for their warm welcome since we took over the Pub in September. We have noticed that Pettistree has already won the Best Kept Village award on two occasions and we should like to do our best to maintain the standards of the Village. We should also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

Bill & Jackie Woolven  
December 1995

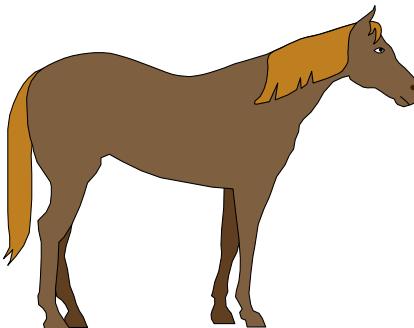
Welcome to the new tenants of the Greyhound, Bill and Jackie Woolven.

## People and Social Events in the Village

## *Vintage Ploughing Day*

In October, Suffolk Horses from the village took part in a Vintage Ploughing Day which was held by the kind permission of Jack and Bill Kemball at Wantisden Hall Farm.

Both Jo Arbon and Jeff Hallett took their horses to the event and Jo ploughed on Saturday and Sunday with his gelding Pioneer and his 4 year old mare Pettistree Anabelle who was born in the village. Jo, who has only recently taken up ploughing, got his pair of horses going well and received congratulations from many of the people who attended the event. It must be noted however, that Jo also received rather more assistance than would have been available the ploughmen of the past!!



Many village people will have seen Jeff and Maggie Hallett leading their horse Cherry and dragging an old tyre around the village over the last year - at long last Maggie has persuaded Jeff to let her ride Cherry rather than walk. As you will have realised Jeff and Maggie have been breaking Cherry to working in shafts so they could go to Wantisden to demonstrate harrowing (in not a very straight line) and to draw Tony Hayward's tumbrel which has been beautifully restored by Jo Arbon.

The Ploughing Day was a great success and the Kemballs are intending to organise a similar charity event during 1996. This will be a great opportunity to see horses at work, some magnificently restored farm machinery including a pair of steam ploughing engines, and hopefully, Roger Chilvers, Pettistree's master thatcher, will attend again with his threshing machine powered by a vintage engine.

**Ploughing in days gone by**

## **Breaking in Cherry**

**Ploughing Day in 1996**

## *Christmas Celebrations*

The two main services held in the Church over Christmas holiday weekend were the Carol Service on Christmas Eve and Holy Communion on Christmas Day. The Carol Service, as usual, was very well attended by people of all ages. This traditional service included some of the well known lessons and carols which were sung with the usual gusto. Of the lesson read, one especially will be remembered by the congregation; the Birth of Jesus, St Luke Ch2, which was read by Timothy Stanford. Timothy, who is only 5 years old, read this lesson with a fluency and clarity which would do credit to any adult.

Following the service the congregation adjourned to the Church Room at the invitation of the PCC. Here coffee, mulled wine and mince-pies were consumed. This was a very happy gathering which has become a traditional Christmas social event at which the church bell can just be heard above a buzz of convivial conversation.

On Christmas Day, Holy Communion was celebrated and a sermon suitable for all ages was received appropriately by the congregation. This service has been taking place in our Village for over 600 years.

**Carol Service on Christmas Eve**

**Christmas Day Holy Communion**

## *Out and About*

**Where has all the water gone?**

**Will it ever be the same again ??**

**.....a feature by**

**Mick & Kathy Hilton....**

**Was our pond dying**

**Expert Opinion**

## **Presmere Pond Clearance**

We had for some time, been concerned about the lack of plant life in the pond; even the Water Lilies that we had planted when we first moved into Sunnyside had died, all that was left were the empty baskets. Now, even though we are confessed townies, we were pretty sure that this should not have happened. Other ponds had of plenty of plant life as well as frogs, toads, newts, the odd water boatman, diving beetles and one or two other creatures we knew nothing about.

When we bought the Sunnyside from Mr Page he could not tell us how deep the pond was. So determined to solve this mystery we ventured out onto the pond in our small dinghy. To our great surprise we found the pond was nowhere deeper than a foot and on average its depth was no more than six inches (sorry for using imperial units).

It seemed to us that we had a very shallow pond in which plants did not want to grow - what was to be done?

Clearly, what we needed was *Expert* advice, so we contacted the Suffolk Wild Life Association, and a few days later a man from the Association arrived to offer us the advice we were seeking. He looked around, scratched his head, and with a sharp intake of breath said "Well....." - to cut a long story short, our Pond was dying and in his opinion within three or four years we would be left with a muddy hole "*....the only action open to you is to remove the silt.*" As we had spent many an hour sitting by the Pond enjoying the antics of the ducks, watching the fish and Dragon Flies; it did not take us long to decide we would

rather have a living pond than a holiday for the next couple of years. However, we had heard of people loosing their ponds by digging through the clay linings and this was the only thing that caused us to hesitate. "*Don't worry*" said Gerald our Contractor, "*I've not lost a pond in 22 years*". Assured by this confidence and after getting over the shock of the cost we said.....



**"lets do it....."**

## **Presmere Pond - brought back from the brink**

## *... a conservation story*

The day came for Gerald to start the work and in truth neither of us really knew what to expect. Certainly not a JCB and two Dumper Trucks, nor the mess in the road; if it had not been for Mr Hayward allowing us to use his field opposite to dump the sludge, we would not have attempted the project.



It took over a day to pump the water out and we rescued over a hundred fair size carp, a few tench, one perch, two eels both over three foot in length, but not one rudd even though we had seen large shoals of them in the early summer. It took a further ten days to dig out an estimated one million (yes 1,000,000!!) gallons of silt. As you would expect many items of interest were retrieved by the contractors as they carted the silt out of the pond. We sifted through the silt ourselves to find glass and clay bottles, one old third of a pint school milk bottle, a glass oil lamp, Eiffel Tower Lemonade bottles, a Talbot and Co. marble stopper mineral water bottle, and what we believe to be Maw and Co. babies feeding bottle, not to mention countless Camp Coffee bottles. We also found kitchen utensils, a long handled frying pan, four different size horse shoes, a Hay Fork, a Pitch Fork and two Sickles. Many of these items we cleaned and polished and now adorn our refurbished kitchen.

By the time the job was done the pond was not one foot deep, but twenty! -it now shelves gently to about four feet in depth then plunges to its deepest point which we believe formed the shape of the original and which dated back to before 1804.

It is now some months since we finished clearing out our pond and it is slowly filling up and does not appear to be leaking. Not surprisingly, we are hoping for a wet winter so that we can get on with the job of restocking it with fish and plants -- then we can once again sit on the banks of our pond and enjoy it together with the everyone else in the Village - for we could not let it die!!!!

**Kathy and Mick Hilton**

*Editors Note : Since Kathy & Mick wrote this article the pond has filled up with water - with some help from Anglian Water it is suspected.*

**What a mess it made**

**....a museum in the mud.....**

### **An Historical Note**

*(This is a précis of Joan Peck's historical research which is yet to be completed - if you have any more historical information (or corrections) please contact Joan Peck.)*

#### **Presmere Pond**

The name Presmere can be traced as the common meer or land assigned to the priest.

The earliest reference to Presmere Pond is dated 1804 when it was called Prestmere Pond. The area around the pond is thought to have been part of the Manor of Byng. In 1897 Adolphus Major Darling of Tonbridge in Kent, James Darling of Eyke Rectory were admitted tenants of the manor of Byng. In 1920 Potash Cottages, Potash Field and Presmere Pond were sold to George Friend the tenant of the Potash Cottage. In the 1930s the pond was known as Green Pond but its soon reverted to Presmere Pond. At that time Potash Cottages were demolished and rebuilt in their present form. By 1935 George Friend and his wife Anna had died and the land including the pond was sold to John Lawn of Green Farm. He sold it to Richard Hayward in 1946 who in 1964 sold the pond to Robert Scoggins the then owner of Sunnyside for £100. The pond has been part of Sunnyside ever since.

**....for we could not let it die...**

**.....it will live again**

## **Local History Recording**



### **Bell Reading !!**

**Can you help  
solve this puzzle ?**

### **Editorial Viewpoint**

### **Community Spirit**

### **Letters to the Editor Welcome**

## **Historical Notes**

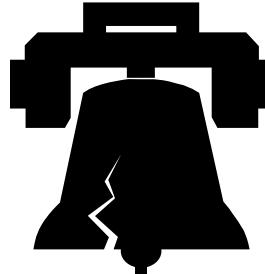
The job of a Local History Recorder might be described as putting together in one place as much material and information as possible that would normally be scattered. Information both from the past and the present. **HOW CAN YOU HELP !!**

- Please keep your knowledge of the village, snippets of information and photographs coming in. These can be copied and returned.
- If you are taking a photograph of anything or anybody please take an 'extra one for the record'.

A photograph of you and your family will no doubt be of interest in fifty years time and even more so in 2095!

***Please let Joan Peck know about any historical record  
you may have about Pettistree***

## **Bellringers Puzzle**



At the Pettistree Heritage weekend, we asked if anyone could translate the inscription "Me Alaman te Iheru Maneat Bethleem Sine Lecu", found on one of the bells. Since then, via the Internet, we have received this translation from North Carolina State University. "May the brilliant light of He from Bethlehem shine forever on my region of Alaman to your region of Iheru". Has anyone else any ideas? The technological revolution seems to have reached Pettistree, but other attempts may be written on paper and delivered by hand if you wish!

### **Comment**

*Like many other rural communities, Pettistree sometimes struggles to maintain its community spirit.*

*We are a Village without a shop, often a focal point of the community. Our Church congregation only has few faithful Village people in its numbers. You will not find many Village people in either of our two pubs in the evenings. Do we keep ourselves too much to ourselves?*

*Yes and No. Our past record in the Best Kept Village competition show that we can pull together. The Village Hall has been rejuvenated through the enthusiastic effort of Village people. For our size, we do extraordinarily well each year in the Inter-Village Sports tournament.*

*"Promising - could do better" - it would probably say on our school report. What do you think - how about writing to the Pettistree People with your point of view.*

*On rather a different note - a number of residents have expressed some concern over the plans of Wickham Market Parish Council to introduce traffic calming measures which will restrict traffic flow at the entrance to Wickham Market near the Post Office. Restricting traffic in this way could result in local traffic avoiding any hold-ups by coming through Pettistree. Do we make our concerns known to our neighbours, or shall we hope that all will be well.*

***...tell us what you think***

# **Obituary - Geoffrey Morgan - 1916 - 1995**

Writing, sailing and conservation have been life long passions of Geoffrey Morgan. From the age of eight while on a family holiday he first experienced sailing, and he has been close to the estuaries of East Anglia ever since.

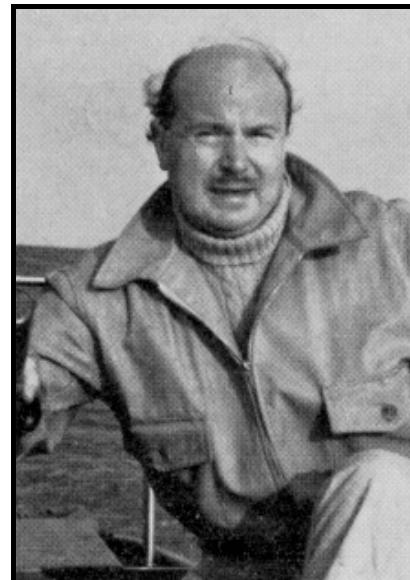
Born in Essex in 1916, Geoffrey came to live in Pettistree with his wife Ann in 1981. He has been a prolific writer since the age of 15, when he wrote his first novella, alas never to be published. At that time he had just started his first job working for a small, and financially precarious news agency in Fleet Street.

That first job lasted as long as the news agency did, but soon he was back in journalism with an East End newspaper. Here in the heart of docklands Geoffrey learnt his trade as a journalist and, unknowingly, absorbed the culture and the folk law of the area which was to form the basis of many of the books he was yet to write.

The first book to be published would be very far away from this world, it was a mystery story set in an atmosphere of boats and espionage. During this period Geoffrey wrote many short stories which accumulated many rejection slips but a few welcome acceptances. It was at this time that his career in broadcasting began when he joined a small radio production company which supplied programmes to Radio Luxembourg. This was a new experience and an exciting time which was to come to an end with the outbreak of war in 1939.

It was during the war that his first book was written and published while Geoffrey was with the RAF in Ireland.

**A tribute to a well known Pettistree resident**



*Geoffrey Morgan 1916 - 1995*

At the end of the war Geoffrey returned to journalism and became a part-time PR consultant building up his free-lance writing connections before making the break to become a full time writer. Now he was free to write his short stories, radio serials, and books - thrillers, children's stories and non-fiction. Despite this prodigious output he did not make very much more than the publishers advances. Then came the break; in the late 1950s an idea for a different kind of book began to germinate which drew upon his experiences in the East End in the

1930s. These thoughts resulted in the publication of *Tea With Mr Timothy* which was about the relationship between a very special cat and young boy growing into a man in war-time London. This book, which sold very well in America, was probably the most successful Geoffrey wrote and has recently re-published.

Following on from this success, in the late '60s came the trilogy, *A Small Piece of Paradise*, *A Touch of Magic*, and *A Window of Sky*. Five more books are to be re-published in large print in the New Year.

If you have ever had the pleasure of meeting Geoffrey Morgan you will know that it was his disarming charm that made him so popular with all of those people who got to know him. Perhaps it was this ability to get on with people which brought him together with Wieslaw Lasocki, a Polish Army Officer, to tell the true story of *Soldier Bear* a legendary mascot of the 22nd Polish Corp during the war. This story is true and makes fascinating reading.

Conservation of the riverside and shoreline was a passion which perhaps prompted the writing of *Summer of the Seal* and *Flip - The Story of a Seal*; for seals fascinated him and you will find many books about seals on Geoffrey's bookshelves. Geoffrey's last book, *East Anglia - Its Tideways and Byways*, reflected his love of the countryside in which he lived, his human touch, his belonging to East Anglia.

**Writer  
Journalist  
Broadcaster  
Sailor  
Conservationist**



**"I belong here" could perhaps be a fitting epitaph for Geoffrey Morgan**

# Facts Sheet

## Parish Council Membership:

Joan Peck (Chairman)	The Den
Jeff Hallett (Vice Chairman)	746814 The Laurels
Tony Franklin	746585 Scott's Hall
Maureen Stollery	746653 1 Presmere Rd
Sharon Hunter	Penmaen
Nigel Holland	746344 Gelham Hall
Neal Arbon	737784 Merton Farm Barn
Ann Sayer (Clerk)	01394 460639 4 Hungarian Close

The Parish Council meet at least four times a year in the Church Room; watch the Parish Notice Board for the dates.

## Neighbourhood Watch

Ned Hogg	746210
Mike Sayer	01394 460639 4 Hungarian Close

For Crimeline Information, **01473 613617**. Current crime update available after 5pm on Tuesdays. Please give it a call to find out what is happening in your area.

## Useful People to Contact

Vicar	Graham Bell	746314
Bellringers	Mary Garner	746097
Church Wardens	Ned Hogg	746210
	Maggie Hallett	746814
Local History Recorder	Joan Peck	
The Greyhound Inn	Bill & Jacki Woolven	
The Three Tuns	Terry & Merry Foubister	
Wickham Market	Health Centre	747101
Post Office	Wickham Market	746201
Police	Woodbridge	01473 613550



**Joan Peck**

*Joan Peck has lived in the Village for nearly 24 years. She was Headteacher at Wickham Market Primary School from 1970 to 1983. In 1988 Joan became a Parish Councillor and is now the Council's Chairman. Joan is also the Local History Recorder for the Village as well as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.*

## Calendar

Carpet Bowls every second Thursday from 4th January (7.30pm in the Village Hall)

Church Services 1st Sunday of the month Evensong at 6.30pm  
Morning Prayer at 9.30am on all other Sundays in the month.

WI Meetings Every third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Village Hall

29th February Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm in The Church Room

17th March Mothering Sunday

22nd March Beetledrive - Village Hall - 7.30pm

7th April Easter Day

11 May - Inter-Parish Sports Tournament - Contact Mike Manning on 747321 or Alan Hunter on 747430 if you would like to take part this year (entries need to be made before the end of March).

## Regular Dates

**Next Issue - April 1996 - send in your news now, dont leave it too late**