

Pettistree People

Issue 10
An Occasional NewsSheet for Pettistree and Loudham Residents

October 1998



Pettistree People Re-launched

Pettistree People has not been published since March due to difficulties in getting it compiled and produced.

To overcome these problems Pettistree People will now be published occasionally rather than quarterly in this new style double sided two page format.

What does "published occasionally" mean? It means that Pettistree People will be published when we have enough news to fill two pages.

Parish Council News

Bobby on the Beat

At the last two meetings the Parish Council were host to two visitors, firstly PC 1049 Robbie Abraham and Special Constable Robert Wardley who have taken up the posts of Area Beat Officer and Assistant respectively. They cover the area of Wickham Market, Pettistree, Rendlesham and Campsea Ashe; it is their aim to provide a presence and sense of continuity. The results so far are good.

New District Councillor

Our newly elected District Councillor George Franks attended the May Council Meeting. He was elected in March to replace Ned Cavendish who has retired from local politics.

Mr Franks agreed to keep the Council informed about the recently submitted planning application for change of use of the former RAF Bentwaters to a civil aviation airport.

The Village Sign

The renovated Village Sign is now back in place and looking very beautiful. The insurance value has been increased with the valuation given by the originators and restorers H Moore and associates.

Litter Pick

A successful litter pick was undertaken on April 26th, many thanks to those who came, especially the younger residents.

Nab Watch

David Home resigned as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator for the 'The Street' and surrounding areas, but fortunately Dave Caudwell has volunteered to take over. Thanks Dave!

Clerk's Notes

The Clerk has burned the midnight oil preparing the accounts for Triennial Audit. The turn out for the Annual Parish Meeting of nineteen people (including the speakers) was pleasing but we hope to see more of you next year. A special thank you to all those who attended.

Church News

Since the end of February we have been without a vicar in Pettistree and this has meant those of us involved with the church having to readjust and do more of the administration of the parish. This has reinforced my belief in how solid the church is, both the building and the faith which it represents. In Pettistree church we have mediaeval window glass, small pieces only admittedly have survived but think about the numbers and diversity of the people who have looked at the glass over 600 years. Some of the bells were cast in the 1400's, again large numbers of ringers over the centuries must have been involved with them. The same building has survived all sorts of changes both clerical and political, and we mean it to continue to survive into the next century and beyond. Lack of a clergyman at present is unfortunate and sometimes irritating, but does not affect the future of the church.

What is happening.

Meetings have taken place with the Archdeacon and the Bishop of Dunwich (senior diocesan officers who have particular responsibility for new appointments) and the Parochial Church Councils (local management teams). It has been stressed that they intend to find a new vicar for us as soon as possible, and two representatives from each parish have been chosen who will interview all candidates. The process does take time, and anyone who has attended services at both churches in the benefice realises that to take on the leadership of the two parishes requires special skills. The Church of England does have a well tried system for finding clergy but like any job it is extremely important to find the right person. We need someone who will be committed not just to the church congregations but to the community as a whole.

We are not standing still.

The church is still going, the bells ring regularly, services are being held in the same way and at the same times. There may be slight changes as we are dependent on visiting clergy who have commitments elsewhere, but the monthly calendar on the outside notice board should be up to date. We have had already some extremely good preachers and are planning more.

Obviously we all look forward to the appointment of a new vicar and do realise that it is worrying for those in the village who care for the church. I hope they will be reassured that the needs of Pettistree have been well presented to the Bishop. In the meantime the Churchwardens, Jeff Hallett and Mike Perkins are the officers in charge and will advise anyone in the village who needs their help. Generally the simplest way to contact Maggie Hallett on (01728 746210) but if she is not around any member of the PCC will be pleased to help. We are well provided for in this area with clergy who have willingly offered their services for anyone requesting trained help. Of course if you need to discuss any of the special services that are part of our role as a parish church (baptism, marriage and funerals) get in touch and we will do all we can to assist your

**Wanted - A new Parish Clerk
Interested - Call Ann Sayer
Tele - 01394 460639**

Roamwood Cottage to Townlands

Edwin & Janet Shadforth have lived in Townlands for the last seventeen years – Janet writes about their house, its history and environment.

We brought Roamwood Cottage from Mr and Mrs Longstaffe in 1981; we moved in that Summer. As a number of Pettistree residents will know, Mr Longstaffe bought Roamwood Cottage as a derelict building site which provided the opportunity to build a cottage style dwelling which was to be sympathetic to the immediate surroundings. Whilst it would be ingenious to suggest that the current property is a replica of the original two cottages, features such as dormer windows and a pantile roof do reflect the style that existed in the past.

We were attracted to this site for two reasons, first, because it is secluded, but not isolated as described in older documents: clearly increased mobility linked to modern transport has changed perceptions of accessibility. The second reason being the challenge of a plot of land far larger than we had owned before.

When we first moved in the vegetation was rampant and all the plants were well over our heads, to the point where to venture into the undergrowth meant we disappeared from sight!. We inherited two footpaths but it was evident that there had been no keen walkers claiming their rights to roam. This is no longer the case as there is now free access and we have transient visitors crossing the meadow, with a significant increase following the publication of a recent article in the East Anglian defining a local walk.

Seventeen years ago we had a marsh, today this is less obvious, climatic change has altered the water table; although we do have areas fed by underground springs. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust have designated the site as one of special scientific interest and approximately seventy plant species were recorded by a member of that organisation in 1989. At that time the Wildlife Sites Advisor indicated we enjoyed an important marshy grassland site, at a time when wildflower meadows and wet meadows are scarce and declining. Apparently grasslands are the most sensitive to changes in management, and Edwin endeavours to maintain the existing habitat through a planned annual programme. This includes allowing such plants as Lady Smock and Ragged Robin to seed before the grass is mown with a traditional scythe, while nettles are scythed much earlier in the season to prevent them taking over and shading the rarer wild flowers.

In 1956 the cottages had no services, lighting and ironing was by Tilley lamp and water was drawn from a well. Within ten years the property was a shell. There can be no comparison drawn between the experience of life in that cottage and our modern facilities. The common experience is one of living close to the land and enjoying the changing seasons.

According to a personal memories written by Anne Smith and other records supplied by Joan Peck, the original building included a pair of cottages situated in 7.7 acres known as Townlands, comprised of numerous allotments to the North of the cottages. What our modern house has in common with the tenement cottages is the lovely view over a water meadow towards Byng Brook within a gentle valley. This is the feature which attracted us in 1981, and we became the first occupants after the house was completed. The land now associated with the house is to the South and West and amounts to approximately 4.5 acres. We wished to maintain some continuity with the past, and felt the name "Roamwood Cottage" did not do this for us. So, with no apparent bureaucracy involved we made the change from Roamwood Cottage to "Townlands" hoping that in a small way we have maintained a link with the past.

Forthcoming Events

Quiz Night 27th November

Bon Fire Party - Home Farm 5th Nov 6pm

Remembrance Service - 8th Nov 9.30am

Pettistree on the Web

For those readers who are on the Internet have a look at

<http://www.bluecats.demon.co.uk/peettistree/>

For a broader view of Suffolk see

<http://www.suffolk.org.uk/>

Anyone who like to receive their copy of Pettistree

People by Email please contact Joan Peck on

joan.peck3@virgin.net

New People in the Village

Pettistree People extends a warm welcome to three new families in residence in the Village.

The Ayris Family

Duncan and Jenny Ayris have recently moved to the Clock House from north of Debenham. They have two children-Anna(15) who is very keen on hockey and Jamie(14) plays a lot of golf and cricket.

The Ballance Family

John and Jill Ballance spent over a year looking for their ideal home before they moved to The Rosery. This spring they have three children Chris, Tim and Sam all attending Wickham Primary School. They have an assortment of animals.

The Signy Family

Adam and Clare Signy and their three children Oliver(12), Hannah(10), and Guy(8) moved to the village in July. Horses play a large part in their leisure activities and all the family ride. They are delighted with Pettistree and the warm and friendly welcome they have had.

Village Poppy Collection

Anne and Mike Sayer and Joan Peck and Jacki Franklin will be selling poppies around the village commencing October 24th

Parish Council Membership

Joan Peck (Chairman)		The Den
Jeff Hallett (Vice Chairman)	746210	The Laurels
Tony Franklin	746585	Scott's Hall
Maureen Stollery	746653	1 Presmere Rd
Sharon Cripps		
Nigel Holland	746344	Gelham Hall, Wickham Market
Neil Arbon	746809	
Ann Sayer (Clerk)	01394 460639	4 Hungarian Close

County & District Councillors

Mr Peter Monk, County Councillor 01394 411373
or Mobile 0850 843055

Mr George Franks, District Councillor

Neighbourhood Watch

Dave Caudwell	747170	Rogues Cottage
Mike Sayer	01394 460639	4 Hungarian Close

For CrimeLine Information, 01473 613617. Current crime update available after 5pm on Tuesdays. Call this number to find out what is happening in your area. The Parish Police Officer can be contacted at Woodbridge Police Station on 01473 613500.

Useful People to Contact

Bellringers	Mary Garner	746097
Church Wardens	Mike Perkins	01394 460284
	Jeff Hallett	746210
Village Hall Booking Sec	Jacki Franklin	746585
Local History Recorder	Joan Peck	
The Greyhound Inn	Bill & Jacki Woolven	746451
The Three Tuns	Terry & Merry Foubister	746244
Wickham Market	Health Centre	747101
Post Office	Wickham Market	746201