

Pettistree People

Issue 18

June 2002



Pettistree Parish Council

Pettistree Parish Council Update.

This is a busy time of year for the Parish Council, as certain meetings have to be held now by law. We have an ordinary council meeting and then the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council. At the AGM the Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of our planning sub-committee are elected by the Council. These meetings are then followed by the Annual Parish Meeting, which is open to everyone in the village. It is one of the best chances to ensure the Parish Council is aware of any matters that are of concern to villagers.

This year we have had more upheaval than usual. The new regulations have come into force compelling the Council to adopt the new Code of Conduct. This deals with the introduction of the process whereby councillors have to sign a declaration of office and also to register their 'interests' by preparing a list of their business and property interests in the Parish. They must also list various organisations to which they belong such as unions and charities. Councillors have always declared an interest at the time a matter is discussed if they have any personal or business involvement in it, but this system is much more public and is seen by some as an intrusion on privacy. It certainly produces a lot of extra work for Councillors and Parish Clerks.

We had no choice but to adopt the new Code of Conduct and comply with it at our meeting on 30th April. It was at this meeting that we learned with considerable regret that Miss Joan Peck had resigned from the Parish Council after fourteen years as a councillor, including six years as chairman until 2002. Joan has been a calm and very effective member and chairman. She saw many improvements in the facilities of the village during her time such as the introduction of mains drainage and the establishment of the Village Hall. Newcomers may not have realised just what important events these have been. Joan will continue to be closely involved with village life and still provides an enormous contribution by her work as Village Archivist, collecting information about events as they happen and also researching all she can about village life in the past. (She will have an exhibition of selected items from the archive at the Jubilee Tea party on Sun. 2nd June.)

At the Parish Council AGM on 14th May Jeff Hallett was re-elected for the next 12 months as Chairman and Maureen Stollery as Vice Chairman. Both are very happy to be contacted about any concerns of villagers. Maureen provides the vital daytime link in the village when Jeff has to be away at work.

The Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May will help the Parish Council to decide where to target their efforts over the next 12 months and how to respond to suggestions from villagers, or policies handed down from County and District Councils. All other Council meetings are also open to the public. Although visitors cannot formally join in those discussions we can usually arrange a brief adjournment so that we can listen to any strongly held views or suggestions.

Finally, we now have a vacancy in the Parish Council following the resignation of Joan Peck. Anyone interested in joining the Council should contact the Parish Clerk or any member of the Parish Council to find out how to go about it.

Jeff Hallett, Chairman of Pettistree Parish Council.

Parish Councillors

Jeff Hallett Chairman The Laurels	Tel No 746210
Maureen Stollery Vice Chairman 1 Presmere Road	746653
Tony Franklin Scott's Hall	746585
Kath Hilton Sunnyside	746492
Nigel Holland Gelham Hall	746344
Mike Manning Jasmine House	747321

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Pettistree Parish Council

April/May is usually a busy time for parish councils and 2002 was no exception. At the end of April the Parish Council adopted the new Code of Conduct for Councillors introduced by the Government. The new Code replaces the existing National Code of Local Government Conduct and lays down clear guidelines for the conduct of councillors.

It was with much regret that the Parish Council accepted the resignation of Joan Peck whose commitment and work for the Council over the years was much appreciated and whose presence would be greatly missed. This leaves a vacancy of the council which is currently being advertised. Anyone who may be interested in the position or would like more information should contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council are pursuing the provision of a bus shelter opposite the Three Tuns PH. Funding has become available through Suffolk County Council who will be looking at the suitability of the site in the near future. Plans are also underway to replace the directional sign on the village green with a more traditional sign suited to the conservation area.

The second meeting held was the Annual Parish Council Meeting at which Jeff Hallett was re-elected as Chairman for a second year with the support of Maureen Stollery as Vice Chairman. The Planning Group were re-elected; Mike Manning, Maureen Stollery and Kath Hilton and the new Village Hall representative is Mike Manning, taking over from Joan Peck.

And so to the last meeting of the month – the Annual Parish Meeting. There was a good turnout from the village for the meeting which was chaired by Jeff Hallett as Chairman of the Parish Council. Reports were received from PC Abraham – Parish Liaison Officer, George Franks – District Councillor, Wilma Smith – Chairman of Governors at Wickham Market CP School, Mike Manning – Village Hall, Joan Peck – Village History Recorder, Jeff Hallett - PCC and Mike Manning on Community Action Plans. There were several issues raised at the meeting including better signage for Pettistree on the Wickham Market-Ufford road, vehicle turning around the village green, litter, Village of the Year Competition and hedge cutting. These will be taken up at the next Parish Council meeting to be held on 1 October 2002.

There was a great deal of interest in the parish undertaking a Community Action Plan or Parish Plan as it is sometimes called. A date is being set in July for Louise Wilby from Suffolk ACRE to give a presentation at a public meeting. More news about this will be available shortly.

Heather Heelis, Parish Clerk

**1 The Walnuts, Ufford, Suffolk, IP13 6DQ
Tel: 01394 461191 or e-mail: heather.heelis@virgin.net**

Robbie the Bobbie's Bit

We have had a couple of disturbing incidents in the village recently starting with a burglary at a dwelling. Several items of value were taken but the worst thing is the feeling that is left with the occupiers. It does take a very long time to get over a crime such as this. I therefore urge you all to be extra careful about locking your property, making sure that all valuables are hidden away or even better left somewhere secure, and security marking as much as you can. Your Neighbourhood Watch coordinators will be more than willing to give advice and even help if asked. I know I always go on about being vigilant but even more so now. Look out for strange vehicles and record numbers, look out for strangers on foot and write down their description, look out for callers and check their identification. It is all in the interest of the village. Pettistree has a unique community spirit but we all need to work to keep it that way.



We also had some stones damaged in the churchyard. I can report that this was one of several similar incidents and the matter has been cleared up. This was carried out by a young person from out of the village who is suffering ill health and he is receiving suitable treatment at this time. There will be no prosecution but under the circumstances I do not believe anyone in the village would want legal action as it could have been any one of our children suffering under the intense pressures of today's society. I do feel sorry for the relatives who have suffered the damage and will willingly talk to them if requested.

Robbie Abraham

From "The Greyhound"



Hello to all in Pettistree

I'm not sure where to start, Maureen Stollery asked me to write a short piece for Pettistree People to introduce myself and my family. Well my name is Sally Ann Hemmings and I am the licensee of "The Greyhound". My husband's name is Ray and we have three children, Jonathan fourteen and a half, Timothy eleven and a half and Lucy eight. We're not exactly new to the village and most of you will have probably met us at some stage. We have been here since August last year. It all came about as Ray had a hip replacement at the beginning of August and at that time we had been market traders for some years selling fruit and vegetables. With Ray's new hip we realised that the work we had been doing he would no longer be able to do. One day we were talking to a friend of ours and said we might try the pub trade again as Ray was a publican before for some years. Then out of the blue "The Greyhound" came up. We came, we looked and we liked, so here we are!

The two younger children attend Wickham Market Primary School and have settled in well with lots of new friends. Jonathan goes to Thomas Mills High School and also enjoys his new school. They all help around the pub and enjoy living in the countryside.

We have put a lot of hard work and effort into "The Greyhound" and have turned it back to a typical country pub. We like to offer our friends and customers a warm welcome and friendly atmosphere and good home cooked food. Ray does all the cooking and I run the bar and waitress. We have a Bar Billiards Table, Live Music occasionally and Folk Musicians once a fortnight.

Everyone we have met so far has given us a warm welcome to the village of Pettistree, so come and see us at "The Greyhound" and we will always return the compliment.

Hope to see you at the pub.

Sally and Ray

The Churchyard

Pettistree Churchyard.

Sadly some of the gravestones in Pettistree churchyard were vandalised in April, along with several other local village churchyards. Luckily no serious damage was done to any of the memorials but several were dislodged and suffered some chipping. Thanks to PC Abraham the perpetrator was quickly apprehended and is receiving psychiatric help.

Unfortunately since gravestones remain the property of the family concerned the Church is unable to make any claim against insurance. Masters, the monumental masons in Woodbridge, have provided an estimate for repair and restoration of the damaged stones of almost £450. Masters have been asked to carry out the work on behalf of the Parochial Church Council as soon as possible.

The PCC do not make any charge for upkeep of the churchyard and the routine work is mainly done by volunteers, so we do not have a contingency fund for this kind of episode. Any contributions towards the restoration will be much appreciated. Donations from taxpayers can be increased as we are able to reclaim the tax paid on the donations. If you would like to take advantage of this please complete the front of the envelope available from the church or from Maggie Hallett Tel No 01728746210

Churchyard Wall

Anyone walking up Walnuts Lane towards the Village Hall in the past six months will have been concerned to see the damage to the Churchyard wall. This has now been repaired by local craftsman Stephen Walker and everyone is delighted by the high standard of the work. Luckily the weather was fairly kind while the work was in progress and Stephen managed to complete it in good time.

Computer Club

The group has gone from strength to strength !
We have been able to provide participants with the opportunity to explore and develop their individual computer skills.
We've been taking part in the Suffolk Achievement Award Scheme.
This has involved members setting themselves an independent skills challenge.
These have ranged from completing CV's to scanning and repairing photographs for compilation of a family tree.
We are about to receive laptop computers for the group to use
and hope to expand the usage of our digital camera.

We will update you in the next issue.

Claire

Carpet Bowls Club

Another year gone by and the carpet bowls team goes from strength to strength!?

Well, we play to a reasonable standard and enjoy competing against adjoining villages Dallinghoo and Ufford. In the early days we had a definite advantage when playing other teams in our village hall. The floor slopes downhill from the entrance to the kitchen and certain floor boards have a distinct groove along their length.

Alas! Our regular competitors have now got the hang of our quirky floor and we have lost the home advantage.

Last month we hosted a game with the Pathway Club from Woodbridge - at least they haven't yet worked out the slope; we might not be so lucky next time.

Regardless of the outcome when playing other teams, we always enjoy each other's company. It is a good, sociable event with a touch of true grit and determination.

Anyone wishing to play can contact me. We are about to stop for the summer but will start up again in the autumn.

Mike Manning 01728 747321

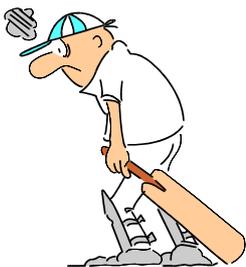
Cricket Club News

The 2002 cricket season is with us and Pettistree C.C. have not got off to a very good start. The first away games have resulted in losses to Nomads and to Worlingworth II. Hopefully with the warmer weather it will become easier to get a team together and put some better results on the board.

The buttercups are making a good show and the cows are keeping the outfield in good manurial shape. All will change come June when it will all be knocked into shape for the first home game against Martlesham on June 29th the next home game not being until 20th July when we play Waldringfield.

If there are any cricketers out there (age is not a problem), who are interested in playing please phone Graham Maeers on 01394 672595

Dick Smith



Village Hall

Since the March edition two social events have taken place. The first was the Beetle Drive which, although poorly attended, was an extremely enjoyable and convivial occasion. The 14 who attended also enjoyed an excellent bangers and mash supper supplied by The Greyhound. For the record the winner was Sheila Manning with a magnificent 597 points.

The Pub Games evening held recently was so well attended (over 60) that we began to wonder if people were ever going to stop coming through the door! This event was extremely well marshalled and refereed by Mike Manning. Behaviour was excellent and no yellow or red cards were needed.



Adrenalin and passion was the order of the day, with every match keenly contested (even when the Caudwells were thrashed by the Signys 29 – 3 on the table football!). The winners were The Pettistree Poopers (Signys).

On Saturday 5th October the Village Hall will host a cinema extravaganza when the East Anglian Film Archive will provide film footage from the past. We have not tried this before but it has always been very successful and interesting when it has been put on in Wickham Market.

Dave Caudwell
Chairman, Pettistree Village Hall Management Committee

The 100 Club

Winners

	1st	2nd	3rd
March	Mark Welton	Alan Whitfield	Eric Dowker
April	John Argenti	Carol Speedman	Jeff Hallett

If you read your last issue of Pettistree People you will remember that Alan remarked on the fact that he had never won anything. You can now see that you never know your luck. If you are not a member why not join now at the beginning of a new year, in this case May. The prize money depends on the number of members so the more there are the more you win.

Phone Maureen on 746653,
or Jacki on 746585,
or Alan on 746794 and say
“I’d like to pay”!

New Vicar

A new vicar has been appointed for the Pettistree and Wickham Market Benefice. John and Julia Eldridge will be moving into the vicarage in July with their young daughter. John will be licensed by Bishop Richard in early September when the family return from a previously organised holiday in August. Both John and Julia have East Suffolk connections and are looking forward to becoming part of the community.

He will be a Priest -in-Charge and is being licensed on Sept 6th 2002 at Wickham Market

Corny Corner!

It is interesting to read about the recruitment within the police service. I am led to believe that foreign applicants have been considered and a cannibal has applied. His reason for joining is that he wants to grill the suspects.

Robbie the Bobbie

Achievements

Michael Hunter

Michael had good results in his GSCE examinations, achieving 4 B grades and 6 C grades and will be leaving home to join the Navy to train as an apprentice artificer (apprentice engineer) at the end of May. He will be doing 14 weeks basic training at Torpoint East Cornwall, then go on to one of the bases in either Portsmouth or Plymouth to continue his apprenticeship and hopefully specialise in weapons engineering.

George Smith

George Smith was awarded a BSc in Anatomy and Cell Biology at Sheffield University in 1996 and then spent a year in Australia working and playing Rugby for Perth University and Western Australia. He returned to Sheffield and gained an MSc in Sports Science and Medicine in 1998.

He was then accepted at Dundee University to study medicine and is currently in his final year. He was recently presented with the Player of the Year Trophy by Dundee High School Former Pupils Rugby Club, many Scottish Internationals and British Lions being former recipients of the award.

George has had a very successful rugby season. He captained the Caledonia Reds development side to win the Scottish District Championship and was subsequently selected to Captain the full senior side. He played for Scottish Universities and captained the Dundee High School FP's XV as well as his own University team.

All being well George will graduate this summer and start work as a Junior House Officer on August 7th, his 27th birthday, at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.

Stop Press: George has become a doctor

Joe Arbon

At the Woodbridge Horse Show, now held on the Suffolk Show ground, Joe Arbon and Marshland Pioneer, one of his three Suffolk Punch Horses, did very well coming home with cups and rosettes.

Joe also took his tumbrel which has an interesting history. It was made by Page and Girling a well known Melton firm, pre 1930, and owned by Fred Smith, bailiff to Captain Wigan of Loudham Hall and owner of Suffolk Seeds Stores, a well known Woodbridge firm in Church Street.

There were six entries in the afternoon class and Pioneer performed extremely well doing different and difficult manoeuvres with the cart such as backing, not an easy thing for horses to do. Joe was pulled in first against the mixed opposition of a road waggon, a game cart, and an ex Lacon's Brewery dray.

The reward was the B.T. Exact Technologies Perpetual Challenge Cup.

Joe and Pioneer (of course) also won the Mowson Cup for Best Working Horse Turnout. This large cup was given by the late Fred and Ernie Mowson of Wickham Market and probably holds about a gallon. (Of what, Joe?)

Joe will be attending the Suffolk Show on both days, June 6th and 7th with his old implements which he has been doing up over the last eleven to twelve years.

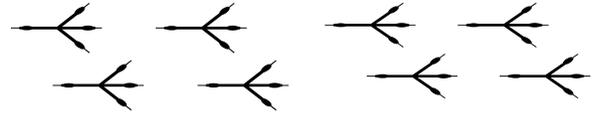
Never one to sit still, he and Vera Ecclestone are in partnership as owners of a new horse. He is two year old Tollemache Bertie who is being prepared for future successes.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of them in the future—Ed

Golden Jubilee Celebrations

A report on the Golden Jubilee Celebrations will appear in the September issue of Pettistree People.

Nature Notes



Early March was notable for increased bird song particularly Song Thrushes, my personal choice as the herald of Spring. We were lucky to have a pair resident in the garden this year and at the end of the month I located the nest containing four eggs. I was thrilled as Song Thrushes have declined alarmingly in recent years. What concerned me was that there were only brief sightings of the birds and my fears were confirmed during the next week; the nest had been deserted. We have many successful blackbird nests every year so to have our only song thrush nest fail was very disappointing.

Mid-March the pond was home to several clumps of frog spawn and strings of toad spawn and although a pair of ducks which insist on calling regularly broke up the egg masses, at the time of writing we have a healthy population of tadpoles. All they have to do now is avoid being consumed by the goldfish.

A neighbour asked me how to identify a weasel from a stoat. A weasel is 8-10 inches long including 2 inches of tail, the upper body reddish-brown and underparts pure white. The legs are very short. A stoat is about 14 inches long of which 4 inches is tail. The underparts are yellowish-white and the upper body more brown than red. The easiest way to tell them apart is the stoat has a black tip to the tail which remains even in winter, when during hard weather, the animal turns completely white, which is known as being 'in ermine'.

On our way to Snape recently a stoat crossed the road ahead of us, this was my first sighting for a long while whereas a weasel is a regular visitor to our garden.

April this year has been a warm month for us although parts of the country have not been so fortunate. Butterflies seen in the garden were Comma, Peacock, Tortoiseshell and Large White during the first few days of April and Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, and Orange Tip towards the month's end. To equal last year's number of twelve species we look forward to visits from Ringlet, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Brimstone and Red Admiral during the Summer.

One of the nest boxes, occupied by the Blue Tits, was attacked by a woodpecker, with disastrous results, however the second family in another box on the north side of the house are still on course for success.



A pheasant is sitting on thirteen eggs against the front of the house. She did have sixteen but was disturbed by something. I frightened a magpie in the vicinity early one morning and have since suspended a pullover on a coathanger in the window above the nest to act a scarecrow, so far so good.

The always welcome sound of turtle doves has been heard recently and many whitethroats are singing in the Christmas tree field behind the house.

I found a female sparrowhawk dead in the garden on April 8th but today, May 17th another female sparrowhawk tried to attack a chaffinch's nest within four feet of the kitchen window. Luckily for the chaffinch I was at the kitchen sink and was able to scare off the attacker this time, it shows how quickly a vacant territory can be filled and that these predators are now quite common, more so than the House Sparrow.

On April 24th a blackbird was seen splashing about in the pond and I assumed he was having a bath. Seconds later he was on the lawn with what looked like a silvery object at his feet. Fearing for the life of a small fish I raced to the spot only to find a fat newt was the intended meal. The newt seemed unharmed and once placed in the water dived for cover to the bottom.

How extraordinary, a blackbird who thinks he's a kingfisher!

A beautiful large water beetle was found on May 12th under black polythene in the vegetable garden. It was only after I had placed it in the pond that I thought about the consequences of this action on our tadpoles... oops!



Can I close by asking all those reading these notes to ensure a regular clean water supply is provided in your garden, situated at ground level, to help all birds and animals through any hot, dry weather ahead.

Mike Sayer

Useful Numbers

County & District Councillors

Mr Peter Monk, County Councillor 01394 411373

Mr George Franks, District Councillor 01394 4112 06

Neighbourhood Watch

Dave Caudwell 747170 Rogues Cottage
Mike Sayer 01394 460 639 4 Hungarian Close

For Crimeline Information, 01473 613611. 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 Gamer 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	Ray & Sally Hemmings 746451
The Three Tuns	John & Brenda Pallett 746244
Wickham Market	Health Centre 747101 Post Office 746201

Stop Press

On May 21st a large luxury coach was parked outside the church. The party on board was from America. Many of them were veterans of World War II and had been stationed at Snetterton during the war. They were 'over' here for the dedication of the Memorial recently erected in memory of their comrades. Why visit Pettistree after such places as Sandringham, Gt Yarmouth, Southwold and London? One of their number had visited the village web-site and discovered the local connection with the Jeaffreson family. [The third President of the United States (1801-1809) is descended from Samuel Jeaffreson baptised in Pettistree in 1607.]

After lunching at the "Three Tuns" they visited the church and were delighted to find a Jeaffreson grave near the door.

Maggie Hallett gave them a guided tour showing the medieval glass in the window, the old medieval benches and the registers dating back to 1813 and still in use, while one of the visitors played the organ saying she had 'never played anything so old before'.

Mary Garner gave a demonstration on bell ringing while Ned Hogg manfully mowed the grass and showed them the little Millennium Yew tree, explaining that yew trees were traditionally grown in churchyards to provide the wood for bows and arrows.

Their generosity on leaving was much appreciated
History Recorder

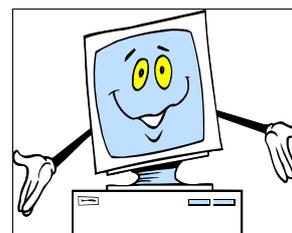


Computer Club

Want to have fun learning to use computers in a friendly relaxed atmosphere???

Then come along and join our group, you'll be very welcome.

You can choose a Tuesday morning or afternoon session at
Pettistree Village Hall
Are you interested ???
Then contact Claire, Tel:01728 604011
at The Willows,
Station Approach, Saxmundham IP17 1BW



And the course is all free