

Pettistree People

Issue 21

March 2003



Parish Councillors

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Parish Council Report

The Parish Council welcomed their newest councillor, Nicholas Beagley, at their last meeting held in December. The new notice board is being made and will be replaced next to the Greyhound PH soon. The Parish Council are also looking forward to the arrival of the new bus shelter which will be sited opposite the Three Tunns PH. The hard standing has already been laid and the fully enclosed shelter should be installed by the end of March by Suffolk County Council at the request of the Parish Council.

A separate article is included in the Pettistree People about the forthcoming elections on 1 May 2003. Please feel free to contact the Clerk on 01394 461191 for any further information. Also being held on 1st May are the District Councillor elections and it is with much regret that George Franks, our current councillor, will not be standing. We would therefore like to express our sincere thanks to Mr Franks for all he has done for the parish during his term and his support on many issues that the Parish Council has raised over the years.

The Parish Council has offered their support to the Computer Club which provides a valuable service within the community and hope it will continue to do so when they secure funding from the Countryside Agency.

The Budget for 2003/04 was discussed and it was agreed that after several years of no increase that the precept should be set at £1,900, an increase of £400.

Finally, the directional sign on the village green has been replaced by a sign which is more in keeping with the character of the village. This was carried out through partnership funding between the Parish Council and County Council.

The date of the next meetings are:

4th March - Parish Council Meeting

13th May - Annual Parish Council Meeting

22nd May - Annual Parish Meeting

Heather Heelis

Clerk to the Council Tel: 01394 461191

A PARISH PLAN FOR PETTISTREE & LOUDHAM

An open meeting was held in the Village Hall last November to explain the benefits to the Village of developing a Parish Plan for our community. Louise Wilby from Suffolk Acre gave a presentation and answered questions from the 25 people who attended. A display of Parish Plans undertaken by other villages was also on show.

At the end of the meeting those attending agreed that we should proceed and eight people have agreed to form a Steering Group. The Steering Group will shortly be getting together to decide how best to undertake this work. High on our agenda will be to consider how we make sure that the needs of all groups are considered, including the young, the not-so-young, and the businesses in the Village, etc.

There is still time to get involved and join the Steering Group whether or not you were able to attend the meeting last November. Just contact me and I can bring you up to date.

Mike Manning
Parish Councillor
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mikemanning@pettistree.freeserve.co.uk

February 2003

The New Signpost

Last May Parish Councillors met with a Highways Representative on the Green to discuss a new signpost to replace the post which had been badly vandalised in September 2001. Whilst the new post is very appropriate, someone, in their wisdom, decided that the scenic routes to villages were more attractive than the direct ones. The P C Reps asked for the following arms. Westwards to Dallinghoo and Bredfield. Northwards to Charsfield and Easton, and Eastwards to Wickham Market and Woodbridge. However, providing any stranger to the area has an adequate map they should be able to reach their destination successfully.

Poppy Appeal November 2002

Congratulations and a big thank you are due to the residents of Pettistree and Loudham for their very generous donations to the Poppy Appeal last November. The collection totalled t179.10, which for a very small number of dwellings is an outstanding achievement. Thank you again

Kath Hilton, Maureen Stollery, Mike and Ann Sayer.

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS



YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

The first of May will be an important turning point for the future of local councils after a year of so much publicity about possible reorganisation of local government, quality parish status, codes of conduct etc. It is vital that plenty of people are willing to stand for election as well as turn out and vote. This will demonstrate that there is such a strong desire to participate in local government at the grass roots and extend the roles which parishes and small towns already play in improving local communities.

The Suffolk Association of Local Councils is urging everyone to make every effort to encourage both existing members to stand again and new ones to come on board with contested elections if appropriate. The measure of local interest in the well-being of small communities is often shown by high voting figures rather than campaigns for more local powers so:

PLAY YOUR PART

STAND FOR ELECTION

MAKE SURE YOU VOTE ON 1ST MAY

From Suffolk Association Local Councils

Pettistree Heritage 2000 Trust

The A.G.M. of the Pettistree Heritage 2000 Trust will be held on Tuesday May 20th at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Room. Everyone Welcome

Robbie the Bobbie's Bit

The parish of Pettistree remains relatively crime free with a couple of minor thefts. However, we must not be complacent and really must do everything that we can to protect ourselves and our properties. I must stress again that your neighbourhood watch coordinators will be able to advise and obtain help for you. If there are any senior citizens in the village, we do now operate a scheme offering help with crime reduction advice and action.



By the time you read this I will be working at Framlingham as the community police officer. It was a huge decision for me to leave you as I had started to feel a part of the furniture. This was brought home to me when I heard a couple of teenagers talking about something slightly illegal. On seeing me they paused very briefly, only for one of them to say "It's alright, it's only Robbie" I did not know whether to take that as a compliment that I had integrated in to the community and the uniform did not form a barrier or that I was totally ineffective and they did not think me capable of doing anything about it. I will believe the former and live with my dream.

Pc 1046 Flatt has taken over my duties and I am sure many of you will be seeing him soon at Parish Council meetings or just wandering in the village. I do thank all of you nice people for making me feel very welcome for the past 5 years or so.

Robbie Abraham

Cricket Club News

The cricket club enjoyed its annual dinner in the Greyhound on Saturday evening, 8th Feb. The evening went very well, with over 20 members and guests present, sharing a genuine feeling of optimism for the coming season.

It was particularly encouraging to see so many young people showing an interest in playing cricket.

Awards were presented to the following players for their achievement during last season:

- a) Young Player of the Year: Justin Barker.
- b) Batsman of the Year: Simon Ross.
- c) Bowler of the Year: Tim Johnson.
- d) Players choice of Player of the Year: Barney Smith.

Particular mention was also made of David Thurkettle, who although playing in only 3 matches still managed to average over 80 runs; and Andy Barker who played in all the games and whose bowling was very tight and economical. Congratulations to them all.

Thanks was given to David Coates for captaining the side in this last year, and best wishes to Barney Smith who has taken on the captaincy for the coming season.

Pettistree Cricket Club is always looking for new members of any age; if anyone is interested in playing please contact me on 746708.

Dick Smith

Village Hall

Little & Good

The Village Hall Management Committee has run the Village Hall, for just over 10 years. Changes had to be made to update the Hall to comply with new Regulations set by the District and Fire Authorities. A small extension was added providing new toilets and facilities for people with disabilities, together with the refurbishment of the kitchen. Since these initial changes the Management Committee have worked hard fund-raising to continue to upgrade the hall, new curtains, additional chairs and tables have been purchased. Over the years the hall has provided many social events for the community, has been booked for numerous private parties and, a regular venue for the computer club, carpet bowls, cricket etc. The Management Committee wishes to continue the progression and feel that the time is right to seek planning permission to provide a small extension to the front of the hall for a safer way to store all the equipment, leaving the main hall free from tables and chairs stacked around the walls. Plans have been drawn and a planning application will be made to the District Council within the next few weeks. If the application is successful it is hoped that grants can be secured from the District Council and/or the Lottery Commission to help fund the cost of the extension. The Village Hall has a healthy bank balance at the moment, part of which will be used to help fund the project. Additional funds will be needed and the Committee will continue to organise fund-raising events throughout the year. It is hoped that you will continue to support the events arranged, so that the Village Hall can be improved but remain Little & Good.

Events arranged so far:

Pub Games	16 May 03
BBQ and Games	13 July 03
Film Archive	20 September 03
Quiz Night	21 November 03

Sheila Manning (Secretary to Pettistree Village Hall Management Committee)

Round Robin Event

The Pettistree New Year's Eve Round Robin Event proved to be a fun evening. Of course it wasn't going to be everybody's choice of a way to spend New Years Eve 2003 - going from one house to another for each different course of the meal, and not knowing where you would be going, who you would meet, or who you would be entertaining in your own home, until you reached the first venue, but that was all part of the fun.

Twenty two people celebrated the evening in this fashion, and as two of the couples had 'late arrival' visitors, these were able to be accommodated as well - even with the offer of the visitors borrowing a house to become hosts for their course of the meal.

Dick and I thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We had very warm welcomes at our venues, and enjoyed meeting up with all the participants at the Greyhound to see the New Year in together, singing Aulde Lang Syne under the sound of the church bells.

I was delighted to receive so many letters afterwards from people who had also enjoyed the celebrations, expressing their thanks for the organisation; and was heartened by the fact that many expressed a wish to do the same thing again.

I'd like to say thank you to all who took part, for making it a really enjoyable evening.

Our Trip To America In 2002

It seems a long time ago as we cope with the January cold but we were lucky enough to spend a few days last September in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

A Suffolk Horse breeder in this country imported a Suffolk stallion from America last year and gave us the name of a breeder to visit there. The difficulty was making contact as they are an Amish family and do not have a telephone.

We landed in Philadelphia and spent a day (in the pouring rain) visiting tourist sites, there was very strict security to see where the Independence Charter was signed and the Liberty Bell (Pettistree bells are superior to the Liberty bell as it is a pretty scruffy example and cracked as well!) The next day we hired a car and drove the 100 miles to Lancaster. It took a lot longer than I had hoped and we only managed because the car was fitted with a compass! We had forgotten the American habit of signing a turn just after you should have taken it and renumbering roads without any warning!

Pennsylvania is where a large number of those groups who had been subjected to religious persecution settled after escaping from Europe including the Amish. Over the years several different types of have developed and these are referred to either by the area they live or by their degree of tolerance. The Amish of Lancaster county are 'Old Order' they do not drive cars or tractors, have telephones or electricity in their homes, and their children are excused formal education over the age of 14. They generally work at farming or carpentry but it is becoming more difficult in the current economic climate for them to find enough employment locally.

We were trying to make contact with the Levi Zook's family and this was made even more difficult by a house renumbering scheme. There were a large number of letter boxes with the name Zook but as the Amish have a limited range of surnames it was fairly hit and miss which was the correct house. Of course in England it is easy, as when you see some brown heavy horses it is obviously the farm you are looking for. In Lancaster County there are lots of working horses and the Belgian horses are also chestnut!

We finally found the correct farm and once they had got over their initial distrust of foreigners (the Amish are not keen to be treated as a tourist attraction in their own homes) and realized that we were genuinely interested in their horses they were extremely welcoming. We were invited in and spent the afternoon with them. We had taken Suffolk Horse information to give to them and they seemed very pleased to have it. Old Order Amish are not prepared to be photographed but they were happy for us to take pictures of their horses. The children came home from school and were introduced, in their homes they use their own language which is similar to old German but they learn English. The school houses are one roomed buildings with all the boys and girls sitting on opposite sides of the room and all ages together and all Amish wear the distinctive traditional clothing.

We had taken them a copy of the Pettistree booklet which pleased them and they found it fascinating that the church building is so old. Their own congregation meets at a farm for a 3 hour service (during which everyone sits on narrow benches), after which the farm provides a meal for the whole congregation. I gathered that your turn only comes round 2 or 3 times a year. They are relatively unaffected by what is happening in the world or even in the rest of the USA as they only take a weekly newspaper which is prepared by Amish and have no radio or television. The Zook family was surprised to hear that we in England had heard of the Amish and could not understand that their way of life might be envied by some people from outside their community!

Levi Zook suggested that we visit another breeder called Sam Yoder who lived in Western Maryland a 4 hour drive from Lancaster, so we bought a map and set off. It was an interesting drive through the Cumberland Gap and along the Mason Dixon line (North /South divide during the American Civil War) to the foothills of the Appalachian mountains. Here there was not such a large Amish community and they are happy to use tractors, (although they were models that we would normally see at the Power of the Past rather than working in the fields). With less difficulty we located the correct Yoder as a farmer regularly working with horses in this community is a curiosity. We spent some time with him and his family and then returned the following day so that we could work with him and his horses. He showed

us some fascinating old machinery that he uses regularly and it was interesting to learn that in that area they expect to only have 192 days a year when they can cultivate the fields and have the stock outside, the rest of the year they have snow.

While talking to Sam I discussed patchwork and quilting as the Amish are famous for their distinctive style of work. He confirmed that the majority of Amish women are very competent needlewomen and in fact will always have a piece of work to hand. Apparently they will take their work with them and continue to stitch even when travelling in their horse drawn buggies, the only time they are not allowed to stitch is during a funeral service! The Yoders were happy to be in photographs as long as the reason for the picture was not to record them, so we were able to take several of Sam holding different horses and also of him instructing us in Hay turning.

We had a fascinating few hours and also gave him some Suffolk Horse magazines and a Pettistree horse brass with which he was particularly pleased. We then drove up into the Appalachian hills and in fact saw the head waters of the Potomac river (which we were to see again in Washington). The difficulties of the terrorist threat has meant that the locals are no longer allowed to use their boats on the Potomac. There used to be quite a large tourist business of fishing and watersports but this has now been banned. It showed us the difficulties caused to low-income Americans who have been given no compensation for this loss.

The whole 3 weeks of our trip was enjoyable but we were both particularly pleased to visit the Amish and see some of their American Suffolk Horses.

Maggie and Jeff Hallett

Church Cleaners

Pettistree church has always relied on local help for the weekly cleaning and altar flower arranging that is required. Over the last few years the number of people able to give some of their time to this has reduced so I am using this publication as a means of contacting every one in the village to ask for your help.

To be a regular church attender is not required, but please would you consider whether you could help to clean the church and /or put some flowers in the altar vases. The more volunteers there are, the less frequently the turn comes round. If you as an individual, or with a friend, would like to share the job and feel able to help, please contact me.

Maggie Hallett

100 Club Winners

Date	1st	2nd	3rd
November	Carol Lock	Gill Johnson	Carol Speedman
December Christmas Bonus	Anna Ayris	Felicity Kay	Mary Hallett
January	Mark Welton	Carol Speedman	Peter Hayward

Pettistree Local History Report 2002

January 3rd

A serious accident between a van and lorry on the A12 near Loudham bridge just after 3.0 pm. The Police helicopter circled the scene and an ambulance escorted by a Police car passed along the B1438. The north bound traffic built up in Wickham Market and tailed back as far as the eye could see although slow moving all the time. This was just like Saturday mornings before the By-Pass was built in 1976. In a separate situation the houses along the B1438 out of Wickham Market to Rogues Lane were without power from 10.00 am until 4.00 p.m. when a generator was brought in

February 6th

The Pettistree Bells were rung before practice to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II

February 27th

Home Farm was burgled

March 11th

An evening entertainment with dinner, which was very enjoyable, was held for the residents of the village at the "Greyhound"

March 31st

The flag of St George was flown at half mast on the church today as a mark of respect on the death of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother yesterday aged 101.

April 21st

During the night twelve gravestones were damaged in the churchyard. Although the perpetrator was apprehended the young lad was mentally ill and therefore no compensation will be forthcoming

April 27th

An African Fish Eagle was spotted flying over the Presmere area. They sometimes appear at this time of year on their travels north

Home Farm is being re-roofed and the flint wall has been repaired.

The Church wall has been partially rebuilt near the small gate.

May

The Parish Council adopted the new Code of Conduct and Miss Peck felt that on a matter of principle she would have to resign after fourteen years on the Council, six of which she was chairman.

A party of Americans visited the church because of the connection the village has with the Jeaffreson family in the 16th and 17th century.

June 2nd

The village celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with a tea party on the front lawn of "The Laurels" There was a fancy dress competition won by Maureen Stollery for the adults and Oliver Beagley for the children. An ad hoc choir sang an appropriate song of the Coronation time fifty years ago. The exhibition showed how the village had celebrated past royal events from the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887. At 6.30 pm there was a "Songs of Praise" in the church instead of evensong. After this "The Greyhound" held a barbeque.

June 4th

The fly-past, which was going to fly up the Mall, assembled over Southwold and could be seen from many vantage points in the Suffolk countryside. Concorde and the Red Arrows brought up the rear and could be seen, in spite of rather low cloud, from Pettistree in a north westerly direction.

September

A new vicar has taken up his post this month. He is Rev John Eldridge His wife is Julia and their young daughter is Joelle. They are coming from Chatham in Kent but also have Suffolk connections

October

After a very dry spell of weather it rained on October 15th. Nearly two inches fell in a very short time and the fields were flooded

On Sunday October 27th there was a gale comparable to the Great Gale of 1987. Rogues Lane was blocked for a time with branches and a few tiles came off roofs but luckily power was maintained in the village.

November

The Hornbeam trees in the churchyard had their lower branches lopped so that plants underneath could grow. It is hoped to establish some flowers such as fritillaries and bluebells

The Quiz Night in aid of Village Hall funds was a great success

December

The Village Hall Committee invited all residents to a pre Christmas Drinks Party in the hall on December 15th.

The year ended with a Round Robin Dinner party in which eleven couples took part. This involved groups going to different houses for their starters, main course and dessert. Those who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves ending up at "The Greyhound" and singing Auld Lang Syne as the church bells rang in the New Year.

Every year the Local History Recorder sends to the Suffolk Local History Council a report on the past year. These are sent by the Secretary to the Suffolk Record Office for safe keeping. A picture of life in Suffolk is therefore built up and this will be of interest to researchers in years to come.

J.M.P.



Jenny Ayris and Sheila Manning

Pre Christmas Party in the
Village Hall



Kath Hilton, Rita Smith and Mary Cripps

Think on These Things

How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?!

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 746451
The Three Tuns John & Brenda Pallett 746244

Wickham Market Health Centre 747101
Post Office 746201
Vicarage 746026



Pettistree Web-Site

Our thanks are due to Angela and Malcolm Miles who live in Colchester for originating our Web-site. It has now passed into the local care of Chris Garner and myself. If you have any ideas as to how it should develop please e-mail Chris on chrisgarner@ntlworld.com or myself on joan.peck3@virgin.net

Wickham Hail and Ride

The new community bus service that has been operating since October is about to undergo some minor changes to its routing and timing. The service has been quite slow to get going, so adjustments have been made to the days for the routes into Wickham Market. These will now be Monday and Friday. However, the route that affects Pettistree is the Thursday service (187) which goes to Woodbridge. Unfortunately there has been no take up whatsoever from Pettistree, so it was felt it would be more efficient to have Pettistree as a 'request by telephone' only service. The route will therefore go straight from Wickham to Lower Ufford, Bromeswell, Melton and onto the Woodbridge Turban Centre. If anyone from Pettistree would like to use the service they will need to telephone to book it first, on 01728 830516.

Sample Fares Service 187

FROM	TO	FULL	CONCESSION
Stratford St Andrew	Wickham Market	2.70	1.35
Stratford St Andrew	Woodbridge	3.70	1.85
Marlesford	Wickham Market	1.40	0.70
Marlesford	Woodbridge	3.20	1.60
Wickham Market	Woodbridge	2.70	1.35
Lower Ufford	Woodbridge	1.80	0.90

TIMETABLE

Route 187 - Thursdays

Stratford St Andrew	09:00	Woodbridge Turban	12:00
Great Glemham	09:05	Melton	12:06
Marlesford	09:15	Bromeswell	12:13
Wickham Market	09:27	Lower Ufford	12:22
Lower Ufford	09:37	Wickham Market	12:32
Bromeswell	09:47	Marlesford	12:44
Melton	09:54	Great Glemham	12:54
Woodbridge Turban	10:00	Stratford St Andrew	13:00

[Parham (Silverlace Green) &
Pettistree village by telephone request]

Thank you for your contributions to this edition of our newsletter. We hope to produce the next one in early June. The deadline for copy will be May 17th 2003. Articles on your hobbies, interests, and achievements, as well as ideas for future editions will be most welcome.

Editor