

Pettistree People

Issue 22

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Parish Councillors

Jeff Hallett Chairman
The Laurels Tel No 746210

Maureen Stollery Vice Chairman
1 Presmere Road 746653

Nick Beagley 746344
Pettistree Grange

Tony Franklin 746585
Scott's Hall

Karen Hunter 747430
2 presmere Rd

Mike Manning 747321
Jasmine House

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Did They or Didn't They?

Pettistree might once have had "The Ashes"----well not the present Cricket Team -----

From looking at the Deeds of Pettistree Lodge I knew that in June 1900 it was purchased by the Honourable Ivo Francis Walter Bligh, second son of the Earl of Darnley of Cobham Hall Kent. There was no evidence that he had ever lived there until the 1901 Census was released last year. Then it was revealed that at the time of the census, 9th April 1901, living in Pettistree Lodge was Ivo W F Bligh (by this time Lord Darnley as his older-brother Edward died in 1900), Florence Countess of Darnley and Lady Dorothy aged eight years. There was also a governess, cook, parlour maid, housemaid, kitchen maid and ladies maid. The kitchen maid was Emma Clements, a familiar name in the village.

Presumably the family returned to Cobham soon after this as the house was leased to a family called Showell and in 1910 to Captain Gilligan after his marriage to Margaret Tidswell. Later as Colonel Gilligan he continued to lease the lodge until 1924 when he bought it.

It was after watching the television programme "Clarissa and the Countryman" and a visit they made to Cobham Hall that I wondered whether there was anything on the internet about the Darnley family and possibly a connection to Henry Stuart, the husband of Mary Queen of Scots. Imagine my surprise when the following story unfolded. It was rather more than I expected.

At the Oval on 29th August 1882 England lost to the Australians for the first time in a Test Match on home soil. The match was very exciting. The Australians were all out for 63 runs in their first innings but their ace bowler Fred Spofforth ensured an English collapse by taking 14 wickets for only 90 runs. The "Sporting Times" then published a mock obituary.

"In affectionate Remembrance
of

ENGLISH CRICKET

which died at the Oval on August 29th 1882.

Deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances.

R.I.P.

NB The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia.

Soon after the disastrous match the English team sailed for Australia under the captaincy of a young man called Hon Ivo Bligh and the programme included three representative matches against the Australian XI. The first match was won by the Australian team but Bligh's team won the second and third and it was fondly believed that Ivo Bligh had gone on a pilgrimage to "recover the Ashes."

On the voyage out to Australia the ship carrying Ivo was in a collision and his wrist was injured. Perhaps this was the reason why the team lost the first match and he was out for a duck!

At Christmas 1882 the English team was staying at a large estate called Rupertswood, owned by a family called Clarke just outside Melbourne. The Clarke's music teacher was a beautiful young lady called Florence Morphy, daughter of a magistrate of Beechworth, a very productive gold mining town . Whilst there the team played a game of cricket probably made up of estate workers and won the game. In a speech Ivo Bligh made a reference to "The Ashes" and four ladies burned something, what is not really known although there has been considerable conjecture. They put whatever the remains were in a small urn and bag and presented them to Ivo Bligh. Thus "The Ashes" became a reality The English team returned home bringing "The Ashes" with them. In 1884 Ivo returned to Australia and married Florence Morphy with whom he had fallen in love .

Ivo Bligh was just twenty three years old when he captained England. He was well known wherever Cricket was played as he played for Eton for two years after which he went to Cambridge and played for his University for four years as captain. Nevertheless he was an all round sportsman, winning Racquets at Eton against the Public Schools and beating Oxford as a light blue for three years running. He also won two intervarsity contests at tennis. Later in life he was President of the M.C.C and latterly played golf and was fond of shooting. He was a man of business being on the Stock Exchange and connected with a big firm of port wine shippers. He was an unassuming, very popular man, with a very gentle voice.

Ivo kept "The Ashes" on his library mantelpiece. So might they have come with him when he lived here? Florence gave The Ashes urn and bag to the museum at Lord's for safe keeping when Ivo died. As they were a personal gift they do not get passed to and fro between the winners.

The contents of "The Ashes" urn have always been in dispute. Some say a bat from the final game, some a ball, and some a bail from the wicket. Florence always maintained it was her veil. Perhaps it was faulty hearing on the part of the reporter. We'll never know what it was but there is probably an addition of ash from Cobham trees, burnt in the hearth where the urn fell one day when a maid was dusting so it is said. She knocked them from the mantelshelf and seeing the contents were ash, swept up the appropriate quantity to conceal her accident!

Yes there is a connection with Henry Stuart through a cousin and three generations in the female line.
AND

Cricket is played in Pettistree on land once owned by the 8th Earl of Darnley.

By Joan Peck

WATCHWORD

LOCK YOUR CAR

Thefts from unlocked cars are on the increase A number of items have been taken from cars parked in Wickham Market by opportunist thieves. Always lock your car even if you only leave it for five minutes. Do not leave coats, wallets or any other valuables so that they are visible to passers by even when you have locked your car.

Pettistree Herd of Red Poll Cows

Interviewer: Why did you choose to breed solely Red Polls when you'd previously had a selection of breeds, such as Angus, Murray Grey and Hereford?

Dick: Aesthetically I like to see one breed in the meadow, and the Red Poll, being a rare breed, and the native breed of Suffolk and East Anglia, was the obvious choice. It's an excellent suckler cow, which thrives on lower quality pasture; and although it's relatively small, it provides a lot of milk for its calf, thus producing a good quality beef animal.

Int: How did you get started in Red Polls?

Dick: We started with just one calf which we bought from Bridge Farm, Lakenheath, in January 1980. We brought her home in a sack in the back of a Ford Cortina. She was called Heathbridge Pippins Cumulus and her immediate off-spring all had names connected with apples or cloud formations. All the Red Polls we have now can be traced back to her.

Int: Do they all have names?

Dick: Yes. They are now all called Pettistree something or other. The Red Poll Cattle Society designates a letter for each year, and we give all the calves that are born in that year a name beginning with that letter. This goes back to the time when the new born calf was tattooed with the particular letter for the year, plus a number. Last year the letter was 'S' and the calves born that year were called Pettistree Suza, Pettistree Sheila and Pettistree Miss Santa – born on Christmas Day.

Int: What happens to the calves when you sell them on?

Dick: Before the foot and mouth outbreak they would go to other farms where they could be fattened or used for breeding. This is more difficult now because there are far fewer livestock farms, and the cost of transportation is very high because of all the necessary sterilization that has to be carried out. We are left with a surplus now, and we do have some for our own consumption.

Int: I understand that there are Red Poll herds in Jamaica and Australia as well as other countries throughout the world, do you have any connection with these herds?

Dick: No, none of my heifers have travelled that far! But in common with other Red Poll owners, we can use semen from two particular Australian bulls. In fact Pettistree Sheila has an Australian grandfather called Youngerellen Power Mover. I was fortunate enough to go and see the Younger Ellen Herd in 1996, when I went to Australia to watch the Ashes Tour. It was about 100 miles East of Perth. In Australia the land is so dry that they can only have about one cow to ten acres, whereas here we can have about one cow to the acre.

Int: What do you particularly like about your cows?

Dick: I like them as animals. I like to see the rich chestnut colour, particularly in the buttercup meadows, and I find it therapeutic to go and talk to them at the end of a day's work.

Post Script: *We do have some Red Poll beef for sale in packs of approx. 11.5 kg (25lbs). If you would like some please contact Dick or Rita Smith on 01728 746708.*

By Rita and Dick Smith

Cricket Club News

The 2003 season is already underway, but whilst everyone else is wearing two sweaters, Pettistree sensibly are waiting for a little more warmth in the sun. The first game is away to the Rosary Cavaliers on Sunday 18th May, and then, thanks to a bye in the first round of the cup Pettistree play DBSL away on the 8th June.

The cows are still grazing the outfield, and the first home game is not scheduled until July 6th after which there will be a very busy July and August.

There has been quite a lot of interest and indoor nets are being held at Farlingaye School on Thursday evenings. Again, anyone interested in playing please contact:-



Barney Smith – this years Captain, on 07884328148, or myself on 746708.

Dick Smith

100 Club

FEBRUARY	Mary Hallett	Val Pizzey	Jervis Kay
MARCH	Mary Norris	Tony Franklin	The Goldsmiths
APRIL	Jacki Franklin	Cynthia Lambert	Evelyn Whitfield

Carpet Bowls Club

Carpet bowls gained two new members for this last season and have now gone into recess for the summer They hope to restart in late September

Computer Club

The Computer Club is continuing to be held once a month in the Village Hall with the tutor Mike Cooper. For more information please get in touch with Claire Tel No 01728 604011

Village Hall

The first social event of this year took place on 16th May. The Pub Games evening was organised and refereed by Mike Manning and proved to be a huge success. Forty-five participants battled their way through dominoes, darts, table soccer, shove ha'penny and jenga. The victors were Margaret Reeve and her Tea Potters, who won by 4 clear points.

Future events in the Hall are:-

15th July at 7.30pm - AGM

18th October - Quiz night

We are hoping to organise a social evening focussed around a "star turn" in mid November.

The committee has recently been successful in gaining planning permission for the extension to the Hall. We therefore need your support at these future events.

Dave Caudwell
Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee

BIRD WATCHING

Did anyone else spot another rare visitor to Pettistree following the African Fish Eagle last year? On Sunday 11th May a Black Kite was spotted circling over Rogues Lane. It had been logged in at Minsmere on 29th and 30th April and was probably blown in from Central Europe.



Congratulations

We were delighted to hear of the birth of Hannah Grace, a daughter for John and Julia and sister for Joelle Eldridge. Our best wishes to all at the Vicarage.

Well done to Tollemache Bertie and his owners Joe Arbon and Vera Eccleston on achieving prizes at the Shows. Pioneer and the Smyth drill did very well too.

Corny Corner!

If you dream in colour it's a pigment of your imagination

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana

Green Farm House and Clinic

Rosie and I and our family moved to Green Farm in September 1985, having exchanged our house in Marlesford with Ann and Frank Bilton. Green Farm had ceased to be a working farm some years previously and we acquired the farmhouse and six acres of land. There were a considerable number of barns and outbuildings.

In addition to my general practice, I was working in the rheumatology department in Ipswich Hospital and experienced considerable frustration with the limited use to which their hydrotherapy pool was indicated. So, I felt that there might be a place for an alternative.

Another influential factor was the severe neck injury sustained in an R.T.A. by Rosie in 1978. She obtained great relief from hydrotherapy during her rehabilitation.

In 1986 we started on the project of Green Farm Clinic. This began by installing a 10m x 5m. pool which was initially open air. We then converted the barn (or cowshed) into a physiotherapy clinic together with a small room for changing. By December 1988, the pool was enclosed.

The Clinic opened in October 1989 after a number of setbacks involving builders, district council planners and local objections.

Jenny Whinney began treating patients and initially the interest was modest---two patients per session. There has been a steady increase in the volume of work and I estimate that about twenty people use the pool every week. We have referrals from local G.P.s, other physios and a few from hospital departments. The most effective and numerous referrals are by word of mouth.

In the early years, the pool was hired by Suffolk Swimming who used it to teach, mainly children.

A wide variety of conditions benefit from pool therapy---arthritis, orthopaedic conditions including back problems, sports injuries and strokes. We also teach children with cerebral palsy and some from residential homes for those with learning difficulties. The pool water is heated to 34 degrees C and I have spent ten years learning how to cope with the control of chemicals, bacteria etc so that the pool water is clear and healthy.

Since 1989 we have had to add two extra changing rooms with showers, a hoist in the pool area and another in one changing room.

The expansion of the members attending meant that Jenny needed the help of two physiotherapy assistants (who job share) and a part time secretary. Unfortunately, we now have a waiting list of about one week, even though our opening hours are 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.

The catchment area for this unique facility has surprised us---from Colchester to Halesworth and from Stowmarket to Aldeburgh. We have even had a patient from Kings Lynn! They all seem attracted to the rural environment, the converted barn with many ancient beams, Joe Arbon's horses and the friendly atmosphere. These features, together with the expertise and dedication of Jenny Whinney contribute greatly to the success of the enterprise.

Green Farmhouse has an interesting history. The S.W. older part is about five hundred years old and the relatively new N.E. end is two to three hundred years old.

It was once the home of Thomas Mills who married the then widowed owner. He was a local success story, based in Framlingham and he inherited the farm together with cottages along Presmere Road when his wife died in 1791. When Thomas Mills died, he left a trust administered by trustees who man-

aged his estate until 1925, they sold the farm to George Saville, an ironmonger from Woodbridge. On his death in 1929, it was acquired by John Thomas Lawn who owned a butcher's and grocer's shop in Wickham Market.

In 1944, the farm changed hands again and was bought by Richard Hayward the elder who farmed the land but rented the farmhouse to Mr C.C. Nesling, the garage proprietor in Wickham. When Ann Hayward married Paul Cutting in 1954, the land was farmed from the Green Farm. Her subsequent remarriage separated the farm from the house and in 1985 another tribe of Haywards moved in and started Green Farm Clinic.

Peter Hayward

Suffolk Hedgerow Survey *by Ann Sayer*

The Hedgerow Sub-Group of The Suffolk Coastal Greenprint Forum was made up of representatives from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and Suffolk Coastal District Council. This Sub-Group is the driving force behind a survey of Suffolk Hedgerows. A good number of parishes have agreed to undertake this work in their own parishes and Pettistree has now joined in. We have a small team of volunteers and we are starting off with a training session on May 17th at Dallinghoo, when we and our neighbouring parish will find out exactly what the survey involves.

We are contacting all the relevant landowners to seek their permission to walk along the hedgerows on their land, and we are very grateful for the enthusiastic and helpful response that we have received to date. The survey does not include hedges within residential curtilages, so we should not have to trouble any households for access to their gardens.

Pettistree parish covers an area of some 719 hectares, which means we have a great deal more walking to do than our neighbouring parishes whose areas are as follows:

Ufford	470 hectares
Dallinghoo	637 hectares
Bredfield	448 hectares
Wickham Market	481 hectares.

Therefore if anyone else is interested in helping out with the survey, please do not hesitate to contact me.

This topic will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on 22nd May and hopefully by May 2004 we shall be able to present a report on our findings.

It is hoped that the data being collected by the parishes will enable the creation of a comprehensive map of Suffolk's hedgerows at the turn of the century. Individually each parish's results will be lodged with the parish and with the Suffolk's Biological Records Centre.

LIVING LANDSCAPE *by Janet Shadforth*

The great hedge hunt is on in Pettistree, thereby contributing to a collective aim to find out more about the rich variations in Suffolk's hedgerow landscape. Co-ordinated by Ann Sayer, a small team of volunteers will survey all the hedges, 70+ in the Pettistree Parish area of 719 hectares. The team met for the first time on 17th May to attend a training session in order to develop a consistent approach to recording the species of shrubs and trees within defined hedge structures. If the inclement weather was designed to identify the faint-hearted, the Pettistree team remained enthusiastic as they emerged from the hedgerow! Villagers, who notice well clad individuals by the roadside, armed with tape measures, reference books, hat-pins in corks and record sheets can be reassured the activity in the hedgerow is legitimate and in a good cause.

Pettistree Heritage 2000 Trust AGM

The AGM took place on Tuesday 20 May, 2003 in the Parish Room. Maggie Hallett welcomed the residents who had braved the weather to attend. Maggie reported that although there had been no fund raising events during the past year, the Jubilee celebration organised by villagers had been a great success, enjoyed by many and memorably recorded on the camcorder purchased from the Lottery grant.

The Treasurer reported that a small amount of income for the period had been generated by the hiring out of display boards and use of the laminator. Expenditure incurred included insurance and the recorder's stationery expenses. Following the submission of the final statement of expenditure relevant to the Lottery grant, the Trust had been asked to repay the unspent balance of £310. The grant application had been based on estimated figures and the greater part of the unspent balance related to staging, which had been difficult to assess. As at 31 December 2002 the building society account showed a healthy balance of £863.30.

Maggie Hallett said she would like to continue helping as a committee member but she said she did not wish to continue as Chairman. She was thanked for all her hard work. The following officers were elected: Chairman Joan Peck and Treasurer Evelyn Whitfield. Joan Jordan, Suzanne Stevens, Mary Garner, Maggie Hallett and Cath Caudwell had all expressed their willingness to continue as committee members. Aside from the committee, volunteers are, of course, always welcome.

Joan Peck gave a short resume of her role as recorder and the work involved in researching the history of the village, but at the same time she stressed the importance of the present. Photographs of village events, family special occasions, changes to properties, etc. all add to the record and in addition thought should be given to the countryside about us. As an example she asked whether anyone had pictures of elm trees, now long gone. This enquiry brought an immediate response.

The East Anglian Film Archive had shown interest in mastertapes of village activities and as the Archive storage facilities were of a high quality it was agreed that the two mastertapes held would be offered on long term loan, but the copyright would be retained by the Trust.

Following the meeting, we were all given the opportunity to watch the Jubilee video and also to view the display of photographs, along with the Millennium photograph album. Looking at the album, we were all surprised at the number of changes in house ownership since the year 2000.

Evelyn Whitfield



Have you looked at the newer Web-site?

What would you like to see on it?

Have you any information you would like to add?

E-mail Chris on chrisgarner@ntlworld.com or Joan on joan.peck3@virgin.net

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we learned of the loss of three people with long associations with Pettistree.

Eric Whitfield

Eric Whitfield bought Whitehouse Farm house in a rather dilapidated condition in 1951 while still serving in the RAF. He came to live here for about two years with Betty and two children, Alan and Rosemary and whilst here Patricia was born.

From late 1953 to 1956 Betty and the three children lived near Tripoli when Eric was posted to Egypt and Libya. After further postings to Chatham and N Yorkshire he retired from the RAF and all the family, by now five children returned to live at Whitehouse.

On leaving the service Eric became an executive officer in the Telephone Manager's Office in London and later Colchester.

In 1964 he started the Whitehouse Kennels business which he and Betty ran for the next twenty three years.

We shall miss seeing Eric, always doing something, either tending the garden, mowing the verge or replacing yet another piece of the brick wall.

Ethel Jane Whitehand

Jane, as she was usually called, died in Ipswich Hospital on May 6th age 87years. She was born in Hacheston, one of nine children, four brothers and four sisters. When she left school at the age of fourteen years she went into service at Moat Hall Parham as Nanny to three children.

After she married Frank in 1944 at Hacheston they lived in Chapel Lane Wickham Market and then moved to Pettistree in 1947 where the family lived in Potash Cottage.

Jane was a member of the W.I. and the church for many years and after moving to Wickham Market on Frank's retirement fifteen years ago became a member of the Elderberry Club until the worsening of arthritis from which she had suffered for many years.

John Jackson

Mr Jackson bought Byng Hall in 1975 and was one of the oldest Pettistree residents reaching the magnificent age of 91 years.

Useful Numbers

County & District Councillors

Mr Peter Monk, County Councillor
01394 411373

Mr P Callaghan, District Councillor
(Suffolk Coastal)

Neighbourhood Watch

Dave Caudwell 747170

Rogues Cottage

Mike Sayer 01394 460 639

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

ChurchWardens MikePerkins
01394460284

Jeff Hallett 746210

Village Hall Booking Sec Jacki Franklin
746585

Local History Recorder Joan Peck

The Greyhound Inn Debbie and Mike
Hughes 746451

The Three Tuns John & Brenda Pallett
746244

Wickham Market Health Centre 747101

Post Office 746201

Stop Press

Due to a problem with deadlines and meetings the Parish Council reports will be held over for the next edition at the beginning of September.

Karen Hunter is a new Parish Councillor and as there was insufficient nominations for an election there is still one vacancy.



YOUR LOCAL HISTORIAN

NEEDS YOU

TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW

Record Today as it is

Record any alterations tomorrow or after

in

Words or Pictures, Paint or Poetry

Help preserve our village history

of

People, Places and Time

The editors welcome feedback. The last edition evoked a response from a resident. (Tongue in cheek) The photographs of the “Christmas Drinks” party showed only ladies drinking which supported a theory he held. It had to be pointed out, (equally tongue in cheek), that the men were rather more secretive about drinking and all had their backs to the photographer!

Thank you for your contributions to this edition of our newsletter. We hope to produce the next one in early September.

Articles on your hobbies, interests, achievements, in fact almost anything will be most welcome. Please don't wait to be asked.

The deadline for copy will be August 15th . We need to allow about two weeks to prepare, get proof-read and printed before we can deliver.

Editors