

Pettistree People

Issue 5

January 1997



Quarterly NewsSheet for Pettistree and Loudham

Price 30p to Non-residents of Pettistree and Loudham

Published by Pettistree Parish Council

Editor - Tony Franklin 01728 746585

Winter Edition

Parish Council News

reports by Ann Sayer

Following a visit to the village by Ann Westover of the SCDC it was agreed that 25 Hawthorn hedging plants and 10 trees be provided for planting in the Village. The hedging has been planted around the Village Hall and the trees are to be planted in the churchyard, at Hilton Park and along Presmere Road in due course.

At their last meeting the council discussed the finances and set the budget and agreed the precept for the next financial year. Details of the budget can be obtained from the Clerk. Included in the budget was financing the publication of another year of the Pettistree People Newsletter, which has proved to be popular. Also provision was made for restoration of the village sign and for maintenance of the village green.

Following the decision made at the last Annual Parish Meeting to enter the Village of the Year Competition it was felt that the Green and the Sign were priority areas. The Parish Council was also pleased to accept Mr Les Heard's offer to enhance the bus shelter as his contribution to the competition entry. More volunteers will be needed next spring, so keep an eye on the notice board and in the next newsletter for details.

Various highway matters were mentioned including the public consultation on traffic measures for the A1214 including the location of a Park and Ride site for Ipswich. This is to be discussed by the County Council Transport Committee in February 1997.

The only applications notified since the last meeting was the approval of the renovation, alterations and additions to the signage also the provision of illumination and flood lighting of the Greyhound Inn. The application for a Public Entertainments Licence for the Greyhound was also mentioned.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The date for the next Parish Council was fixed for Thursday 20th February 1997.

Tree Planting Scheme

Budget and Precept

Village of the Year Competition

Highways and Transport

Planning Applications

The next Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council on the Record

Village Matters

Events programme for 1997

The Village Hall Management Committee is planning a number of events for 1997. As yet nothing is finalised so dates are not available at this time. Both Carpet Bowls and Table Tennis evenings will continue this year and other events planned are :

March	*	Bingo - no explanation needed
April/May	*	Coffee morning - plant and cake stalls etc.
June/July	*	Cycling Treasure hunt - for the whole family
August	*	Barbeque - Bank Holiday Sunday
September	*	Quiz Night
October	*	Scrabble Evening - Test your vocabulary
November	*	Social Evening

100 Club Winners

	1st	2nd	3rd
July	Robert Manning	Chris Manning	Evelyn Whitfield
August	Mick Hilton	Jacki Franklin	Chris Garner
September	Cath Cauldwell	Mrs Woods	Basil Goldsmith
October	Wendy Swain	Marion Kerridge	Graham Goldsmith
November	Rosemary Howard	Chris Manning	Pete & Candy Wells
Decemeber	Ronnie Gormer	Eric Dowker	Patience Maxwell

The 100 Club coost just £1 per month and has a first prize of between £20 to £25 depending on the number of members - to take part pleas contact Alan Whitfield.

Vandalism of the Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to receive the attention of our local vandals who on one evening in December broke windows and tried to set light to the curtains. Luckily, the curtains had been fire proofed and the damage was not as great as it might have been - it was indeed a lucky escape.

From reports received about attacks on the Village Hall they tend to happen between 10pm and 1am usually on a weekday - if you are out and about in the village between these times please keep an eye out for suspicious characters - **if in doubt call the police immediately.**

Please be vigilant - don't let the vandals burn down our Village Hall

Village Hall for Hire

Our Village Hall is available for hire, if you are interested and want more details please contact:

Mike & Wendy Swain : 01728 746187 or

Mike & Sheila Manning : 01728 747321

Poppy Collection

The people of the Village gave generously again this ear to the Poppy Collection. £142.45 was collected door-to-door and £13 was donated for a wreath.

University Record

Ruth Paternoster - Ruth, who lives at The Bungalow in Byng Lane with her Grandmother Mrs Smy, is studying architecture at Sheffield University where her course will last seven years, she is one a number of young Pettistree people studying at University.

Village News and Information

An afternoon with the WI *reported by Mary Kemp*

Joe Arbon was our speaker at the October W.I. meeting. He told us he first worked with horses when he was eleven years old. As a school boy he had a blue card so he could work twelve half days a year on a farm at Bredfield. His pay was 6d an hour (old money). He chopped out sugar beet and loaded wagons with corn or hay. There were ten horses on the farm. By the time Joe was 14 years old he was driving tractors.

Joe told us the first record of the Suffolk Punch was at Ufford Hall in 1840. It is the only breed which has records kept.

In 1960 sixty-five horses were recorded, fifteen were mares which had 9 foals. In 1996 there were 250 horses on record. In 1994 eighty mares foaled 38-40 live births.

A Suffolk Punch cost £1,000 in 1988. Hollesley Bay keeps 35 Suffolk Punches and enters for shows all over the country. Joe does as well winning many rosettes and prizes and meeting the Royals. It is very costly to enter. Williams & Griffins from Colchester and Rackhams are sponsors at shows.

Ploughing matches are held throughout the year and Power in Action was held at Wantisden in September. There were 13 working horses the first day and 19 on the second day with a parade of implements and wagons. It was well attended by the public and money raised was donated to the Hospice and Wolsey School.

A ploughing match for the traditional copper kettle was held at Sproughton in October and was the last event of the year. (Joe was the winner of the Working Horse category).

Joe bought his first Suffolk Punch named Gem in 1988 and she was about ten months old. He entered her in shows as a 2 year old and she was known as Gem of Pettistree. She was bred as a 3 year old and had Annabel. She was known as Pettistree Annabel. Joe was able to use the Pettistree prefix after Gem had given birth. He sold Gem in 1992/93 and bought Marshland Pioneer which he uses for weddings, funerals and pulling the wagon for rides loved by every age group. Annabel foaled on February 14th 1995. The vet was called and Jeff and Maggie Hallett helped as the foal was rejected by its mother. Joe spent about 14 weeks sleeping at the stables as the foal needed feeding roughly every two hours. It took only half pint of milk at first and this was taken from the mother for two or three days. After this it went onto powdered milk mixed with its mothers milk. At six weeks it used to rattle its stable door for its feed. The foal is now about 20 months old, it loves people and is getting used to traffic on the road, it wears blinkers. As it was born on February 14th there was only one name for it - Pettistree Valentine. Joe said it was worth all the trouble at birth and would do it all again.

Thanks Joe, you made my day, bringing back happy memories of my childhood as Dad was a horseman at Loudham Hall. Also you judged my fruits and berries first and then pulled my ticket out first in the draw!

**Joe Arbon
spends an
afternoon
with the WI**



Mary Kemp

**...bringing a
Suffolk
punch into
the world
....a labour of
love**

**.. thanks to
Joe for the
memories,
success and
the luck !!**

Carpet Bowls Update *reported by Mike Sayer*

On Thursday November 7th Pettistree Carpet Bowls Players invited their opposite numbers from neighbouring Dallinghoo for a return match, we had been to Dallinghoo in March this year. Our visitors were nine in number and with only one mat it was decided to play games of three ends instead of the usual five, this ensured everybody had at least two games.

The visitors were informed of the unusual characteristics of our playing surface, i.e. the downward slope towards the kitchen and the unhelpful contribution made by the narrow and uneven floorboards. Dallinghoo were obviously not put off and secured victory, all be it narrowly, in the first three games. At this point Pettistree decided to get their act together and duly won the fourth game.

After a lengthy refreshment interval, which highlighted the fact that this was a social occasion as much as a sporting one, battle was rejoined and a second victory for the home team was achieved. The sixth and final game was won by the visitors and an enjoyable evening ended with words of thanks from Mrs Val Green on behalf of Dallinghoo. An invitation for Pettistree to make another trip to Dallinghoo was issued and accepted, the date being fixed for January. Who knows, on a flat surface we might pull off an away win, if not, a good time will be had by all and another small link in the chain of friendship will have been forged between our two village



Mike Sayer

Events and Activities

Peter and Patience Maxwell

Colonel Peter and Patience Maxwell have lived in Pettistree for as long as most of us can remember, and on 30th November 1996, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and to mark this achievement, Peter and Patience kindly agreed to be interviewed about their 50 years of married life.

The Colonel's parents, whose roots were in Dumfriesshire, came to live in Pettistree Grange in 1938 when they retired from farming at Theberton Grange. By that time the Colonel's military career was well under way and he was then a Lieutenant in the Highland Light Infantry with whom he spent tours of duty in India and Palestine. It was not until just three weeks before the outbreak of war in 1939, that he first visited his parents at their new home in Pettistree.



The outbreak of war heralded a busy time for the Colonel. His first wartime posting was from Palestine to Cairo in 1940 and soon he was fighting in the Desert. In 1941 the Highland Light Infantry were ordered to Eritrea with the 5th Indian Division to expell the Italians who had occupied the country since 1890 - situated in Eritrea the Italians posed a threat to allied force in the Red Sea. Ironically, before the war some of the Italian troops had been ice cream sellers in Glasgow where many of the troops of the Highland Light Infantry were recruited.

It was in Eritrea that the Colonel won the Military Cross in the battle for Keren. The citation singled out the Colonel's coolness under fire during an attack on a railway dump which resulted in the capture of many enemy soldiers. It was during this action that the Colonel received his only wound of the war, a hand grenade glanced off his shoulder and exploded leaving some shrapnel behind.

After Eritrea the Colonel returned to the Western Desert with the 5th Indian Division and was caught up in the retreat to El Alamein. He was then posted to the Staff College in Haifa and later to India and Burma. In Burma the Colonel encounter the Japanese at first hand at Kohima it was the nearest the Japanese got to India. Here the Colonel's Brigade was surrounded for weeks and fought with the Japanese at very close quarters - this was very bloody and unpleasant time but the Japanese advance on India was stopped here at Kohima.

In late 1944 Peter came home from India to be promoted to Colonel and become a Staff Officer at the School of Infantry at Warminster in July 1945.

Meanwhile, one, Patience Chadwyck-Healey, fought her war driving in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY) and then the ATS in the West Country. For Patience, this was a very exciting and rewarding period of her life during which she drove around the whole of the south west of the country collecting and delivering blood donated by people for the war effort, helping casualties of air raids and helping set up the first blood transfusion service "...it was so exciting being in the thick of it..." In 1943, Patience was commissioned as a Subaltern and as soon as the war was over she was demobilised and returned to civilian life in London.



The Maxwell's first came to Pettistree in 1938

First action in the desert

Peter is awarded Military Cross

At war in the Far East

Patience's war effort

An exclusive interview with the Maxwells

interviewed by Tony and Jacki Franklin

For those people who lived through the period immediately after the war it was an austere time when people were looking for the right direction to take in life after the hectic and stimulating service life during the war. It was perhaps this feeling that brought Patience to Dennington for a break away from city life to work on a small holding. It was summer time in 1946 when a friend of Patience living at Earls Soham invited her to a cocktail party at Pettistree Lodge. At that party, on leave from the army, was a handsome and debonair young man by the name of Peter St George Maxwell. Patience and Peter fell in love. The date was 15th July 1946 and by the 30th November they were married, the ceremony taking place in St Pauls in Knightsbridge.

Married life for Peter and Patience was also an Army life and before long Peter was soon on the move to a posting in Palestine where the British Mandate was to expire 14th May 1948. Patience remained in the UK. Returning to the UK the Colonel took up command of a company of the Highland Brigade Training Battalion at Fort George near Inverness. During this time the Colonel commanded the Kings Guard during the Royal Family's summer holiday at Balmoral. This was a very short posting of some three months but it was undoubtable the most memorable for both the Colonel and Patience. Why? Because they were privileged to meet King George VI and the Queen at first hand, especially, when they joined the Royal family for dinner as they did on two occasions.

The following 13 years saw the Maxwells pursue a peace time army life with posting in the War Office, Egypt, Glasgow, Cyprus, Luneberg, Berlin, Troon, Benghazi, and Tripoli. During this time Peter and Patience's children were born their oldest son Philip was born in 1947 in London, Ian in 1949 at Nairn near Inverness, Gillian in Glasgow in 1954 and Penelope in the Phyllis Maternity Home at Melton in 1956.

Today, Peter and Patience have nine grandchildren, the oldest is Rory who is 19 and the youngest is Sophie who was born in July 1996 just 50 years after Peter and Patience first met.

The Colonel retired from the Army in 1962 and he and Patience moved back to Pettistree Grange.

Here in Pettistree, Peter and Patience settled down to family and village life. Peter became the Suffolk Commissioner of the St Johns Ambulance and together with Willy Frith and Maureen Stollery was a founder member and Chairman of Pettistree Parish Council. Peter also became a church warden and both he and Patience are members of the PCC for which Patience has acted as Secretary for 18 years. Patience also played her part in village life as a member of the WI and the Mothers Union, and for 8 years or so she was the church organist.

Life for Peter and Patience has been both eventful and rewarding, and it was with great pleasure that they invited the residents of Pettistree to join them in the Village Hall on 1st December to celebrate their Golden Wedding and over 50 years association with Pettistree. Many reminiscences were exchanged on that occasion, some related here, some perhaps to be told later, some told in confidence !! - but all of happy memories.



Glasses raised in a toast to Peter and Patience

Peter and Patience meet and marry

Dinner at Balmoral

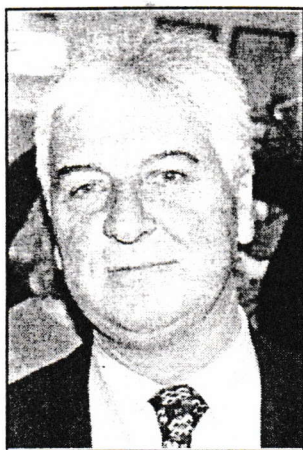


...the Maxwell family, three generations ..

A Thank You from Peter & Patience

We were quite overwhelmed with the generosity of all those who contributed to a present for our Golden Wedding. The lovely kitchen clock now hangs on the kitchen wall. We have not yet decided how to spend the most generous cheque, but we can assure you it will go on something really useful to both of us. Thank you all very much.

... a feature of Pettistree village life



Mike Brooker

Pettistree's Cricket Team

... made up of all manner of people ..

..important ingredients, the pitch and refreshment facilities.

.. fast bowling is Pettistree's strength ..

The season's end marked by a victory for Pettistree

On a Sunday morning in early June the grass was cut, the last few cow pats were transferred to the perimeter of the field, the Red Polls were back behind an electric fence stretching the breadth of the meadow, and the noble game of cricket was amost ready to begin again in the village.

So is the annual ritual before Pettistree's cricket season can commence. Cricket has been played in the village for 12 years, having started in a match between customers of the Greyhound and a team made up mainly from fathers and sons from the village, and organised by Dick Smith, now *Chairman of Selectors*, known to his team-mates as *Big Dick*, and the previous landlord of the pub, Dave *Boycs* Billings.

Previously known as the Greyhound cricket team, the team took the more *up market* name of the village a few years ago before moving their home *patch* from the smaller field behind Church Farm and the church-yard to the wide open spaces of the field adjoining Walnuts Lane and the Village Hall. However, the change in name has not always resulted in a change in fortunes on the pitch and it is still common to witness several of the team apparently under the influence of something stronger than orange squash.

Our team is now made up of a mixture of old codgers, young aspiring cricketers and the occasional talented guest - sometimes the occasional not so talented guest, both male or female.

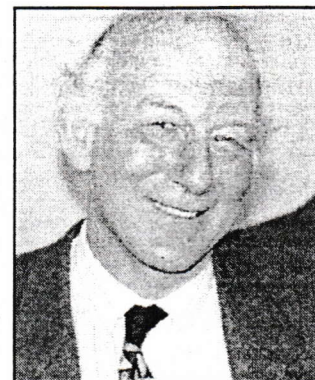
Opposing teams now come from far and wide, including London, Nottingham and Sheffield. Some have become annual fixtures adding to the games played against local village and pub sides.

Our new pitch has developed successfully since the strip was laid nearly three years ago, and to the surprise of some visiting teams it is consistent and generally plays well. With the additional bonus of the Village Hall for teas (with the kind agreement of the Village Hall Committee) cricket in Pettistree has now taken on a more organised, even sophisticated image (although this image frequently disintegrates when Pettistree's batting innings begins - despite several practice sessions last season!).

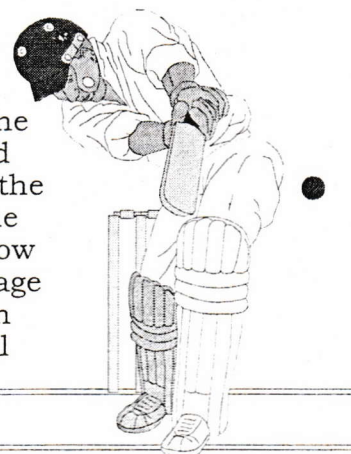
Those in the team who played on the old *cow patch* will remember it with a mixture of affection, fear and trepidation. Although it would not be entirely true to say it was a *dodgy* strip, only those who were extremely talented batsmen or mentally-retarded would get in the line of one of George's or Kenny's quicker balls.

Last season having started with a victory at Bredfield, we lost four games on the trot, but finished with 5 wins and 5 losses, recouping one of the two trophies we compete for each year. Pettistree also won the 5-a-side charity competition organised by Bredfield and in so doing won a barrel of beer, the contents of which were consumed quickly at the following week's home match.

And so on a crisp Sunday in early September the team comfortably won their final match, electric fencing was transferred to the square surrounds, Red Polls once again grazed the outfield leaving their marks, and cricket in Pettistree had finished for another year.



Big Dick Smith



... a tradition of village summer life ...

Lawn Care - Pettistree Style

by Jeff Hallett

Several of us in Pettistree are lucky enough to have quite large lawns, but some of us are not very good at following the text books on lawn care, even if we had the time to do the work and the money to pay for all the machines and chemicals.

Many readers will know that we have quite a large menagerie at The Laurels and they will not be surprised to learn that we have tried to put the livestock to work to repay some of the time and effort we spend on them.

Books on lawn care say that lawns have to be scarified, cleared of leather-jackets and other bugs, stripped of moss, fertilised, compacted or rolled, and of course mown and cleared of grass clippings.

For some time now we have let the ducks and hens, and occasionally the geese, run on the lawns. The geese are particularly good at clearing moss but unfortunately are a bit too liberal with their fertiliser, and are not very welcoming to visitors. The hens are experts at clearing leather-jackets and other bugs. While doing so they scarify the grass and shift all the dead stems and roots. The ducks can be relied upon to keep the area free of slugs (as well as often providing education for passing families in the birds and the bees!).

Early last spring we had a bit of a crisis in finding enough grass for our few sheep since the dry summer and cold winter had left us rather short on the paddocks. At the same time the grass on our lawn had begun to grow as it is one of our best bits of land and is well sheltered. The lawn was starting to look decidedly untidy and I was faced with a big job of rolling, mowing and clearing the cuttings off the lawn. Some fertiliser for the summer was also needed. One of our more adventurous (and greedy!) sheep showed us the solution to our two problems by jumping the fence, so we grazed the sheep on the lawn.



...gold on the hoof..

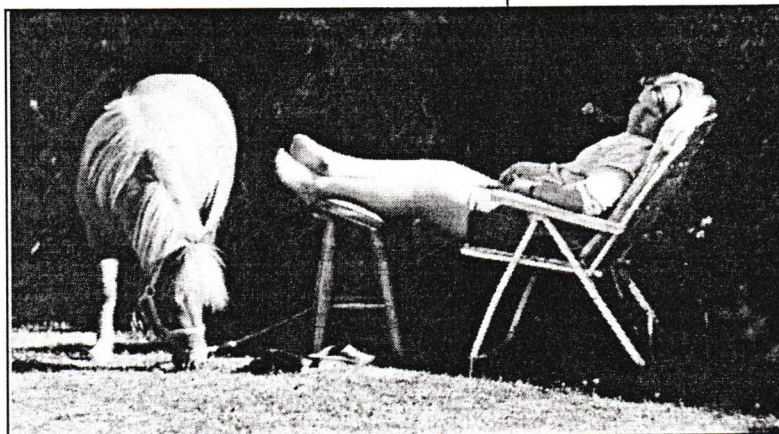
Sheep are renowned for their neat and close grazing and they gave the lawn a very good cut without pulling up the roots.

Their hooves compact the ground very evenly and are as good or better than rolling. They have also been referred to as the animal with the golden hoof as they not only turn the grass into meat but also fertilise the ground as they move over it.

Sheep are not so fond of long grass but even here we had help at hand. Cherry, the Suffolk Punch is so heavy that she makes great holes in the lawn with her shoes if we are ever rash enough to take her on it, so she is not much help.

However, Frisky, the Shetland Pony, is just the right size to be useful in clearing any long grass that escapes the usual mowers. She is always ready to eat so we have to guard against laminitis from overeating by close supervision when she is on the lawn. Some of the family quite enjoy this duty!

We wait to see what sort of weather and grass growth the New Year will bring, but we rather suspect that The Laurels Lawn Care Team will be in action again and we will not be spending much money on petrol for the mechanical lawnmowers!



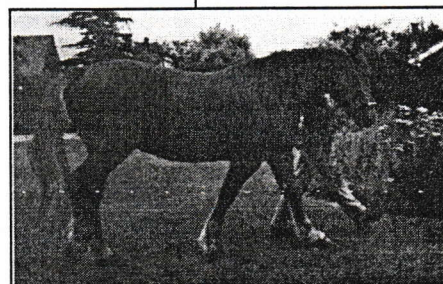
Animal exploitation - or what !!



Jeff Hallett, Pettistree's Senior Lawn Care Advisor



Hen and her Chicks at work



A new meaning to working horses

... caution Hallett animals at work ...

Editors Notices

Newcomers to the Village

Mr & Mrs Catlin - Wyoming
Mr & Mrs Goodwin - Tynedale
Mr Cooper - Hall Farm House
Welcome to Pettistree

Richard and Emma Taylor of Home Farm now have three daughters since the arrival of Iona on 14th November. Iona was 7lbs 1oz at birth and no doubt we will look forward to watching her growing up with her two older sisters Eliza and Kitty.

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Angela Chilvers who died after a short illness in November. Our sympathy and condolences are extended to Angela's husband Roger and his family.

Facts Sheet

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 Hunter	01473 737784	Merton Farm Barn
Nigel Holland	746344	Gelham Hall
Neil Arbon	01473 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.

County & District Councillors

Mr Peter Monk, County Councillor 01394 411373 or Mobile 0850 843055
Mr Ned Cavendish, District Councillor 01394 450046

Neighbourhood Watch

David Horne 746637 The Cottage, Pettistree Grange
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.
The Parish Police Officer is PC 760 Mark Wakefield who can be contacted at Woodbridge Police Station 01473 613550.

Useful People to Contact

Vicar	Graham Bell	746314
Bellringers	Mary Garner	746097
Church Wardens	Ned Hogg	746814
	Maggie Hallett	746210
Village Hall Booking Sec	Mike Swain	746187
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

People Profil

Maureen Stoller



Maureen is a well known and very sociable Pettistree resident who has been a Parish Councillor since the Council was first established in 1974. Maureen has lived in the village for over 30 year and together with her husband Brian, has brought up 5 children in the village, Lesley, Linda, Kevin, Phillip and Robert all of whom now have families of their own giving Maureen and Brian 11 grandchildren. Maureen works full time as phyciatric nurse in St Clements Hospital and her favourite past-time is gardening.

Calendar

Carpet Bowls & Table Tennis every alternate Thursday 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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

Bellringing Practice night is every Wednesday 7pm until 9pm - you will be equally welcome as a beginner or an experienced ringer.

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

Next Edition - April 1997