



Pettistree People

Issue 57

March 2012

Deadline for next issue is May6th 2012



Parish Council News

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS FOR "PETTISTREE PEOPLE"

Jeff Hallett, Chairman of the Parish Council. February 2012.

Plans for the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** have progressed steadily since the open village meeting on 22nd September. The Parish Council remains the main sponsor and retains responsibility for the village events but detailed planning and organization has been taken over as intended by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. Mrs Mary Chilvers is chairing the group and will officiate on the day. Mr Steve Boardley is vice-chairman and will do a lot of the preparatory work but will have to remain available for his marquee business on the actual day. It looks as if we may be able to have a lasting reminder of the Diamond Jubilee celebration in the form of an avenue of large apple trees in the open area of the Churchyard. This will be a community orchard and a wildlife amenity. Any crop of apples for human use will be a secondary consideration. More details will follow in due course.

When the **Parish Council met on 15th November** the topics included safety around the village including fire safety of thatched properties, preparations for icy conditions on the roads, and some dead elm trunks near the Three Tuns bus-stop. John Barker was thanked for another year of service cutting the village green and keeping it tidy. Finance is always an important topic and it was agreed that the amount expected to be spent by the Parish Council in the year 2012/2013 would be £5,775. This includes provision for reinstating the lay-by to the village green when the telephone box is removed. Our precept (the money we request to come out of Council Tax) remains at £2,200 for the year as our reserves are healthy. It was pointed out that government initiatives to promote healthy exercise mean that grants may be available to encourage exercise in villages. Ballroom dancing was suggested as a possibility for Pettistree and opinions on this are being sought elsewhere in this newsletter.

"Pettistree People" is an excellent example of a lively village newsletter. Over-ruling the editor's modesty I submitted it for the Newsletter of the Year competition run by SALC (The Suffolk Association of Local Councils) based on Presentation, Content, Information and Youth Appeal. I am afraid that it did not win but the judges' comments were:- *"Good varied content. Pleased to see Parish Council contacts and other contact numbers. Lovely photographs. Needs a diary page. Limited youth appeal."* We can sort out a diary page if groups send in their dates but we obviously need some input and articles from the youth of the village. I am sure that all photo's, drawings and articles will be welcome.

Councillor Michael Bond still finds time to be our District Councillor and our County Councillor. He attends our meetings regularly and also finds financial support for our local projects. He is a strong advocate of local services and has taken up the issue of the closure of the Wickham Market out-of-hours on-call centre as a priority. The response of the organizers, Harmoni, has been evasive and inadequate. Not only have they withdrawn the possibility of patients being seen at Wickham Market at weekends, they have also referred constantly to being seen by “clinicians” rather than doctors. Cllr Bond is now encouraging our Members of Parliament, Dan Poulter and Therese Coffey, to take the matter up with the Minister of Health.

The recent heavy snow and prolonged spell of freezing temperatures has come a bit early for our two **new road salt bins** that were bought to augment the two we have already. They were ordered in good time and Cllr Bond has provided funding, but the District Highways department has not yet filled them for us. Good use has already been made of the first two bins but we still need more volunteers to spread the salt/grit on cold and frosty mornings. If you give your name to a parish councillor you will be added to the insured list of “operatives”.

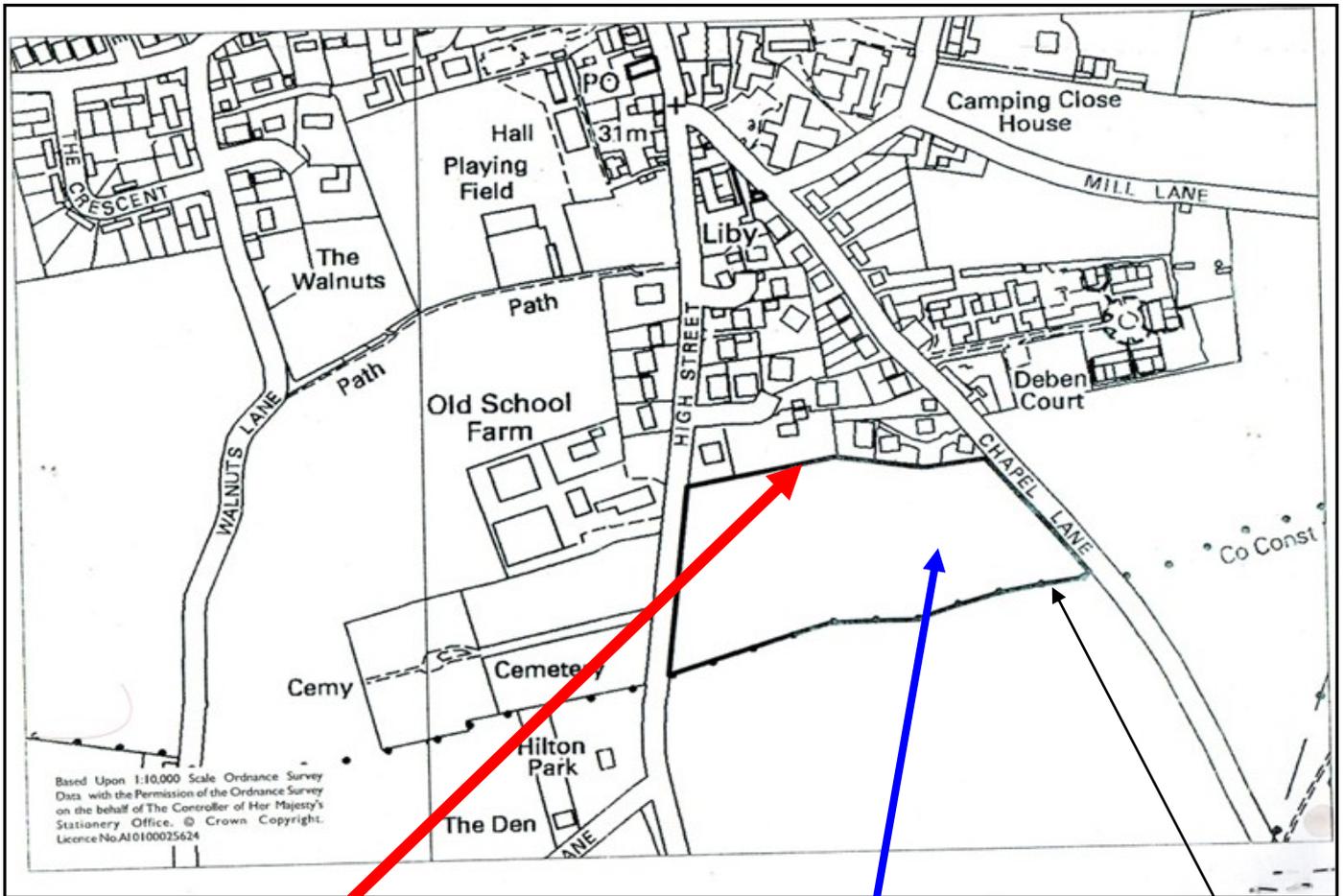
Our latest **Parish Council meeting on 7th February** began with a presentation by DPP on behalf of **Hopkins Homes**. We had been surprised to learn that land on the near edge of Wickham Market was being considered as a “deliverable” site for residential development. The 3HA (7.4 acres) of land lies between Chapel lane and B1438 (High St). It comes right up to the boundary of Pettistree, level with the edge of the Wickham Market cemetery. It is also close to our main conservation area across the B1438. A development of up to 95 homes is being considered with a single road access off the B1438. No shops are planned. This is described as “medium density”. The development would probably be on a “build on demand” basis (i.e. built as the demand for homes developed over a period of years, rather than as a single build). Your Parish Council is concerned at the prospect of any development in the greenfield area between Wickham Market and Pettistree because it will lead on to gradual infill and loss of the identity of Pettistree as an individual village set in farmland. Hopkins Homes have not yet applied for planning permission. Please let any parish councillor know your views and watch out for any planning notices in the local press or on roadside boards so that you can respond individually as well.

Roadside hedge cutting has not yet been completed but has to be done before the new nesting season starts. Our local farmer, Mr Richard Hayward, has been delayed by pressure of other work and the recent bad weather. As always, individual landowners will be responsible for paying for their share of the work. Dr Peter Hayward is still organizing this for us.

The Olympic Torch is due to be transported through Pettistree along the B1438 on Thursday 7th July. Because of security and advertising restrictions it is very difficult to find out what is planned but so far it appears that the torch will be run through Wickham Market and Ufford but carried by bus between the two as the road passes through Pettistree. This severely restricts viewing opportunities and makes no use of the wide and safe verges that line the B1438 in Pettistree that would be ideal viewing points. It appears that everything is dictated centrally with no place for local initiative.

Bridge Watch. A worrying development in the county has been the dropping of bricks and similar heavy objects from bridges onto cars driving along the A12 and A14. This has not affected our area yet but the police are anxious that everyone should keep an eye open and report any suspicious behaviour near our road bridges. We should also clear away any debris that could be used as a missile.

Roadside litter is not usually a major problem in our village as people are fairly tidy and several villagers collect litter on their regular walks. Despite this we still need our annual Spring Clean before the verges grow up and our **Annual Litter Pick** is planned for **Sunday 25th March** at 11.00 AM meeting at the Greyhound. Please come and help while enjoying a pleasant walk.



Present Physical Limits Boundary

Proposed Building Area

Parish Boundary

Poppy Appeal 2012

We would like to thank all those who contributed to the Poppy Appeal and are pleased to report the total collected from Pettistree for 2011 was £613.51, higher than 2010 total of £607.69. A welcome response, in view of the difficult financial times. In our area group of five parishes only Dallinghoo and Pettistree managed to achieve an increase in their collections. Once again thank you for your generosity and for your patience in filling in the gift aid forms which added £67.50 to the total.
Ann Sayer, Mike Sayer and Maureen Stollery

The Pettistree Pilates class is still going strong!

The Pilates class, set up through the 'Fit Villages' initiative, is still going strong in Pettistree. There are now two groups which meet on Monday evenings:

- The beginners group meets from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m.
- The improvers group follows on from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m.

Both groups meet in the Pettistree village hall and are led by our excellent tutor, Sam Whitfield. The current course will run until Monday 27th February. New members are welcome. Sessions cost £4. Please bring a mat and a cushion or towel for your head.

If you would like further information, please phone **Gill Johnson on 01394 460361**.

Diamond Jubilee 2012

Pettistree Diamond Jubilee 2012 Celebration

You are invited to come and celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee on Sunday 3 June 2012, from midday.

The day will have a Royalty based theme. Everyone from child to grandparent is very welcome to enter a decorated float, using for example a wheelbarrow, trolley, pushchair, pram, or anything non-motorised with the participants in fancy dress to join in the procession from Stump Street to the Village Hall. It is hoped the route will be decorated with fancy dressed scarecrows made by anyone who lives in or around the village and these will be judged during the day.

A few fun and not too energetic games such as, egg race, sack race, three-legged, will be played on the Village Green during the procession.

For the budding bakers among us, a competition for home made cakes can be brought along to the village hall for judging. Adults are invited to bake a cake of their choice, and the children, decorated Cup Cakes. These will be consumed with a cup of tea after the procession. If you do not wish to enter the competition but would like to bake a cake for the occasion, then all contributions will gratefully be received.

The timetable of the day is as follows:-

The day's events will start at midday with a finger buffet lunch at Coopers Cottage courtesy of Roger and Mary Chilvers. This will be informal and people attending are asked to donate a dish of savoury or sweet food for the meal (please liaise with Mary what to bring). Roger has kindly offered to have his museum open for people to have a look round during the lunch period. During lunch, the floats will assemble and be judged and at approximately 2pm the procession will leave towards the Village Green. Up to an hour is expected to be taken playing games here before heading off to the Village Hall for the presentation of the rosettes, accompanied with a cup of tea and cakes. This is hoped to be around 4pm

The Heritage committee hope to put on an interesting display about the changes in the village over the last 50 years.

At 6pm there will be a Songs of Praise in the Church, so if you have a favourite hymn please contact Maggie Hallett at the Laurels.

Mid evening you are invited to the Greyhound , for a simple and informal BBQ and drinks.

A Remembrance Coin is to be given to the children of the village (under the age of 18yrs). This coin is also available to purchase by anybody interested in doing so.

If you wish to help, enter a scarecrow, bake cup cakes for the competition, bake a cake for tea, or enter a float for the procession. Please speak to

Mary Chilvers at Coopers Cottage 01728746123

Steve Boardley at Hungarian Close 01394461451

Or email stevenboardley@goolemail.com.

We hope to make this a memorable occasion and will be pleased to see all residents of Pettistree and Loudham some time during the celebration.

Steve Boardley

Police News

CRIME UPDATE

There have only been two reported crimes since 5th September 2011. Both of these crimes were committed in the latter part of 2011. There have not been any recorded crimes for 2012.

Theft Other – October 2011

Burglary Other Building – October 2011

SNT CURRENT PRIORITIES

The last Community Panel Meeting was held on Monday 7th November 2011. The three priorities set by the general public were as follows;

Priority 1 :

To concentrate on enforcement of Road Traffic law in relation to parking regulations and concerns regarding speeding along Yarmouth Road Melton IP12 1PL (this has been carried over and is a continued priority)

Priority 2 :

To increase enforcement of speeding and parking issues in Wickham Market in particular Dallinghoo Road area of Wickham market Primary School. IP13 0RP

Priority 3 :

To concentrate on improving safety for users of the Pytches Road crossing by Woodbridge Primary School including speed and parking enforcement. IP12 1EP

The next Community Panel Meeting will be held on Thursday 9th February 2011 at 1900 hours, Eyke Village, Eyke.

Other Matters

It has come to our attention that there has been quite an increase in the theft of domestic wheelie bins over the last few months. Enquiries are obviously ongoing into these matters.

Analysis shows that most bins have been stolen when left out for refuse collection so we would advise that where possible you bring your bins back in and out of sight as soon as possible.

Police Direct

For those of you that haven't signed up for Police Direct yet, please don't forget about it! The service is free, easy to use and is proving to be a very valuable policing tool.

The service doesn't just assist us it also benefits you. You will receive regular updates either via text, email or landline letting you know what is happening in your area.

Leaflets are available at all police stations or visit our website.

CONTACTING THE POLICE

YOUR LOCAL OFFICERS ARE:

PC 797 Gilmore

PCSO 3094 Chattenberry

In an emergency always dial 999

To report a crime, speak to your local officers or leave a message please dial **101**.

Any member of the team can be contacted at woodbridge.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk
Our website as detailed below also has an email link to contact us.

Please also have a look at the Suffolk Constabulary Website, which can offer further help and advice.

To find the Woodbridge and District Team website please see www.saferuffolk.org.uk

Pc 797 Victoria Gilmore
Woodbridge and District Team Woodbridge Police Station
Non emergency tel 101

Church News *By Maggie Hallett*

December 2011 It may seem a long time ago but I would like to thank all those who contributed to the special events held in the church at the end of last year. On December 4th we were joined by the Bishop of Dunwich to celebrate the 25 years since the restoration of the church bells. This was a lovely occasion marked not only by some excellent bell-ringing and an inspiring service, but also by an extremely good 'ringers tea' to which all were invited. The Christmas carol service with the benefice choir was very much enjoyed by all, as was the mulled wine and mince pies served after the service in the Parish room. Both these social events proved the value of the refurbishment of the Parish room which is now a much more useful small meeting area to complement the Village Hall.

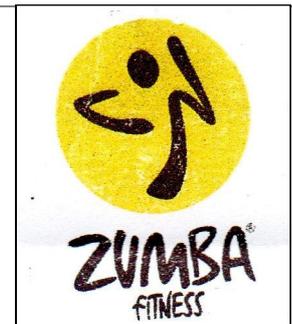
Lent Rev Margaret Blackall is again leading a series of Talks on a Lenten theme on Fridays at 10.30 in the Parish Room (in the church in March 16th) to help us prepare for Easter. Each session will be complete in itself, so there will be no difficulty for those who are unable to attend every one. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22nd) when there will be a service in the Church at 7.00 pm. The first Lent Talk is on Friday Feb 24th and will commence with tea or coffee at 10.30 am in the Parish Room and all Christians are welcome to join us.

Jubilee June 3rd On the evening of Pettistree's Day of Celebration there will be a Songs of Praise in the church. Everyone will have the opportunity to nominate their favourite hymns and the most popular 8 or 10 will be sung on the day, so start compiling your list.

Jubilee tree planting The planning committee suggested that it would be good for Pettistree to mark the Jubilee by planting a tree. This evolved into the current plan which is to replace the yew trees in the conservation area of the churchyard with an avenue of fruit trees, ideally East Anglian natives. Since the land is within the churchyard we have to obtain permission from the diocese but we understand that it is very unlikely for there to be any objection, as the yews were planted comparatively recently and are not part of an ancient plan.

Come and Have fun
At
Pettistree Village Hall
ZUMBA CLASS
Starting Wednesday 18th April 2012
7.00-8.00pm
£4 per class

Contact: Sandra Johnson
For information.
Tel No: 01728 685609



Mobile 077 881 00113

A NEW ERA FOR WICKHAM MARKET LIBRARY

Wickham Market Library is about to enter a new phase of its life, with the Wickham Market Partnership taking over the front of house services.



With the announcement that library services were under threat the six Trustees, all volunteers, swung into action to protect this most important of resources. The result is strong community support in the form of a new Library Management Committee that will facilitate the front of house functionality, including the continued employment of professional staff through the new Industrial Provident Society being set up by the County Council. Hours of opening will be extended through volunteers offering a loan and return service as well as running specialist book groups.

The road to this point has involved a huge amount of work in preparing a Business Plan, much frustration when seeking answers to questions, but ultimately a shared enthusiasm to see this pilot project work. **We do need everyone's support by making more use of this learning and leisure resource.** If you've not visited the library before, you may be pleasantly surprised by the light and airy space with its friendly welcome. The date for all this to happen? 1st April 2012.

The Partnership will re-launch the building as the 'Library & Community Rooms', making it clearer to the general public just what is on offer, at a Jubilee Event on:

Tuesday 5th June, 10.00am – 4.00pm

when there will be fundraising stalls for local organisations, visitors can enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits, find out more about the new look library service and community rooms, and celebrate with the winners of our village photographic competition. Follow this up with a visit to Wickham Market Village Hall for a tea party and games on the field between 3.00 and 4.30pm (tickets for this available locally nearer the time).

We will be remarketing the Community Rooms as a space for 'hot-desking' (working away from home with a desk, wi-fi and printer), a therapy room, a meeting room and an interview room.

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering in the library, the Jubilee event, or about hiring any of the rooms, please email: info@wickham-market.org.uk You can also visit our website at www.wickham-market.org.uk or telephone 01728 747782 to speak to our Administrative Assistant, Linda Merriam.

Cath Caudwell, Trustee & Company Secretary, the Wickham Market Partnership

FREE NHS HEALTH CHECKS

NHS Suffolk, in partnership with Health Smart, is offering community based free health checks for those people aged between 40 and 74. If there is sufficient demand they would hire the village hall and set up a clinic for the day. It is aimed at pinpointing the risks of developing cardio vascular disease, diabetes or strokes. Appointments with trained professionals would take about twenty minutes and include pin prick tests for cholesterol and glucose, height and weight measurements and discussions on diet and exercise, medical history etc. This is a pilot scheme running until 31st March 2012. If anyone is interested in organizing this please contact Sarah Connellan by telephone on 02076912077 or email sarahconnellan@health-smart.co.uk.

FROLIC, FERVOUR & FORNICATION *by Evelyn Whitfield*

The Pettistree Heritage Annual Event took place on 11th November and was well attended. Cath Caudwell welcomed everybody. There had been doubts on whether it could be held in the Village Hall because of the ongoing refurbishment work. A team of volunteers had carried out a thorough clean which meant the venue did not have to change at the last minute and Cath on behalf of those present thanked the volunteers. A display had been set up at the back of the hall and Cath drew attention to the Pettistree Heritage Walks leaflet. This had been compiled by residents using information from local history records and shows three walks around the village.

Cath introduced the speaker, Pip Wright, a retired primary schoolteacher from Stowmarket. From the list of his suggested topics, the Pettistree Heritage had chosen 'Frolic, Fervour & Fornication'. Pip said the more conservative organizations tended to avoid this talk, presumably because in some circles 'fornication' might come under the heading of 'taboo'. We soon learnt that church registers, papers and documents are not just lists, but can reveal a great deal more about social history. In the past records were kept under lock and key but nowadays the data is more accessible as these important sources are passed to the Record Office for safe keeping.

In 1538 Henry VIII ordered that priests should keep records of baptisms, marriages and burials and they would be stored in locked chests. In the first instance the priests did not and quite often relied on scraps of paper and in 1598, near the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign, every parish had to use a standard register and again it had to be kept in a chest. The chest may have three locks; the vicar would hold one key and the two churchwardens would also have a key each. Problems arose if any of the keyholders were absent at any time. Scraps of paper came back into their own on such occasions; although the information should have been written into the register later, it was not unknown for the paper to be slipped into the book. Sometimes the information might be retrieved from the bottom of a chest, but not always. In the early days the priest might employ a scribe to write up the entries.

Baptisms could be carried out by midwives who would carry blessed water with them so if a baby looked unlikely to survive the night he/or she could be named and be assured a place in heaven. If against the odds the baby lived, the mother would be expected to bring the child to church to be welcomed into the congregation. The problem was she would have to pay 1/2p, which was not an encouragement.

Pip kept us entertained with snippets gleaned from the register – the number of illegitimate children born at regular intervals to 'widows' was quite surprising and under the heading 'father' at one particular church, the same name appeared on many entries and the 'mother' was not always his wife. On a sadder note Kelsale has a record of a 2 headed baby monster and Pip had also seen an entry for twins joined at the back.. A foundling abandoned at Capel St Mary was named Mary Capel. Unexplained: 57 persons died of an uncommon and odd fever at the end of the summer in Beccles – Pip wondered whether the cause was malaria. On a more positive note whilst searching through papers he found several references to village collections. One parish in the middle of nowhere 250 years ago had a collection for a college in Philadelphia and in the 1660s there was a house to house collection in Belstead following several disasters in the country.

Fornication, in the form of wife swapping, seemed not an uncommon occurrence and there were several cases at Great Whelnetham and penance, fines and even excommunication could be the consequence. If the latter, it could mean you could not get a job. At Ubbeston on 12 September 1707 Sarah Edwards stood in a white sheet with a wand in her hand and a board detailing the offence. She had to beg forgiveness and say a prayer.

We heard the tale of Arundel Coke, a barrister living in Bury St. Edmunds whose sister was married to the High Sheriff, Edmund Crisp. Coke did not like his brother in law and hired John Woodburn to kill him. The plot went wrong and Crisp survived. Coke and Woodburn were subsequently sentenced to death. Parts of the body may well have been sold to doctors, but what remained was returned to the family for burial at Great Livermere. His sins would have prevented him from being buried on consecrated land, but the problem was avoided by digging a hole the other side of the graveyard with tunnel access through to the family tomb.

Priests were not averse to the odd unpleasant comment about their parishioners as can be seen from records at Pettistree. One parson at Coney Weston appeared to dislike the entire congregation.

Pip brought his talk to a close and Cath gave a vote of thanks. Refreshments supplied by the committee and friends of Pettistree Heritage were served and the raffle drawn. The next hour was spent socializing and browsing the records on display.

Petanque *by Steve Wassell*

On a wonderfully sunny morning on Sunday 2nd October, Pettistree Greyhound welcomed some 32 players made up from the local area including Snape Golden Key and friends and Pettistree Greyhound plus assorted friends and relations to enjoy a morning of ever so slightly competitive Petanque, and what an absolutely splendid occasion it was too, and one that was immensely enjoyed by one and all.

There were four 'pistes' in use, starting with 32 competitors playing the best of seven 'ends', with a running scoreline and with a deciding end being played if after seven the scores were tied. This reduced the competitors by half each round, the loser dropping out, the winner progressing to the next level eventually getting down to a final pair competing for the spoils.

The final two combatants were Nick from Snape and our very own Tony Cousins, normally non-playing captain of the Greyhound II team so it was clearly a touch of beginners luck. Hmmm!

After the competition was finished and the 'prizes' presented Karen brought out delicious bacon baps and there was a general quaffing of good ale, with a 'fair few' from all round staying on for impromptu lunches and snacks in the garden.

The trophy came from Dave – he picked it up at work as it wasn't any use to anyone! (well that's a change from a Car Boot sale) The bottle of champers Tony kindly gave to Dave for organising the event, although we are going to save it for our Petanque players end of season 'bash'. Cheers!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL PROPS'tars

"One Year Young" Feb 2011

Yes its our birthday! and many thanks to all members for your support & encouragement over the past 12 months.

We have:- Sourced i.r.o.3/4 Million Litres of heating oil
 7 Placements made over the year
 Saved an average of 8p per litre against the highest quoted prices.
 500 members in 56 villages (regrettably, membership is now capped)
 Encouraged and assisted 3 other local syndicates to set up and do the same.

The coming year will provide some extra challenges in reduced number of independant suppliers so there will be no resting on laurels.

*stay warm with **PROPS 'the friendly way to buy heating oil'***

UP Coming Oil Request 'CutOff' (deadline) is **27 March**

'We may not always be the cheapest, but we aim to be the best!'

Forthcoming Events at the Greyhound

Next Quiz Night on Thursday 15th March starting at 8.15pm. Maximum teams of 4. £1 per person entry.

Thursday 29th March - Themed Food Night - Italian Menu and Wines

BBQ on the Sunday evening of 3rd June to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee with Live Music (artist to be confirmed)

Don't forget the Petanque season starting again soon - all newcomers are most welcome

Carols in the Barn at Church Farm

(with a visit to Indonesia by Rita Smith)

Dick and I would like to say a very sincere thank you to everyone who joined us singing Carols in the Barn on Thursday 22nd December 2011. It was probably one of the mildest evenings we've had for the event, but it was still good to have Jim and Pauline's barbecue to gather around afterwards. We are very grateful to all the readers, instrumentalists and singers who combined to make it such a meaningful occasion, and also to everybody for their generosity.

We have been able to send £180 to each of the two charities – the Starlight Children's Foundation which aims to grant the wishes of seriously ill children, and to our son - Stephen's Orphanage in Indonesia – www.gunungan.org



I was fortunate to be able to go to Indonesia with Stephen last September and to visit the orphanage. Because he was so busy with his various projects, he had arranged for me to spend some time with other people – without him. One of the things I said I would like to do was to visit a local primary school - to see how it differed from English schools. Two of the Care-Givers from the orphanage, Asti and Yohanna, kindly arranged this with the local school and it was agreed that they would go with me on Tuesday morning, Asti as Interpreter and Yohanna as photographer! I was to be at Gunungan at 9.00 o'clock for the short walk from the orphanage to school.



Although the orphanage is not far from the Novotel, where I was staying, I organised with Reception for a 'becak' driver to collect me at 10 to 9 as I knew I wouldn't be able to walk there in the heat. He arrived on time, escorted me to his waiting bicycle, settled me into the 'bucket seat' on the front and plunged headlong into the thick streams of traffic. Stephen had warned me to think of the traffic as a shoal of fish. All manner of vehicles could appear from the right or left, in front or behind and be carried along together hooting and tinkling as they felt fit. I viewed all this from the level of a bicycle wheel and found it great fun!

We somehow broke away to the left from our shoal, turning into a quieter side road boarded with palms and mango trees, and arrived at the orphanage. As I clambered out from the shade of the bicycle carrier, Kenny, the youngest child at the orphanage, was racing down the road towards me carrying a piece of paper. He careered into the forecourt, bumped into Asti, and after quite a bit of explaining on both sides she signed the piece of paper and he went racing off again. Asti explained to me that he needed permission to go on a school trip and the slips had to be in by today. I asked if he was allowed to leave school like that and she said 'Not really, but it's his break time so it won't matter too much!' I think it would matter greatly in an English school!



We walked slowly along the narrow tarmac road, dodging the becaks and the profusion of people selling their wares from bikes, and I found myself in the school playground without realizing how I got there. No 6 foot gates and high fences, just a continuation of the road. About 100 children were in the yard, all wearing a smart uniform of rust skirt or shorts and a white shirt, and most were huddled around tables buying snacks and drinks. They had already been at school for 2 hours making the most use of daylight hours. It wasn't long before I felt very much the centre of interest, with many bright eyes staring at me, and a lot of chatter going on which I couldn't understand. I was led into the staffroom and introduced to

several teachers, Asti doing a brilliant job as interpreter. Another difference hit me at that point – the teachers were all wearing uniform as well, a buff military looking affair with badges and an identity tag around their necks. I also learnt that they had homes provided for them on the school site, and all teachers were expected to live there.

I was ushered into the first classroom where about 20 six-year olds were sitting at shared wooden desks all facing the blackboard. The teacher was singing a song with them. All the children were trying hard to pay attention despite the fact that I was an obvious distraction. The teacher asked me if I would like to talk to the children, and I chose to teach them the song *Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose*. I was very impressed by the level of concentration the little ones gave me, with a language that must have been so strange.

The next class of seven to eight year olds was having a craft lesson. The children were threading tiny beads onto nylon thread, some in intricate patterns, making necklaces and bracelets. I was amazed at their dexterity and eyesight to be able to work with such small objects. A third class I visited, of eight year olds, was studying Religion. The teacher explained – via my interpreter, that the children were mainly Muslim and any Christians went to other classes at this time. Each child had a book about Islam – again with very small print, and after reading a passage they replied to the questions beneath. I tried to talk to a few of the children, but the language was too big a barrier, and for those who managed a ‘hello’ or ‘Eengleesh’ it meant that those around dissolved into fits of embarrassed giggles.

I thoroughly enjoyed my morning in school, and was so impressed by the children’s levels of concentration. Stephen had told me that every child has to pay to attend school. If you can’t afford it, you can’t go. So it becomes a privilege to be able to go.

Stephen makes sure that every child at the orphanage attends school and I felt pleased to know that the children really value the money that we send them, and make good use of the time they spend in school.

100 Club

The 100 Club was set up by founder members of the Village Hall Management Committee as a means of raising funds to assist in the running costs of the village hall. It is a form of lottery and has been well supported in the past and the starting date for the next year is May 2012. As there are several new residents to the village it seems a timely reminder to mention this village lottery and ask if anyone else would like to participate. It costs just £1 a month and the prize money is 50% of the total collected. So the more members the greater the prize money and funds for the hall.

The winners for the last four months were as follows:

Month	1 st Prize	2 nd Prize	3 rd Prize
October 2011	Anna Ayris	Neil Moss	Dave Caudwell
November	Anna Ayris	Guy Signy	Peter Hayward
December	Molly Incoll	Mary Hallett	Jenny Barnes
January 2012	Anne Rowles	Daisy Kiddy	Mary Norris

Please get in touch with any committee member if you would like to join.

Burns'Night 2012 by Jim Jarvie

On 4th February seventy- one hardy souls gathered in the village hall to celebrate the life and works of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns. Although most Burns' Nights are held on the 25th January the early gatherings to celebrate his life were held in July. Rod Caird, the Pettistree piper and those who wore kilts on the night were probably wishing our event was held in July.

Burns was only 37 years old when he died from rheumatic fever and his wife was unable to attend his funeral as she was giving birth to his ninth child. Life was so different before television and computers. In a recent poll in Scotland Robert Burns' was voted the most influential Scot of all time. I am not sure what Alex Salmond made of this!



The guests were piped into the village hall and given the cold, Rod chose to play in the entrance rather than outside. Seating seventy-one in the hall was a true test for the new floor but despite our initial fears, there was a bit of a spring in the boards, it settled down well. Rod has been teaching me to play the pipes and we decided it was time for me to perform in front of an audience. I did receive a call on our house phone and I apologised to the caller who could hear the drones of my pipes. He asked if I kept goats and couldn't believe the noise came from an instrument. To say I was nervous is an understatement. Playing the bagpipes is like riding a bike whilst at the same time cooking an omelette and blowing up a balloon.

However, just before I started Rod gave a few words of advice.... Most people in the hall will not know if I played a bad note! I really appreciated the reception I received which made my red face and breathlessness worth the effort.



John Speedman eloquently addressed the haggis (including vegetarian) with his unique blend of history and entertainment. For those who asked if there was any whisky in the gravy I can confirm there was no gravy in the whisky. The meal was followed by the immortal memory to Robert Burns again delivered by John. He gave us a flavour of the influence of Burns even to performers such as Michael Jackson with his album 'Thriller'.

You could hear a pin drop when Carol Speedman recited 'John Anderson My Jo' to John (and the rest of us) a really emotional poem.

We had the traditional end to the evening with some Scottish country dancing and despite a temperamental CD player, augmented by the pipes (Rod not me) not a foot was out of place ...although it may have been a dram clouding my vision.

As well as being an enjoyable evening a contribution of around £700 will go towards the village hall. My thanks to all those who helped with the food, assisted on the night and provided raffle prizes. Particular thanks to Rod our piper, Mike Barnes our 'bouncer' and Pauline for putting up with my bagpipe lessons.



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Village Hall Management Committee Report

We were pleased to have our first meeting in the village hall since the main part of the hall had been insulated, a new floor fitted and redecorated. The Committee wish to say a very big thank you to Ralph Calver for the excellent work carried out, to Steve Boardley for overseeing the project and to the decorating team of Terry Rowles, Eric Dowker and Ann Sayer. Thanks also to others who have helped in various ways to get this project underway.

We now have a lovely light and airy hall which, when heated, remains warmer and cosier than before.

The next stage is the kitchen and again insulation is very necessary, as well as a new floor, which, as we know from the main hall project, will need the rotten joists replaced.

Work on the kitchen should be carried out over the next few months and during that time the kitchen will be out of commission but there should be access to the meters so the main hall will still be available for Pilates, Carpet Bowls and the Art Group. A Zumba class begins on the 18th April. It is good to see the hall used so much. Once more, we apologise for inconvenience caused while the building work is carried out, but it will be worth it for the end result.

Fund raising continues and thanks go to Roger and Mary Chilvers for the £145 raised at the New Year's Eve Party, which was a very good evening, enjoyed by those who attended. Hopefully more residents will attend should Roger and Mary stage the event again. By the time you read this we will have had the Burn's Night, and a report may get into this issue of the Pettistree People. If not it will go in the next one. All profits this year will go towards the village hall funds. The next event will be a **Race Night on 17th March**, please come along and support the fun evening.

Jim Jarvie



Two Mistle thrushes enjoy a hearty meal after the thaw

Thank you again

Carol Speedman would like to thank all who purchased her hand made cards in aid of the Treehouse Appeal for the new children's hospice in Ipswich.

The collection box was sent to them uncounted and to her delight, when opened, it contained £226.46

Carol is now planning future cards to help the continuation of this good cause and would appreciate your further support .



Presmere Day Nursery

Presmere Day Nursery has now been open since 1991. The former farm cottage was converted into the nursery at the end of 1990 after much work and wallpaper stripping! At that time the nursery was registered for just 6 children aged 2 to 5 years.

The nursery was split into 2 rooms one for wet and messy play and the other for more general play incorporating a book corner, home corner and dressing up, space for construction toys and puzzles and lots more besides.

I opened with just one child on the books and ran the nursery on my own. Something I would not be allowed to do today! However, it was not too long before the numbers began to increase and I employed my first nursery nurse.

The nursery continued to grow and by the following year we were looking to expand. This saw us move into the cottage next door and we increased our numbers to 11 children, the extra space gave the children a lot more space to play and enjoy their time with us.

We are also very lucky to have the lovely garden for the children to play in giving them lots of opportunities to explore and discover the world around them. We have also made good use of the village and can often be seen out for walks to feed the ducks and visit the cows and horses. We even had sheep come to visit us when Joe Arbon kindly brought 3 sheep for the children to see and touch which of course they all thought was very exciting! The children also like to visit the church and are fascinated when we take them inside which we do occasionally always on their best behaviour!



The nursery was by now very well established in the local area and I was being asked if we would take babies. Something which I was not particularly keen to do but began to realise that this was the way to go and we changed our registration again increasing the numbers to 13 and converted our end play room into the baby room. I was by now employing several staff both full and part time from the village and surrounding area.

The nursery continued to thrive and about 12 years ago we built the extension on the side and moved out of the next door cottage. This building gave us the opportunity to purpose build what we really wanted and in doing so created the nursery as it is today with a lovely open plan area which retains its homely feel. Something I was very keen to do. At this point we again increased our numbers and were registered for 16 children which is how it still is today.

The nursery has built up a very good reputation over the years and we have children coming from as far as Saxmundham and Martlesham. We were very lucky to be given a grant from Suffolk County Council 2 years ago after quite a lot of hard work to enable us to really enhance our outdoor play area and so we now have a beautiful decked area at the back which has become our outdoor classroom meaning that we can offer much more for the children in all weathers.

The front garden has had a make over as well and we now have a super vegetable garden which the children get really involved in and love to be out planting seeds and then picking the vegetables when they are ready! We also have a special sensory garden aimed mainly at the younger children but all the children enjoy this too and a stream at the end of the garden which they all love and have great fun trying to sail boats or just watching the water!

It is amazing to think that in June this year the nursery will be 21 years old. Quite where this time has gone I do not know! We now have students coming to us for work experience who came to the nursery when they were little, all a bit scary! Fortunately we have been very lucky and managed to keep going through good and bad times and the nursery continues to thrive. Something I hope will continue for many years to come.

Debbie Hayward



Changes to House Names

The names of the houses in the village have changed with time. Often the house or cottage was called by the name of the occupants such as Cooper's Cottage or Stannards or by it where it was situated such as Near the church

If anyone thinks of any more change of names and dates please let the History Recorder know

Present name	Previous name	Approx Date changed
Pettistree House	Java Lodge	1932
Hilton Park	Arosfa	1977
The Den	Vindiray	1941
The Laurels	Ivy Cottage	
The Grange	Church Farm	1912
Rogues Cottage	Walnut Tree Cottage	1958
Strawtop	Gardener's Cottage Lodge Cottage	c 1960's
Old Carleford	Presmere Cottage	
Coppens	Police Station	
Pear Tree Cottage	Potash Cottage	
Penmaen	Garden House	
Byng Brook House	Town Cottages Roamwood Townlands	2011
Burways	Cornerways	

Joan Peck

County & District Councillors

Mr Michael Bond County & District Councillor Email: michael.bond@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Mr Jim Bidwell District Councillor Email: jim.bidwell@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Dave Caudwell 01728747170 Rogues Cottage

Mike Sayer 01394 460 639 4 Hungarian Close

Parish Councillors

Jeff Hallett Chairman
The Laurels 746210

Maureen Stollery
Vice Chairman
I Presmere Road 746653

Mary Chilvers
Cooper's Cottage 746123

Elaine Boardley
1 Hungarian Close 01394 461451

Peter Hayward 746558
Green Farm

Mike Watts 747202
Burways
Thong Hall Road

Terry Rowles 01394 4604422
Low farm

Useful people to contact

Parish Clerk Clive Mann 01394421628

Vicar Rev John Eldridge 01728746026

Bellringers Mary Garner 01728746097

ChurchWarden Brian Nobbs 01728746590

Village Hall
Booking Secretary. Pauline Jarvie 01728745030

Local History Recorder Joan Peck

Age Concern Mike Manning 01728 747321

The Three Tuns 01728747979

Wickham Market Health Centre 01728747101

Post Office 01728746201

Library 01728747216

Dial A Ride Contact No. 01473281194

The Three Tuns



**Restaurant and Rooms
now open**