



Pettistree People

Issue 27

September 2004

Deadline for next issue is November 14th 2004

Pettistree Parish Council News



Chairman's Letter – August 2004

Residents of Pettistree

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as your new Chairman of the Parish Council.

For those of you who don't know me, or are new to the village, I am Tony Franklin and I have lived in Scott's Hall (near the Water Tower) for 30 years with my wife Jacki and our children James, Amy and Sophie. I have been a Parish Councillor since 1976 and also served as Clerk to the Parish Council for 5 years or so in the 1980s. Although I hail from Bewdley a small town on the River Severn in Worcestershire my roots are now firmly embedded in Suffolk. Jacki and I have lived in Pettistree for the whole of our married life and during that time we have seen Pettistree change its character as people come and go while always maintaining its community spirit and village atmosphere.

I am hoping to make these letters a regular feature in Pettistree People dealing in each issue with a specific activity or concern that affects the village. In this issue I would like to introduce you to the plan to enter the Village into the 2005 Suffolk Village of the Year Competition. Also I will raise the need to revamp the Pettistree Web Site.

Suffolk Village of the Year Competition

This competition used to be called the Best Kept Village Competition and Pettistree won the competition in 1983 and 1987, winning the Fison's "Past Winners" Trophy also in 1987 – so you will appreciate that we have 'form' in this area.

In 1997 the Best Kept Village Competition for the smaller villages became the Suffolk Village of the Year Competition sponsored by Calor and coordinated by Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC). Information about

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Parish Councillors

Tony Franklin	Chairman
Scott's Hall	Tel No 746585
Maureen Stollery	Vice Chairman
1 Presmere Road	746653
Jeff Hallett	
The Laurels	746210
Nick Beagley	746344
Pettistree Grange	
Karen Hunter	747430
2 Presmere Road	
Mark Edworthy	746333
Grove Farm	

this year's competition can be found on the Web Site www.villageoftheyear.org

At the Annual Parish Meeting held in May it was agreed to support the Parish Council's plan to enter the village into the 2005 Village of the Year Competition in the category with less than 500 population. Having made this commitment the Village has set itself on a course of action, which hopefully will address each of the criteria upon which villages are judged in the competition.

Our current information is that there are six headings under which the Village will be judged and these are:

- Environment
- Young People
- Community Life
- Business
- Older People
- Information Technology

During the coming months running up to the judging of the entrants in June of next year, I am hoping to deal with the criteria under all six of these headings, starting with an area in which I believe the Village is strong, and that is Community Life. The judges will ask six questions

1. **How does information circulate in your village - newsletter, parish magazine, notice boards, WI, deliveries. How many households receive a newsletter or parish magazine?** Because of the existence of the Pettistree People we are likely to score highly here especially if we can encourage more people to contribute articles and news items.
2. **How are people in need supported by your community?** This is perhaps an area where we need more evidence of people helping other people in the Village.
3. **What activities organised by local people go on in the village hall or other village centres?** The events the Village Hall committee organise put us in a strong position here as does the Pettistree Heritage 2000 Trust and the event it is organising in June of next year.
4. **What other groups provide community activities, e.g. WI, drama society, local history group, sports groups, church groups, others?** Although we do not have WI or drama society (now there is an opportunity – perhaps a Village panto?) we are reasonably well represented in this area.
5. **How are new people welcomed into the village and how easy is it for them to become involved with village life?** While we don't have a formal welcome process (what village does?) we are all keen to welcome newcomers and involve them in village social activities.
6. **Has your village recently completed any special project, which benefited village life? Or are you planning one?** The Village Hall extension and the Local History event next June are good examples but we could do with a couple more in my view.

I think that you might agree that Community Life in Pettistree is healthy but could do with a lift if we are to impress the Competition judges.

Pettistree Web Site

The second topic that I would like to introduce is the Pettistree Web Site <http://www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.uk>, which Joan Peck, Karen Hunter and Maureen Stollery look after with the help of Chris Garner.

Recently, Joan asked me to review the Web Site and as a result of that review it is likely that we will embark upon an overhaul of the Site during the autumn. Our Web Site is a window through which the world

can see us and therefore it is important that it shows what we want it to show and that it informs people about Pettistree in a constructive manner. If you have any views about how our Web Site should look and what information it should contain then please give me a call on 746585 or Email me on tony.franklin@btinternet.com

Well that's all for now folks, more about the Village of the Year Competition in my next letter.

Yours sincerely,
Tony Franklin
Chairman, Pettistree Parish Council

Parish Council Report

Council Membership

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting, held earlier this month, Tony Franklin was elected as the Council's Chairman after Jeff Hallett had stood down as Chairman after serving three years in this post. Prior to this meeting, Mike Manning resigned his membership of the Parish Council after serving 5 years as a Councillor. The Parish Council recorded its appreciation for the time, energy and application, which both Councillors have put into their respective contributions to the activities of the Council.

A new face of the Parish Council is that of Mark Edworthy who was co-opted into a vacancy, which had existed for some time.

Mike Manning's resignation has caused a new vacancy to occur which was advertised during July and as the Parish Council has not received any nominations it will now proceed to co-opting a new member at its next meeting in September.

Probert Community Initiative Awards

Each year Suffolk ACRE invites communities to nominate an individual or organisation in the community that works tirelessly for the benefit of others. Until now Pettistree has not made a nomination but this year the Parish Council decided that the Village had a worthy candidate in Joan Peck. Early in August we were pleased to receive an invitation from Suffolk ACRE to their AGM on 16th September when the winner will be announced as Joan has been short listed for the final round of judging.

Village Sign

The Village Sign, which is situated on the Green, has become unsafe due to rotting of the post at its base. Measures are in hand to effect repairs and the work is expected to take place during September.

Road Signs

Following representation made by the Parish Council and local residents, junction warning road signs have been erected on the main Woodbridge to Wickham Market road at the junction of Rogues Lane.

Verge Cutting

Widespread dissatisfaction has been voiced in the village about the quality of grass verge cutting this

year. The Parish Council has complained to the County Council in the strongest terms demanding that an improvement be made next year.

Planning Applications – Three Tuns

The Parish Council received notification of a planning application to increase the size of the Three Tuns public house which if granted would increase the number of letting room from 13 to 29. Normally, the Parish Council's Planning Sub-group deals with planning applications, which are received between Parish Council meeting, and then reports their observations and comments at the following Council meeting. In view of the scale of the proposed changes to the Three Tuns it was decided that the full Parish Council should consider this planning application and an extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting was held on 15th July. The proposals for the Three Tuns were fully examined and a number of concerns were identified the most significant being the size of the car park while on the other hand the development was seen to provide a valuable amenity and offer some additional local employment.

New Community Policeman

PC Marc Norman is the Community Police Officer for the Village.

Village of the Year Competition See Chairman's Letter

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 23rd September – Venue: Village Hall

Tony Franklin
Chairman, Pettistree Parish Council

Pettistree Cricket Club August 2004
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So far the summer has been very good for the grass, which has kept growing, and has at times got beyond control for the playing of cricket at the Pettistree Oval. At the time of writing, 5 games have been lost – to the weather, and Pettistree are sitting in a mid-table position having won 4 games and lost 3. In the last home game against Melton St. Audreys Pettistree scored 188, very much helped by 63 from Jamie Ayris, and then proceeded to bowl the St. Audreys side out for 95, T. Johnson taking 6 for 14. With only 4 league matches left, promotion may still be decided on the last game against Castle on Sunday 12th. September, so if the sun shines do come by and see how things are going.

RHS.

Notices

It takes all Sorts

The new season for carpet bowls starts on Thursday 7th October at 7.30pm. New members are very welcome as of course are the seasoned 'professionals'. This year we will be teaming up with Ufford every Thursday evening, alternating venues between Pettistree Village Hall and the Ufford Pavillion. No special gear is needed just come along and enjoy a bit of competitive fun. Mike and Ann Sayer will be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join, they can be contacted on 01394 460639.

Planning

Plan No	Date	Appellant & Application	Result	Date
C04/ 1186	25/ 06/ 04	Innobox Hotels c/o Canwell Design Co, The Stables, 6 Silverhill, Staffs. Three Tuns Pettistree Erection of extension & alteration to existing public house to increase number of letting rooms from 12 to 29 <i>This application has now been withdrawn. No reason given</i>		
C04/ 1363	16/ 07/ 04	Mrs J A Ayris, "The Clock House," The Street, Pettistree, IP13 0HU. Erection of single-storey dwelling with garage Alteration of existing vehicular access Location: part side garden "The Clock House"		
		Appeal Ref APP/J353/A04/1138724 Scott's Hall	The appeal is dis- missed	05/08/04

Village Hall

The extension will go ahead as planned but don't expect instant results! To ensure we have the best price we must wait until the end of this year for work to commence.

J.S. Garrard of Claydon will commence work at the end of November and should be finished by 4th February. The hall will be out of use for only three weeks during this time (10th January - 28th January 2005). The hall will therefore be available through to the New Year if you wish to book it.

Dave Caudwell

100 Club

Date	1st	2nd	3rd
<i>May</i>	J Ballance	Dave Caudwell	Jenny Ayris
<i>June</i>	P Hind	Kath Hilton	Eric Dowker
<i>July</i>	Don & Cherry White	John Argenti	Phil Kay

Tea at the Ritz

For a treat on Adelle's 18th birthday, along with her grandmother, cousins and aunty we went to the Ritz for afternoon tea.

On arrival at the Ritz, we were welcomed into the Palm Court, a beautiful, opulent, gilded room with resident pianist. The room, not particularly large, but very decorative was full of other normal, people, not at all stuffy, although we were admiring the large diamonds on a young man seated next to us.



A very handsome young waiter, something the girls all appreciated, seated us and tea was served. Silver teapots, bone china cups and saucers, napkins laid on your lap – oh how civilised! The food arrived – large tiered plates full of sandwiches, scones, fruitcakes and on the top wonderful creations of fresh cream patisserie. The feast was restocked every time anything was eaten, but unfortunately our appetites were no match for this. With a crescendo on the piano, a birthday cake was brought to the table and a chorus of Happy Birthday was sung.

Of course one thing most ladies are interested in are the toilets, very nice, large mirrors, chaise lounge, individual proper towels and very nice hand creams.

A very special experience and an afternoon thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Karen Hunter

Luciano Pavarotti

The famous Italian tenor is retiring this year and has embarked on a series of farewell concerts. The English performance was held at Leeds Castle in Kent on July 17th as part of his world tour. Dick and Rita Smith, Rosie and myself had acquired tickets some weeks before as the concert was quickly sold out. We drove to Maidstone during the afternoon arriving in time to enjoy an alfresco meal in the beautiful grounds of Leeds Castle, which is a perfect setting for such a memorable occasion. Our timing was perfect, as we found our seats in the huge open air venue. This was quite an achievement since there were about 30,000 other people trying to do the same thing!! Many were very late due to traffic congestion. We were a little surprised to find that we were about 70 yards from the stage but we found that the sound quality was superb and huge TV screens relayed the performance from the stage. We were immediately captivated by the songs and arias from THE VOICE. The personality of Pavarotti was almost palpable, enchanting singing, terrific accompaniment by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and support from a great soprano, Carmela Remigio. The quality was predictably superb and we all experienced the “tingle factor.” The surroundings added to the impact of a wonderful evening. We left a little early because of the threatened traffic jams and as we made our way to the car park, we were still serenaded by Pavarotti's voice as he performed his last encore. The memory of that summer's evening will remain with us all for many years.

Peter Hayward.

Hedgerow Survey - Pettistree and Loudham

The Hedgerow Team is pleased to report the recruitment of a new member, Diane Ling, who is going to survey the hedges on Mr Warburg's land at Loudham. Diana is currently undertaking some survey work for F.W.A.G. and has many contacts in the farming sector, so her help will be greatly appreciated.

Diane and her husband own some land in Pettistree and would like to become involved in some of the village activities.

Survey work is now underway and we intend to complete all the 'leg work' by leaf fall, to enable the paperwork to be completed in the winter months.

Ufford have started their survey and are looking for volunteers, if you are interested, please contact Lin Carter at Crown Farmhouse, High Street, Ufford on 01394 461085 or Email lin.carter@cea.co.uk. She will be very pleased to hear from you and I can assure you it is very interesting and a very good way to get some exercise.

Ann Sayer

Nature Notes

In the last three months nature has been very busy in Pettistree, with some reports of unusual happenings.

In July Claire Signy reported seeing two Otters swimming around in the moat. Claire was sure they were Otters because of their actions of diving, swimming and rolling on their backs, but after having the pleasure of watching them for two days they just simply disappeared back to whence they came perhaps. We are hopeful that some day they will return.

At Fen Cottage and the Den a wonderful sight was observed, a Mother Kestrel teaching its fledgling to catch its own food. Mother had caught a small mouse, which it dropped in front of the young bird and as the mouse tried to escape Mother encouraged the fledgling to retrieve it. As it got away Mother would retrieve it herself, this happened many times until the fledgling finely got the message and the mouse was eaten.

Another strange sight which not many people seem to have seen, was reported about a month ago by a Pettistree resident. While out walking his dog he noticed a large hole scraped out of the bank at the side of the road. When inspected closely he saw hundreds of dead bumble bees and just a few pieces of honey comb dotted about, but sad to say about 100 m. along the lane an identical site was found. After consulting the experts, it is thought the only animal that could have possibly caused such disturbance was a badger. If any one has any information on any nearby badger setts maybe they could let Joan or myself know.

We also have reports of Jays feeding their young in the garden and even Green Woodpeckers encourage their young to rid our lawns of ants, what a lovely sight.

After what seems years of decline in our wild life, I believe we are beginning to see an improvement, this year. Several residents have not only reported hearing the Cuckoo, but also seeing them as well. I do hope the people of Pettistree will watch out for and encourage all wild life. We would welcome any such reports for the Pettistree People.

Maureen Stollery

Local History Report for 2003

January

The first week was relatively uneventful but on the 6th it snowed slightly giving a light covering. 29th More snow fell and this was quite deep –about four inches, considerably more than we have had for several years.

March

20th a new bus shelter was erected or rather dropped in by crane on the eastern side of the B1438 opposite the Three Tuns. The first bus shelter was erected to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 and this one is in time to commemorate the Golden Jubilee in 2003. A new Parish Council Notice Board has been erected to replace the one by the Greyhound. The Greyhound has changed landlord yet again.

May

Parish and Coastal District Council elections. There were insufficient candidates for an election this time in Pettistree. There is still one vacancy to be filled by co-option. Those returned unopposed are Jeff Hallett Chairman Maureen Stollery Vice- chairman Nicholas Beagley Tony Franklin Mike Manning and Karen Hunter. There was a period of hot and dry weather in July and in August it was very hot with often high humidity.

August 13th

The Hunter household (No 2 Presmere Road) were rather taken aback by what is known in Suffolk as Roger blowing through their house and whirling off into the field where they watched the straw being picked up and twisted around. The next day the Stollery household (No 1 Presmere Road) experienced a similar phenomenon.

A Roger in Suffolk is the name for a small whirlwind which can do quite considerable damage; as much as lifting roofs off

August 20th

The Halletts celebrated twenty years at the Laurels by giving a BBQ in their garden One of the guests was Patience Maxwell who was staying in Woodbridge.

Sept 22nd

The rains came after two months of very dry, humid weather. About 7mm fell in a very short time this afternoon. It has been unusual in that the ground did not crack as usually happens in a drought.

September 30th

An accident happened on the main road opposite the houses during the evening. A car from Wickham Market skidded across the road and ended up in the field opposite. The occupants of the car were badly shaken and the car was a complete wreck.

November 21st

A successful and very entertaining evening was provided by Peter Holloway and the VillageHall Committee who provided a supper of Chili Con Carne made with Pettistree Red Poll beef donated by the producers Dick and Rita Smith.

November 28th

Deborah Hughes had an “Official opening and Pre Christmas get together” at the Greyhound.

The rest of the year was very quiet with a relatively mild autumn.

Joan Peck

This report is sent to the Secretary of the Suffolk Local History Council and later sent to the Suffolk record Office for safe keeping

Heritage 2000 Trust Annual Report

The AGM was held on Friday 14 May 2004 and followed on from the Annual Parish Meeting and was well attended. The minutes of the 2003 AGM were read, approved and signed as a true record.

The committee for the ensuing year were elected: Joan Peck (Chairman) Evelyn Whitfield (Treasurer) Suzanne Stanford, Mary Garner, Maggie Hallett and Cath Caudwell. Joan Jordan had resigned, although she had said she would be willing to help at future events. Maureen Stollery was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In her dual capacity as Chairman and Recorder Joan Peck reported that information in the form of photographs, letters, documents and memories had continued to flow in, with contacts all over the world including New Zealand, Australia and the US. Two people from New Zealand had visited Pettistree to find out more about their ancestors who had connections with the stained glass window in the church. During the year a mini disc player had been purchased to record village events and memories. The first recording had been of the 2003 Carol Service. Joan stressed the importance of taking photographs before carrying out alterations to properties to ensure an accurate history of the building is retained.

The Treasurer reported that a small amount of income had been generated during the year by hiring out the display boards and the use of the laminator totalling £29.97. The expenditure for the year amounted to £518.89; the main costs being the maintenance and expansion of the archive material £263.88 and the mini disk player with microphone £186.09. Funds had been sufficient to meet the £488.92 excess of expenditure over income and the Ipswich Building Society balance at the year end was £374.38. The accounts had been checked by John Speedman and a copy was on display in the hall.

Joan Peck reported that Maggie Hallett had kindly offered the use of the garden at the Laurels for a coffee morning on 24 July to raise funds to help towards the cost of staging the 2005 Exhibition. The theme of the exhibition would be a comparison between Pettistree in 1901 and the present day village. A simple questionnaire would be sent out later in the year to each property and the information obtained would show how the village has changed since the 1901 Census.

At the end of the meeting there was an opportunity to view the displays round the hall and to take part in a by-gones quiz which was won by Ann Sayer and Brian Stollery.

Evelyn Whitfield

Congratulations

ENGAGEMENTS

Congratulations to Katherine Smith daughter of Rita and Dick Smith of Church Farm on her engagement to Richard Frost of Shropshire. Rich proposed to Kate on the 3195m. high Cime de Caron in Val - Thorens during their ski holiday in March.

Sheila and Mike Manning of Jasmine House are happy to announce the engagement of their son Christopher (Chris) to Hayley Kirk.

Congratulations Chris and Hayley

Jasmine House, Church Farm, Next stop?-----watch out Ned!

Well done Sophie Franklin on passing your 'A' levels and being offered places at the universities of your choice .

Best Wishes to all for the future.

Green Farm Wedding

On July 31, our eldest daughter, Rebekah (or Beki) was married. She has started work this year as an homeopath at Green Farm Clinic and recently moved to Martlesham. Her intended was Dan Reeve, lately the hooker for Ipswich Rugby club whom she had known as a rugby playing colleague of our son Dan.

The weather was perfect and the plague of hover-flies which invaded the coastal part of the county avoided Pettistree and Wantisden where the ceremony was to take place. Shepherd's Cottage is a beautifully renovated keepers lodge situated in the ancient oak plantation of Staverton Thicks.

This meant that appropriate transport was arranged and the cars left Green Farm at about 1 p.m. for the wedding,first my MGB roadster, then a white stretch limousine for Rosie, Gramps and the bridesmaids and finally a PINK!! Cadillac for the bride and her father. The setting at Wantisden for a marriage is so unusual; completely rural and peaceful. It was a delightful experience.

After the wedding ceremony, the guests returned to Green Farm where the large marquee had been erected for the wedding breakfast and subsequent celebration. We were fortunate to have acquired an excellent caterer, an accomplished florist and a superb band for the evening's entertainment.

The whole day was such a joyful experience_____Beki didn't stop smiling all day- a radiant bride and everyone seemed to have enjoyed their part in the celebration. Even the "invasion" of Alan Hunter's Pettistree Pirates was happily repelled after a friendly Conga round the dance floor.

Rosie said "It was so lovely___I feel I would like to replay it without the anxiety of organisation with the knowledge that it all went so well to plan."

Peter and Rosie Hayward.

Wickham Market Resource Centre

The Resource Centre is now officially open, with the new library facilities up and running, offering greater space for reading within the library and improved computer access. The reception area will serve both the library and the rooms being provided by the Wickham Market Partnership, with cloak-rooms available and full access for people with disabilities.

Doctors on Call will be moving into the premises shortly, offering out of hours services to local GP practices, whilst a small conference room and a confidential interview room will be available for hire to voluntary and statutory organisations, plus of course businesses. It is also hoped to attract other health related users to the consulting room when Doctors on Call are not on duty.

If you would like to find out more about the services on offer, and the cost of hiring the rooms, please contact Marilyn Mackley, Development Officer for the Wickham Market Partnership on 01394 444436.

Library opening hours are:

Wednesdays & Fridays: 2.00pm - 6.30pm
Saturdays: 10.00am - 4.30pm
Sundays: 10.00am - 3.00pm

OF GREAT BRITAIN

Registered Charity No. 1053425

HEALTH BENEFITS OF TAI CHI

An article by Ann Sutherland B.Sc., Physical Therapist

TAI CHI is a Chinese discipline which originated at least six centuries ago. It was developed as a means to improve health. The unique combination of postures can have the following physical effects:

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

Tai Chi increases the circulation of blood and oxygen to all parts of the body. The slow rhythmic movements allow people of all ages to improve physical conditioning, decrease fatigue and develop endurance. Learning Tai Chi does not require over-exertion, but as one progresses the heart rate increases to aerobic exercise levels. The movements promote relaxed deep breathing. Tai Chi has been found to reduce high blood pressure.

THE SKELETAL SYSTEM

One main goal of Tai Chi practice is to achieve proper alignment of the spine with the shoulder and pelvic girdles. Posture is naturally corrected. The slow sustained stretching improves flexibility in all joints. Both of these effects can reduce the natural degeneration of the spine and or joints which occurs with greater age.

THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM

All the major skeletal muscle groups are used in Tai Chi. Slow stretching alternating with full contraction of the muscles relieves unnecessary muscle tension and improves muscle tone. Strengthening the muscles of both the lower back and the abdomen is especially good for people with lower back pain. Tai Chi also has beneficial effects on the involuntary muscles of the digestive tract.

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Tai Chi develops balance, co-ordination, and fine motor control. The reflex wiring in the spinal cord is used in the movement patterns and the reflexes are therefore improved. Practising Tai Chi initially requires focused attention and therefore improves concentration. When the set has been learned well it is done with relaxed awareness, and can have the same effect on the mind as meditation.

All these effects combine to make Tai Chi a means of reducing stress and preventing stress-related diseases. Learning Tai Chi is learning to relax.

Tai Chi takes place in the village hall on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm

VERY INTERESTING FACTS

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it.

(Cont. page 12)

Thank you to all the contributors to this edition of the Village Newsletter. And a bigger thank you to those of you who met the deadline!

Please have a look at the website which has been up-dated recently. If you would like anything put on it please contact

de.rola@virgin.net

We're on the Web!

www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.uk

County & District Councillors

Mr Peter Monk, County Councillor 01394 411373

Mr Paul Callaghan, District Councillor 01394 389052
Mr John Perry 01394389523

Neighbourhood Watch

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

For Crimeline Information, 01473 613611. Current crime update available after 5pm on Tuesdays. Call this number to find out what is happening in your area. The Parish Police Officer can be contacted at Woodbridge Police Station on 01473 613500

Useful People to Contact

Bellringers Mary Gamer 746097
ChurchWardens Richard Sherrington 747955
Jeff Hallett 746210
Village Hall Booking Sec Jacki Franklin 746585
Local History Recorder Joan Peck

The Greyhound Inn Deborah Hughes 746451
The Three Tuns 746244

Wickham Market Health Centre 747101

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cont. from page 11

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty, you could actually lose someone in it! Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw - piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery, and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

(Getting quite an education, aren't you? There's more to come!)—Ed