



Pettistree People

Issue 32

December 2005

Deadline for next issue is February 11th 2006



Best Wishes to Everyone for a Happy Christmas and
Good luck in 2006



THE TOUR DE FRANCE

Inside this Issue

ETAPE 2005 – THE STORY!

It was 6:30am on 11th July 2005. Nearly 8000 people from all nations were standing in pens in the town of Mourenx near the Pyrenees. We were about to set out on the 2005 Etape du Tour! The sky in the east had a warm red glow as the sun prepared to rise. We knew that ahead of us lay 110 miles of mountain roads. Would we beat the broom wagon and complete the course? Would we achieve medals? The early morning temperature was 13 degrees – little did we know what lay ahead!

At 7:00 am sharp the count down was complete for the first riders, and they were off! At 7:24 it was my turn, and we rolled under the starting arch in the early morning sunshine.

We rapidly accelerated to 18 or 22mph, setting off in one of the world's largest and most straggling pelotons heading for the mountains. There were 39 km of almost flat road before Ichere – a great opportunity to put some space between us and the broom wagon, which was following us at around 15 mph! No time to hang around!

At the village Asasp we turned right towards Ichere. ASAP might have been a more appropriate name!

We followed a beautiful river valley which curved slowly around, the going getting a little more difficult, reducing my speed to 15mph at times. Then the mountain began at Lordoise Ichere. 50km had gone, it was 8:50 and I'd achieved a good lead on the broom wagon!

The previous spread out formation bunched until we were packed like commuters on the tube, slowly progressing up the mountain side.

Ichere was not a difficult climb being only a few km long, and seldom reaching a gradient of 10%.

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Pettistree House

The climb was soon over, and we were faced with one of the most treacherous descents of the whole day. The views were magnificent, but the road surface was rather poor, and was made more exciting by loose gravel! At one point we approached a bend at high speed – anyone not making it round the bend would have been airborne for some time before hitting the ground far below! Fortunately I did not see any accidents.

And so to Marie Blanche. Infamous with the professional Tour riders, it starts with a modest slope of 2% which gradually increases km by km reaching a whopping 13% (averaged over 1km!) near the top. All started well – most people pacing themselves – until around 4km from the top where the gradient is about 11% - when people began to stop and rest or to push their bikes.

The numbers pushing their bikes increased from the odd one or two to an epidemic – Frenchmen frantically shouting to people to walk on the right ... until only two people were left on their bikes in front of me – who were going so slowly that they fell off! I was (fairly reluctantly) forced to join the walkers!

With only around half a km to go from the summit I re-mounted and rode to the top of Marie Blanche, fighting my way through the riders who had stopped for a rest. The descent from the top of Marie Blanche to the Plateau de Benou is a pleasure even for those who fear fast descents. The crowds of riders thinned out, and the road gently wound its way through the woodland with a really nice gradient for several km – fun but not dangerous.

The trees opened out to reveal the Plateau de Benou – after a final fast downhill section the road surface suddenly improved and we were at the feed station. I stopped to top up my water bottles and grab a few slices of orange before continuing on some excellent roads across the plateau, mainly with slight downhill slopes – a real delight to ride on! However I knew what was coming next!

The gradient steepened, and after an innocuous section with easy bends we arrived at a series of fast downward ramps, each terminating in tight hairpin bends. Fortunately, everyone was riding considerably, and there were no accidents.

It was with a sense of relief that I arrived at the bottom safely. The next section was one of the most relaxing – slightly downhill with an excellent road surface. I took advantage of this section to gain some of the places I had lost earlier.

We arrived at the Elimination Point before it had even been set up, much to my relief! A friend had been watching the race, and later told me how the elimination took place. A van appeared later with a clock on its roof set to 12:16. Riders arriving after that time were stopped and either put on to coaches, or forced to ride back to Pau by the direct route. Some took it calmly, and were even relieved that their toils were over, but swearing was heard in a variety of languages!.

The luckier ones who arrived earlier made our way up the series of hairpin bends through the woodlands at the base of Aubisque, knowing that we had a long, 17km haul ahead of us – with an average gradient of around 8%! The average UK difficult hill rises about 100 meters – this one rise 1300 meters – that's around 4300 feet. Do it 7 times and you've climbed Everest from sea level! Once was enough though – particularly as the temperatures were rising continuously.

Even the attractive spar town of Eaux-Bonnes, a few km from the foot of Aubisque is built on a slope steep enough to challenge the locals – and it seemed that almost the entire population of the town were lining the route cheering us on. We needed every bit of encouragement we could get for what lay ahead of us.

Speeds slowed to a few miles an hour as the great train of cyclists steadily moved up the side of the mountain, with occasional riders stopping for a rest.

As temperatures rose to 26 or 27 degrees, I soaked up the shade as we rode through the avalanche shelter half way up. Some stopped for a rest here.

As we neared the top the gradients steepened with sections of 10%, the tree cover disappeared, and magnificent mountain views were revealed. Thankfully a slight cool breeze sprung up. White patches of "neige eternal" were visible on the distant mountains.

The struggle of the last few kilometres was more than rewarded by the scenery!



At long last I arrived at the Col de Aubisque.

Next came one of the most pleasant sections of the whole ride, the section between Col de Aubisque and Col de Soulor. We descended the winding route with ease, appreciating the gentle curves and modest gradient. The tunnel with a sharp bend was worrying, being dark enough to render all other cyclists invisible! A crash in the tunnel would have caused a major pile up. Fortunately a police motorcycle passed through the tunnel at the same time as our group – the light from his headlamp was welcome!

The climb up to Col de Souler was more difficult than I expected, though we were entertained by a flock of sheep on the road at one point!



Then the long, marvellous descent, with great views and one sweeping bend after another, descending for nearly 30 km! As the road flattened, large pelotons were forming, cruising along at speeds between 35 and 45 kph. Strangely I noted more ambulances attending accidents on this stretch than anywhere else.

I had success in the bag – or so it seemed – cruising at a good speed up to the 100 mile mark, Then - a diversion ahead a sharp left turn at Pardies Pietat. I

thought I overheard a Frenchman mentioning a "petit Patate" – slang for a spud or a small hill – oh no! Then we hit it – 7% to 9%. Not much in normal circumstances, but the temperature had risen to 35 degrees. The tarmac beneath my wheels was softening in places. As we struggled up the long hill, the temperatures hit 36 degrees! The thoughtful locals were hosing down weary riders. The riders in turn were vying to get near the cool water. Just as I desperately approached a cooling water jet someone nipped in and intercepted it. "Moi!" I shouted, and was rewarded by a jet of cooling water full in the face. Surprisingly it was very welcome! A local told us it was 300 m to the top. We arrived at the top only to see the next hill! A pal later told me that even a spectator had passed out in the heat!

The worst really was over then – until we arrived at the last slope to the Place de Verdun! A last effort took me up the slope, through the finishing arch and to the finishing line,



We were rewarded by our medals and food bags. The most treasured item was a bottle of cool mineral water.

The ride took place on July 11th and I'm pleased to advise that I completed the 188 km in 7 hrs 40. due to my age the final recorded time was 7 hrs 24 mins.

I raised over £12,000 for the charity CLIC which is for Childhood Leukaemia. This sum of money goes a long way for them and makes a real difference.

Any donation made payable to Clic Sargent and sent to Nick Beagley Pettistree Grange, Woodbridge Suffolk IP130HP.

.Nick Beagley

Church News

As usual 'Fabric' dominates the news from the church as the planned removal of the 'blown plaster' on the lower section of the south chancel wall to allow the wall to dry out was done by Ralph Calver in early September . To his and our surprise this work revealed two previously hidden features. Close to the south door is a filled in archway (probably where there was a stoup in the mediaeval church) the arch apparently matches those on either side of the chancel arch. There is also a much larger arch, between the window and the exposed piscina on the south chancel wall, of which the top section has always been exposed. This niche contains stone infilling, part of which has been provisionally identified as a possible mediaeval altar stone, by a 'churches expert' who was a participant in the Suffolk Churches Cycle ride on Sept. 10th.

This has been confirmed by experts who have consulted the photographs that were placed on the website shortly after the wall was exposed. Apparently stone altars had to be removed during the late 1500's as part of the new rules of the Church of England after the split from Rome. I rather like the idea that the local villagers of the time were so appalled at such a holy stone being thrown out of the church building, that by hiding it in the arch they managed in a small way to defy the authorities!

The church architect has been consulted and has arranged for the Diocesan archaeologist to come in November to see the wall and assess the significance of this discovery. Until that is done we are once again waiting before the PCC can make a decision as to how to proceed. Of course in the meantime it is apparent that the wall is drying out although the torrential rain as I write this is will not help!

December services

Sunday December 18th at 9.30 am is the Carol service, and as has become traditional in Pettistree the service is followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Church Room.

Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year and the service will be Family Communion at 9.30 am.

We wish every reader of Pettistree People a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year and invite you to join us to celebrate Christmas in the place where so many hundreds of previous villagers must have gathered over the centuries.

Maggie Hallett

Picnic in the Park August Bank Holiday

At our Parish Meeting in May a member of the public asked if any thing was being organised for the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Our Chairman Tony Franklin said the Parish Council had no plans, and opened up the meeting to the floor.

For our sins, Maggie, Peter and Henri, said they would help if I would take the lead so the group was formed.

At our first meeting at Pettistree House, Henri asked the meeting if we felt Pettistree House would be a good venue for the celebrations. We all agreed it would do very nicely and thanked Jervis and Henri very much.

We set the date for 27th August; Peter suggested we called it “Picnic in the Park” and that invitations be sent to every one in Pettistree and Loudham.

We then set about preparing a programme for the afternoon of sports, Jenga and Croquet on the lawn, an exhibition of War memorabilia, photos of residents who were babies, born before 1945 and a wonderful quiz on the Second World War devised by Tony.



Ned Hogg offered to give a talk on his involvement in the War Every one took a break with a good old cup of tea to listen to Ned’s wonderful talk on his War.



I don’t think I can put into words, the feeling of fun, togetherness and companionship, (a bit like the war) we had setting it all up.

Jim and two of his sons put up his large tent on the Friday evening and the Saturday morning. Henri and all her family, including her mum Elizabeth and my-self had great fun setting out the exhibition in the sunroom The ‘baby’ photos were set out in the tent. Jervis was busy getting the BBQs ready and putting up notices for the toilets, teas and exhibition, and the urn was set up for the all important cup of tea. The ‘must have’ flags and Union Jacks went up on the house, the gate, round the fence and the tent. We were now set for every one to arrive.

At 3 pm people started to arrive and were soon engrossed in the exhibition and then sounds of laughter were soon coming from the tent with the photos (my favourite was Joan in the bath), There was lots of whispering and hiding the papers when trying to sort out the Quiz (the prize a box of ration 1945 style) which was won by Amy and her mum.

The sports were a great favourite, with little Daisy who was given a head start in der five) to some oldies taking part in the



every one taking part, from the races (being the only un-tug of war.

The afternoon came to an end, with the men BBQing their own meat sitting down all together to eat and have a glass of wine.

We also held a draw which raised £27. The group decided to donate the £27 to the Village Poppy appeal, which should help to swell the amount this year.

We wish to thank every one who supported us on the day and helped us remember our fallen Heroes.

Maureen Stollery

Picnic in the Park August Bank Holiday

Can we through the pages of Pettistree People express our thanks to all who helped in any way with the Picnic in the Park.

We had a great time, especially Daisy who would like to thank Brian for dancing with her, the Kays for letting her win the Wheelbarrow race! And Jimmy the paperboy for playing Jenga with her! We'd also like to thank all those who went to such trouble to bring a bit of our history to life and to Major Hogg for his memories. Our apologies to those whose pictures we got totally wrong (no offence intended) and our utter amazement at winning the quiz (Nanny's input there!)Thank you again.



Amy, Daisy and Nanny Nicholls

Sailing 2005

I am a member of Waldringfield Sailing Club Cadet squadron and have now been helming my Cadet 'Great White' for 1 year, my crew is Mark Yale. I have been competing in the local club races, open meeting and Cadet Week in which I finished 6th out of 22 boats. I am also in the RYA East Zone squad which involves race training at different sailing clubs such as Burnham -on -Crouch and Fishers Green.

In April, I travelled to the Inland Championships at Rutland Water Sailing Club for my first major event as a helm. In very windy conditions I came 62nd out of 92 boats. In July I competed in the Suffolk Schools Sailing Regatta for Thomas Mills High School with my sister Charlotte crewing – we won our class. In August I went to the National Championships at the Weymouth and Portland Sailing Academy where I finished a much improved 32nd out of 89 boats. There are still a few more races in the series at

Waldringfield which finishes at the end of November and there is one zone squad training weekend each month through the winter.



After Christmas we will be racing in the Frostbite series at Alton Water.

James Hayward

Poppy Collection

Many thanks to all Pettistree residents and a few visitors who helped to increase the amount we collected this year on the house to house collection, the total was £155.76. This amount added to the £27 collected from the VJ celebrations in the summer and the £22 for the wreath has given the grand total of £204.76.

A special thanks to Maureen Stollery, Kathy Hilton and Mike Sayer for their help in this collection process.

Ann Sayer

Parish Council

Parish Council Report – November 2005

Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will review the Council's budget for 2006-07 and if necessary precept against your Council Tax. Anyone who wishes to express a view or preference as where our expenditure should be focused may contact the Chairman on 746585.

Dates of forthcoming Parish Council Meetings

Monday 5th December – Budget Review for 2006-07

Monday 6th February 2006

Monday 3rd April 2006

All of these meetings are to be held in the Village Hall starting at 8pm.

Tony Franklin
Chairman, Pettistree Parish Council
12 November 2005

Maureen wishes it to be known that she will not be available from 1 December until 4th March. The house will be occupied during that time.

Carols in the Barn

Come and join us to sing carols in the barn at Church Farm

on Friday 23rd December at 7.00pm.

The carol singing will be followed by one of Jimmy and Pauline's BBQ's.

Tickets are available from Rita, and are free, but we ask for donations towards the BBQ.

Any profit will go to the Starlight Children's Foundation, which aims to fulfill wishes for terminally ill children.

Tickets are limited in number, so please book early.

(It would be advisable to bring a torch, and a rug to sit on.)

Dick and Rita Smith (01728 746708)

Trafalgar Day Celebrations

Pettistree bells rang out at noon on Friday 21st October 2005 as part of national celebrations to mark 200 years since the Battle of Trafalgar. Noon was important because it was the time that the battle started in 1805. Seven ringers gathered to mark this event. A group of six met at 6pm and rang a quarter peal of Nelson's Victory Treble Bob Minor.

We tried to determine whether the bells had been rung to celebrate the victory, but a trip to the Record Office in Ipswich and consultation of the relevant section of the Parish Book showed no extra money being given to the ringers that year, so no conclusive evidence there.

However, trawling the net we discovered that William Leech, born in Pettistree, served on H.M.S .Victory from 17th April 1803 to 15th January 1806 as a Private in the Marines. This means that he was at the battle. A William Leech was baptised at Pettistree in January 1776 and died in Wickham Market in 1828. Almost certainly these two are the same person.

Here are the details of the quarter peal:

1320 changes of Nelson's Victory Treble Bob Minor

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Michael Whitby (c) | 4. Mary Garner |
| 2. Pippa Moss | 5. Kate Eagle |
| 3. Gill Waterson | 6. Ruth Eagle |



Rung to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar

The performance lasted about forty minutes and it was a good feeling to be able to honour a local man as well as Nelson himself.

Mary Garner

Recipe

Dutch Apple Cake

225g(8oz) self-raising flour	150g (5oz) butter, melted
1 level teaspoon baking powder	350g(12oz) of cooking apples, peeled and cored
225g(8oz) caster sugar	25g(1oz) flaked almonds
2 eggs	1/2 teaspoon of almond extract

1 Lightly grease a deep 20cm loose-bottomed cake tin.

2 Measure the flour, baking powder, sugar, eggs, almond extract and melted butter into a bowl, mix well until blended, then beat for a minute. Spread half this mixture into the tin. Thickly slice the apples and lay on top of the mixture in the tin, piling mostly towards the centre. Using 2 dessertspoons, roughly spoon the rest of the mixture over the apples. This is an awkward thing to do, but just make sure that the mixture covers the centre well as it will spread out in the oven. sprinkle it with the flaked almonds.

3 Cook in an oven preheated to 160C (325F / Gas Mark 3) for 1 1/2 hours.

Can be served warm or cold. Dust with icing sugar before serving.

Jill Ballance

Village Hall

BBQ and Beetle Drive

About 40 people came to the BBQ and Beetle drive on the 1st October, half of them being Pettistree residents and the other half being friends from neighbouring villages. Jimmy and Pauline provided an excellent BBQ, which we ate whilst attempting one of Dave's quizzes, and then proceeded to have a frenetic time with the Beetle drive, with Mike as chief whistle blower. Cath Caudwell won the first half, Rita Smith won overall, and Maggie Hallett won the raffle. Profits will go towards the internal and external redecoration of the Hall. If you are wondering whether to volunteer for the Committee, please do. We still have vacancies.

Pettistree Pub Games 2005

The seventh annual pub games challenge took place in the village hall in November. 57 people came together to form 14 teams to compete for the 'Pettistree Pub Games Trophy' kindly donated by Margaret of the Teapot Tearooms in Wickham Market.

The teams battled their way through jenga, dominoes, table soccer, darts, and shove ha' penny in pursuit of the prestigious trophy in good clean competitive fun.

At the mid-way point there was nothing to separate a handful of teams. But after an excellent fish n' chip supper, supplied by Neil of The Eat Inn, four teams pulled away from the pack.

At the end of the evening the trophy was won by The Tea-Potters with 29 points (this was their 3rd win in 4 years!); two teams closely followed on 27 points in joint 2nd; The Franutons and The Rotuns; last year's winners The Rogues Rovers came in 4th place with a credible 25 points.

Great fun was had by all and a healthy sum of £165 was made which will go towards the upkeep of the village hall.

The village hall committee would like to thank all those who have given their support in many ways throughout the year and wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes
Mike Manning

100 Club

	1st	2nd	3rd
August	Ronnie Gormer	Maggie Hallett	Mike & Marlene Watts
September	Jeff Hallett	Mary Garner	Daisy Kiddy
October	Hannah Signy	Henrietta Kay	Suzy Hallett
November	Cherry White	Cherry White	Pam Hind

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 web-site which has been up-dated recently. If you would like anything put on it please contact

de.rola@virgin.net

*Maureen Stollery
Joan Peck*



County & District Councillors

Mrs Clare Aitcheson County Councillor

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 Pauline 745030
Local History Recorder Joan Peck

The Greyhound Inn Deborah Hughes 746451
The Three Tuns Steve & Kirsty 746244

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We're on the Web!

www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.uk



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Wickham Market Health Centre 747101
Post Office 746201

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