



Pettistree People

Issue 33

March 2006

Deadline for next issue is May 13th 2006



A Northern Cruise, Summer

Inside this Issue

July 23rd dawned bright and sunny, calm after the previous day. After a quick breakfast we slipped gently through the Lancashire countryside to our meeting place, with precise orders for our departure at 9.37am. We were aboard the narrowboat Kanbedun Again about to travel from the isolated Lancashire Canal on to the main system via the notorious Ribble link.

The adventure had really begun back at the end of April when we travelled to Garstang with our friend and her dog to view the boat she had fallen in love with. We were to own a small part and after being shown around and taken for a quick trip along the canal, we agreed to buy. Spring Bank holiday weekend saw us back in Garstang fitting out, not to say enjoying a memorable visit to Fleetwood where we ate fish and chips on the beach and my first ever visit to Blackpool.

May Bank holiday week was spent exploring the canal itself, one of the most striking things being skirting about one hundred feet above the notorious Morecambe Bay. We travelled to the northern most point, Tewitfield, and then continued north on foot towards Kendal, first clambering a hill beside restored but almost dry locks and then following the course of the canal by the bridges. There were the remnants of once busy communities, huge mills close to the canal, now just sleepy hamlets. We explored Lancaster itself from the boat and discovered the trials and tribulations connected with the building of this magnificent waterway which was opened in 1799. We travelled down the Glasson branch to the basin and dock, where we watched yachts departing for the Isle of Man, their crews keen to spectate at the TT races.

Chris's great great grandfather came to Kendal from the Isle of Man in 1846. It is quite likely that he entered the mainland via Glasson Basin and thence travelled north by canal. When, five years later he was living and working in Lancaster, he had probably travelled south with his family using the canal. From the evidence we found in the maritime Museum in Lancaster the Fly Boat was a very swift mode of travel. There is still evidence of the stabling needed for the frequent changes of horses that were necessary to maintain the timetable.

However, the time had come to depart from this tranquil corner of Britain. As we waited nervously along with four other boats we cleared the roof of our bikes and all the plants because we knew that there was an extremely low bridge on the Savick

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Pettistree House	

Brook, not to say waves on the Ribble itself. Eventually the time came to depart, starting with a staircase of two locks which had to be taken stern first in order to navigate the tight turn at the bottom. There were no views but we passed along a narrow “ditch” between high reeds. After about two miles we reached another holding point just before the sea lock where we waited until the River Ribble had flooded sufficiently for the lock to be opened and us to pass through. Timing is crucial, each day a maximum of six boats are allowed to use the link before the tides prevent the use of the brook. One day the passage will be south, the following north, and so on.

It was disconcerting to see the boat in front of us disappear rather quickly upstream backwards, as he pulled on to the main river. It was an hour before high water springs and the water was flowing very quickly. We seemed rather vulnerable punching the tide in a fifty seven foot long tin box with a small engine, I for one would have been much more comfortable in our eighteen foot sea going RIB. We crept round the corner and managed to stem the tide and then make headway slowly. Gradually the tide eased until after about three quarters of an hour the tide was slack and then turned. We were soon speeding along a highway about half a mile wide and edged with mud flats towards the turning mark, Asland Lamp, at the entrance to the River Douglas. Punching the tide again as we went upstream for about three miles we eventually arrived at Tarleton Lock with just enough water to pass through, and found ourselves back on the still waters of the canal, the Rufford branch of the Leeds and Liverpool. What an exciting time we had had, the journey between the locks taking less than three hours.

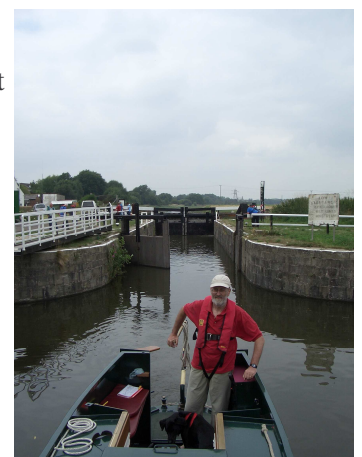
The next day was very windy and overcast. We enjoyed a fascinating visit to Rufford Old Hall, a wonderful 16th century building complete with hammer beam roof and intricately carved and huge “moveable” oak screen in the fine two storey hall. I thought the whole place was great and really had an atmosphere about it. The coffee and cakes were good too.

Over the next few days we journeyed along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal to Wigan. We passed the pier, a coal staithe about two feet long! We moored long enough to visit the Heritage Centre, Trencherfield Mill with its enormous mill engine, and to explore the double sized dry dock alongside the canal.

As we left Wigan we turned on to a rather bleak section of canal, first the Leigh Branch and then the Bridgewater Canal, both without locks, as we headed towards Worsley on the outskirts of Manchester. The canal here is ochre in colour from the iron ore that leaked from the rock as the coal was mined. There is little to see of the industrial past in Worsley but we were privileged to travel the Duke of Bridgewater’s canal which he built to transport the coal. There are many stories about this area, the works and the housing he provided for his employees. A couple of miles on and the amazing Barton Swing Aqueduct is reached, where the canal passes high above the Manchester Ship Canal. Soon after, we turned left for the city centre passing through rather run down industrial areas, where, even so, the bridges spoke to us of past grandeur. My first visit to Manchester. We moored at Castlefields, close to the Museum of Science and Industry. On a very blustery and wet afternoon we travelled by Metro and went to explore the Lowry Centre at Salford Quays. I wasn’t surprised by the weather since I had learned at school that it nearly always rained in Manchester. Thankfully the next day was fine as we set off up the nine wide locks of the Rochdale canal to bring us to Piccadilly Village. Sadly after just two locks the throttle cable broke! We elected to bow haul the boat (tow by hand) since the area was not very salubrious, which was fine until we discovered a section without a towing path. Luckily we had a spare cable so Chris turned to and fitted it. We arrived at the top having worked the challenging lock gear and then enjoyed a well deserved lunch before exploring the top end of the city.

We set off early on the next day to work the eighteen locks rising about 120 feet and six miles which would take us to Ashton under Lyne. Despite the warnings, it was a trouble free day, helped by the lads at the top lock having caught a large fish. Much more interesting than us. We moored at the junction with the Peak Forest Canal. After a fascinating visit to the Industrial History Museum we set off south. The afternoon saw us speeding through the sixteen locks at Marple with a total rise of 214 feet to emerge at Marple Junction with marvellous views across the Peak District. Industrial Manchester now seemed a distant memory. The next day we took a leisurely trip towards Whaley Bridge mooring at Bugsworth Basin. In its heyday upwards of six tramways brought lime and limestone to be transported away from the area by canal. We spent a day walking in the hills from here.

Having travelled back to Marple junction we set off along the Macclesfield



canal passing through the lovely rolling countryside of this part of Cheshire. We moored at Higher Poynton, where the canal is quite wide due to ancient subsidence from a coal mine. From here we visited Lyme Park, the exterior made famous by the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* of 1995. Despite the lack of appearance of Colin Firth we thoroughly enjoyed exploring the gardens and parkland, before continuing south through Macclesfield, and so to Congleton. We moored on an embankment high above a tributary of the River Dane. We jumped ship here. It had taken two and a half weeks to travel here from Garstang by boat, but it took less than a morning to travel back by public transport to collect the car.

This was such a wonderful way to view some of Britain's great industrial past. The canals pass through the very heart of these areas and whilst much still lies derelict there is great deal of evidence that this architecture and the memories are being preserved. The buildings are coming alive again as apartments, many surrounded by sympathetic landscaping.

Mary & Chris Garner



Carpet Bowls

The triangular series of inter-village friendly matches commenced on Wednesday 18th January with Dallinghoo hosting the visit of Ufford. Neither village was able to field a full strength team owing to players having prior engagements elsewhere, however a total of twelve bowlers was sufficient for Dallinghoo to give an airing to their old mat, which is quite slow and devoid of home advantage, as well as using their new mat which is much faster.

The scores up to the refreshment break revealed an interesting pattern.

New Mat: Dallinghoo 6 - Ufford 5 then Dallinghoo 3 - Ufford 4 very close.

Old Mat: Dallinghoo 8 - Ufford 2 then Dallinghoo 1 - Ufford 8 complete reverse.

At the halfway stage it was 2- 2 in games with Ufford ahead by just one shot. The second session was a different story as Dallinghoo won all four games, two narrowly and two by large margins and ended the evening as deserved victors.

The second match, in the series took place on Thursday 2nd February at Pettistree when Dallinghoo were the visitors. Pettistree were slightly down on numbers but the visitors were at full strength. The first half session followed a similar pattern to the Dallinghoo/Ufford match with each team winning two and losing two games and Pettistree holding a narrow advantage of 2 shots at the interval.

The fifth game proved to be crucial and one end in particular. The Jack (white target ball) was only inches from the end of the mat, first Dallinghoo held shot, then Pettistree regained control of the end only for the Dallinghoo skipper to win the end and the game with the final shot. How the Jack stayed on the carpet remains a mystery. We were only playing three ends per game so Dallinghoo won this vital game by the lowest score possible at 2-1. The sixth game went the way of the visitors 6-2 and with it the match. Pettistree won the final game 7 - 2. Although the home team scored the most shots it was the visitors, Dallinghoo, who won the match and now are in a strong position to win the series, will they hold their nerve?!! Reports to follow in your Pettistree People.

Mike Sayer

Safari ---At Last!

For many years we had promised ourselves a safari trip in Africa and somehow never achieved it. November 2005 saw us, together with Sophie (our middle daughter in the WRNS), take off on a holiday of a lifetime- an eleven night safari holiday in Kenya. To say it exceeded all expectations is not an exaggeration.

We arrived in Nairobi for our first night staying in a beautiful, wooden, colonial-style Holiday Inn with gardens full of exotic flowers (not a bit like the concrete blocks to be seen in the UK!). We spent the afternoon visiting a giraffe sanctuary followed by a visit to Karen Blixen's house (author of "Out of Africa") with fabulous views across the back garden away to the far hills. The house is now a museum and very interesting.

The following morning we met up with Kim, our assigned driver/guide and to-be friend, smartly dressed in Kuoni's "uniform" of khaki shirt, trousers and "safari" boots. Our vehicle for the duration of our safari was a superbly comfortable Toyota minibus which was to do great justice to the manufacturers when we rocketed along pot-holed roads and so little tarmac that many times we drove in the ditches because they were in a better state! Far better to drive fast in these conditions than at a "safe speed"! . One other couple shared the minibus with us and we got on very well together.

We set off to our first "safari" stop - Samburu Safari Lodge - a five hour drive through amazing scenery - the sharp bright green of tea and coffee plantations, valleys of jacaranda trees looking like fluffy lilac clouds and red and gold lilies lining the roadside. Then suddenly we were driving through dust, past children with their herds of goats and cattle, through villages with little more than corrugated shacks or concrete blocks as shops/homes etc. Single storey (in some cases what appeared to be "single room"!) concrete "blocks" advertising themselves as "The Amen" or "Amazing Grace" hotel or even "Shopping Mall" gave evidence of past missionary influence. Many times the local "butchery" was situated in or next to one of these hotels! Difficult to imagine who would be staying the night there! The laughing, smiling children, the colours of the women's clothing and the rickety stalls filled with bright coloured fruit and vegetables somehow camouflaged the abject poverty in the areas.

Samburu Lodge - another beautiful wooden structure situated in lovely gardens along a river bank - was stunningly furnished in African style and the dining-room tables positively sagged under amazing hot and cold dishes of wonderful food. Our accommodation, as in our future "lodges", was in wooden chalets dotted about along the river bank. (Later we were to fall into bed, under our mosquito nets, to the sound of baboons fighting along the river bank and awaken in the morning to the sound of buffalo!) That afternoon, after tea on the veranda, we were off on our first safari! Up went the "lift-off" roof on the minibus and we spent the next three hours spellbound. Zebra, buffalo, elephants, lions, giraffes and antelope, we saw them all and truly experienced the "WOW" factor! As dusk fell across the far-reaching plains we could see the trees housing the weaver birds' nests and the enormous storks which had come in to roost silhouetted against the darkening sky.

We could fill pages with the sights and sounds we experienced but suffice it to say our driver said to us on the first safari drive "Every day will be better than the day before." I don't think any of us really believed that at the time but he was to be proved right. Often at the lodges we were able to have guided bird walks in between the safari drives (usually two or three a day starting at 6.30 a.m.!) and saw many beautiful, brightly coloured birds, lizards and turtles. All our guides, the porters and waiters, wherever we went, were local with local knowledge and were charming, helpful and extremely kind. It was refreshing to be always greeted politely and with an ear to ear smile - a lovely way to start a day!

From Samburu we travelled to the famous "Treetops" lodge for a night. What an amazing place! From

the outside it looked like an enormous shabby grey cabin on stilts, its' walls of peeling (intentionally) bark. But inside we were bowled over. It was like a wonderful wooden ship, polished and shiny with a bar, dining-room and wonderful rooftop viewing platform. All the bedrooms were tiny cabins with windows at the end of the beds - we were later to be eyeball to eyeball with elephants right outside the window! With watering holes either side of the building we were spellbound watching the animals come down to drink as night fell. We were lucky enough to see elephants, warthogs, buffalo, many species of deer and birds and a mongoose. We were served a wonderful dinner but spent most of the time getting up and down from our seats to see the latest "visitor" to the waterhole. Nobody minded that dinner was constantly being interrupted!

Our next stop was Lake Naivasha where we saw thousands upon thousands of pink flamingos as far as the eye could see. We were very privileged to be able to walk out across the salt encrusted flats enabling us to get up close to them. What an incredible sight it was. All along the outer, grassy edges of the lake were vultures, pelicans and rhino (one charged the vehicle in front of us but luckily stopped and turned at the last minute - exciting for us but not those in it!). Our night at the Lake Hotel was enhanced by the sight of many pied kingfishers along the lake edge doing their evening fishing, and the many hippopotami who left the water at dusk to graze.

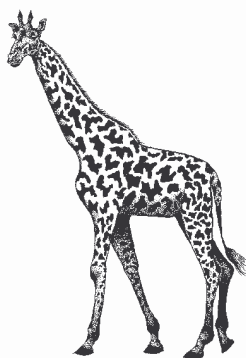
We drove on to the Masai Mara for the next three nights and had some amazing drives seeing a large number of lions, a leopard, a cheetah with cubs and a secretary bird. We also had the excitement of catching the tail end of a small migrating herd of wildebeest which we followed at great speed through thick brush to the riverbank where they all crashed into the water and up out the other side just escaping the crocodiles who were lying in wait!

On the second day 4.30 a.m. saw us set off for a hot air balloon flight. We sailed over the vast plains to the edge of the Serengeti and saw the bordering mountains of Tanzania. From our lofty height we were able to see herds of elephants and buffalo and even caught sight of a silver backed jackal. It was a truly magical flight followed by a very welcome champagne breakfast laid out on a small hill overlooking the plains.

For our last couple of nights we flew from Nairobi to Mombassa where we stayed at one of the many beach hotels relaxing and eating yet more wonderful food in a beautiful setting of silver beach, waving palm trees and blue water. We took a trip in a glass bottomed boat out to the coral reef where we were able to snorkel and swim and just let all the amazing things we had seen and done wash over us.

Our bodies have recovered from the battering of travelling over 1200 miles (quite apart from the mileage done in the safari parks) on tracks that dare to be called roads, the photos are now in the album but the memories still fresh. Yes, you can see all these animals, or most of them, here in the wild life parks or zoos but like live theatre there is nothing, absolutely nothing, to beat the real thing in the real place!

Cherry & Don White



Apologies for the peculiar paragraph spacing the scan has a mind of its own! ED

Parish Council Report—2006

This report covers the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th February.

Precept

The Parish Council has agreed a precept of £2200 for 2006 -7, a 0% increase on last year. A copy of the financial statement and budget for 2006/07 will in due course be posted on the Village Website at <http://www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.uk/pcaccounts.html> .

Highway

We have received notification from the County Council that our request for the imposition of a 50mph speed limit on the Main Rd has been turned down.

We are to apply for Locality Fund finance to have dropped curbs installed at the Three Tuns and at the junction of Rogues Lane with the Main Road; the cost estimate for this work is £1000. This measure should make disabled wheelchair access to Wickham Market much easier.

Community Policing

The Council was very please to note that a new Community Police Officer has been appointed and he is, PC 256 Mark Thompson whose patch covers Melton, Hasketon, Bredfield, Bromeswell, Burgh, Boulge, Debach, Dallinghoo & Pettistree. PC Thompson can be contacted by telephone on 01473 383487 or by Email at mark.thompson@suffolk.pnn.police.uk . Please do not use this number to report crimes, instead call Suffolk Police on 01473 613500

PC Thompson has attended Parish Council meetings and provided us with a valuable insight into police matters in our area. We also noted that the Woodbridge area has a new Police Commander, Ian Farthing. In addition to the briefing we receive from our Community Police Officer, the Woodbridge Sector Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter is a valuable source of information. This newsletter can be found at Suffolk Neighbourhood WebSite <http://suffolk.testurl.co.uk/neighbourhoodwatch/default.asp>.

The Greyhound Inn

A number of village resident have expressed their concern to the Parish Council about the Greyhound Inn.

In responding to these concerns the Parish Council has establish that the owners of the Greyhound, London & Edinburgh Inns, are actively seeking a new tenant for the Greyhound and it has been reported to us that at least two prospective tenants have visited the Greyhound to have a look round.

The Parish Council has also written to London & Edinburgh Inns conveying to the company the Village's concern about the Pub's future.

Dates of Next Parish Council Meetings

Monday 3rd April, 8pm

Thursday 11th May, 7.30pm – Annual Parish Council Meeting – Election of Chairman

Monday 17th July, 8pm

Date of the Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 9th May, 7.30pm – All residents are entitled to speak and vote at this meeting.

All of these meeting are to be held in the Village Hall.

Tony Franklin

Chairman, Pettistree Parish Council

A Pint Sized History of “The Greyhound”

There may have been an earlier building on the site where The Greyhound Inn now stands which housed the stonemasons, carpenters, flint-knappers and others engaged in building the 13th century church. The rear of the building is rather unusual in that it abuts the churchyard as if built on the churchyard wall. It is a grade II listed building thought to have been built in late Medieval/Tudor times. It is timber framed, colour washed and probably originally thatched. There is a suggestion that it might have been a priest's house or used by another important village person as it has been a building where Manor Courts have been held in the 18th century and also inquests in the 19th century.

Readers of the EADT on January 13th no doubt noticed a report about the “Greyhound” closing. In it the reporter wrote ‘ it is said that the Duke of Wellington had his horse shod at the Smithy’ I suspect that this myth has become exaggerated with the passing of time. Imagine, if you can, the Iron Duke with his charger Copenhagen riding down the Street to the “Greyhound”. There are many apocryphal stories about the hero.

As History Recorder I felt I must try to put the record straight. First of all there is no evidence, that I'm aware of, that there was a blacksmith's forge in Pettistree. At one time, certainly until the 1920-30's there was a carpenter's shop on the western end of the building (See picture) The bricked in doorway can still be seen .That is where you probably had your coffin made as it was also the undertaker's shop.



A family called Smith were landlords of the pub for 102 years from 1820-1922 Could this be the origin of a smithy I wonder?-In every generation the oldest boy was called William, a bit confusing to the researcher. However, before the Smiths, the landlords were the Coopers, a name which features constantly and regularly throughout the Pettistree registers. According to an article in the East Anglian Magazine of October 1951, Gwen Dyke, a well known local historian in this area, had a conversation with an old lady at Hollesley whose father must have been Abraham Cooper who had lived at the “Greyhound” as a boy and whose father was also Abraham Cooper, the landlord.

This old lady often told tales of when her father was a boy and the following story was told to Gwen.

After the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 a troop of Wellington's Cavalry landed at Yarmouth and late one night called at the Greyhound, Young Abraham, aged thirteen, the oldest of six children, was roused from his bed, sleepy and no doubt protesting and was sent to Wickham for more beer and cheese for the men. The horses were bedded in straw in the street leading from the Greyhound to the turnpike. By morning they had all gone on their way to London.

Joan Peck

100 Club

January 2006

1st Graham Forder

2nd Eric Dowker

3rd Jamie Ayris

Church News

Mediaeval wall features in the Church

The planned meeting with the Diocesan Archaeologist and Church Architect that I mentioned in the last edition took place on November 23rd 2005 with thankfully Chris Garner and Joan Peck also able to be present. So much information was given to us that it needed 3 heads to remember it all! The following report gives a summary of what we learnt:-

The archaeologist Bob Carr had never visited Pettistree before and was very complimentary about the church and its setting. He remarked on the fine quality of the flintwork particularly externally, although the North side is much plainer than the rest of the church, but also internally. Stephen Clayden our architect who knows the church well, liked the way the flints were exposed internally and was pleased to see how well the wall was drying out following the removal of the plaster. Apparently the flints would have been cleared off the land as part of the need to improve the crops and also boost yields. Every peasant family would have had to do this stone picking work.

Comments on the Interior

1. There probably was a very early church on the site even though it is not mentioned in Domesday book, apparently lots of churches aren't recorded in Domesday!
2. The Font base is definitely Norman with a Victorian 'Norman style' font placed on top. Somewhere there may be the original Norman font thrown out by the Victorians wishing to modernise and improve!
3. Exposure of the flints suggests that the South Nave wall was probably all one build as the lines of flints are continuous, with possibly some later infilling at west end near the recently discovered stoup alcove. Flint wall building was a relatively slow process as if too much height was attempted too quickly the wall was unstable and fell down, so time had to be allowed for the mortar to set firm.
4. The larger filled in alcove adjacent to the piscine may be a sedilla or seat for the clergy, and this will cause problems to restore as there does not appear to be the expected neat edges and stones to match. The sides possibly will not match with the small section at the top. The large stone with chiselled crosses showing in the infill is definitely an altar stone possibly 12th or 13th century. In the days when there was a rood screen filling the arch between the Chancel and Nave there would have been small altars probably each side in the Nave with the main altar a larger one at the east end of the chancel.
5. The opening on the North nave wall high up was probably an entrance to the Rood screen but is unusual as there is evidence of a door rebate and but no obvious access from the inside of the church by a stair from below. However on going outside the church we were shown evidence of the foundations of a small access stair that has been demolished.
6. A general oddity of the church is the mis-matching of all the windows with the central one on the South Chancel wall being particularly different. Looking from outside this is very obvious as the top is square and of a totally different style.
7. Unfortunately we did not have time to look at the interior of the tower at all.

Comments on the Exterior

1. The Chancel was built first although no dates were given and the main Nave door is still early. A lot of the stone (the creamy yellow colour) is Caen stone (ie from France) which was also used in Norwich cathedral. This was common in the 12th – 13th C when the stone was carried by sea and ferried up rivers to the building sites. (More hard work for villagers to get it from the Deben!)
2. Nave (the central section) was possibly originally a lower Norman building with buttresses .

Looking carefully at the walls there is some evidence of buttresses between the windows. Further evidence on the South wall is a mismatch of the chequerwork flint pattern .

3. The roof line has been changed from the original, and there is a definite groove on the south side of the wall near to the join of the tower showing where the line used to be. A mediaeval church would be thatched and so the roof would have a steeper pitch.
4. Bob Carr queried whether the Nave windows had actually been altered when the roof was changed as the top sections look slightly odd compared to the lower openings, with different stone used. There is evidence of trapezoidal reworking of the flint wall possibly done when the perpendicular style additions were made to the windows.
5. The quatrefoil windows (now blocked) are an early design so might have been part of the original thatched building but were then blocked when the roof line was changed. Bob Carr thought they looked as if they were part of the original plan. It is not easy to assess when they were blocked up as they are now within the roof space, but it is something that could be investigated in the future.
6. On the South chancel wall between the left and middle windows is what looks like a shadowed area on the wall, and may be evidence of an opening probably a small doorway.
7. On the North side just adjacent to the section between the Chancel and Nave, there is rough stone around the base of the wall, which is probably the old footings of a staircase up to the Rood screen doorway.
8. The North doorway (now blocked) was once open and used, but there is no easy way to assess when it was filled in, although they could have used the flints recycled from taking down the rood stairwell.

Action to be taken

The PCC met at the end of January and have decided to ask for approval from the Diocese for some changes to the planning permission that had been given last year:-

- 1 To open up the 'stoup' alcove near the door, the difficulty is that it is not obvious yet as to where the base is. The architect suggested that the infill is carefully removed and stored, and that the wooden pew panelling is not touched at present.
- 2 The archaeologist and architect agreed that it would be right to remove the plaster from the alcove with the altar stone infill, but would not recommend asking for permission to remove the infill. They were concerned as the edge was ill defined and also there would then be the problem of preserving the altar stone. The archaeologist felt that to leave it exposed in the alcove was a more accurate historical statement.
- 3 Permission will be sought to leave the flintwork exposed, rather than replastering as originally intended. The top edge of the plaster will be neatened and straightened. Leaving this section exposed will continue to assist with the damp problem.

The time scale for all this hope that it will be complete we can then reassess the

is not yet certain but we pleted in the summer and rest of the building.

The Altar stone revealed



Church Services

The pattern of Sunday services continues unchanged this year with a service in Pettistree every Sunday, the thing to remember is that the first Sunday of the month is the day to have a lie-in as the service is Evensong at 6.30 pm. The church bells are rung before every service and the bellringers practice on Wednesday evenings between 7.00pm and 9.00pm

There are some minor changes planned for the services beginning in April. We are holding an 'All-Age' service on the second Sunday of the month. This will replace the Family Communion service every other month and it is planned to be particularly relevant to children and their parents.

The vicar is recuperating well and plans to be back at work in early March, but we have been very lucky to have had a range of visiting preachers who have all had something interesting to say, and were able to join the congregation for coffee at the back of the church after the services.

Mothering Sunday this year is on March 26th and Palm Sunday is the first of the new style Family services on April 9th while on Easter Day April 16th we will have a service of Holy Communion also at 9.30 am.

Feeding the Birds This Winter

Species seen using the feeding station at 4 Hungarian Close so far this winter.

Blackbird; Robin; House Sparrow (24 at one time, by far the most seen for years); **Hedge Sparrow** (Dunnock); **Great Tit; Blue Tit; Long Tailed Tit;** (no coal tit seen yet) **Greenfinch; Chaffinch; Goldfinch; Brambling** (one only); **Siskin** (group of three); **Great Spotted Woodpecker; Wood Pigeon; Collared Dove; Pheasant.**

Consumed so far 7 kgs Peanuts, 45 kgs sunflower seeds (third 15kg bag on order for immediate delivery).

Alright, so it is not cheap feeding birds on this scale but I think the pleasure they give in return is worth every penny. I was only thinking the other day that the Brambling and Siskins had not yet paid a visit but a few days later they arrived.

Mike Sayer

Heritage Trust

A Coffee Morning will be held on May 6th in the Village Hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Come and see the video of Carols in the Barn and the progress being made with indexing the Village Archive. The AGM will be at 12.45pm.

A Cheese and Wine Evening will be held in the Autumn.

WATCH THIS SPACE! Mr Edward Martin, (Archaeological Officer with the Conservation Team) from Suffolk County Council, is coming to speak on "Early Suffolk Gardens and the Importance of Mounds and Canals" on November 10th 2006. This should answer some of the questions which arise about the mound and canal seen from the footpath and Thong Hall Road, amongst other issues relating to our local landscape.

Carols in the Barn

Dick and I were delighted with the responses from those who came carol singing in the barn at Church farm on Friday 23rd December, and already look forward to something similar in 2006, with hopefully more recorders or flutes. It was felt to be a beautiful start to the Christmas celebrations, with the carols having a poignant meaning in the bare setting, the doves accompanying us with 'Away in a Manger', and the Red Polls, Pettistree Pandora and her bull-calf, breathing softly in their shed next door. About 60 of us were gathered together in the barn, seated on the straw bales. We sang a selection of carols – old and new, familiar and unfamiliar – which were interspersed with readings and solos, and then we enjoyed one of Jim and Pauline's barbecues. Although it was not intended as a profit making occasion, I have been able to send £190 to the Starlight Children's Foundation, whose aim is to 'brighten the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by granting wishes and providing entertainment in hospitals throughout the United Kingdom'.

Rita Smith

FOUND-A pair of metal rimmed gasses were found in the straw after the carols Please apply to Rita or Dick Smith

Village Hall

Events in 2005

Two enjoyable events have been held in the latter part of 2005. On 1st October about 40 people came to the BBQ and Beetle Drive, half of them being Pettistree residents and the other half being friends from neighbouring villages. Jim 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 won the first half, Rita won overall, and Maggie won the raffle. Approximately £150 profit was made which goes towards the upkeep of the Hall.

What appears to be now the 'annual' Pub Games Evening took place on 12th November, and if the noise level was anything to go by, the 14 teams competing for the 'Pettistree Pub Games Trophy' had a good time! The event was won, yet again, by The Tea Potters. Congratulations to them. Thanks go to Mike for organising the evening so brilliantly, and to Neil of the *Eat Inn* for the superb fish and chip supper. A profit of £165 was made from the evening.

Work Update

A working party met on 2 Sunday mornings in September to cut the hedge and tidy the car park and it was decided that this area needed re-surfacing. Approximately 30 tonnes of stones were ordered, delivered, and have been spread by Jeff and helpers. The committee are now waiting for the estimates for replacement windows and the redecoration of the Hall.

Anybody over 16 from Pettistree or Loudham is eligible to join the committee. We meet about 5 times a year, with the aim of organising social events, and keeping the Hall in good repair, so that it is a valuable amenity for those wishing to use it. If you feel you could contribute to the village life in this way, please have a word with any of the members, including -

Rita - 746708

Dave (Chairman) – 747170

Pauline (For Hire of Hall) – 745030

Sheila (Secretary) - 747321

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. If you would like anything put on it please contact

de.rola@virgin.net

*Maureen Stollery
Joan Peck*

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County & District Councillors

Mrs Clare Aitcheson County Councillor 01394 383759

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
The Three Tuns 746244

Wickham MarketHealth Centre 0844 477 2557
Post Office 746201

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We're on the Web!

www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.uk

Recipe

AFELIA (Pork in red wine, slow cooked in the oven)

2lb of boned lean pork (tenderloin is a good choice)
1/4 pint red wine
2 Tablespoon of Coriander seeds crushed coarsely
1 Teaspoon Black pepper corns crushed coarsely
2 Sticks of Cinnamon
6 Tablespoons of sunflower or corn oil
Salt to taste

Marinate the meat in the wine and spices overnight. Strain and save the marinade. Heat the oil and brown the meat until quite crisp; add the marinade and salt, cover and cook for approx. 30-40mins or until all the liquid has evaporated and the is coated in a smooth sauce. If needed remove lid and cook for a further 10 mins to reduce the sauce.

Serve with sauted or boiled potatoes with fresh green beans.

Linda Sherrington