



# Pettistree People

*A newsletter for all the residents of Pettistree and Loudham*

Pettistree Parish  
Council ©

Issue 68  
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## PARISH NOTICES

**The Parish Council will hold a special meeting** at 7.30pm on 24th March to consider the proposed planning application by Notcutt Estates to obtain a change of use for part of the John Woods Nursery site. William Notcutt has confirmed he will attend.

The proposed venue is the Parish Room but the Parish Clerk, Clive Mann, on 01393 421628, would wish to know if you will attend in case the larger Village Hall is more appropriate.

**The Parish Council has to be elected on 7th May**, the same day as the General Election. All persons wishing to be a Parish Councillor have to be nominated by two persons on the Pettistree and Loudham Electoral Register. Nomination forms will be available from the Clerk, Clive Mann, in late March. Please contact him to obtain full details.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** at 8:00 PM on Tuesday 19th May 2015 in the Village Hall will be of more than usual interest. It will be an opportunity to meet the newly elected parish councillors. We hope to have a demonstration of the web-site plans and to hear any suggestions for further changes. We shall be able to present our plans to prevent parking or driving on the Village Green. Plans for new building or other development may affect everyone.

As a small village Pettistree is not included in the list of places where building would be encouraged. However it seems sensible to reconsider our need for a **Neighbourhood Plan**, incorporating the views of everyone in the village, to make it clear to planners how we want our village to look and function in the future. Please come and let us have your views on this, as well as telling us your suggestions or concerns on any other village matters.

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## Pettistree Hedges 2014/5

Richard Hayward's cheerful and helpful man has made a good job of trimming the unruly hedges of Pettistree. I have just come back from visiting my charity in Palawan so have not yet got the final account. But I will be contacting you all with your account and how to pay. I hope that all who requested cutting were visited. If not let me know.

Also please let me know if you wish to be on this year's list. Louis Deliss 745083. louisjdeliss@aol.com



## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Jeff Hallett, Chairman of the Parish Council

As I write this in early February we have still not seen any significant snow or ice. However a strong cold East wind is forecast for the next few days.

The Parish Council had a busy and well-attended meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. We used the Parish Room in the churchyard because its heating is more effective for a small meeting, than the Village Hall. Our district councillor, Jim Bidwell, and our county councillor, Michael Bond, both attended to update us on local political and planning developments and to hear our concerns.

We welcomed **Philip Westrope** as our newly co-opted parish councillor. Philip farms at Park Farm in Loudham and therefore lives within the Pettistree parish boundary. The whole parish council has to be re-elected on **May 7<sup>th</sup>**. This is the same day as the General Election and the local district council elections. Anyone who wishes to stand for the Parish Council, including current councillors, has to submit a nomination form signed by two local proposers. (Full details appear elsewhere in this newsletter.) If there are more than seven candidates for the seven vacancies an election will be held. If there are seven or fewer then an election will not be needed and the village will save the cost of about £600.

The cleaning of the **War Memorial** has gone ahead and it already looks much improved. Some of the lettering still has to be re-cut and painted by the stonemason where weathering has made it indistinct. The work has been paid for out of Councillor Bidwell's locality fund.

The Parish Council is continuing its efforts to make the **Village Green** as attractive and useful as possible. We noticed that cars and lorries were driving onto the edges of the green and causing considerable damage to the grass with deep ruts. We also have occasional parking on the grass and even people cutting corners and driving across the

Green. This is why we have put up temporary warning tape supported on light canes. We are obtaining advice from the Highways Authority on the regulations for putting permanent short wooden posts near the edges of the grass. If this or something similar is not done traffic encroachment will ruin the appearance and usefulness of the Green. It will become a muddy car park. Please let parish councillors know your thoughts on this, or better still, come to the Annual Parish Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May and discuss it.

Another cause for concern about our lanes and verges is the inevitable congestion and chaos that is going to be caused by the current partial and complete **road closures in Wickham Market** as the new gas main is put in past the Post Office for the new Hopkins Homes estate. The official diversion is around Wickham Market using the A12 dual carriageway but people with SatNav or local knowledge will divert via Pettistree. We cannot even make Walnuts Lane and Thong Hall Road into a sensible one-way circuit as this would require a traffic order with three months notice. The Parish Council has protested strongly about not being informed of the road closure and no consideration having been given to the effect of heavy two-way traffic, including a shuttle bus, on our lanes. Please be extra vigilant in the coming weeks especially if walking or cycling with children in and around the village.

Steady progress is being made with the re-design of the **Village Website**. The current one has given excellent service but we now need to take advantage of recent improvements in website technology and also build in a rapid communication system to inform people about changes or events that may affect them (such as the traffic diversions mentioned above).



## A further update to Church Repairs and Redecoration

The PCC was delighted when Pettistree Church was officially handed back on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The contractor and architect took several members of the PCC around the completed works.

Both buttresses at the east end have been repaired quite extensively and a large ivy root removed as far as possible and the remaining stump treated. Some stones were replaced at about shoulder height on the southern buttress and at least one of these had carved tracery, very likely from a previous East window. We think the current one, dating from between 1893 and 1903, is at least the third. In fact some recent research suggests that the pieces of stained glass in the south nave windows are from a window “taken down” in 1790.

The crack between the northern buttress and the chancel wall proved too large to grout and was filled with pieces of flint and mortar. Much of the wooden fascia on the north side of the chancel has been replaced and the whole painted a rather tasteful National Trust green. All the guttering on the North side of the nave has been replaced. We are very pleased with the result of the all these repairs

Inside, the nave has been redecorated in off white. When the scaffolding was removed it was a fine sight, light and bright. The inside of the church looked wonderful for Amber McConville’s wedding, the Carol service the following day and the Christmas services, especially that at midnight on Christmas Eve, which was candlelit.

Even as we took the church back the contractor noted there was a small patch of paint peeling just inside the door. We were most disappointed that by the second week in January there were a growing number of these patches. The architect and the contractor together with the paint manufacturer have been investigating the cause of the lack of adhesion of the paint. Now, in the middle of February, we are waiting for them to put together a course of action, so that the inside of the church can be completed satisfactorily.

The PCC, having spearheaded the preservation our village church for future generations, is really grateful for the support of everyone in the village and congregation who contributed to such successful fundraising over the past few years.



Here is a brief financial breakdown for 2014: Donations: £18,145, attracting a further £4,117.89 in Gift Aid. Fund Raising: £3,068.72 (plus £220.32 in Gift Aid) Grants: £10,900, which together with interest made a grand total of £36,520.09.

**Adding the £3,484.59 previously raised, brought the funds to a magnificent £40,004.68**

Mary Garner





## News from St Peter & St Paul's church.

In the last edition we were anticipating being back in the decorated church in time for Christmas and that did happen. A willing group of volunteers cleaned and re-organised the church during the 2 days after the builders left before the weekend when the Christmas services began. The traditional Carol service was well attended and after the service we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies in the church. The new area at the back of the church created by removing the Edwardian pews is already proving to be a great advantage as it allows people to move around more easily at the end of a service. For larger congregations such as wedding and funerals, we can put out extra chairs for the congregation so we have not lost any seating space.



Amber McConville's wedding was on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm, the first event in the redecorated church, many residents will recall the McConville families active involvement with the village and church when they lived at Pettistree House, and we were pleased to welcome them back to the church for this happy occasion. The

family organised decorating the church for the wedding, and the Christmas services benefited from their expertise, although the tree was provided by Phillip and Carolyn Westrope and decorated as usual by the Beagley family, it all looked lovely, particularly when all the candles were lit at the Christmas Eve service.

At present we are waiting for the architect and building firm to decide how to remedy the paint problems, so have not yet returned everything to the church. We will decide when to replace the mediaeval pews once a decision about the paint has been made.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY** was sometimes known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed that day. The food item particularly associated with Mothering Sunday is the Simnel cake. This is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. The cake is decorated with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas who betrayed Jesus is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.

Mothering Sunday this year falls on March 15<sup>th</sup> when Rev Margaret Blackall will be leading our service. I can't promise Simnel cake but there will be a warm welcome, and coffee after the service.

It would be appreciated if you could let Maggie Hallett know if there are likely to be extra young children at the service so we can ensure there are sufficient posies for them to give to their mothers.

**EASTER DAY**, all families are welcome. Normally the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month in Pettistree is Evensong, however on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> the service will be Family Holy Communion at 9.30 am. Please let us know if you are likely to be coming with children so we can ensure there is a suitable activity for them, and perhaps arrange an Easter Egg hunt after the service.

**OWL BOX** Those with long memories will recall that we had hoped to use the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's offer of help to acquire and place an Owl Box in the church yard. That plan has fallen through but we are delighted that Potsford Care Farm in Letheringham have offered to construct a suitable box, which we hope to get placed in a tree on the perimeter of the churchyard within the next few months.

**WICKHAM MARKET AND PETTISTREE PARISH NEWS** Newer residents may not be aware that there is a magazine produced for all residents of both parishes. It costs £4.00 annually for 10 copies including delivery, and has a lot of useful details of local tradesmen as well as comprehensive information of what is happening in the villages. If you would like to see a copy please contact Rita Smith who co-ordinates the Pettistree orders and delivery.

Maggie Hallett

*There has been a parish church here for around 800 years; it is here for everyone and the PCC of Pettistree church hopes that all villagers know that they are always welcome to ask the vicar or any member of the PCC to call on them, or to answer any queries regarding the church.*



## Carols in the Barn

About 2 months before the Carols in the Barn I received a large football shaped parcel from Java, Indonesia. Inside were 75 beautiful Christmas decorations hand-made with great care from scraps of fabric, thread, beads and zips, by the children from Stephen's orphanage/refuge centre. They were in the shape of stars, baubles, Christmas puddings, and Christmas trees and were sent by the children as gifts to the people who came to sing carols in the barn and donate money towards the care and schooling of the children. What a lovely gesture by the children to show their thanks! I chose a white star which was edged with tiny beads and tassles, which will remind me of the children every year when I put it on the tree.



Throughout the year I like to keep a lookout for any poems or readings that I think we would enjoy at this occasion, and very often a theme develops in my choices. This year the theme that grew was 'Peace'. I had been reading some poems by poets from the First World War - 2014 being the centenary anniversary of the beginning of the war, and amongst the poems I found one by A.A.Milne. A.A.Milne of Christopher Robin fame! The creator of Winnie the Pooh and Piglet, Eeyore and Owl; and the well-loved poetry books 'When we were very young' and 'Now we are six'. It was quite a shock to me to discover that he had somehow endured being a soldier during the war. The poem



that I discovered was called 'From a Full Heart' and in it he beautifully illustrates how un-warlike he is and how he craves for peace, and I love the ideas he has of what he says will give him peace

*"When the war is over and the Kaiser's out of print,  
I'm going to buy some tortoises and watch the beggars sprint;*

*When the war is over and the sword at last we sheathe,  
I'm going to keep a jelly-fish and listen to it breathe.  
When the war is over and we've done the Belgians proud,*

*I'm going to keep a chrysalis and read to it aloud;  
When the war is over and we've finished up the show,  
I'm going to plant a lemon-pip and listen to it grow.*

*Oh, I'm tired of the noise and the turmoil of battle,  
And I'm even upset by the lowing of cattle,  
And the clang of the bluebells is death to my liver,  
And the roar of the dandelion gives me a shiver,  
And a glacier, in movement, is much too exciting,  
And I'm nervous, when standing on one, of alighting -  
Give me Peace; that is all, that is all that I seek .....  
Say, starting on Saturday week"*

This was dramatically read for us by Andy Reeve. Further poems were read by Anne Calver and Kevin Blyth whilst Rob and Daphne Rose, with Mary Garner and Martin Corral sang 'Nazareth' by Charles Gounod, and Jim Jarvie accompanied us on the bagpipes to 'Amazing Grace'.

Jim and Pauline's barbecue of sausage and chicken was most welcome at the end to warm us up. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year that people have come to sing carols in the barn with us, and we have always shared the donations between 2 charities - The Starlight Children's Foundation and Yayasan Gunung.

In the letter of thanks Starlight sent to me last year they pointed out that altogether over these 10 years we have donated £1,530.00 to enhance the quality of life of the Starlight Children, and we have obviously sent the same amount to Stephen's orphanage/refuge centre.

This year I have been able to send £167.50 to each of the charities, and I would like to thank everyone who came and took part and gave so generously.

Rita Smith





## Burns Night 2015

The fifth Pettistree and Loudham Village Hall Burns night supper was held on Saturday 17 January. For the first time we held the event a week before the official Burn's night 25 January. The life of Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland was first celebrated by a handful of friends and colleagues six years after his death in 1796 at the young age of 37. Burns Nights are held throughout the UK and across the world. As they arrived at the village hall, guests were greeted by Rod the 'Pettistree piper' who braved the cold to play a number of tunes. We 'lost' a number of regulars who were struck down with the 'Pettistree plague' but over 50 villagers and supporters attended.

Rob Rose recited the traditional Selkirk grace:

*Some hae meat and canna eat,  
And some wad eat that want it;  
But we hae meat, and we can eat,  
And sae let the Lord be thankit.* (that played havoc with my computer's spell check!)

The starter of 'Cock o Leekie' soup was followed by haggis, neeps and tatties. Those villagers that have



passed my house would have heard me learning to play the pipes

(or you may have heard Pauline sigh 'not again').

I piped the haggis to the Burns tune of 'A man's a man for a' that'. John Speedman eloquently addressed the haggis and his delivery ensured everybody understood the meaning of the address if not the words. Even those that hadn't tried haggis were pleasantly surprised with the taste, although I am not sure if that was more to do with the liberal distribution of 'gravy' (neat whisky!).

Iain Elder, another Scot who had been pressganged

into attending, proposed a toast to the lassies. In reply, Carol Speedman recited the moving poem John Anderson my Jo which, as usual, moved everybody in the hall (John's middle name is Anderson so it is really personal to them both).



Ron Bossingham, who like me, is learning the

pipes, demonstrated the progress he has made by piping a number of verses of Amazing Grace. As the tables and chairs were being put away prior to the country dancing, Highland Cathedral (written by two German brothers!!) was played.

Following the meal, Cath Caldwell guided a number of dancers (I can assure you it wasn't Strictly!) through the Gay Gordons, Circassian Circle and the Dashing White Sergeant. Much to our amazement we managed to complete all the dances without casualties. Thanks to Jeff Hallett, who let us use a sound system owned by the Suffolk Horse Society, our resident DJ Tony Franklin ensured we could all hear the music (that did away with most of the excuses for not dancing). We actually gave a credible performance and our dancing is improving.

Everybody enjoyed the evening and thanks to all the hard work and effort by Pauline and all of her 'lassies' (and Mike and Jen Barnes the 'enforcers on the door) we managed to raise £559 from ticket sales and the raffle (thanks to Clare Signy for the hamper and all those who provided prizes). All the profits will go towards the upkeep of the village hall. Thanks to everybody who made this such a success and 'haste ye back'.

Jim Jarvie (Pettistree and Loudham Village Hall

**Welcome** Dean, Annie and Geraint are pleased to have finally arrived in Pettistree in December.

Having been brought up locally and lived in a neighbouring village for a number of years, we are looking forward to integrating into village life. Geraint has just celebrated his first birthday and once the weather improves will be out in the garden, hoping to spot farm machinery or pheasants.



## Burns Night at The Greyhound

Another “special” night at The Greyhound on 28th January-Burns Night.

Some 52 people sat down to Cullen Skink, smoked haddock soup. Then Jim, with a repeat performance of the previous week, piped in the haggis on a silver salver, Stewart recited Robbie Burns “Address to a haggis” and cut it once with his knife before taking it back to the kitchen to be served out. It was the most delicious haggis served with whisky cream, tatties and neeps. To finish we had raspberry cranachan -an oatmeal, raspberry and cream concoction- and all including wine or whiskey.

Daphne Rose gave a solo rendition of “My love is like a red, red rose”, some of us joining in the chorus. Another great evening with friends-don’t miss the next one!

Pat Deliss

## Stewart invites you to write a limerick

Write a limerick including “The Greyhound” and Stewart will give you a drink of your choice.

For those uninitiated a limerick is a five line verse. The 1st, 2nd and 5th lines rhyme and the 3rd and 4th lines rhyme. Each line has a rhythm, as in this underlined example .

“There was an old man of Hoo Hall  
Who fell from the top of a wall,  
He fell in the flowers,  
And lay there for hours,  
And nobody bothered at all”

Entries to Pat Deliss c/o - [ppedit@uwclub.net](mailto:ppedit@uwclub.net)

## Bell Ringing Snippets

Since the middle of December it has been wonderful to use the church on practice nights and Sundays without the scaffolding and orange plastic. However during the building works the ringers did not miss ringing for a service or practice and were also very pleased to be able to ring for Amber McConville’s wedding. Sadly, for the first time in 28 years there were not enough ringers available to Ring Out the Old and Ring In the New, although we did manage a quarter peal early in the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> December. This was special as it was the first that Bill Lloyd had rung

on a truly working bell, that is, neither the tenor in last place nor on the treble. Bill also arranged our Annual Dinner in early February, a sumptuous feast at The Crown in Snape, enjoyed by twenty nine of us. On a more practical note we have held our AGM where, in addition to the usual reports, the outings for 2015 were discussed along with improvements to be made to the Ringing Chamber. A new set of ropes was ordered in the Autumn and had arrived in time for Christmas. They cost just short of £600.

Mary Garner

100 CLUB	1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
OCTOBER	Roger Chilvers	Mary Garner	Judy Steventon
NOVEMBER	Roger Chilvers	Chris Garner	Peter Hayward
DECEMBER	Cynthia Lambert	Mr Jackson	Sarah Moss
JANUARY	Mark Welton	Jane Welton	Rita Smith
FEBRUARY	John Speedman	Cath Caudwell	Jane Welton
MARCH	Mrs Green	Pam Hind	Mary Hallett



## Walking from Port to Port

We live in a beautiful part of the country but alas many of us rarely tour it on foot. To make amends for this our idea was for us to embark on a coastal walk from Felixstowe to Lowestoft, or to put it another way, from one Suffolk Port to another. No; not all at once, but in 12, 3 to 6 mile stages and our intention was to walk one stage per month on the first Friday of the month; finishing each stage at around lunchtime for a picnic or pub lunch. Ideally our walking group would be between 8 and 12 or more persons.

So we sent an Email to all of those friends and acquaintance in the Village who we thought might be interested expecting only a few people to respond. In the event 26 people expressed a keen interest in taking part. It was "game-on".

**Our Plan** We started the first stage of our walk at Landguard Viewpoint on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October and we intend to finish on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the swing bridge in Lowestoft; a distance of about 65 miles which we will cover in 12 stages. The length of each stage will depend on a number of factors; transport, weather conditions, ferries, availability of Pubs or eating places. During the winter months some stages are likely to be a little wet so walkers can expect to get their boots a little muddy. Walking on shingle beaches can be a bit exhausting so we needed to remember to pace ourselves and take regular rests – our walks are to be more of a stroll than a race. The average walking speed is expected to be 2½ miles per hour and so a 6 mile stage is likely to take just over 2 hours. This does not mean that we all have to walk at the same pace and so some people will cover the route more slowly than others but we will all meet up at the same end point (Pub).

## The bare essentials

To be able to take part in the walking there are few basic needs and requirements:

1. Able to walk up to 6 miles along paths, beaches and byways. Those people who feel that they can't manage this distance can if they wish join us half way along our route.

### 2. Kit

Waterproof clothing at all times.

In the winter months warm clothing, hat, scarf and gloves.

A good pair of walking boots and socks.

A walking stick (optional).

Camera and binoculars

Mobile phone.

Maps

Complete Footpath Guide Suffolk Coast (FinialPress).

OS Explorer 197,212,231 and OL40.

In this low-lying landscape of meadows, wild heaths and marshes, you'll find an attractive mix of seaside resorts, pretty villages, small harbours, quiet rivers and some of Britain's finest nature reserves: a truly rewarding area to visit and to walk.

Much of this area is designated the **Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** and stretches of this North Sea coastline proudly enjoy the status of Heritage Coast. Most of it is accessible only by the footpaths along the shingle beaches or the clifftops.

Thus there is the potential for some great walking, so whether you want an hour's amble or an all-day ramble, **Complete Footpath Guides** will help you get the most from your visit.

Reproduced by permission of Finial Press from their Complete Footpath Guide Suffolk Coast.





**Our Schedule** Our walk is to be split into 12 stages spread over a whole year and so we shall be able to experience the changing of seasons along the way.

Stage	Start to Finish	Miles	Date
1	Landguard Fort to Felixstowe Ferry	5.7	3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 2014
2	Bawdsey Quay to Shingle Street	6.21	7 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2014
3	Shingle Street to Butley Ferry	5.85	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014
4	Orford to Orford	6.3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2015
5	Orford to Aldeburgh via Orford Ness Ferry	5	6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2015
6	Aldeburgh to Sizewell	4	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2015
7	Sizewell to Dunwich	5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr 2015
8	Dunwich to Walberswick	3	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2015
9	Walberswick to Southwold	3	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
10	Southwold to Covehithe (Picnic Lunch)	3.5	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2015
11	Covehithe to Kessingland	3	7 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2015
12	Kessingland to Lowestoft	4	4 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2015

**Progress so far** At the time of writing (9<sup>th</sup> Jan) we have completed 4 stages reaching Orford on 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Stage 1** (3<sup>rd</sup> Oct)- We walked from Landguard Fort to Felixstowe Ferry in lovely early autumn sunshine leaving from the Viewpoint Cafe, where we enjoyed breakfast and some stunning views across the estuary to the Shotley Peninsula and the towns of Harwich and Dovercourt (both in Essex). Though the scenery is beautiful it is not what most visitors come to see, they come to watch the hustle and bustle of the Port of Felixstowe and the vast container ships that come into the harbour following the natural deep water channel to berth up at the docks.



After walking over the heath land around Landguard Point we enjoyed a sunny stroll along Felixstowe promenade, past the pier, around Cobbold’s Point and then along the sea wall past the golf course to the **Ferry Boat Inn** at Felixstowe Ferry where we wolfed down an excellent fish ‘n chip lunch.

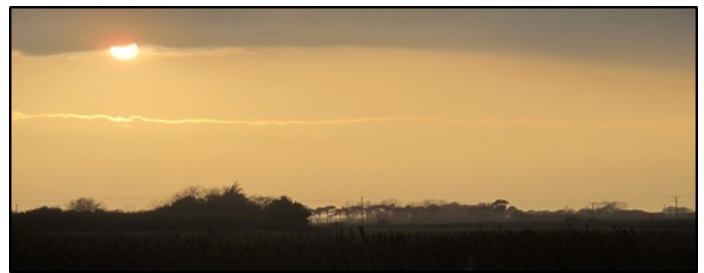




The weather for **Stage 2** (7<sup>th</sup> Nov) (Bawdsey Quay to Shingle Street) was a little inclement; a South East Force 5 and driving rain at the start but by the time we reached Shingle Street the sun was shining. Because of breaches in the sea wall we were forced to make two detours – the first was planned but the second was forced on us by a sea wall breach caused by that morning's storm. By the time we reached Shingle Street we were well ready for our lunch at the **Sutton Plough** – some of us did justice to the full monty, soup, steak suet pudding and apple crumble.



**Stage 3** (5<sup>th</sup> Dec) started from Shingle Street on a bleak December day and we followed the sea wall which bounds the western shore of the River Ore and passing Boyton Marshes, an area of outstanding beauty and a RSPB reserve. At the mouth of the Butley River and across the river is Dove Point the southerly tip of Havergate Island where on a good day Avocets can be spotted. As this was the December walk, we pushed the boat out for lunch and partook of a Christmas Carvery at the **Froize Inn**, Chillesford.



**Stage 4** (2<sup>nd</sup> Jan) Butley River Ferry to Orford. We started at Orford Castle to take a circular walk from the Castle out to the Ferry then back along the sea wall to Orford Quay and an excellent lunch in the **Jolly Sailor**.



*To be continued*

Tony & Jacki Franklin



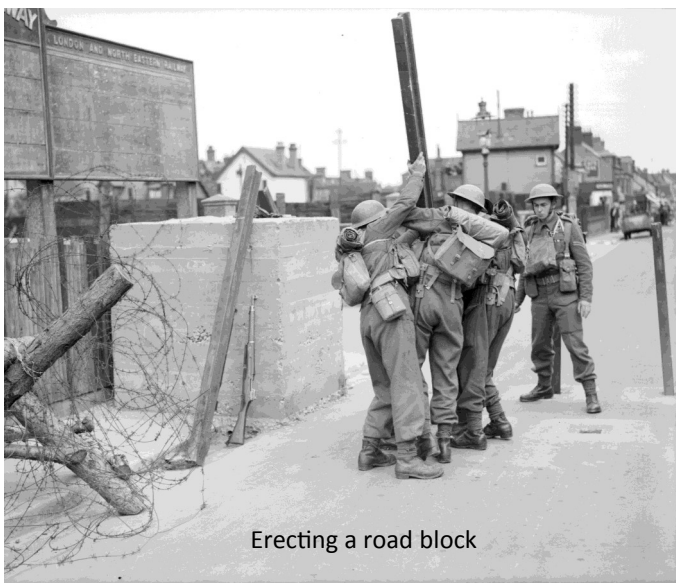


## 75 Years ago

In the last issue I included an article regarding concrete post holes and the remains of what appeared to have been reinforced concrete blocks in Thong Hall Road. It generated a lot of local interest but no solution to what they are.

However I received a response from the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation team who have included this find in their records. They also directed me to Rob Liddiard at the University of East Anglia who had extensively researched the 1940 defences of Suffolk. Rob Liddiard and his fellow researcher David Sims have published a series of four guide books, which he sent me. No's 1 to 3 describe in great detail and with maps the installations of anti invasion coastal defences built principally in 1940-1941. In fact Tony Franklin is studying them to provide insight for his fellow walkers when they chance upon remains of installations as they continue their walk along the coast.

Guide book No 4 is devoted to Stop Lines. They were interior defence lines constructed in the same period. "The purpose of these defences was simple. They were part of Britain's response to the threat of German invasion and were installed to delay and hold back enemy armoured columns that were expected to drive inland from the nearby beaches and ports". The Stop Lines comprised concrete pill boxes shielding anti-tank and anti-personnel guns, concrete blocks to thwart tanks, barbed wire entanglements and mine fields as well as mined bridges. They also incorporated natural obstacles such as rivers, railway cuttings and ponds. The Stop Lines extended across Suffolk and each was named. The Back Line was parallel to the coast and the Corps Line ran from Colchester across to Cambridgeshire past Lavenham, Bury Saint Edmunds and Mildenhall. Lines D, E and F extended north westwards inland from the Back Line.



Erecting a road block

Along the Stop Lines were established Nodal Points; heavily defended strongholds to provide maximum resistance. One of them was Wickham Market on Stop Line E, which had three large road blocks, and the bridges over the River Deben were mined ready for demolition. It would appear Pettistree was in their outer defence ring and the post holes in Thong Hall Road were for a road block, adjacent to the pond behind the post box. Road blocks had prepared concreted holes to accept iron bars, often railway rails. Rob Liddiard considers there may have been further road blocks in Grove Road and Presmere Road to provide a ring around the village green combined with the ponds.

If any of you know of a concrete slab in the village it could well be of 1940 vintage.

Mike Watts



We are delighted to report that the Suffolk Community Foundation has announced that Mrs Maureen Stollery has been short-listed for the High Sheriff's Lifetime Achievement Award. The High Sheriff of Suffolk is Mr Nick Wingfield Digby. Maureen was nominated from Pettistree village and she will learn at the High Sheriff's Award Ceremony on Thursday 19th March whether she is one of the winners.

Amongst her many contributions to the community Maureen served on the Parish Council for 40 years. The ceremony will be hosted at Haughley Park Barns by Lesley Dolphin of Radio Suffolk and Tim Holder of the Suffolk Community Foundation. We wish Maureen every success in the final stage of the High Sheriff's Award.

Jeff Hallett





**DIARY DATES**

**Parish Council AGM** at 19.30 and **Parish Council Meeting** at 19.45 on 12th May in the Parish Room.

**PROPS orders.** Next cut-off dates- 3rd March 7th April and 9th June

**Church services** Please see page 4

**Cheese, nibbles and wine** to launch Food Fest recipe book Sunday 12 April at 13.00 in Village Hall

**Pub Games in the village hall** 9th May at 19.30 with a fish and chip supper. £10 a ticket.

**Regular events**

**Bellringing** 7-9pm on Wednesdays in St Peter & St Paul's church.

Contact Mary Garner on 746097

**Pilates** on Monday evenings in the village hall.

Contact Sam Whitfield on 07716 316294

**CONTACTS DIRECTORY**

**Parish Councillors**

Jeff Hallett, Chairman, The Laurels 01728 746210

Mike Watts, Vice Chairman, Burways 747202

Mary Chilvers, Coopers Cottage 746123

Steve Hind, Flint Cottage 746532

Ruth Leigh, 1 Hall Farm Cottages 746599

Philip Westrope, Park Farm House 746139

Terry Rowles, Low Farm 01394 460422

**Parish Clerk,** Clive Mann 01394 421628

**County & District Councillor**

Michael Bond michael.bond@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

**District Councillor**

Jim Bidwell jim.bidwell@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Dave Caudwell, Rogues Cottage 747170

**Vicar** Rev John Eldridge 746026

**Church Wardens** Maggie Hallett 746210

Brian Nobbs 746590

**Bellringers** Mary Garner 746097

**Village Hall Booking** Pauline Jarvie 745030

**Age Concern** Mike Manning 747321

**The Greyhound** 746451

**The Three Tuns** 747979

**Wickham Market Health Centre** 747101

**Wickham Market Post Office** 746201

**Wickham Market Library** 747216

**Dial-a-Ride** 01473 281194

**Village web site** www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.uk

**Webmaster** webmaster@pettistree.suffolk.gov.co.uk

**Pettistree People copy dates for 2015**  
**15th May 14th August 13th November**

Please send your contribution to—  
**ppedit@uwclub.net**

*"Would you please remember to take  
 photographs of your events for  
 "a picture is worth a thousand words"*



*Mike Watts and Maureen Stollery*

