

In memoriam - Alan Page (06.03.1932 - 09.04.2018)

It is with sadness that we learnt that Alan Page the Honorary President of our Pettaugh History Society passed away peacefully yesterday, the 9th April 2018. Alan was born in Pettaugh on the 6th March 1932 and he lived in the village throughout his life. Alan married Muriel Pipe in 1957 and they moved next door to their bungalow. Muriel and Alan ran our village shop for many years.

Alan attended the Pettaugh Primary School until the age of 11 and then went to the Stonham Aspal Secondary School. Alan worked at Pettaugh mill for several years and during this time took music lessons. He became an accomplished musician and taught at the Debenham High School for some years before teaching privately which he continued to do until 2017. Many Pettaugh young people received music tuition from Alan. Alan founded and conducted the Pastoral Quire which gave many choral performances locally over the years. Alan was organist in our local churches and his delightful touch on the keyboard was a joy for the listener as the notes of the organ resonated throughout the lofty spaces of the church. One of his favourite hymns was 'The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended' which evoked his fond memory of the first time he heard the tune and words of this beautiful hymn in the Pettaugh School.

Alan was the Pettaugh History Recorder for the Suffolk Local History Society. He had a prodigious memory and enjoyed sharing his memories of village life in Pettaugh. Alan was a source of many of the facts which were recorded in two of our publications, 'Pettaugh Preserved' and 'Backwards into the Pond'. His insightful observations of people's personalities were of great value as we compiled our archive of historical facts and the foibles of the children and adults who lived in Pettaugh, especially the religious (and sometimes irreligious) attitudes and activities of individuals. The many hours I spent with Alan, listening to his reminiscences were sometimes interrupted when he went to his piano and gave an extemporaneous rendering of a hymn or folk song.

Jack and Dorothy Page shared their thoughts about village life with their sons, often over a family meal and the young Alan stored these anecdotes in his memory which he later shared when we met to talk about past times in Pettaugh. This provided us with a valuable treasure trove of information stretching back over several generations.

Alan will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with Muriel and his family.