

Pettistree People

A newsletter for all the residents of Pettistree and Loudham

Issue 77

December 2017

Pettistree Parish
Council ©



*The Parish Council, the Editorial Team
and all at St Peter and St Paul's wish you
a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous and Peaceful New Year*

Inside this issue

Parish Council Report	2
Editor's Comment	3
Christmas Social	4
100 Club	4
Remembrance Service	5
War Memorial names	5
Carols in the Barn	6
Welcome	6
Greyhound News	6
Here's a thought	6
Planning Matters	6
Gardening thoughts	7
Memory Lane	7
Church News	8
Snippets	9
Village Hall AGM	10
Old "Blue Eyes"	11
Russian Holiday	12
Petanque event	13
Bell ringing	14
Ride and Stride	14
Word Search	15
St Elizabeth's Hospice	15
Pettistree Heritage	15
Letter to the Times	15
Diary dates & Contacts	16



Parish Chairman's Report July—November

When I wrote the first part of this report in late July we were well into Summer after some interesting weather. The very hot and dry conditions came to a dramatic end on 19th July with **tremendous thunder and lightning** coming in from France. The farmers could be heard harvesting late into the night as they tried to get in as much grain as possible before the forecasted storms arrived. The Times reported 5,000 ground strikes in southern England and the East Anglian Daily Times reported that "Weatherquest" had said there were 26,000 strikes in 12 hours. (They may have measured things in different ways.) Fortunately our local area did not suffer any major damage and we are not susceptible to flooding.

An earlier storm in mid May had more dramatic effects in bringing down a large poplar tree across Thong Hall Road near the Green. Villagers rapidly cleared the road and by the next day I and other helpers had cut the tree into smaller pieces and taken it to dry for firewood. Terry Rowles also had to clear a fallen tree in Byng Lane. More recently another storm in mid September brought down a very large part of the **big willow tree on the Green**. Terry cut up the debris and Brad Bye helped me clear and load the branches and brushwood. We have now been advised that the jagged stump should be trimmed and the crown of the willow reduced by 20% to minimise the danger of further falls. This will be a job for a proper tree surgeon and will have to be paid for by the Parish Council.

While thinking of the management of major events affecting the village community it is worth mentioning that the village has joined the East Suffolk Community **Emergency Planning Group** to either receive or give help. Our contacts are:- Chris Cook 01728 748388 Jeff Hallett 01728 746210 Steve Hind 01728 746532 Jim Jarvie 01728 745030

The future of **the Three Tuns** site is still uncertain with no news since the summer. The owners have not actually applied for planning permission to develop the site as an offer to buy it had been made. We still do not know by whom or what use of the site is proposed.

The lack of **fast fibre broadband** in the village has been very irritating for many villagers especially as we are bombarded with advertisements for it by different suppliers, including BT. In the summer I wrote to our MP, Therese Coffey, and we were assured of support by our county and district councillors at the meeting of the Parish Council. However Openreach carried on at their own pace without notifying us and then installed a brand new cabinet for fibre broadband beside the Village Green on 25th July. Within a few days they had finished a very neat job, including re-seeding the small trench they had dug in the Green. Everything then stayed very quiet until this week (6th November) when work has restarted to lay fresh cable up The Street from the Green. It looks as if we may have fast broadband in the Village in the near future.

Our **new County Councillor**, Alexander Nicoll, and our District Councillor, Mark Amoss both attended our meeting on 18th July and showed keen interest in Pettistree matters. Items such as those above were discussed and others included maintenance of footpaths and the highways. A particular concern was the absence of any verge trimming; meaning that overgrowth of vegetation is severely limiting visibility on some lanes. **Pothole repairs** have now been completed along Thong Hall road but the verges in the Village have not been cut by Highways all season.

For our next meeting on 12th September a representative from EDF Energy was due to attend to update us on **development plans for Sizewell C**. Unfortunately he was ill but we were told that an important announcement could be expected about the building and later operation of the nuclear plant at a meeting on 16th November of the community liaison group.

At the most recent meeting of the Parish Council on 1st November we were also delighted to learn that we can now expect this **issue of Pettistree People** in the near future. This is because Mrs Pat Deliss has volunteered to act as assistant editor. Her main job will be to chase up copy from regular contributors and to encourage new contributors. This will leave Mike Watts with sufficient time to



put the newsletter together and publish it. The printing of Pettistree People is paid for by the Parish Council who feel it is an essential tool to communicate news and information for residents while building up an archive on the village website. It does not carry paid advertisements but always welcomes news and information about local businesses.

The latest consultation document from the Boundaries Commission suggests that for parliamentary elections it proposes Pettistree should leave Suffolk Coastal constituency and be included in Mid Suffolk. We think this means that **our MP** would then be Dr Dan Poulter instead of Dr Therese Coffey. We do not know if this will affect our District Council or planning district.

If your **TV reception** has got worse in the last few months, and especially if you get a lot of "pixelation" on Freeview channels, it is worth checking to see if 4G interference from a mast on the water tower is to blame. If so it can be sorted out free of charge by at800. Satellite reception is not affected.

Please let any of the Parish Councillors know if

Editors Comment

As mentioned above by Jeff, this edition has been enabled by the enthusiasm of Pat Deliss who volunteered to be the newsletter's "Newshound". She recognised the importance of its continuance and is keen to maintain its future publication. She has contacted many people and this has resulted in more copy to add to that received since the last edition in May. Hence latest news is mixed with "old". This issue includes articles from new contributors as well as the established ones. To keep it fresh we ask that even short bits of information are most welcome.

May I though mention that copy is usually

you have any **ideas for projects** that will benefit the village community. If we put up a good case our district and county councillors may be able to apply for locality budget grants on our behalf to support such projects. I should mention that we are now forming a small group with representation from all the village groups to organise the Pettistree celebration on Sunday 11th November 2018, called "**Battle Over**" nationally, to mark the centenary of the end of hostilities in the First World War. The event will need involvement from everyone in the Village or closely associated with it.

Finally I want to **thank Olivia and Brad from "Woodlands"** for getting on and doing cleaning work that I had thought was going to need a village working party. I mentioned to them on a Sunday morning in early summer that the village signs, and especially the signpost, were covered in green algae and needed a good- gentle! - clean up. In the afternoon Olivia contacted me to say they had done it themselves. The transformation was obvious and still looks good.

Jeff Hallett, Chairman of Pettistree and Loudham Parish Council

provided in various fonts and point sizes and sometimes just uppercase. This involves their conversion to the Pettistree People standard which also takes time.

This issue has taken 25 hours to assemble and prepare for printing.

Our standard font is Gentium Basic, the point size is 12pt and of course is upper and lower case. But if you can't match this do send it in for if we receive no articles there will be no Pettistree People.

Would you also please note next copy date is always on the back page to enable on-time publication.

I thank you in advance for your future co-operation.
Mike Watts Editor

We understand interference to our TV signal is caused by 4G signals sitting next to Freeview frequencies and can overload TV receivers.. Ben Roome, chief executive of at800 is reported as saying "*If you rely on Freeview for TV, we can arrange for one of our accredited engineers to visit homes to fix interference caused by 4G signals free of charge. We can also send a free filter which blocks mobile signals. It is easy to fit to the aerial lead connecting TV's and set top boxes*".

Visit www.at800.tv/contact-us or call 0808 13 13 800



Christmas Social

'Bring & Share' Lunch

Sunday 17th December 2017

12.30pm

Pettistree Village Hall

Join us for a get-together, bringing your favourite dish to share (sweet and/or savoury). Drinks will be provided.

Please let us know if you can come by phoning Jim on 01728 745030 or by e-mailing Dave at: roguescottage@mypostoffice.co.uk

100 CLUB	1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
MAY	Steve WASELL	Alan WHITFIELD	Rita SMITH
JUNE	John SPEEDMAN	The STOLLERYS	Val PIZZEY
JULY	Suzy HALLETT	Val PIZZEY	The STOLLERYS
AUGUST	Nicky MAYHEW	Dick SMITH	Alex JARVIE
SEPTEMBER	Mike WATTS	Louis DELISS	Peter HAYWARD
OCTOBER	Steve BOARDLEY	Mick HILTON	Mike BARNES
NOVEMBER	Peter HAYWARD	Dean WEBB	Louise MCKENZIE



Remembrance Day 11th November

Before the short service the bell ringers rang a quarter on half muffled bells at 10.50 am.

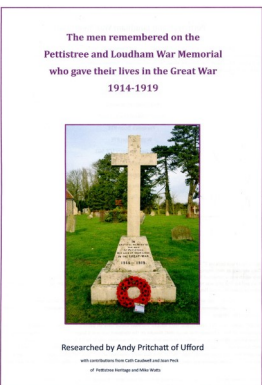
Nearly 30 people attended in bright sunshine. The Reverend Rob Rose officiated and Rita Smith laid the wreath on behalf of Pettistree and Loudham Village. Kevin Blyth, churchwarden, read out the names on the Memorial and Joan Jordan read Laurence Binyon's well-known lines.

Afterwards they enjoyed coffee and hot lemon cake in the Greyhound courtesy of Stewart and Louise with all donations going to the British Legion.

The Poppy Appeal this year raised over £ 900 from house-to-house collections and boxes. The collectors thank all of you who donated so generously.



The men on our War Memorial



A chance encounter I had in our churchyard earlier this year has resulted in a booklet detailing the lives of the men who lost their lives in the First World War who are remembered on our War Memorial; it will soon be published and free of charge copies made available, and a copy deposited in the Ipswich Record Office.

It was researched by Andy Pritchatt of Ufford who earlier had studied the families of Ufford in the Great War and published a well received book entitled "Ufford and the Great War". He is now engaged with the Melton Heritage Group who are conducting similar research into the men of Melton who served in the Great War.

His extensive research using more than twenty information sources, into their service and the campaigns they fought, is complemented by additional local facts by Cath Caudwell and Joan Peck of Pettistree Heritage and further research by myself.

Mike Watts



Carols in the Barn at Church Farm

Thursday 21st Dec 2017 at 7.00 for 7.30pm

Dick and Rita Smith invite you once again to come and sing carols in the barn at Church Farm, Pettistree, on Thursday 21st December at 7.00pm. This will be the 13th Carols in the Barn event and the rules are the same as in previous years – wrap up warm and bring a torch. Expect a warming glass of mulled wine when you arrive, the singing will start at about 7.30 and will be followed by one of Jim and Pauline’s BBQ’s.



The event is free – but we do ask for donations which will be shared between Alzheimer’s Research UK and The Starlight Children’s foundation. We regret places are limited, so please reserve your hay bale by contacting Rita on 01728 746708, or email:ritasmith@uwclub.net

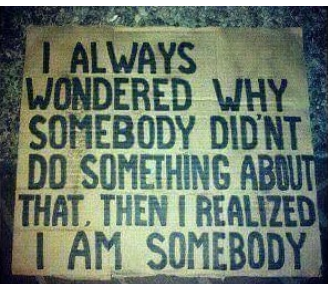
Welcome to Pettistree

New residents are Natalie Bartle and Nathan Wardle at Highfields and Nick and Mairead Lewin at The Garden House. We hope they settle in well and enjoy the pleasures of our community.

Stewart and Louise are moving on!

It is with much regret that we learn that The Greyhound is for sale. Stewart’s charm behind the bar and Louise’s superb culinary delights will be very sorely missed. We wish them all the best.

Here’s a thought Would our village win "Best Kept Village" now?



Might we make sure we keep all our own ditches and gullies clear to avoid flooding this winter.

Of course it is the Council's responsibility, but they have more important calls on their (our) money.

Planning Matters

DC/17/1973/PN3	Whitehouse Farm	Conversion of barn to one dwelling	Permitted
DC/17/1330/LBC	Pettistree Lodge	Conversion of attic-Discharge of condition 3	Permitted
DC/17/2641/LBC	Pettistree Lodge	Demolish conservatory & part wall and replace	Permitted
DC/17/2642/LBC	Pettistree Lodge	Demolish conservatory & part wall and replace	Permitted
DC/17/3205/FUL	Pettistree Lodge	Demolish garage & erect single storey dwelling	Permitted
DC/17/3206/FUL	Pettistree Lodge	Demolish garage & erect single storey dwelling	Permitted
DC/17/3433/TEL	Park Farm, Loudham	Erect lattice tower	Permitted



Gardening thoughts

Gardens can give so much for the mind and body, not just pleasure to look at and smell, or food to eat, but exercise and a great sense of satisfaction and pride. (It can also offer aches, pains, scratches and stings but we won't get into that...) We are so very happy with ourselves when the tiny seed we put into the soil grows to be a yummy tomato or colourful dahlia.

Our garden at home is still quite new, there are parts we have left as we found them but mostly I have tried to keep things simple. I do like 'nice and neat', with straight edges, but I also understand the benefit of a few wild areas for the creatures, with rotting wood piles, long vegetation and a selection of very different plants, some with big low leaves for frogs and toads to hide under. We are very lucky to have a Kingfisher come and pinch the Sticklebacks out of our pond. So to help him/her, bean sticks were added to the bank at an angle and they are now a favourite perch for our colourful friend. The blue and great tits have been taking the seeds from the sunflowers and the black birds plucking the berries off the cotoneaster. When the mole comes for a visit we take advantage of the situation and scoop up the little pile he has offered and use it elsewhere in the garden, it is always really good, lovely soft soil. The rabbits on the other hand are more of a nuisance, with their digging and nibbling, but we just have a little mutter about them and repair the damage. I often find when I am rummaging about in the flower beds I will be joined by a robin, this is always nice, especially when I am treated to a song.

There is always something to attend in the garden, if not doing, then planning – and there is often a plan or sudden idea to try. I enjoy Autumn for a good ol' tidy up; cutting back; gathering leaves...

and planting bulbs with an optimism for the spring. Not so much fun is moving wheel barrow loads of manure, but a worthwhile task. A must over the next few nippy months is to service my machines and tools, they have worked very hard for me this year.

I leave you with a little poem I found which made me chuckle.

Olivia Smith.

The Stinging Nettle

*With seed the sowers scatter
The furrows as they go;
Poor lads, 'tis little matter
How many sorts they sow,
For only one will grow.*

*The charlock on the fallow
Will take the traveller's eyes,
And gild the ploughland sallow
With flowers before it dies,
But twice 'twill not arise.*

*The stinging nettle only
Will still be found to stand:
The numberless, the lonely,
The thronger of the land,
The leaf that hurts the hand.*

*It thrives, come sun, come show-
ers,
Blow east, blow west, it springs;
It peoples towns, and towers
Above the courts of Kings,
And touch it and it stings.*

A. E. Houseman

Roger's "Down Memory Lane"

On November 4th, more than thirty gathered for a musical evening at the Village Hall.

Roger Chilvers supplied a continuous flow of 50s, 60s and 70s music while sausage, mash and onions were served, followed by Pauline's delicious bread

pudding. Then quite a few brave souls took to the dance floor to let their hair down. A thoroughly enjoyable evening. Guests included Paul and Margie who most will remember from the Greyhound a few years ago. Lovely to see them again.



News from Pettistree Church

Jenny Catchpole Licensed as a Lay Reader

Several members of the Pettistree congregation were delighted to be in the packed St Edmundsbury Cathedral to support Jenny Catchpole when she was licensed and welcomed as a Reader by The Bishop on Sunday June 18th. Lay Readers are people who have been selected, trained and then licensed by the Bishop to preach, teach, lead worship and engage in pastoral care within a particular benefice. They are permitted to do many of the tasks of the clergy but are not trained to officiate at a service of Holy Communion and it would be illegal for a Reader to conduct a Marriage ceremony in the church. There are more than 10,000 active Readers in the Church of England who give their services to the Church, so they do not receive payment but may get help with expenses. The licensing took place after Jenny (with a small group of other trainees) had completed a three year course which included studying on-line, regular meetings, essays to write, assignments to complete and also working in a different benefice for several weeks. It was a lovely service during which the Bishop stressed the importance of the work the Readers will be asked to undertake in their parishes and how hard they had all worked to complete the training. It was held on an extremely hot day, which may have meant that the new Readers in unfamiliar robes were very much hotter than the rest of us who sat in the congregation fanning ourselves with the service order sheets!

We are particularly pleased that Jenny has completed her training as Rev John Eldridge will be retiring in 2018 so there may be a few weeks or months before a new incumbent is appointed. It will be a great asset to have Jenny's help during this interregnum. Many people are not aware of how lucky we are in this parish to have two retired clergy who are active members of our congregation, Margaret Blackall organises the

regular monthly Friday Communion service, and Rob Rose has led the Act of Remembrance for Pettistree village at the war memorial for several years, as well as often leading Sunday services too. Gloria Theobald may not be so well known in Pettistree but is a retired teacher who is a licensed minister and is becoming more involved in local matters.

Church Re-decoration update

The Consistory Court Hearing (the C of E's equivalent of a civil court) into the re-decoration problem was held on September 29th in Pettistree church. This was the first in south-east Suffolk for many decades, and only the third in 20 years for the diocese apparently. The reason for the case being brought was that paint had been used in preference to limewash, which had been stipulated in the Faculty (church planning-permission) which the Chancellor had issued before the work began. The Chancellor of the Diocese sat formally in the Church as Judge and conducted his cross examination of the churchwardens, architect and contractor. It was a very informative morning and it was made clear that we should never expect the Chancellor to vary a Faculty after the event, and also that a representative of the PCC should ensure that they have actually seen the Faculty.

The full judgement will be publicly available in due course but we have been advised that the Architect and his insurers are liable for the cost of removing the paint and for applying 4 coats of limewash.

It is worth adding that the Chancellor in his closing remarks completely exonerated the contractor in this case. Our recently appointed church architect was present at the hearing and she is now investigating the best way to rectify the problem. A new faculty will be required for this work and any additional works that the new architect advises. This could include



redecorating the chancel walls as these were not included in the 2014 job and this work may now be considered, as the East End wall was stabilised by work done to the buttresses in 2014.

Christmas 2017

The Christmas celebrations will start with a Christingle service, particularly suitable for younger children of pre-school age, but for all age-groups from babies to grand-parents, will be held on Monday December 18th at 10.30 am. During the service children will be encouraged to help create the Nativity scene and will be given a Christingle. This is a decorated orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle which is lit to celebrate the light that Jesus brings into the world.

The money raised at Christingle services plays a vital role in supporting the work of the Children's Society with vulnerable and disadvantaged children of all races and beliefs. The Society has been able to help thousands of children and young people move on from the effects of suffering harm and abuse, and to take positive steps forward in their lives. We hope to provide enough choice for everyone to celebrate the joy of Christmas as the

weekend after the Christingle has the Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 9.30 am. All are welcome to join the congregation for the familiar re-telling of the Christmas Story and to sing carols. We hope that everyone who comes will stay to enjoy a glass of mulled wine or coffee and have a mince-pie after the service. Later on, on Christmas Eve there will be a midnight service of Holy Communion starting at 11.30pm, and on Christmas Day morning the Communion service is at 9.30 am.

New Year

In 2018 Pettistree church will continue the usual pattern of services with Evensong at 6.30 pm on the first Sunday of the month, the Sunday morning services at 9.30 am, and on the third Friday of each month the mid-week communion at 10.30 am. After all the morning services tea or coffee is available and we welcome any visitors and hope they will be able to stay for coffee. The only exception is that the coffee and cake is provided by Stuart & Louise at The Greyhound after the Friday morning services.

Maggie Hallett

Snippets from other Church Bulletins

The fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals

Ladies, don't forget the jumble sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping. Bring your husbands

Don't let worry kill you off- let the Church help

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

At the evening service, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow

New choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of new members and the deterioration of others

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children

The new minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday "I upped my pledge- Up yours!"



Pettistree and Loudham Village Hall – AGM 13 July 2017

The following is a resume of the Village Hall AGM:

The AGM was attended by the Committee members and other residents.

I would like to put on record the sadness we, as a Committee are feeling with Brian Stollery's passing. He was a long serving and valuable member of the committee and we will miss his contributions and humour. Maureen is in all our thoughts at this difficult time.

The minutes for the 2016 AGM were agreed and there were no matters arising.

Chairman's report:

The Village Hall has had another successful year and continues to be used on a regular basis by a number of diverse activity groups, including Pilates, Yoga, Belly Dancing, Architecture, Dressmaking and a fortnightly Basket Weaving class. In addition, walking and rambling groups have used the car park as a setting off point and we have rented out tables and chairs to various local groups. The hall has been used for a number of children's parties with an upper age limit of 12 years. We have also held fund raising events throughout the year including , a pub quiz with a fish and chip supper, a Christmas drink and nibbles get together, BBQ and Petanque evening and a talk on mammals in Essex and Suffolk by Darren Tansley. The church hosted a well attended Harvest Lunch and Pettistree children's nursery held their nativity and Christmas event. Darren's talk and our Burn's Night raised over £900 for Riding for the Disabled.

Alan Whitfield has agreed to take over the day to day running of the 100 club and thanks to his

sterling efforts we now have 85 paid up members.

The hall has been decorated inside a new village noticeboard erected. My thanks go to Chris Cook. Steve Boardley has cut the hedges and the weeds have been sprayed.

I have been ably supported by all the committee members and non-committee members throughout the year and my thanks go to them.

Treasurer's Report:

Thanks to Dave and Cath the Village Hall is on a sound financial footing, with the records up to date, with incomings well exceeding outgoings. Thanks to Elaine Boardley for auditing the accounts. There is no requirement to have fund raising events and we will look to subsidise any future ones. We currently have over £10,000 in the bank and the Committee is looking to spend some of it on a re-vamped car park.

Appointment of Committee:

Jim Jarvie – Chairman

Steve Boardley – Vice- chairman

Pat Deliss - Secretary Dave Caudwell – Treasurer

Pauline Jarvie – Lettings secretary

All other Committee members were re-elected and in addition, Alan Whitfield will be a new member.

Nomination of representatives:

Pettistree Church – Maggie Hallett will ask the PCC if they wish to nominate a representative.

Heritage Group – Maureen Stollery

Parish Council – Chris Cook

The AGM closed at 19.45

Jim Jarvie Chairman

Hedge Cutting

Louise Deliss has now got a list of residents who want their hedges cut. However if any more of you would like to be added to the list please let him know on 01728 745083. and he will also be able to advise the cost.



Old 'Blue Eyes' is back – a fishy tale

This summer was a strange one. I spent 4 months with the dogs decamped at my parent's house, at Woringford on the River Stour, due to a near collapse of our cottage in Stump Street (more of that in the next Pettistree People!). But I did have to return at the end of May to get my car service and MOT done at Mick Johns garage on Byng Hall Road. It was a nice day so I took the opportunity to walk home whilst getting in a bit of wildlife watching.

It wasn't long before my notebook was filling with records; yellowhammer, skylark, chiffchaff and goldfinch amongst the birds. Lots of plants along the roadside verge too; stitchwort, dog's mercury, cowslip, germander speedwell, meadow vetchling and herb Robert to name a few. What I wasn't expecting was to spend half an hour at the bridge over Byng Brook.

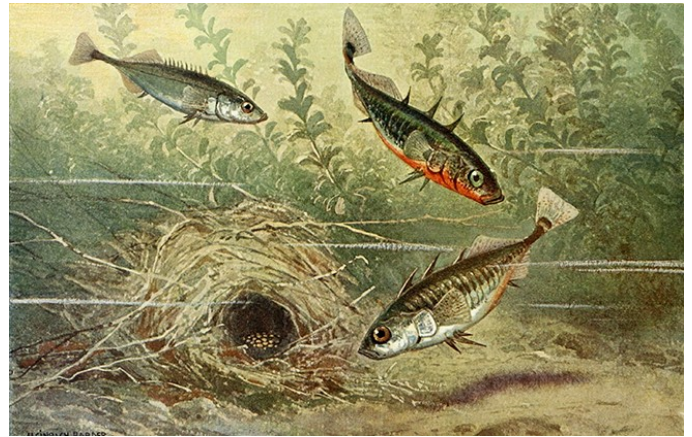
When we moved to Pettistree in 2015 my first visit to Byng Brook was rewarded with a brief sighting of a kingfisher whistling past.



Well where there are kingfishers there have to be fish and on this sunny day in May 2017 I caught sight of the typical 'tiddler' that probably features in all kingfisher's diets – the stickleback. To be precise I could see a male three-spined stickleback zipping back and forth and apparently chasing other larger fish, no mean feat for the smallest freshwater fish in the British Isles. So what was happening?

Well whilst most fish have absolutely no parenting skills, sticklebacks couldn't be more involved with the rearing of the young. In spring the male develops bright blue eyes and a red throat and

belly; attractive features to the females. He also starts building a tunnel-like nest from vegetation and a sticky secretion called spiggin, produced in his kidneys, which once completed to his satisfaction will set the stage for his zig-zagging courtship dance. If his nest is suitably impressive and his colours suitably bright he may mate with several females that will each lay about 100 eggs.



This may sound like a lot of eggs, but perch can lay up to 200,000, pike half a million and even minnows about a thousand. Obviously most of these will get eaten by other fish, amphibians or predatory insects but the male stickleback takes no chances and remains to guard his potential offspring after the females have left. At first he fans water through the nest to keep them oxygenated but once they hatch he watches over the newly hatched shoal for about a week to ensure their safety.

My little stickleback was impressively diligent. I watched him sally forth dozens of times to drive away fish more than twice his size as he watched over his little domain. It seemed to be an endless task although he did appear quite intolerant of anything that floated within sight, even if it was going in the opposite direction.

It was hard to tear myself away from this little drama at the bottom of this insignificant little Suffolk brook, but this is just one of those little wildlife spectacles you stumble upon in our parish when you least expect it. If you're out on the brook next spring, why not take 10 minutes to peer into the water. You never know what you might find.

Darren Tansley

Did you see Darren on Look East, BBC 1, 27 November, talking about the return of polecats to Essex?



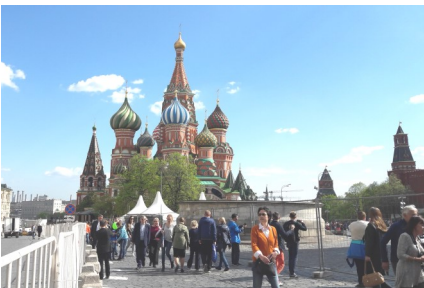
Our trip to Russia

In the middle of May we fulfilled a long ambition to see Russia. The flight to Moscow, with BA, is best not mentioned but never again with BA! Then the drive to our ship scheduled for 2 hours took over three, Moscow traffic is total grid-lock all the time.

The ship, a Viking cruise, was to be our home for the next nine days. It can take over 200 passengers but was not quite full. Very comfortable with a nice cabin and reasonable food, with friendly helpful staff.



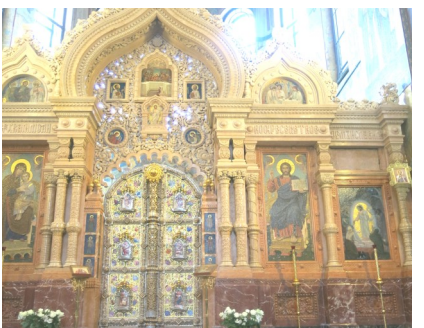
There were two days seeing Moscow. The Red (Russian for beautiful) Square is impressive mainly for the magnificent GUM department store and St Basil's Cathedral which was rather hidden by scaffolding.



Many of the buildings are in "Stalin Gothic" with impressive facades full of interesting detail. The Kremlin is much larger than we expected and has many buildings within the walls.



Luckily there was a display by the military guards with goose-stepping soldiers and officers on horseback which not even our guide had seen. All in front of two typical onion domed churches. Then we set off up the Moskova River and into the Moscow Canal up to the Volga. Then another canal into the Svir River and



the Niva as far as St Petersburg. We passed through some truly vast lakes where the banks were below the horizon. The countryside is mainly forest with occasional villages and towns. We stopped along the way at some small towns.



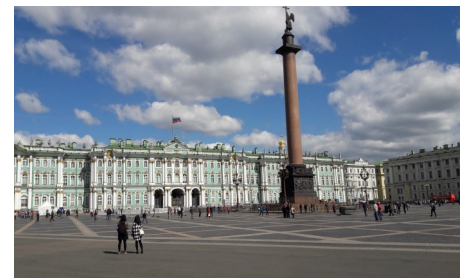
In one we were given tea, cakes and home-brew vodka as guests of a local family in their tiny house. In the larger towns, there was the usual viewing of churches with many Icon paintings, beautiful but all a bit the same. In one house we were shown round by a student dressed in period costume. She and her friends then gave us a display of dancing the Polka. We visited the local produce market close by. These towns gave us a better idea of "real" Russia. In the cities every-one lives in huge blocks of flats but in the villages the houses were very small wooden, about the size of a double garage, with a large kitchen garden attached. Another stop was at a recreated old Russian village. Log houses and churches built without any nails.

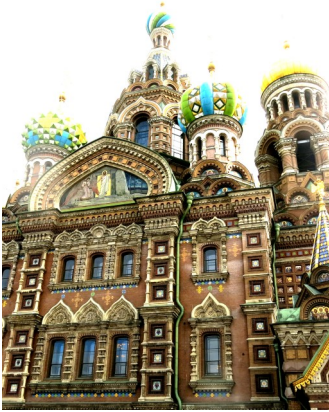
There were craftsmen making all sorts of things, such as the wooden tiles for the onion domes and ironwork by the blacksmith. plus of course souvenir shops full of things like the nesting Russian dolls. It was here that Pat's mobility scooter came into its own.

St Petersburg is the most beautiful and impressive city. Many of the buildings were huge and built in a classical style, plus many churches with gilded onion domes

The splendid Winter Palace houses the Hermitage collection.

One would need a week to see it all but we had a very good guide who showed us the important bits and paintings. The Summer Palace just outside the city was equally splendid. I walked and Pat "buggied" through a series of fabulous rooms and then a





garden. Although we were a bit early the displays of tulips were glorious. Driving, in a coach, around the city, which did not have Moscow's traffic problems, gave us a very good idea of it all.

We stayed on in St Petersburg for a couple of days. This was chiefly to see the Hermitage impressionist gallery which is across the square from the Winter Palace. What an impressive collection, which again would benefit from more than one day.

On the whole, we thoroughly enjoyed the trip but do not feel that we are going to become regular cruisers. The in-house guides, all Russian, were very impressive and knowledgeable. They freely described what life for them was like and spoke openly about the politics of the country.

Louis Deliss

Petanque, pub games and BBQ on 17th June

For the first time when holding an outdoor event, we were looking at the weather forecast and wishing for a cooler evening! We were expecting 30 residents and Village Hall supporters to turn up, but in the end the number was nearer 50.

We did cater for 50, so there were enough burgers,; the Revetts lamb ones went like "hot cakes"...and hot dogs to the feed the participants. We all brought our own alcoholic drinks although soft drinks were provided. Everybody was mingling and playing the odd games of shove ha'penny, Jenga, dominoes and table soccer when Dave and Cath commenced the petanque tournament. It all started so friendly but as the competitive nature of the players kicked in, the tape measure was called in on numerous occasions to determine which boule was nearest the coche (jack).

It is often the case those playing a game for the first time excel themselves. There was a suggestion, unfounded of course that Roger was a 'ringer' and had

played Petanque at county level! He put it down to a good eye and a bit of luck. As the event unfolded it became obvious the lack of daylight would curtail the latter stages of the completion. We do have a car park floodlight with a movement sensor and it must have looked a strange sight to anybody passing seeing us jump up and down waving our arms in front of the sensor trying to activate the light. Although we did not fully finish the tournament an overall winner was declared. Harry, Dick and Rita's grandson was presented with the winning trophy, an Adnams bar towel! I'm sure his friends, if not his teachers, will be impressed!

The BBQ and Pauline's bread pudding topped off a really enjoyable evening.

Thanks to all those who helped, particularly Cath and Dave who undertook most of the organising and to all those who turned up.

Jim Jarvie





Bell Ringing News

Gill Waterson organised our Autumn Outing on September 16th. We ventured north in Suffolk and rang the bells at Metfield and Mendham before going to Wingfield for a very good lunch. In the afternoon we went to Wilby arriving at the church just as the heavens opened. These are a fine sounding eight and we managed to ring various methods before returning home. Whilst we enjoy visiting other villages and towns to ring in their churches, so other groups come to us. This year groups of visitors have come from South Suffolk and Essex. We've also had many visitors to our Wednesday practices from places as far flung as Manchester and the Midlands as well as others closer to home.

The bells have been rung every Wednesday and Sunday over the summer and autumn. Our Wednesday evening practices are well supported with regulars from Brandeston, Hollesley, Blaxhall and Cransford in particular. All this makes for interesting ringing, a wide social mix not to say varied discussions and lots of laughter. It's sometimes difficult to man all six bells on a Sunday morning because everyone rings in their own towers at the that time although some

manage to ring in two towers if not three on occasions.

We have continued to ring quarter peals from 6pm on a Wednesday, which gives a good opportunity for concentrated practice for those learning new methods as well as chances to ring for birthdays and anniversaries. Most recently a quarter was rung on 20th November to celebrate the 70th Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty, the Queen and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

As I write this we are looking forward to our AGM when we will plan our Christmas and New Year ringing, next year's outings and social events.

We are keen to recruit new ringers; there is no age restriction, upper or lower, but a height of about five feet or more is useful. Strength isn't an issue, it's about technique, rather like riding a bike. If you would like to find out more about the bells please come along any Wednesday just after 7pm or contact me on 746097. We would be pleased to organise some taster sessions at a weekend. Just get in touch.

Mary Garner Tower Captain

Pettistree Church Ride and Stride 2017

The annual event of Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride was again supported by Pettistree riders and volunteers. This gave people the opportunity to be out cycling or walking in aid of a very worthwhile cause. It is part of a national event, when all over the country riders and striders are out raising funds for their county churches and particularly their local church through sponsorship. The amounts raised make a good contribution to the preservation and future of these great historic buildings.

Pettistree riders between them raised £518; half of which goes directly to their nominated church, Pettistree Church, and half to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. The sporty participants this year were Kevin Blyth, Judy and Alan Steventon on their tandem, and a friend from Woodbridge. Considerable thanks also go to our local organiser and to volunteers for manning the churches for the day.

Alan and I always look forward to the second Saturday in September; it is such a good opportunity to cycle our country lanes, visiting historic churches, their doors

open and friendly people waiting to greet us, with refreshing drinks at hand. Each year we decide on a theme for our ride. This year there was an exceptional couple of cycle focused days. Friday 8th September saw great jubilation as the famous Tour of Britain came through Suffolk, and even through Wickham Market. Flags were flying; crowds lined the streets; marquee erected; large TV screens filmed the whole day's race, and a buzz of excitement was in the air. How better than, on the following day, for us to follow some of the route where famous people had cycled the day before. After being greeted by Maggie Hallett, soon after nine at Pettistree Church, where we first checked in, we took the quiet back lanes to Framlingham and picked up the route there. There may not have been the same crowds cheering us on, but we certainly cycled passed the flags, bunting and even painted bicycles as we pedalled along where, who else, but Mark Cavendish had pedalled the preceding day. We decided to miss out Ipswich, cutting across from Grundisburgh, where we picnicked on the green, to pick up the route at Bealings. In total we cycled 38 miles and visited 26 churches and chapels.

We had a thoroughly enjoyable day, with the sun shining down. Suffolk was certainly looking great. Thank you to all our sponsors; it really was appreciated.

Judy Steventon



Word Search by Pat Deliss

T	H	E	W	A	L	L	A	B	Y	O	Y	N	I	T
D	A	O	R	S	W	A	N	Y	A	N	A	P	O	H
O	R	N	E	S	U	D	I	D	O	N	K	E	Y	R
C	E	A	C	Y	W	B	M	R	O	R	K	V	R	U
P	A	C	K	O	M	A	A	I	U	R	N	E	K	S
H	M	O	L	E	A	N	L	W	A	T	T	R	C	H
E	O	F	E	Z	R	T	P	L	A	T	Y	P	U	S
A	U	L	M	Y	E	A	A	C	O	W	E	S	D	I
S	S	A	U	R	C	M	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
A	E	M	R	B	B	L	A	C	K	B	I	R	D	E
N	A	I	L	Y	U	A	U	N	E	A	V	O	E	L
T	E	N	A	Z	L	C	E	A	E	D	G	E	E	G
R	R	G	K	A	K	B	V	W	N	G	A	L	V	I
I	A	O	O	O	B	E	O	S	H	E	E	P	O	P
M	M	K	O	O	R	L	L	U	G	R	E	E	D	C

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------|
| Elephant | Platypus | Nail |
| Badger | Otter | Edge |
| Beaver | Blackbird | Pope |
| Cow | Thrush | Calm |
| Piglet | Dove | Bank |
| Sheep | Cuckoo | Ever |
| Deer | Flamingo | Site |
| Hare | Swan x 2 | Keen |
| Terrier | Duck | Gay |
| Mouse | Drake | Cod |
| Mole | Pheasant | Lot |
| Donkey | Gull | Flow |
| Koala | Rook | Urn |
| Lamb | Lark | Trod |
| Roo | Bantam | Lad |
| Cub | Bulk | Ten |
| Dog | Rea | Lair |
| Yak | Love | Oak |
| Wolf | Trim | Poll |
| Animal | Tiny | Wreck |
| Ass | Hop | Mare |
| Wallaby | The | Law |
| Lemur | Pack | Mane |
| Lion | Hoe | Low |
| Ram | Crow | Bus |

St Elizabeth Hospice Great Garden Trail 2018

St Elizabeth Hospice is seeking beautiful gardens for its 2018 Great Garden Trail.

If you have a garden, no matter what the size, that you'd like to open to the public to support the hospice, please contact fundraising@stelizabethhospice.org.uk or call [01473 723600](tel:01473723600).

For further information, or to sign up online visit stelizabethhospice.org.uk/greatgardentrail

Pettistree Heritage

Local group Pettistree Heritage continues to record the events and happenings of the parish. We would love to receive any photographs of these events with a brief description of What, Where and When. We have a wealth of information on the history of our parish, lodged with the Suffolk Record Office, but history can only be 'kept up to date' if we collect and record what is happening now.

If you have anything you think would be useful please let me know via email on roguescottage@mypostoffice.co.uk or alternatively drop items in to Rogues Cottage which is on the corner of Walnuts Lane and Rogues Lane, behind the church. Thank you.

Cath Caudwell, Chairman, Pettistree Heritage

“Don't put up with this” said The Times

After sending more than 30 emails to P & O for their permission to allow his wife Jill to take her mobility scooter with her on a cruise they finally relented after Steve Wassell wrote to The Times Travel Desk which published his letter on 11th November. They travelled with Jeff & Maggie Hallett and Jim & Pauline Jarvie. We are promised an account of their holiday for the next issue.



DIARY DATES

17 December Christmas Social-Bring and Share lunch at 12.30. See advertisement on page 4

18 December Christingle Service. See page 9

21 December Carols in the barn. See page 6

24 December Carol Service at 9.30am and Holy Communion at 11.30pm. See page 9

25 December Holy Communion at 9.30am

Pettistree People

Last copy date for the March issue will be

16th February

Please send to ppedit@uwclub.net

Would contributors please note this date in their diaries, for punctual sending of copy will enable us to produce the next issue in good time.

Many thanks for your co-operation
Mike Watts and Pat Deliss

The holidays are here.



CONTACTS DIRECTORY

Parish Councillors

Jeff Hallett, Chairman, The Laurels 01728 746210

Mary Chilvers, Coopers Cottage 746123

Chris Cook, Byng Brook House 748388

Steve Hind, Flint Cottage 746532

Terry Rowles, Low Farm 01394 460422

Mike Watts, Burways 747202

Philip Westrope, Park Farm House 746139

Parish Clerk, Keith Bridges 01473 241522

County Councillor

Alexander Nicoll Alexander.Nicoll@suffolk.gov.uk

District Councillor

Mark Amoss Mark.amoss@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Dave Caudwell, Rogues Cottage 747170

Vicar Rev John Eldridge 746026

Church Wardens Brian Nobbs 746590

Kevin Blyth 748205

Bellringers Mary Garner 746097

Village Hall Booking Pauline Jarvie 745030

Age Concern Vacant

The Greyhound 746451

Wickham Market Health Centre 747101

Wickham Market Post Office 746201

Wickham Market Library 747216

Please note this newsletter depends on you sending in your news and stories and photos

Don't be shy to share them with your fellow residents!