



Pettistree People

Pettistree Parish Council ©

Issue 78

March 2018

A newsletter for all the residents of Pettistree and Loudham



A planning group has met for the village celebration on 11th November to mark 100 years since the end of hostilities in World War One. The national celebration is being called "Battle's Over". The Parish Council will have overall responsibility but the main village groups are all represented on the planning group, i.e. Church, Village hall, Heritage Group and Parish Council. We have

sorted out a rough timetable but **comments and suggestions will be welcomed.**

Timetable of "Battle's Over" for Pettistree (To be confirmed) Sunday 11th November 2018

9.15 AM Church Bells rung "half muffled" until service

10.00 AM Church Service starting later than usual to conclude with -

10.45 AM Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial where non church-goers will also attend

11.00 AM Two minute Silence.

11.15 AM Coffee and cake at the Village Hall.

12.30 PM Light lunch of soup etc. at Chilvers' barn.

4.15 PM Sunset. i.e. it gets dark!

6.55 PM Last Post at War Memorial.

7.00 P M Light bonfire if a thatch-safe site can be identified near Stump Street.

7.05 PM Church Bells rung "open".

7.30 PM Evening meal, readings, music etc. in Chilvers' Barn.

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Jeff Hallett





Parish Council News

The management team of Mike Watts as editor of *Pettistree People*, and Mrs Pat Deliss as assistant has worked well with Pat chasing up both new and frequent contributors to get our copy in on time. I still have not got around to completing the whole of Pat's last Word Search. We are all still full of good intentions for the year that is now not so new.

We have had low temperatures and a bit of snow but the main feature has been further episodes of high winds. A storm on 18th January brought down a couple of trees across the footpath leading down from the Village Hall. The combination of blockage of a public footpath on one landowner's land caused by a tree of another adjacent landowner could have led to difficult access problems but it all got sorted out amicably to allow access to the land to clear the trees. The frequent closures of the Orwell Bridge in the high winds has caused traffic chaos for Ipswich. Renewed calls for a northern bypass or relief road for Ipswich do not normally seem to involve the Pettistree neighbourhood but we need to keep a close eye on any new proposals.

Our most recent meeting of the Parish Council was on 6th February. Again, it was a very cold night but luckily I had remembered to put the heaters on early in the Parish Room. We were addressed by Mr John McNamara who is now the Community Relations Manager for the Sizewell C project. He updated us on the few developments and very little progress that have taken place. He confirmed that the stage three consultation on more definite plans will not take place for at least another year. If the project goes ahead it seems fairly certain that there will be a park-and-ride car park for the construction workers just to the north of Wickham Market. Our main concern is that our Pettistree lanes should not become a "rat run" when Wickham Market clogs up from the B1078.

Expenditure was approved for remedial work to the damaged willow tree and cleaning of the seats, on the Green.

The "Greyhound" pub continues to be a great success and popular venue for both villagers and visitors. It has featured often in various reviews of pubs and restaurants. We will all be sorry to see Stewart and Louise McKenzie leave for pastures new and perhaps a quieter life, but as yet there are no definite dates. There has been no news about what is happening to the "Three Tuns" site and no planning application has been submitted as far as we know.

The Burns Night social occasion at the village Hall was again a great success and I believe this is fully reported elsewhere in this edition. It will suffice to say that there was a great atmosphere and Jim Jarvie and his team of helpers regaled us with their highland dress, Jim's excellent piping and a fine traditional meal of haggis etc.

I said in the last issue that the parliamentary boundary would probably be moved by the Boundaries Commission so that Dan Poulter becomes our MP. County Councillor Alexander Nicoll tells me that we will probably stay within the Suffolk Coastal/ Waveney district council area for planning and similar purposes. There is no known timetable for any changes.

Please start thinking about the Annual Village Meeting to be held in the Village Hall on 22nd May at 8.00 PM. This is a chance to discuss any problems in the village or to air any suggestions for new projects in the village.

Jeff Hallett, Chairman of the Parish Council



Burns Night 2018

Despite a number of villagers and friends suffering from one or more of the winter bugs that have been going around, Pettistree Village Burns Night was held on Saturday 3 February.



One of the casualties was Rod Caird, our piper from our very first Burns Night, so it was left to 'yours truly' to welcome our guests (and freezing cold it was as well). Pat and Louis again took on the task of collecting the money on the door.

As with last year, we decided all the profits from the event would go to the local charity, 'Riding for the Disabled'. Cath Caudwell passed around a number of photos of the RDA.

Rob Rose gave us the Selkirk Grace which was followed by organised chaos as numerous bowls of Cock O' Leakie soup were served.



In line with tradition, the haggis was piped in to the Burns tune of 'A Man's A Man' and delivered to John Speedman. He addressed the haggis without looking at any notes. Mind you a

few of the guests nearby had a fearful look in their eyes when John was waving the knife demonstrating the 'cutting off the legs and head' of the haggis! The main dish was followed by Scottish deserts.

Carol Speedman gave us (well John Anderson Speedman really) a moving rendition of the Burn's



poem 'John Anderson My Jo'. You could hear a pin drop. The Toast to the Lassies allowed me to thank all the ladies - ably supported occasionally by their men folk - for their sterling effort providing the food

and helping on the night. I mentioned that I had asked Pauline why she didn't read a poem about me as Carol did for John. She replied she would have but couldn't find a word that rhymed with useless. Harsh but fair!

Tony Franklin fired up his music machine and Cath Caudwell talked us through several Scottish country dancing sets. Much to all of our amazement we hardly put a foot wrong although I did manage to tread on Lisa Beagley's foot even though I was dancing with Pauline.

Thanks also to those friends who supplied raffle prizes, particularly Clare Signy for the wonderful hamper, John Speedman for a 12 year old special edition malt and a contribution from Stewart and Louise at the Greyhound. The raffle run by Maggie Hallett and Pat Deliss raised the incredible amount of £170. Daphne Rose won the hamper and Pat the malt whisky although Louis refused to let it out of his grip!

Thanks to Pauline, Cath, Dave, Kathy, Jill, Rita for providing the starters, main and desserts and all those who helped to clear up afterwards.

IN TOTAL WE RAISED £822 FOR RIDING FOR THE DISABLED. WELL DONE EVERYONE.

Jim Jarvie



Solving the mystery of the key



Pettistree Heritage remains active in the village, responding to enquiries from members of the public as and when they occur. These sometimes come through the website or by direct contact with Joan Peck or myself. One recent such contact was intriguing, but actually easily solved.

A verbal enquiry relating to a presentation key for Pettistree Pumping Station came through to me – could I help find out what this was about? Four photographs were duly forwarded and

investigations began. Joan quickly found some information relating to the name on the key, one Captain J P Champion.

She also researched the archives of Deben Rural District Council – being the forerunner of Suffolk Coastal District Council – where she found the Annual Report of the Medical Officer for Health for 1953. At the time it was Dr Claude Imrie, who lived at the Ufford end of Spring Lane. Deben RDC was responsible for water until the Water Act of 1973.



Joan surmised that Captain Champion might have been Chairman of the Council at the time, and this proved to be the case when our super sleuth, Ray Whitehand, researched the East Anglian Daily Times (EADT) archives in the Suffolk Record Office and found an article relating to the opening of the Pettistree Pumping Station on 10th June 1953 – extracts below:

PETTISTREE WATER WORKS OFFICIAL OPENING

WATER SUPPLY IN DEBEN AREA

New Scheme Serves 18 Parishes

Inhabitants of 18 parishes will benefit from mains water as the result of the Deben Rural District Council's £200,000 Eastern Area Water Scheme officially opened yesterday. In the last two years over 50 miles of mains have been laid to serve the 18 parishes and they are also capable of extension to a further 3 parishes. The area extends from Rendlesham to Blaxhall and then across to Bawdsey.

Source of supply for the area is at Pettistree, also being used to serve a part of the north-western area previously supplied from Tuddenham. The new Pettistree water tower forms the link between the new source and the existing supply mains. Storage of water of the eastern area is provided at the Rendlesham and Hollesley water towers.

Yesterday a party of Deben Councillors and visitors were taken by coach to Pettistree where they saw the Chairman of the Council, Captain J P Champion, open the Pettistree Pumping Station. Captain Champion then opened the doors of the station with an inscribed key which was presented to him as a memento and afterwards switched on the pumps.



The opening of the waterworks, located next to Sandpit Cottage in Loudham, meant that the eastern area of the District could now be served with a mains supply. It is interesting to note that in 1953 there were still many properties served by standpipes and wells, the latter being regularly tested for nitrates due to well water cyanosis still being a problem.

In the EADT article Captain Champion was quoted as saying, “We have not finished with the expense when we have provided a piped water supply. In due course, we have to carry that water away again in the form of sewage. That will be our headache in the days to come.” For Pettistree this took a further 40 years! Many properties still rely on septic tanks or treatment works even today to deal with effluent.

Cath Caudwell, Chairman of Pettistree Heritage

Distributors wanted

Can you help? Distributors are required for the Loudham area and Wickham Market. It's less than an hour or so four times a year. There are 13 addresses in Loudham and 5 in Wickham Market.

If you can help. Please let me know, Mike Watts

Planning matters

DC/17/5208/ADN Advertising sign for Co-Op on A12 slip road Permitted

DC/17/5212/FUL Extension to Presmere Nursery Withdrawn

DC/18/0001/TCA Remedial work to weeping willow on village green Awaiting decision

Christmas bring and share lunch

On the 17 December the Village Hall hosted its second 'bring and share' lunch which was well attended by villagers and supporters. Dave Caudwell and his not so little helpers, decked out the hall with a tree he provided, lights and decorations which were donated last year by Clare and Adam Signy.

There is always a concern that everybody would bring the same dish, but in true Pettistree spirit the selection of savoury and sweet dishes provided were varied as well as delicious. With Rita and Dick's Carols in the Barn and the Bring and Share lunch the festive season was well and truly launched.



Thanks go to all who brought along a dish and those who helped to tidy up the hall afterwards. Hopefully this will be a regular pre-Christmas get together so see you next year!!

Jim Jarvie



Carols in the Barn

It was a relatively mild evening on the Thursday before Christmas as about 60 villagers gathered in the small barn at Church Farm, for the thirteenth year in succession, to sing carols and hear poems celebrating the birth of Jesus. The singers were welcomed with a glass of mulled wine or apple juice before huddling together on the straw bales.



As I sat at the keyboard, hoping that there would be enough room for everyone, I was reminded of the time, 40 years ago, when we first came to Church Farm, and Dick had made 8 calf pens in this area. The first week that we

moved in Dick had bought a variety of cross-bred calves from local farmers. We all helped to feed them by mixing the powdered milk with water in a bucket and encouraging the calves to feed by dipping our fingers in the bucket and letting the calves suck them. When the early carol events were held we sometimes had a Red Poll cow with her calf in the stable next door to the barn which could be seen through the gaps in the shiplap.

The theme of animals appeared quite often throughout the program, beginning with penguins which Bert Hawes spoke of in the first reading - *A letter from Captain Scott to his wife at Christmas 1910*, when Scott was exploring the Antarctic.

We sang *Little Donkey* - at the request of Cath & Dave's Grandchildren, and which they accompanied with little bells. The donkey occurred in the next poem, which was read by Dick - *Joseph and the Shepherds* by Godfrey Rust. In this poem Joseph is so upset that he has 'blown it' by not being able to find a place in Bethlehem for Mary to have her baby:



..... *If they'd finished the packing the evening before,
And not gone back to check that they'd locked the front door -
If they'd not missed the turning at the roundabout -
if they'd filled up the donkey before they'd set out -
that would have done nicely. But this was a mess.
No room at the inn. No room anywhere.*

Following some of our favourite carols - *Silent Night*, *Away in a Manger* and *See Him a-lying in a bed of straw*, we sang *What a Silent Night* by Robert Wade which brings in an assortment of noisy animals, lambs, donkeys and a cockerel, which visit the stable with some merry country folk:



*Hey Ho! Hey Ho! They yelled with all their might.
What a peaceful scene it was. What a silent night!*

After this was one more animal reference – *The Legend of the Spider’s Web*, read to us by Jacky Franklin. The last item we sang was *The Peace: Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me* after which we went out into the main barn to enjoy Jim and Pauline’s most welcome BBQ.

We would like to thank everyone who helped in so many ways: reading, singing, preparing, cooking, clearing-up, donating and enjoying. The donations amounted to £505.00 of which £80.00 was very kindly given by people who were unable to come on the night. After the expenses, I have been able to send £190.00 to each of the charities: ‘Starlight’ which aims to brighten the lives of seriously and terminally ill children, and ‘Alzheimer’s Research UK’.

Thank you to you all, *Dick & Rita Smith*

County Councillor Alexander Nicoll writes:

As I approach the first anniversary of my election I can reflect on a busy year spent getting to know the parishes in the Wickham Division and the issues faced locally.

Pettistree sits at the heart of the Division and I am impressed by the committed community spirit in the village and leadership shown by the Parish Council and others. A beautiful church, historic pub and varied architecture further signpost Pettistree as a special place.

But the village is not immune from external issues and factors which, for better or worse, will impact locally as much here as across other areas of east Suffolk. Broadband, the state of the roads, planning issues and the possible development of Sizewell C are only a few of the issues which have, rightly, engaged us.

I am very pleased that Suffolk County Council plans to extend the highways resurfacing programme over the next few years acknowledging the heavy wear and tear faced by our rural roads network. I am on record, given the - in my view - over-development of housing in Woods Lane, as thinking that greater strategic consideration needs to accompany such new developments to ensure that they are sustainable in every way. This must include the best assessment of the impact of such developments on local roads, community

infrastructure, including educational, and other factors.

Finally, albeit over a very much longer time period, Pettistree and the rest of much of east Suffolk may be impacted in a variety of ways by the development of Sizewell C if all the required approvals are put in place. Many people and all the local authorities in the region are engaging with EDF to ensure that the required public consultations are meaningful and the difficult questions and potential benefits put to proper scrutiny and test. The third round of public consultation may not kick off for at least a year. Meantime I am serving on behalf of everyone in my Division on the Joint Local Authorities Group to scrutinise all aspects of the Sizewell C proposal.



Recently, to ensure I am fully briefed, I toured the Sizewell C site and potential park and ride site near Wickham Market and questioned EDF staff about the issues. I will continue to objectively engage with all the issues which may affect the Pettistree community and beyond.



News from Pettistree Church

It may seem a long time ago but this is the first opportunity we have to say "Thank you" in print to all those who helped to ensure that the Christmas celebrations in Pettistree church were so special. The church was beautifully decorated, and the tree which was obtained from Suffolk Plant Centre in the village looked perfect.

At the Christingle service the young children helped to 'dress the crib' before being given the Christingles and they all behaved beautifully, although I think all the fruit on the Christingles had been consumed before they left for home.



The Christingle is an orange with a candle in it which was lit, briefly, and as can be seen in the photograph all the children had an adult minder!! Health and Safety as always was a high priority.

All the Christmas services were very well attended with over 80 people at the Carol service where the singing of the benefice choir was very much appreciated and may have attracted a few new singers for the future. The post-service mulled wine and mince pies were served in the church and seemed to be very much appreciated. Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday meant that there were several 'children' present who grew up in the village but now live away and were able to 'catch up' with old friends. The extra space created by removing three of the rear pews a few years ago has proved to be of great benefit on these social occasions.

Mothering Sunday is always celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent which this year is March 11^h, when Rev Betty Mockford will be leading our service at 9.30 am. It was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed that day, and the food item particularly associated with Mothering Sunday is Simnel cake. The tradition was for domestic servants to be given the day off to visit their families. So Mothering Sunday became an occasion for family reunions as children, some of whom may have been working away from as young as 10 years old, returned home.

Easter Sunday is on April 1st this year and the service on that Sunday is always a Communion service after which we have held an Easter Egg hunt for several years now. Normally the service on the first Sunday of the month is evensong so for this April it will instead be Family Communion at 9.30 am

Church Re-decoration update In the last edition it was reported that the Consistory Court had ruled that the Architect, and his insurers, are responsible for paying for the work needed to restore the Nave walls. The PCC have arranged for our new architect to obtain provisional costings for the work, and these have been submitted to the Court and to the Insurers. This new work covers the costs of further investigations into the current state of the wall coverings, and allows for re-plastering, if found to be required. Until the insurers agree work cannot start, so at present there is no timetable for this.

Rev John Eldridge retirement It is no longer a secret that John will be retiring from his position as vicar of the benefice of All Saints, Wickham Market with St Peter & St Paul Pettistree, at the end of September. In a change to the usual practice the Diocese has decided that the post can be advertised in advance of John actually leaving. This has meant that several meetings



have been held between members of both Parochial Church Councils and various Diocesan officials. These have been to discuss what attributes we would like the new incumbent to bring to our villages, and also what we feel we can offer a new incumbent and their family by way of support, challenges and lifestyle. We were asked to prepare profiles of our villages and churches for the job description and these proved to be very interesting and gave a real insight into the way the benefice and the two villages have developed since we did this in 2002 when John was appointed. The advert will be placed in the Church

Times and on clergy web-sites with the hope that if there are suitable applicants interviews could be held in April.

This accelerated process may mean that we will not have to go into a lengthy interregnum between incumbents, as has always been the case in the past. It is important to note that should there have to be an interregnum we are assured that all services will continue, there will be no interruption of weddings or funerals and the PCC, with the help of the Rural Dean, will continue to ensure that Pettistree church is there for all who need us.

Maggie Hallett

The 'Pettistree Cruise' 2017

The above title is a bit of an exaggeration as there were only six Pettistree residents on the P & O cruise liner Oceana when she sailed from Southampton on November 7th last year with nearly 3,000 passengers. The three couples are very close neighbours of The Greyhound and it was there one Friday evening when Jim Jarvie was talking about some of the trips he had been asked to do that the idea was first discussed. Jim has been booked for several cruises with P & O and Cunard since retiring from Border Force and has become a very popular speaker, giving talks about his career to entertain passengers when the ship is at sea. Before long it was agreed that the Wassells and Halletts would book cabins on a cruise to Madeira and the Canaries, where Jim was one of the guest speakers.

On November 8th we all checked in, and attended a fairly chaotic life-boat drill prior to sailing out of Southampton. The next three days were spent at sea and we explored the boat, enjoyed excellent weather, a remarkably calm crossing of the Bay of Biscay and ate well. On Sunday we sailed into Funchal harbour on the island of Madeira, which the Halletts know well and so had arranged for

Angelo, a very knowledgeable taxi driver, to give us a six hour tour of some of the island. During a beautiful sunny day Angelo made sure we saw several 'sights' of the island, took us for a light lunch in a popular bar, discovered 'poncha' (excellent for sore throats) and also found a supermarket for Jeff to replenish our Madeira stocks ready for Christmas.

After an overnight sailing we reached the Canaries and spent the next three days on Las Palmas, Tenerife and Lanzarote. The Oceana would arrive in the early morning at the next port and we were then free to explore before returning to the ship around 4.00 in the afternoon ready for departure. In the evening we would generally meet up for a drink before dinner which was always a very good meal. After dinner we would sometimes go to the evening's entertainment in the theatre or occasionally have an early night. Lunch was generally a light meal except when we called at Lanzarote where we had all been invited for lunch with Tony and Jacki Franklin who happened to be on holiday in a very comfortable villa that week. Our only transport difficulty of the whole trip came here as there did not seem to be any taxis large enough for six adults and a wheelchair at Lanzarote quay. Jim negotiated for two taxis for the 30 minute ride to where the Franklins were staying. We had a delicious lunch and there was a



lot of laughter. All went well until the time came for the taxis to collect us as only one appeared. The driver agreed to make two trips but for various complicated reasons Jim ended up doing both trips, and the taxi was not really big enough for Jim, Pauline and Maggie to all be in the rear seat!

The last port we visited was Lisbon which Jim and Pauline know well having lived there for some years. Coming into port up the river was lovely and once we had disembarked Jim - in fluent Portuguese - once again negotiated with a taxi driver. Not as big a taxi as on Madeira but a very obliging English-speaking driver who managed to squeeze us all in and took us to Belem, where there is a fine old Tower guarding the estuary, and a monument to Henry the Navigator.



Belem Tower beside the Tagus, dating from 1515



Trying to identify all the figures on the Monument to Henry the Navigator from the guide book

The driver ignored all parking restrictions by saying that the wheelchair meant we had priority. He made sure we saw all the best sights, and after the last stop he took over steering Jill's wheelchair and came with us to a café where we had the best custard tarts any of us had ever eaten!



Pasties de Belem, they produce around 2000 a day; we were restrained and only had one each.

While on the cruise we had a range of cabins, the Halletts had a cabin with a balcony, the Wassells had a double cabin fairly near to the Halletts while the Jarvies were in crew accommodation several decks below with bunk beds! Not ideal for Jim and Pauline but he will make sure that this does not occur on any of his forthcoming cruises. We very much enjoyed attending the six talks that Jim gave, one on each of the days that we were at sea. They were all well attended and much appreciated by all. Some passengers would accost him around the ship to relate some of their experiences with Customs officials. Even on beautiful sunny days, of which there were many, Jim would be in his suit, while most of the audience were in shorts and tee-shirts having left a sun-lounger to attend. He quickly reverted to his customary shorts once the lecture was completed.

The weather gradually became cooler and cloudier and we arrived back in Southampton having had a very enjoyable late November holiday. The advantage of a no-fly trip, out-weighed the distance we had to drive to get to and from Southampton. Disembarking was relatively simple although the Wassells suitcases went walk-about for a time. We were amused to see, having heard so much about Customs, that they were searching quite a large number of cases. They did try to stop Jim and the Wassells but he convinced them of our honesty so they didn't have to empty all their cases! As we left the port we could see the next lot of passengers arriving, and felt quite sorry for all the crew who must have been working extremely hard to get the ship the ship pristine for new occupants.



Heavy Metal in Pettistree? Now there's a thought!

Would you like to be part of a National Campaign to mark the centenary of the end of hostilities in the First World War?

Would you like to be part of keeping an ancient traditional skill alive for future generations?

Can you spare between ten and fifteen hours over a couple of months at times to suit you?

If you say yes or maybe to any of these questions then why not give Bellringing a try?

There is a National Campaign, *Ringing Remembers*, to teach 1400 people to ring in the year leading up to *Battle's Over* on the November 11th. 1400 because that was the number of ringers lost in that War. It is hoped that **ALL** the bells in Britain will be rung at 7.05pm on November 11th, including here in Pettistree. Why not be part of that team?

Here are some frequently asked questions and answers:

Need I be a church member? No, less than half of the Pettistree Band are.

Who rings bells? Men and women of all ages, boys and girls.

Do I need to be very strong? No, once moving, the weight of the bell does the work.

Do I have to be tall? No, people of all heights make good ringers. It's probably easier to learn if you are at least 4'6".

How are bells rung? Using rope and wheel. Bells are first swung gradually to the upside-down position and then swung full circle. For each 360 degrees turn, the bell sounds just once.

What's in it for me? Exercise of mind and body; a sense of achievement; social activity; helping to preserve an ancient skill; a drink in The Greyhound after practice.

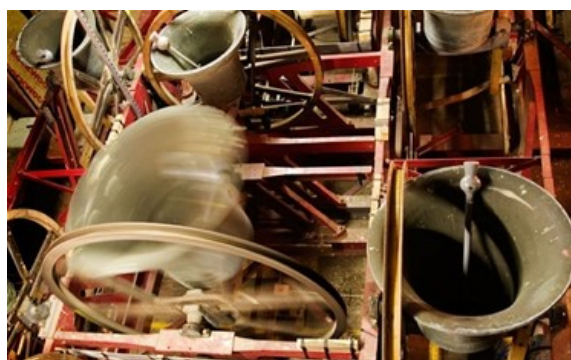
Pettistree bell ringers are looking forward to hearing from you, whether a new recruit or a returner. We are really passionate about ringing, skills learnt, friendships made

Come and find out more by dropping by at the church on any Wednesday evening just after 7.15pm, or to our Open Tower on 24th March between 10am and midday for coffee and cake, or by talking to Mary Garner on 746097.

Finally a few words from an article published in The Telegraph in 2016:

"Recruits **are needed** from a range of ages and backgrounds to keep the pastime alive.

Why go out to a cold and draughty church on a dark winter's night when you can curl up on the sofa and work your way through a box set?The answer is for the divine magic of a unique human interaction. You cannot ring church bells alone. There's a sense of camaraderie, of course, like singing in a choir, playing in an orchestra or being on a sports team – you have fun with each other and rely on each other.After *learning to ring a bell* you can put in as much or as little as you wish, stick to the basics or make it a lifetime of learning, all the while preserving one of the nation's greatest wonders."





Pilgrimage to Ypres

It was not until our eldest son, Stephen, became very engrossed in the web-site *Ancestry* that we discovered that both my mother's mother and my mother's father had brothers who were killed in the First World War. I had heard about Sydney King, my granny's brother, but I had never heard any mention of Arthur Bruton, my grandad's brother. My mother used to write at Christmas time to Sydney's daughter Phyllis, in New Zealand. When I asked about her my mother said 'Oh! Her father was killed in the war and she moved to New Zealand with her mother who married again'. A somewhat throw away remark. It's sad to think that these experiences in families were impossible to speak about.

Stephen did further research into the war histories of these two men and learnt that Arthur was posted missing, presumed dead on 20th September 1917 at the age of 35. Sydney was 'killed in action' on 28th November 1917 age 28, in Flanders.

Arthur's records state that before the war he was working as a carpenter's labourer at Harrods. He enlisted on 11th December 1915, but we then learn that he went absent from 1st - 4th October 1916, and was found guilty of desertion, sentenced to 16 months detention with all his former service forfeited. His detention actually only lasted for 1 month, as he was taken out on 18th November and posted to the British Expeditionary Forces in France on 24th November. He was with the 11th Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and went missing, presumed dead, also in Flanders. I think of his poor mother - Jessie Georgina. She had had 10 children, 2 of whom had died as infants, her husband had died at the age of 44 from rheumatism/pneumonia, and in 1916 she would have received the telegram saying that Arthur was 'missing, presumed dead'. She knew that he'd gone missing before. I can imagine her thinking that he might just return one day.

To go 'absent without leave' was an offence that could be punishable by death. I read that 306 British and Commonwealth soldiers were executed for this offence, many of whom, it was realized afterwards were under-age and suffering from shell shock. They received an official pardon in 2006.

As 2017 was the 100th anniversary of the deaths of Arthur and Sydney, our children and myself very much wanted to go to Ypres to remember them, and for Stephen, it was important that we were there on their anniversary day. So the first visit that I made was just with Stephen on 20th September to try to find Arthur's grave. We didn't really expect to find a grave for Arthur as he was 'missing, presumed dead', but we had details of the cemetery where we knew he was commemorated - Larch Wood (Railway Cutting), a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial ground for the dead of the First World War located in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front. So it was with considerable delight and surprise that we did find a grave stone dedicated to Arthur Bruton



The inscription read

KNOWN TO BE BURIED IN THIS CEMETERY
14921 PRIVATE A. BRUTON
THEIR GLORY SHALL NOT BE BLOTTED OUT

It was standing amongst six others of the same Regiment who had all suffered the same fate. It was beautifully kept with roses growing at the base, and was in a peaceful, rural position. In a niche in one of the large concrete gates at the entrance to the cemetery was a Book of Remembrance where visitors could record their thoughts. I wrote the simple words 'Thank you'. A small token to someone who gave his life in the hopes of a better future for others.

Whilst we were in Ypres we also visited Sydney



King's grave which was about 5 miles away from Arthur's, at Bard Cottage Cemetery. This was also impeccably cared for by the CWGC – as were all the thousands upon thousands of graves in the cemeteries we saw throughout France and Belgium.



Sydney's grave, like Arthur's, was amongst others of his unit and simply showed his name and details:

177431 GUNNER S.A.KING
ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY 28th NOVEMBER 1917
AGE 28

Sydney's unit was the 144th Siege Battery. The siege batteries were deployed behind the front line, tasked with destroying enemy artillery, supply routes, railways and stores. The batteries were equipped with heavy Howitzer guns firing large calibre 6, 8, or 9.2 inch shells in a high trajectory.

That evening we went to the ceremony at the Menin Gate where huge crowds had gathered for the act of Remembrance which is held every evening at 8.00 o'clock. The Last Post held a powerful significance for everyone thinking of their distant relatives, now seeming very near.

The next day we visited the Hooze Crater Museum where we were taken back to that time of war and able to go inside replica bunkers which had been constructed. The surprise here was that genuine bunkers had recently been discovered underneath the nearby church. They had decided to open

these to the public for 100 days during this centenary year so we were fortunate enough to explore the genuine bunkers with their mud, damp, and mustiness.

Stephen was a brilliant guide to have during our visit as he had researched the area well and was able to show me whereabouts our great uncles would have been during various battles. At Hill 60 I was amazed to see just how close the Germans and the Allies were. Hill 60 was a low ridge line turned into a 'hill' with the digging of the railway cutting alongside it. The position was significant to the forces in the area as it offered a vantage point overlooking the surrounding countryside and trench lines. It was fought over and held variously during the 4 years of the war by the French, British and German forces.

At the end of November we more or less did the same trip again, but this time Stephen and George drove and went via the Channel Tunnel whilst Katharine and I, who had an extra day to spend in Ypres, went via Eurostar and hired a car at Lille to take us back to Ypres where we met the boys in the Hotel Best Western. This time the visit was especially for Sydney Alfred King, and both Katharine and George were very aware of the peace and respectfulness of both the cemetery where he was remembered and of all the places we visited. We went to the ceremony at the Menin Gate again, and were able to see it well this time as there were far fewer visitors.



When Katharine and I arrived back at St. Pancras Station we had a race for the piano that waits there for anyone to play, and played some relevant tunes.

The four of us were very pleased to have made this pilgrimage and to be able to share these days with memories of Arthur and Sydney.

Rita Smith



Save Our Suffolk Swifts

Last month I went to a talk by my friend and fellow ecologist, Edward Jackson, arranged by the Woodbridge RSPB group. He was highlighting the work of SOS Swifts (Save Our Suffolk Swifts) which was set up by Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Ornithologists Group back in 2014 and is really starting to make a difference locally, especially in the Woodbridge area.

I'd like to thank Edward for providing me with the following account for Pettistree People.



“By early May- usually May 7th in the Woodbridge area - our Suffolk swifts will be completing a 10,000 km journey back to the UK from their over-wintering

areas in the skies above Central and East Africa. They are truly amazing birds! So perfectly adapted to life in the air, they will have been on the wing constantly since leaving here at the end of last summer – feeding, sleeping and generally cruising at altitude. Their evocative calls as they chase and swerve over the rooftops in ‘screaming parties’ are one of the special sounds of summer.

Apart from a few pairs that nest on cliff faces, throughout the UK - including here in Woodbridge - swifts are almost entirely dependent for their nest sites on holes and crevices in buildings. However, having adapted to our urban lifestyles this is now causing real problems for them. We have lost almost half the swifts breeding in the UK – and in Suffolk too. This is most likely due to demolition of older buildings and maintenance works on existing buildings that now permanently, and in many cases inadvertently, exclude breeding birds, often from long-established nest sites. In conservation terms swifts have recently been classified as ‘Endangered’ as a UK breeding bird and is now seen as a *Suffolk Priority Species*.” – Edward Jackson

Now I think of myself as reasonably well informed about a lot of today’s conservation issues but even I was shocked by this dramatic decline of 50% in just 25 years. Many other migratory birds have been similarly decimated by shooting and trapping on migration



across southern Europe (turtle dove and cuckoo are two examples) so it often feels like there is little we can do in the UK to prevent these declines. But swifts don’t suffer the same losses but are dying out because of a lack of nest sites here in the UK, so we could turn Pettistree into a swift friendly village by fitting suitable nest boxes to our houses. This really does work. Since installing nest boxes in 2009 inside the church tower at Worlington, near Bury St Edmunds, this brand new extension of the village swift colony now has 32 breeding pairs, who fledged 66 young in 2017! So if you want to help SOS Swifts then there are some simple things you can do:-

- 1 Install swift nest boxes on a north facing wall on your house (needs to be 5m high with clear access for swifts to fly straight into at speed).
- 2 Report any existing nest sites so they can be added to the list.
- 3 Record the location of ‘screaming parties of swifts’ dashing through the village as this indicates potential breeding sites close by.

We have an amazing team of volunteers at RSPB Woodbridge Group who are now very experienced at siting nest boxes and can give you advice so if you want to do one thing for Suffolk Wildlife this year then please make it the year you help to Save Our Suffolk Swifts from extinction. Remember they are back on May 7th so we need to get our boxes up before then.

More details on SOS Swifts, including how to log your own records of swifts and how to obtain nest boxes, can be found on the Suffolk Wildlife Trust website: www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/swift

You can also contact Jenny James at Woodbridge Swifts for advice on the suitability of your house for nest boxes woodbridge.swifts@gmail.com



Find the birdie Word Search by Pat Deliss

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

- Crow
 - Godwit
 - Goldfinch
 - Grebe
 - Finch
 - Eagle
 - Heron
 - Jay
 - Kestrel
 - Lark
 - Lapwing
 - Mallard
 - Nuthatch x 2
 - Owl
 - Ouzel
 - Pheasant
 - Petrel
 - Pigeon
 - Robin
 - Rook
 - Sandpiper
 - Swallow
 - Skua
 - Skylark
 - Snipe
 - Swan
 - Teal
 - Tern
 - Thrush
 - Tit
 - Wren
 - Yellowhammer
- PLUS
- Ark
 - Age
 - Box
 - Dew
 - Dirt
 - Even
 - Fear
 - Egg
 - Hue
 - Inch
 - Insect
 - Far
 - Lie
 - Lone
 - Leap
 - Now
 - Nut
 - Pint
 - Pub
 - Pink
 - Pool
 - River
 - Sow
 - Spit
 - Tiara
 - Tour
 - Wan
 - Won



GARDEN WASTE SCHEME

Suffolk Coastal District Council is to introduce a charge for collecting garden waste from homes during 2018/19 financial year

“People will be given the option of paying an annual charge of £43 per garden waste bin; the equivalent of paying about £1.65 per fortnightly collection. They will also be given the option of receiving a replacement free larger, 240litre, bin for their garden waste, during the first year of the scheme.

At its meeting, the Cabinet also agreed to begin work on a new contract, looking at the options of continuing to collect comingled organic waste or moving to only collecting garden waste.

A timetable for introducing the charge for garden waste collection is currently being drawn up, including details of how and when people can join & pay, should they opt to use the service. As soon as this detailed information is available, they will issue it to local residents”.

There is a good Q & A at www.Suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

100 CLUB	1st prize £20	2nd prize £10	3rd prize £5
DECEMBER	Mike Watts	Mike Manning	Martin Corrall
JANUARY	Louise McKenzie	Alan Whitfield	Claire Signy
FEBRUARY	Kath Hilton	Jane Walton	Elaine Boardley

The 100 Club provides income to the village hall funds which is invaluable. For a modest £1 per month, per person, a prize draw is made each month and the lucky winners receive their prize in cash. A bumper draw is made each December to ensure winnings in the year are approximately 50% of income. Membership starts each May.

To participate please contact Alan Whitfield, 01728 746794 or Dave Caudwell, 01728 747170



DIARY DATES

- 11 March Mothering Sunday service See page 8
- 24 March Bell tower open session See page 11
- 1 April Easter Sunday service See page 8
- 8 May Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm in the Parish Room, followed by Parish Council meeting at 7.45pm
- 22 May Annual Village Meeting at 8pm in the Village Hall See page 2

Pettistree People
 Copy date for the June issue
 will be
16th May
 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



So, how's your day going? Hope it is better than this!

CONTACTS DIRECTORY

Parish Councillors

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- 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@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

District Councillor

Mark Amoss Mark.amoss@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

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Vicar Rev John Eldridge 746026

Church Wardens Brian Nobbs 746590

Kevin Blyth 748205

Bellringers Mary Garner 746097

Village Hall Booking Pauline Jarvie 745030

The Greyhound 746451

Wickham Market Health Centre 747101

Wickham Market Post Office 746201

Wickham Market Library 747216

Dial-a-Ride 01473 281194

Village website www.pettistree.suffolk.gov.co.uk

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

New Contributors Wanted!!

This issue has been made possible by the news and stories from just seven people! Our village has about 190 residents so surely there must be interesting experiences, news or stories which the remainder can contribute.

If you would like assistance in writing them, then Pat Deliss, 01728 745083 or myself, 01728 747202 will be pleased to help. Mike Watts