



Pettistree People

A newsletter for all the residents of Pettistree and Loudham

Pettistree Parish Council ©

Issue 89 December 2020



The Parish Council, the Editorial team

and our Distributors, all wish you

A Merry Christmas and a prosperous

and peaceful Covid free 2021

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Parish Council Chairman's Report

This difficult year seems to keep on bringing us fresh problems mixed with occasional good things. COVID-19 still looms large and restricts so many of our activities, especially in the current **second lockdown** until at least early December.

For the Parish Council one of the saddest items of news has been the **sudden and unexpected death**, at the end of October, of our Parish Clerk, Keith Bridges, from a heart attack, with no link to COVID. Keith became our Parish Clerk in September 2016 and rapidly learned the intricacies of local government and the responsibilities of parish councils. His accounting experience was of course a great asset. I have already sent condolences to his wife, Angela, and included the many appreciative comments from all our councillors about his friendliness, helpfulness and competence.

On a happier note, we have had an abundant **harvest of apples and quinces** from our own gardens as well as the first proper harvest from the apple avenue in the churchyard. The weather has brought some very stormy winds but also some lovely sunny days recently with spectacular sunrises and sunsets. Some early frosts have reminded us to bring in delicate plants for the winter. The hanging baskets below are now



pruned and tucked up in the greenhouse.

Our new parish councillor Sue Jones has gained some promises of action from the Highways Department to start fitting the poles for mounting the **SID device** that we will soon purchase to monitor and display vehicle speeds in the village. They have also said they would replace the worst **faded 30mph signs** so that speeding vehicles have no excuse. Sue has carried out a survey of opinions about traffic in the village and is now keen to hear of any problems in the Pettistree part of **Byng Hall Road**. Ufford residents are reporting problems and near misses on their part of the road.

A rush of planning applications is taking up a lot of time for parish councillors. We have had our say about the plans by **Hopkins Homes** to build 136 homes that will be reliant on Wickham Market but built on Pettistree land. The planners' decision is awaited. Permission was given by East Suffolk Council for ten 20 foot shipping containers to be sited in the old Notcutts Nursery grounds on the B1438 despite objection from the village. We are objecting to an application for a MOT/repair/sales business as a change of use from agriculture at White House Farm. Two applications are being considered for new builds at a possible "in-fill" plot on The Street and another on Presmere Road. All this is made more difficult by the COVID restrictions that prevent in-person meetings and





sharing of documents.

Remember that anyone can send in comments about planning applications but there are several steps in the process needing some patience and computer skills. The applications can be found on the East Suffolk Council website under Planning, then Planning applications and then View planning applications. If there is interest in this topic please tell the editor and he can arrange for a separate step-by-step article in a future issue.

I am writing this in the evening of Armistice Day. There was an impressive impromptu gathering

near the War Memorial where, as Chairman of the Parish Council, I had been asked to lay the village wreath because COVID restrictions prevented our usual formal ceremony. This is more fully reported elsewhere in this issue.

To end on a more cheerful theme we have heard in the last few days of the success of the Pfizer vaccine against COVID-19. Those of us in the older and more vulnerable age groups welcome this and the prospect of more freedoms in the New Year if we can be protected by a vaccine.

Jeff Hallett, Chairman Pettistree Parish Council

Village Hall – Autumn Update

As highlighted in the last edition of Pettistree People the village hall was mothballed during the first lockdown. As restrictions were relaxed, we looked at making the hall as Covid compliant as possible. Dave and Cath Caudwell armed with a tape measure made a plan for each of the groups using the hall to ensure social distancing was possible. Suffolk Coastal Leisure was contacted and an opening date of September 15 was agreed.

Although the number of attendees was reduced, several organisations wanted to return to the hall. Pilates sessions Monday evenings, willow weavers and quilters fortnightly sessions and the art class managed to convene for about a month before the second lock down was announced and we were back to square one.

We are hoping the situation will be relaxed prior to the new year and our current Covid protocols will stand us in good stead. The fabric covered chairs and half of the tables have been cordoned off along with the table soccer leaving just the plastic chairs and tables, which are easily sanitised, for future use. Cath and Dave have installed an outdoor hand sanitiser at the front entrance. Our QR Code can be found at the entrance and on the noticeboard

inside the hall. We are ready to go as and when restrictions are relaxed.

The Parish Council/ Village Hall marquee remains erected at the Greyhound and was used by diners throughout the summer when the pub was permitted to open.

The 100 Club has also been suspended until further notice and our AGM will be convened when the situation permits.

It is unlikely our Christmas get together with carols and our village Burns Night will go ahead but hopefully there will be better news early January.

Thanks to Cath and Dave Caudwell for getting the hall Covid compliant and to Pauline for handling the bookings at this difficult time.

The Committee hopes you all keep safe and well during these difficult times.

Jim Jarvie, Village Hall Chairman



Church News

Since the first lock-down in March when the church door was locked a benefice service has been broadcast at 11.00 am every Sunday by Rev. Leslie Siu. initially this was from his study and then in August limited numbers were allowed back into church buildings so the service was broadcast from All Saints Church in Wickham Market.

Open air Harvest Festival



The first church service in Pettistree was on October 25th when a Harvest festival service was held in the church yard. A great deal of hard work by Martin Corral and friends was done to ensure that we were Covid-19 advice compliant. Straw bales were wrapped in 'cling-film', sanitiser hand gel provided, Mary Garner moved her key-board so that harvest hymns could be 'hummed' in tune as singing was still only allowed by very small groups. By 3.00 pm 46, well wrapped up, people were in the church yard, many brought their own chairs and some on the bales, all were delighted to see everyone again. Jenny Catchpole led us in the service and with the use of a microphone, courtesy of Jeff Hallett, all were able to hear while maintaining a sensible distance. Unusually for a Harvest service no produce was brought, instead there was a collection for MIND the local food bank and £500 was raised. The event was very much

appreciated by all who were able to attend, many had not seen each other for several months, and there were many well-distanced chats as people 'caught-up' with each other after the service.

Sunday November 1st was a significant date as this was the first service to be held in Pettistree church since the first lock-down. The rules were that we had to book in advance to fulfil the track & trace requirement, wear a mask throughout and sit in the designated well distanced pews. It was a very moving Communion service attended by 20 of the regular Pettistree congregation, all of whom were delighted to be back in the church building. Sadly the service was overshadowed by the knowledge that on the previous evening the Prime Minister had announced the Second Lock-down and stated that there should be no public worship for a month but this time churches could remain open for



‘private prayer’. This means that Pettistree church, as I write halfway through November, is unlocked and open for ‘private prayer’ during daylight hours on Thursdays and also on Sundays between 9.00 and 9.30 am.

Christmas The vicar and church wardens are putting together some plans for how we can

celebrate Christmas effectively this year but these are determined by the regulations that will be in place. I will make sure that as soon as possible the details will be posted on the web-site and the notice boards, and circulated via the Pettistree news

Maggie Hallett

2020 continues to be an absolute rollercoaster of events! We’re now in a second lockdown and there is no sense of clarity as to what the future holds. I take great comfort in Jesus’ words of encouragement, reminding us that in the troubles of each day, we can look to our Heavenly Father who knows all of our needs, and remember that He is present with us through it all.

There’s so much we can’t do, but can I offer three suggestions as to what you can do to help to stay connected and well at this time?

- 1) Retreat physically – reach out socially. One of our basic human needs is relationship. We can stay distanced without being distant. Who could you send a message or social media post to? Maybe an e-mail. Or why not pick up pen and paper and write a letter? You remember one of those good old-fashioned things written by hand? Yep, one of those! Or if you want to natter, then make a cup of tea and a few phone calls.
- 2) Retreat physically – reach out practically. How could you do something for a neighbour today? Could you bake and

share your favourite cake? Can you rake some of those beautiful autumn leaves? How about picking up some shopping for someone when you’re next out? I’m sure there’s something you can do for others in the community at this time!

- 3) Retreat physically – reach out for help. This is a very difficult time. People are lonely and isolated. Families are being pushed to the limit. Incomes have been cut or lost. It’s okay to ask for help! Get in touch with a neighbour or friend and let them know you’re struggling. As a church, we’re able to help both practically and spiritually. Don’t struggle on alone! There are individuals and groups in our local community who would love to help you!
- 4) Even as we retreat physically, we can still reach out in different ways. What will you do today? If there’s anything at all I can do for you, then get in touch with me at atleslie@wickhammarketchurch.org or 01728 561572

Leslie Siu, Vicar of St Peter and St George, Pettistree

Planning matters

Awaiting decision by East Suffolk Council

DC/20/3361 & DC/20/3264/FUL Hopkins Homes application & duplicate for 136 dwellings off Main Road

DC/20/4175/OUT 4 bed dwelling on land south of Scotts Hall, Presmere Road

DC/20/4000/OUT one dwelling on land adjacent to Newstead in The Street

DC/20/3815/FUL White House Farm, Main Road, change of use to commercial for MOT and servicing

Application approved

DC/20/2835/FUL 10 storage containers in The Nursery, Main Road



Loss of “Nellie”, a Village Character

Over recent years the number of animals at “The Laurels” has gradually diminished. We are now left with only a few fish and two black-and-white cats. Our small flock of sheep, shared with Joe Arbon, was very successful for a few years but then we stopped breeding and the remaining few lived out their lives in retirement. Many years ago, the last of our geese was taken by the fox despite electric netting etc. We kept egg-laying ducks for several years and trained them to go into their house at night for safety.



Our Gressingham ducks

Five years ago, our fourth Suffolk Punch horse, “Landmark Bronze Bear” had to be put down because of hip and foot problems, after giving us several years of pleasure. That left us with the two donkeys Nellie (white) and Molly who we bought as equine companions for Bear in the Autumn of 2006.



Bear, Nellie and Molly



Nellie, Jeff and Molly

Molly was the gentler of the two but unfortunately developed partial blindness and hormonal complications from a pituitary tumour in the brain. Sometimes a solitary donkey pines badly but Nellie had obviously realised that Molly was very unwell and accepted her death on 1st September 2016 calmly. It appeared that she was content so long as I was around. She had always been a donkey with “attitude” and her strong character persisted. We bought the donkeys from a breeder in Norfolk who had bought them from a market. This meant that we never knew her origins or even her date of birth. However, we are reasonably certain that she was in her 40’s; donkeys often live to 50.

Villagers were used to seeing me and Nellie taking each other for a gentle walk on Sunday mornings. Our distance and speed became less but she thoroughly enjoyed browsing on the verges, choosing with care which were her favourite plants. This gave me lots of little rests. Her diet at home was lots of grass and regular bowls of apples.

Nellie was always an object of interest to both adults and children when she was grazing on our front paddock but for many people her characteristic feature was her bray. This came at



predictable times, usually when she thought her breakfast or tea was due or when we came home. The change of clocks in Spring and Autumn was always a noisy problem. A donkey bray is loud and carries a long way. In an article for Pettistree People in Spring of 2007 I described the bray as follows. "Sometimes it sounds like a very rusty gate but more usually it is like a foghorn with stomach-ache." We certainly miss her calls, but our neighbours may be relieved. At least I am regularly reminded because I recorded her bray and have it as the ring tone on my mobile phone.

Nellie became even slower at the start of this year and then developed more weakness and a nasty and painful foot infection. She could no longer get up from lying, despite our help and that of our neighbours. On veterinary and other advice, we agreed that she had come to the end of her days just before the start of the first COVID-19 lockdown. She was promptly and painlessly put down by our kindly knacker, Philip Clarke, whose father, John, used to live in Church Cottage, . Since then my exercise walks have been solitary.

We shall not be replacing Nellie because we are too old to take on young, and long-lived animals. Until we decide to downsize and move on, our meadow will be controlled by a mower rather than hungry mouths.



Nellie
?? To 26th Feb 2020

Jeff Hallett

Armistice Day 2020

For over 20 years Pettistree villagers have met at the War memorial in the church yard for a short service at 11.00am on November 11th. This year all organised gatherings were banned but the Vicar had asked Jeff Hallett to lay the Pettistree wreath on behalf of the village. Mary Garner was allowed to ring one of the church bells before 11.00 and 26 people stood on the road or footpath, through the churchyard, to observe the 2 minute silence. Jeff read out the names of those from Pettistree and Loudham who had died in the two world wars before laying the village wreath.



David Harris, who is a Pettistree resident and Australian, then laid a wreath to commemorate those from the Commonwealth countries who also fought and died. After the brief Act of Remembrance Jim Jarvie played a lament, 'The Dark Isle', followed by Amazing Grace on the bagpipes. In this way Pettistree continued to adapt to the current regulations and managed to have a socially distanced but very moving Armistice day 2020.

Maggie Hallett



PETTISTREE WITH LOUDHAM SUPPORT NETWORK

*Supported by Pettistree Parish Council,
St Peter & St Paul Church & Pettistree Village Hall*

Support during Lockdown 2 & beyond ...

Our village group of volunteers can help with:

- Small scale essential shopping**
- Delivering and collecting prescriptions**
- Bringing in winter fuel**
- Not sure? Just ask**

Contact Cath Caudwell on **01728 747170 / 07305 607428**

Or Flora Beagley on **07580 236231** for advice or help

You can keep in touch or ask for help via our WhatsApp group or via the Village email – just phone Cath above to find out how to get connected.



The Bellingers are back – but not as we know it!

When churches were allowed to re-open at the beginning of July the rules for ringing were very specific. Ringing could take place for fifteen minutes before a service, with the incumbent's permission, and providing all Covid precautions were observed. Your tower captain duly submitted the required risk assessment. The result was that many towns heard strange combinations of bells and not the usual "descending scales" which usually start every piece of ringing. Sadly this wasn't the case in Pettistree because the church hadn't held any services. To be fair this rule was relaxed for VJ Day and we rang three bells that day.

Pettistree opened for services on October 25th with Harvest Thanksgiving. Three bells were rung and it felt great. It was lovely to receive positive comments from those living closeby, not forgetting "Alfie" at Pettistree Cottage! We managed to ring four bells for the first indoor service on November 1st. Then came a second lockdown, although thankfully news came through on Saturday the 7th that a single bell could be rung on Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day.

Church almost every Wednesday evening since December 1986. The age range is wide and we come from all walks of life. We are a strong friendship group, share a lot of laughter and try hard to further our skills in this traditional art. Even our ringing practices are steeped in tradition.

So it was, after a silence of more than six months, it was decided to embrace modern technology and meet together using Zoom and Teams. This started in October and in itself was a steep learning curve for most, but it was good to see familiar faces and chat about our various situations and exchange news! We are also trying a piece of software called Ringing Room. We have our own tower room and can be assigned different bells to ring, achieved by pushing a key on a computer keyboard. Sounds simple but it's far from it. Although the ropes on the screen move, it is not ropesight as we know it. We could not believe that a group of really experienced ringers couldn't even manage satisfactory rounds! Needless to say it resulted in a lot of laughter. I guess it's not surprising when internet speeds from the participants vary between 2.9Mbps and 67Mbps! Even our vocabulary has changed dramatically in the last six months.

The meetings continue over the internet with each session starting with 10 quiz questions, from Hilary, which gets everyone talking. A small group have started ringing handbells, for real in the Church Room. The current lockdown has stopped these sessions. Even our AGM, the 35th, held on the last Sunday before Advent will be over the internet.

However, we are hopeful that we shall be able to ring our tower bells for Christmas and it is likely that we shall be able to ring on five bells, with family groups, still complying with the Covid rules.

Mary Garner, Tower Captain



As well as ringing for services every week Pettistree ringers and friends, usually numbering between fifteen and twenty, have met in the



Compliments of the season from a safe distance: a Christmas like no other

I'm writing this in mid-November, the trees still retaining a few golden, ruby and russet leaves while their branches whip merrily around against a clear blue sky. Looking out of my window over the open farmland, it could almost be September, the start of a new term, the tang of woodsmoke in the air and Bonfire Night just around the corner.

But it isn't. Instead, everything we thought we knew, all the traditions we observed and our mundane, wonderful everyday life has been turned upside down by a news story that at the end of last year was just that. A story. About some people exhibiting symptoms of a new virus on a cruise ship on the other side of the world. No-one realised what an effect it would have at the time and now, living through our second lockdown, it's hard not to worry, to fear, to second guess the future.

However, good has come from this painful situation. The Pettistree WhatsApp group continues to unite our community, sharing news, encouragement and offers of help. Everyone has drawn even closer together, lending a hand and keeping an eye on each other. In the spring, we shared seedlings and plants, this autumn, I've benefited from a huge haul of crab apples picked on Park Farm, thanks to Philip and Carolyn, and a large bag of cooking apples from Carol's tree delivered by Jacqui. They've been turned into jars of jelly, chutney and jam, sitting safely in the outhouse and ready to be shared with anyone who would like one.

Christmas, though. Yuletide. The season of neighbourly visits, and shared meals, and extra hugs and handshakes. What are we going to do about that? Even if the lockdown is lifted on 2nd December, the Rule of Six puts a bit of a dent in traditional feasting and goodwill. As I write, the churches are shut, so are most of the shops and a whole raft of guidance is in place to protect us

from the virus. It's not going to be the kind of Christmas we had last year. We're going to have to find a new normal.

I've been thinking about what I can do to make a difference this year. I've got to the age where you make an involuntary grunting noise when rising from your chair, say things like, "Surely that wasn't thirty-five years ago!" when watching re-runs of Top of the Pops and lose your thread halfway through a sentence. This also means that I've got all the material goods I need and don't define myself by my possessions any more. So, this year, I'm trying to avoid huge corporations when doing my Christmas shopping—especially those



who don't pay tax, seeking out small, local companies and being mindful with what I spend and give.

We've all had to do a lot more shopping online since March, but I've decided that I want my purchases to help others too. There are lots of charity fundraising sites out there – Easyfundraising, the Giving Machine, Give as You Live etc – and by nominating a cause and installing a pop-up reminder, your shopping helps others.

As a self-employed writer, I spend a lot of time in my house gazing out of the window, doing research and even typing some words from time to time. I have to be careful not to become too introspective



and forget that there's a world out there. 2020 has been a pig of a year and it seems to me that Christmas is as good a time as any to spread a little joy and throw light into a few shadowy corners. Here are a few community-based ideas I came across which I liked.

Try a reverse Advent calendar. Every day in December put a gift or a food item to one side to give away on Christmas Eve.

Create a Christmas Care Package for isolated or vulnerable people in the community, observing government guidelines of course.

Get together for a drive-in carol service.

Create an Advent Window; like the rainbow



windows many people created earlier this year.

When the children were tiny, we started a new Christmas tradition, driving around Pettistree and Loudham on the Christmas lights trail. The children would cheer every time they saw the lights twinkling in the distance and would mark them out of ten. We drove around Wickham first, then came home via all the highways and byways, ending up on our driveway which would score a ten out of ten; biased, I know. Even now, driving home on dark December evenings, I'll hear mutterings in the back. "That's a good one. They've really made an effort. Why can't we have a reindeer with a moving head?"

This year is going to be different. The heart of our celebrations, though, can still feature love, compassion, joy, peace and goodwill, even if there aren't as many people around the table as usual. By the time you read this, the trees will be leafless, the air chilly and there may even be snow on the ground. Everything looks different this year, but the reason for the season remains the same. Merry Christmas to everyone and let's hope for a better New Year.

Ruth Leigh

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

Pat's clothing Wordsearch

Catsuit	Pullover	Goat	Pinot
Coat	Pyjamas	Harm	Revolt
Dhoti	Robe	Hoe	Rewind
Drawers	Sari	Hop	Roe
Dress	Socks	Hound	Row
Dungarees	Spacesuit	Ink	Seer
Fez	Spats	Icons	Sir
Frock	Suit	Ivy	Sod
Handkerchief	Tie	Kit	Sofa
Heels	Toga	Knock	Sow
Hoodie	Trouser	Lee	Sued
Hosiery	Tux	Lei	Tend
Housecoat	PLUS	Lie	Use
Jacket	Box	Neck	Zoos
Jeans	Cousins	Ode	
Kilt	Diva	Old	
Nappy	Ears	Ova	
Outfit			
Parka			
Pinafore			

Pat Deliss



DIARY DATES

Covid has wrecked forward planning of events so the only ones scheduled are-

9 February 2021 7 30pm Parish Council meeting via Zoom

12 February **Copy date for March issue of Pettistree People**

Apple Tree

Oh my friend the Apple Tree
I thank you for your fruit
My box is overflowing
With the yummy juicy loot

Oh my friend the Apple Tree
You don't just give me food
To not mention your shade
Would simply just be rude

Oh my friend the Apple Tree
Your twigs they come in handy
I put them on the fire
Which I sit by and drink Brandy

Oh my friend the Apple Tree
Your blossom is divine
When it scatters on the lawn
I marvel that you're mine

Oh my friend the Apple Tree
I know I'm not alone
For I have seen the Pigeon
That thinks you are it's throne.

Olivia Smith

CONTACTS DIRECTORY

Parish Councillors

Jeff Hallett, Chairman, The Laurels	01728 746210
Mary Chilvers, Coopers Cottage	746123
Chris Cook, Byng Brook House	748388
Sue Jones, Holmleigh	747277
Terry Rowles, Low Farm	01394 460422
Mike Watts, Burways	747202
Philip Westrope, Park Farm House	746139

Parish Clerk, Vacancy

County Councillor Alexander Nicoll
alexander.nicoll@suffolk.gov.uk

District Councillor Carol Poulter
carol.poulter@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Vicar Rev Leslie Siu 561572

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.uk

Webmaster webmaster @pettistree Suffolk.gov.uk

A seasonal reminder from Suffolk Police

They are reminding us to check our homes, vehicles, businesses and financial security as the next phase of the force's First Principle crime prevention initiative launches. The online suite of crime prevention topics are available to view on <http://www.suffolk.police/advice/crime-prevention-z>.

Taking simple steps can help to reduce your chances of being a victim of crime. Keep safe.