

Pettistree People

A newsletter for all the residents of Pettistree and Loudham
Pettistree Parish Council © Issue 90 March 2021

Lockdown walks around Pettistree—Surprises around every corner

One of the unexpected consequences of the forced lockdown has been the opportunity to explore the wonderful countryside in and around Pettistree. Like many we made a conscious decision not to drive a couple of miles, park up and walk. Instead, we left our house turned either left or right—depending if we had empty wine bottles to drop off at the bottle-bank in the Greyhound! - and headed off.

During the first lockdown last March, we were blessed with some warm weather and it was more of a case of keeping cool and putting factor 30 on. The latest one was a different story with wind, rain and snow. The roads and fields were flooded and some routes were impossible to navigate although we did manage to by-pass large puddles by climbing up on the banking.

What did surprise us was the unusual things we spotted, most of them within a couple of miles of Pettistree. I know many of you regularly walk locally and apologies if you have already seen these but here are just a few:



We found what appears to be fuel drop tanks off a military jet and two scout cars in a lane off Byng Hall Road. It is probably part of a military collection but open to suggestions. The 'Danger Wild Boar' is found in a wood near Thorpe Hall Farm - at the

top of California— and the anti litter notice in Bromeswell. The sentiments apply to us as the amount of litter appears to have increased. McDonald, KFC wrappings and empty beer and Red Bull cans are found on every footpath and verge.



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Many of you would have seen the rheas in the grounds of Loudham Hall and the camel at Valley Farm but they still manage to amaze us.

We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful part of Suffolk and you should get out and enjoy what is on your door step. There is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing and footwear. Enjoy

Pauline and Jim Jarvie



Parish Council Chairman's Report

Like 2020, 2021 has continued to be overshadowed by COVID-19 virus and its widespread effect on everyday life and the economy. Suffolk has been badly affected by the new more-infective "Kent" variant and the numbers of cases, hospital admissions and deaths are only now reducing after another period of restrictions on meeting people and going to pubs and restaurants. Fortunately, the vaccination programme has gone well, at least so far for those of us over 70 and the most vulnerable.

Christmas and New Year celebrations were severely restricted, and a great deal of shopping has been done 'on-line'. The Post Office and other delivery firms have been kept very busy bringing us the food and other goods we have ordered.

The Pettistree Support Group with its reliance on e-mail and WhatsApp communications has been stood down because the need for getting help to the housebound (for shielding or mobility problems) had reduced and rather been taken over by its chat-room function, that was not always appropriate. It continues to be available for chat and general information, without formal organisation.

Planning applications have been a major pre-occupation for the Parish Council and many villagers. The Hopkins Homes plans for 136 new homes on Pettistree land adjacent to Wickham Place in

Wickham Market was approved unanimously by the East Suffolk Planning Committee despite all our written objections and the personal representations (limited to three minutes) by Chris Cook and me on behalf of the Parish Council. The parish councils of Wickham Market and Ufford also objected. The proceedings were carried out by Zoom which made the whole thing seem rather surreal. The approval was given subject to the developer complying with a long list of conditions regarding the construction and management of the estate. One of the conditions was that Hopkins Homes should meet with the parish councils and East Suffolk Council to ensure compliance with the conditions and to obtain the best outcome for the new residents while limiting any bad effects on the existing villages.

A variety of other planning applications and their outcomes are a listed elsewhere in this journal.

The latest meeting of the Parish Council was held by Zoom on 9th February. An important item on the agenda was the co-option of a new councillor to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Terry Rowles after several years on the Parish Council. James Hayward was co-opted unanimously. He qualifies as the managing partner of the Hayward Farms land in Pettistree, and he also lives within



three miles of the parish. He has already been busy using his farm machinery to dig out snowdrifts blocking lanes, and pulling out stuck vehicles, including a heating-oil tanker. James Clarke was also a candidate for the vacancy, and he was co-opted as our road safety manager. This will include organising the moving and maintenance of our SID (Speed Indicating Device) which is getting closer to installation. He will attend council meetings but cannot vote, as we are limited to seven councillors. He also lives just outside the parish boundary and is a keen participant in Pettistree activities.

Since the New Year, another huge impact on our lives has been the weather. We have had very heavy rain that has caused inconvenience by flooding. Now in early February we have had the return of “The Beast from the East” with high winds and very heavy snowfall. The temperatures have been the lowest for several years. The schools are already closed due to COVID but for a few days small lanes have been treacherous or impassable. Even deliveries of post and newspapers were not possible. The newspapers and TV news are full of pictures of icicles, snowmen and families ‘exercising’ in the snow. As always people in the village have gone out in their walking boots or 4 x 4 vehicles to get supplies for their less-mobile neighbours. Our milkman even changed his usual midnight delivery to mid-day when it was not dark and the roads less frozen. As I write this on 12th February the lanes are still icy and the wind-chill makes it feel like -7°C. A thaw is predicted for next week.

During the periods of greater or lesser COVID lockdown the marquee bought by the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee has given great service for many months on loan to the “Greyhound Inn” by enabling their business to continue to serve meals and drinks, with appropriate social distancing. Although it is of good quality for professional use, and secured by storm straps and water filled barrels, the blizzard snowstorm

finally got the better of it on 7th/8th February and it has collapsed under the weight of the snow. We are waiting for the thaw so that we can dismantle and find the extent of the damage prior to repair or insurance claim.



The collapsed marquee at “The Greyhound” on 8th February.

Finally, this is probably the last winter for the Hallett family at “The Laurels”. We are downsizing, and plan to move into a bungalow in Wickham Market, probably at the end of March. This means that “The Laurels” will have a new family to look after, in its history of about 600 years.



“The Laurels” on 8th February

Jeff Hallett



Christmas at The Laurels 2020

This year was always going to be a bit strange as it was to be our final Christmas after 37 years at The Laurels. No one however could have predicted how different it was going to be!

The original plan was that David and his family would come to spend Christmas with us and take the opportunity to help sort out some of the accumulated 'treasures' and hopefully decide what he could reclaim and take back to Wales. By early October that plan had been scrapped as they were obviously not going to be able to leave Wales.

Plan 2 was for Susie, the two grand-daughters and Mary—who is in a bubble with Susie and lives in Woodbridge-- to come and spend the day at The Laurels, and for us to enjoy a final celebratory meal in our kitchen. Sounded excellent to me as they were planning to do all the cooking, and then they would spend a couple of days helping to sort the 'Treasures' into categories move, store, sell, charity-shop or finally into a skip!! As the news of the spread of the virus become more gloomy we all felt that getting together was probably less sensible so they decided a few days before the event itself, that we would have our last Laurels Christmas in the cart shed.

Plan 3 was agreed and they all appeared on Christmas Eve and decorated the cart shed with a Christmas tree, fairy lights and baubles, we moved a couple of tables, collected the hostess trolley and barbecue and the cart shed was set up for a socially distanced meal and general celebration.



Lunch with all the trimmings, but slightly unusual attire!

Christmas Day was fun, luckily it was quite sunny although cold, I have never worn a duvet coat, scarf and woolly hat for lunch before. My daughters organised the food, we pulled crackers and laughed at the silly jokes, opened some presents and finished off with toasting marshmallows on the barbecue. A memorable



occasion which will always make our last Christmas at The Laurels very special.

Jeff and Bethany with the non-traditional - but nice and warm-toasted marshmallows

Maggie Hallett

Planning Matters

DC/20/3361/FUL Hybrid Planning Application (Duplicate): 129 dwellings, 7 self build plots on land between High Street and Chapel Lane and the duplicate DC/20/3264. Approved

DC/20/3815/FUL Change of use from agricultural to commercial MOT centre and service station at White House farm. Withdrawn

DC/20/4000/OUT Outline application for one dwelling adjacent Newstead in the Street. Refused

Cont on page 7



Church News

Since March 2020 a benefice service has been broadcast on YouTube at 11.00 am every Sunday by Rev. Leslie Sui. initially from his study but from August 2020 the service has been broadcast from All Saints Church in Wickham Market.

After the first service back in Pettistree church on Sunday November 1st a second lockdown was announced and public worship ceased for a further month but at least the churches could remain open for 'private prayer'.

Public services were allowed once again during December so since then we are able to attend a Sunday morning service, the rules are that we have to book in advance (to fulfil the track & trace requirement), wear a mask throughout and sit in the designated well distanced pews.

Christmas was very different in 2020 but the church was decorated beautifully, Suffolk Plants with William Notcutt's help donated a Christmas tree and services were held although not a traditional Carol service or Midnight communion. The vicar organised a Christingle service especially for the children from Presmere Nursery which was very much appreciated, and luckily the weather was kind so that they also enjoyed their walk to and from the Nursery to the church. Hopefully in 2021 it can once again be a service when their parents and local parishioners can also attend as in previous years.

Since the Covid regulations allowed for singing in the Open Air, a very well attended 'Carols in the Churchyard' event was held one afternoon in the week before Christmas. More than 50 people including a dozen children, and accompanied by 5 well behaved dogs, enjoyed a musical hour masterminded by Mary Garner and Rev. Leslie Sui.

Mary took her keyboard, Jeff Hallett set up a loudspeaker and a few people were organised to ensure that everyone who came maintained social distancing and could see a Carol Sheet. Several

people have suggested that this should become a regular Christmas event, perhaps finishing with some traditional fare, mince pies and a warm drink have been suggested.



January 2021 began with the 3rd lock down of the Covid pandemic and some very discouraging news of how fast the virus was spreading, this has meant that although the Church services have continued rather fewer people have attended. At present congregational singing is still not possible but hopefully that restriction will be eased as the vaccination programme continues to roll out. People will then feel more confident about attending services, although I suspect we will have to continue to be very sensible for several months.

The Parochial Church Council has embraced technology and have had Zoom meetings during which we have been kept up to date on the various investigations for dealing with the problems of the redecoration work. The only thing that I can report is that progress is being made although it is depressingly slow! In early February people with keen eyes walking past the church may have noticed figures on the top of the tower. This was essential maintenance being carried out to remove the large heap of nest-building material that Rooks have deposited through the louvres into the staircase during the past few years. Judicious repair and some new wire netting will hopefully prevent a repeat of this activity during the next nest building season but they are remarkably persistent.

Maggie Hallett



New Parish Council Clerk

I'm delighted to have been asked by Jeff Hallett to join Pettistree Parish Council as Clerk, taking over from the late Keith Bridges – who plainly did an impeccable job it will be hard to follow.



Some of you may know me already through my other connection to the village – as piper since goodness knows when at the annual Burns Night in the Village Hall, and co-founder with Jim Jarvie of the Pettistree Piping School.

I divide my time these days between piping and clerking; at the last count I am Clerk to ten parish councils around Suffolk. My home is in Henley, where I became Clerk in about 2012; since then I have gradually expanded outwards to include Hemingstone, Helmingham, Westerfield, Somersham, Cotton, Denham, Horham, Bredfield and now Pettistree.

It's a hugely enjoyable job; it's very satisfying to play a small part in helping villages and communities to make their voices heard at the levels of District and County Councils and beyond. Without Parish Councils democracy would be missing a leg; they are the first essential building block in a process which leads up to Westminster.

What the Clerk does is just to make sure everything is working under the bonnet; as unobtrusively as possible making sure that the Councillors themselves can get on with representing the interests of the electors. If the background admin runs smoothly and all the legal and accounting requirements are met, the

Councillors can get on with what they need to do instead of getting caught up in procedural tangles.

For the first 45 years or so of my career I worked in print and television journalism, and in documentary production for tv, based mostly in London and Manchester.

Any time you want to reach your clerk, you can contact me on 07785 331317 or email pettistreeclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Rod Caird

Queen Wasp.

I'm sorry Your sleeping Highness
I did not mean to wake you
I thought I'd bring some logs in
for the fire, just a few

I know you are all sleepy
and should not be up yet
but the flames were getting low
so some wood I had to get

You would have been quite safe
and had a little while
but not to be, I came along
and used the heaped log pile

Yes it is a shame
I didn't see you straight away
I'll apologise again
what else can I say

please step into this jar just here
I'll take you back outside
then see if I can help you
find a better place to hide.

Olivia M J Smith.



Pettistree Support Group news

As always, I hope you are all keeping safe and well. The offers of help are still here, so do get in touch on 07305 607428 /01728 747170 if you need anything - it is even more difficult to get out and about at the moment. Equally if you struggle to get fuel indoors in this colder weather, there will be someone who will be happy to help. I know that many of our friends and neighbours are

successfully getting vaccinated now so we really do hope that there is light at the end of this very long tunnel.

The colder weather presents its own problems, but also gives us some beautiful photographic opportunities, so I am sharing a few here. I hope you enjoy them.

Cath Caudwell



Plus a few more

Was good the Greyhound 's tables were stronger than the marquee!

Mike Watts



More Planning Matters

DC/20/4175/OUT Outline application One 4 bed dwelling and double garage Adjacent Scotts Hall, Presmere Road Decision awaited

DC/20/4220/AGO Building for woodland maintenance in Presmere Wood, Presmere Road. Permitted

DC/20/5149/FUL Extension of workshop and shared parking Bridge Classic Cars, Main Road Permitted

DC/20/4757/FUL Two small industrial units on hardstanding in Presmere Road. Refused

DC/21/0628/FUL Bedroom extension above utility room at rear of 4 Hungarian Close Decision awaited



Drifting Snow, Dramatic Scenes and Dreams Come True

Happy New Year! I know we're well into 2021, but last time I wrote for *Pettistree People*, we were looking ahead to Christmas and wondering what a Lockdown Yule might be like. Quiet, was the answer. Pretty darn quiet.

I'm writing this on Valentine's Day, with the fire in the dining room crackling away cheerfully, candles winking on the mantelpiece and fairy lights glowing on the bookshelves. This is not because I'm some kind of romantic nut (although lovely cooking smells are drifting through from the kitchen) but for more practical reasons. Our house is late Victorian, there's still snow on the ground, a biting east wind whistling around the garden and without a fire, my fingers refuse to type faster than at a snail's pace. The candles are pretty, and the fairy lights are left over from Christmas. I find that they help to inspire me as I sit at my desk writing.

When we first moved to Loudham fourteen and a half years ago, we were delighted to find that it tended to snow in January and February. We've got lots of pictures of two little boys building snowmen and being pulled around the garden on a sledge, and yet more of the two of them and their intrepid younger sister playing up to their knees in the white stuff. The Beast from the East in 2018 was marked by some vigorous tobogganing and Mr Leigh getting stuck in a snowdrift in Chapel Lane and having to be pulled out by a tractor-driving friend.

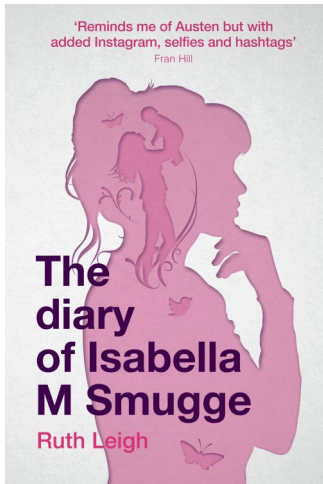


The snow over the past few days has been enjoyed hugely – every day has been a snow day. As soon as schoolwork was finished, we dressed ourselves up in many layers, pulled on ski gloves and boots and trudged over to the reservoir for some tobogganing. On my first time down, I bounced, hit a plant of some kind and flew through the air, landing in a large, liquid patch of mud. No-one thought to take any pictures of me caked in what looks like something fairly unpleasant. No-one was around to see. Phew. But now you know. The snowscapes around the village have been breathtakingly, dramatically beautiful. Snow-covered trees along the lane, walls of icicles on Loudham Hall Road and the endless fields stretching down towards Ufford under icy blue skies.

Before the snow hit, I was waiting anxiously for a delivery. During the first lockdown, with most of my freelance work just a memory, I wrote a jokey blog about a pretentious lifestyle blogger called Isabella M Smugge (I Am Smug). People seemed to like it. The next month, I wrote another, more serious piece, about the impact of social media and why it's important to be authentic whenever we can. I included Ms Smugge in it again and to my amazement, I got a message from a literary agent asking if I could write two sample chapters and a story arc and send them over to him. After a few weeks of rejections, a publisher offered me a deal



and on 25th January, 400 copies of The Diary of Isabella M Smugge arrived.



About half of them were already accounted for on pre-orders, and to my amazement, as people started to post about it on social media, more orders came in. It was every writer's dream, to sell books and to read positive reviews. For me, always cautious about chasing dreams—

a dangerous business, it was a dream which had come true.

On 19th February, the book will go on sale online, at Waterstones, Eden and Amazon, as well as in our lovely local bookshop, Woodbridge Emporium. My heroine moves from London to a small Suffolk

village with her family, tries to make sense of the new community in which she finds herself, begins to explore faith and learns that perhaps her life isn't quite as perfect as she thought.

Would I have written this book if I lived somewhere else? Probably not. It's of the place, very much inspired and driven by the beautiful views I see out of the windows and the experience of living in the country. My own memories of nursery, being the new girl in the playground, friendships, toddler groups, PTA events and so on certainly flavour the book.

As the snow melts and springtime starts to make itself felt, I'm looking forward to 2021 and whatever it might hold. There's good news as the vaccination programme continues. For now, let's enjoy the snowdrops in the wood, the first sounds of birdsong and the knowledge that better times are coming.

Ruth Leigh

Pat's veggie Word Search

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

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------|
| Asparagus | Soy | Keel |
| Basil | Spinach | Lame |
| Cabbage | Sprouts | Lie |
| Carrot | Swede | Mars |
| Cauliflower | Sweetcorn | Pet |
| Celery | Tomato | Pot |
| Chard | Turnip | Privet |
| Clove | Watercress | Pup |
| Courgette | Yam | Rag |
| Cress | <i>PLUS</i> | Rock |
| Cucumber | Acer | Roe |
| Garlic | Ale | Rout |
| Kale | Angle | Top |
| Leek | Ape | Too |
| Lettuce | Cell | Vague |
| Marrow | Coo | Verse |
| Mint | Echo | Zoo |
| Onion | ErrGale | Zoo |
| Parsnip | Hobbies | |
| Pea | Hope | |
| Potato | Horn | |
| Radish | | |

Pat Deliss



DIARY DATES

Covid has continued to wreck forward planning of events so the only ones scheduled are-

28 March British Summer Time begins

2 April Good Friday

5 April Easter Monday

20 April 2021 7 30pm Parish Council meeting via Zoom

Annual Parish Meeting depends on Covid restrictions at that time

CENSUS 2021

On 21 March the 2021 United Kingdom Census will occur throughout most of the UK, except Scotland which will be in 2022.

Held every ten years the Census provides information on people and households and by taking part you'll help our community get the services needed now and in the future.

The data obtained will not be available to the population for one hundred years. Your descendants will then be able to see where you are what you are doing. Not until then. Family historians are eagerly awaiting release of the 1921 Census later this year.

CONTACTS DIRECTORY

Parish Councillors

Jeff Hallett, Chairman, The Laurels	01728 746210
Mary Chilvers, Coopers Cottage	746123
Chris Cook, Byng Brook House	748388
James Hayward, Old School Farmhouse, Wickham Market	07500 818121
Sue Jones, Holmleigh	747277
Mike Watts, Burways	747202
Philip Westrope, Park Farm House	746139

Road Safety Manager, James Clark, 1 Old Orchard Cottage, Gelham Hall, Wickham Market 07949 796007

Parish Clerk, Rod Caird 07785 331317

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

District Councillor Carol Poulter
carol.poulter@eastssuffolk.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

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Spring is almost here!

Please send copy for Pettistree People June issue to ppedit@uwclub.net by 14 May. Many thanks, Mike Watts