



# Pettistree People

Issue 97 December 2022 Pettistree Parish Council Newsletter

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## Diary Dates for December

3 Saturday - Christmas Market on the Hill at Wickham Market

9 Friday – Christingle at Pettistree Church - 10.30am

Sunday 11 – Carols in the churchyard – 3pm

Sunday 18 – Pettistree Carol Service at the Church – 9.30am

Sunday 18 – Bring & Share Christmas lunch – Village Hall - noon

Sunday 18 – Tractor Parade – starts Rendlesham 5pm

Christmas Day – Holy Communion – 9.30am



*Harry Mackenzie, Cassidy Hughes and Will Orrock*

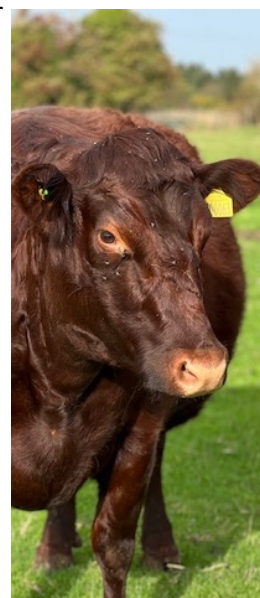
## Three friends in foodie heaven

### The Greyhound back on track

The Greyhound re-opened with a full house on 26 October. For three friends, Will, Cassidy and Harry, it's a dream come true. The trio who met at university in London, have brought their talents into an entirely new venture: a foodie hub with the emphasis on Suffolk produce.

Will is from a farming background in Essex. He and Cassidy renovated a farmhouse before refurbishing the Greyhound. Cassidy, born in up-state New York had an interior design business in London. Chef, Harry Mackenzie explored his creative tastes at the River Café in London. He now lives above the pub.

*This is Jessica from Church Farm who was keeping her eye on the apple harvest – page 7*





## Parish Council Chair's Report

*Sue Jones*

A day in the life of parish council chair can be summed up in one word: busy. Lots of new things are happening in our small village.

We have two new councillors. James Clarke and Tom Over were unanimously co-opted at the October meeting. They replace Philip Westrope and Mike Watts, both of whom have been thanked by the PC for their contributions of time and advice over many years. Profiles of the new councillors are on page 5.

We were able to co-opt because 10 electors didn't come forward to demand an election. A curious way to deal with the bottom rung of the democracy ladder but simpler than the seismic shifts we see in Westminster.

The long consultation to change the village boundary received East Suffolk Council approval. The site of the new Hopkins development will be officially moved to Wickham in April next year. This way Pettistree retains its countryside identity. Some smart observation will be needed, however, to spot any further plans to build large numbers of houses in the village.

There is an upside to the Hopkins development: we were awarded more than £11,000 for projects to mitigate the effects of more people living in the area. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge which is levied by local authorities on new development. We have five years to spend it on improvements such as a play area, walking and cycling routes or green projects. Ideas welcome.

What we can't do is use the money for the running costs of the parish council which, along with so many other things, are rising. We employ a Responsible Finance Officer and hope to employ a parish clerk at some point in the future.

The salary rates are, to a large extent, fixed by pay scales and the hourly rate acceptable to the postholders. Pettistree has a very small precept £2,542 (collected through council tax) but it will have to rise to cover our costs. The Council on 22 November approved a precept request for £3,812 for 2023-24. This will also give us a General Reserve for unexpected costs. The breakdown of our budget will be available with the meeting minutes on the website.

It has been reported that life and limb are at risk as delivery drivers whizz round the blind bends at Stump Street and Byng Lane. Some residents are also concerned about the increasing HGVs on our country roads. Our roads officer, Councillor James Clarke, is in charge of the speed indicator device - SID - and will record any events reported to him. The SID sites were chosen to capture speeds over 30mph and had to be approved by Highways. The one requested in Byng Lane was turned down because it was too near the 30 speed sign.

Two actions we can take are: report careless or dangerous driving to the driver's company. Julian Hobday has helpfully provided an incident reporting link for Amazon 0808 164 6718. Registration identification is not needed as the companies log the deliveries. The other option may be to position convex mirrors so that both parties entering a bend can see what is coming.

The Old Engineering site in The Street has been the focus of some contact with East Suffolk planners. Breaches of planning conditions were found by the enforcement team and applications have been made to vary them which were refused. The Parish Council's view is that if the conditions, when set, were reasonable for an industrial site in a small rural residential community then they should stay that way. The matter has now been taken up by our district councillor Carol Poulter.



## Scandalous use of The Greyhound

The Greyhound has a long history of licensees. The first to be identified was John Levett in 1733. The Smith family passed it from one to another for 102 years (1820-1922). They were also village carpenters and coffin makers and had a shop at the end of the building near Walnuts Lane.

The Greyhound is thought to date back to the 15th century but some records put it earlier and suggest it was the priest's house for the 14th century church. At the time almost 90% of Europeans lived on farms or in small rural communities.

At some time, the property became a public house in every sense. An ale-house and a place for petty sessions, the predecessor of magistrates courts. We know that coroners' inquests were held there in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and that the coroner and 24 jurors would be required to 'view' the body before hearing evidence, so it was likely to have been used as a mortuary too. "The Coroner frequents more public houses than any man alive." wrote Charles Dickens in Bleak House (1853).

Some fascinating records of Pettistree inquests indicate a rather scant inquiry into sudden death. Surgeon George Keer from Wickham Market checked for marks of violence, witnesses gave their account and that was about it. When a Royal Commission heard that witnesses at inquests took advantage of the beer on tap before giving evidence, its commissioners called for an end to this 'scandalous' use of pubs. The Licensing Act of 1902 decreed that no pub be used for inquests after 31 March 1907, if other premises were available.

Acknowledgement: with thanks to Joan Peck and Cath Caudwell authors of *The Greyhound* 2008

## Three friends in foodie heaven

The three are bubbling with energy and ideas for how they will keep the pub rooted in the local community. "The intention is to keep to 40 covers a night," says Will "That will enable us to be over everything ourselves. We're keen to get the balance right between drinkers and eaters so will keep the bar area with stools and drinkers will be welcome at the tables unless they're reserved for food."

The place looks like a well-manicured 15<sup>th</sup> century, cosy country pub. All the work was done by the Will, Cassidy and Harry, who had to leave the pastry brush to pick up a paint brush at times. The two fireplaces will have open fires. The plan for 2023 is to have a private dining room upstairs and some special culinary events.

The menu will change daily says, Harry, who also provided the artwork for the menus. "It will depend on what our suppliers bring in but we want to use local farm produce." The new items on the menu will be posted each day on the Greyhound website.

Two more friends were enticed to the venture: chef, Danny Feeney, and wine manager, George de Vos.

If good food needs joy and excitement, I think we've got it – ed

Opening times:

*Wednesday to Saturday noon – 1030pm*

*Sunday noon – 6pm*





## FAREWELL TO LOUISE & STEWART

*Cath Caudwell*

Pettistree gave a fond farewell to our Greyhound hosts of 10 years, Louise and Stewart McKenzie, at a social gathering on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October when residents and friends came together with a 'bring and share' afternoon buffet.

Louise and Stewart have been such an asset to our local community since they arrived in 2012, ensuring the future of our much-loved pub whilst giving us excellent meals, ales and friendly service. Greyhound visitors were very occasionally treated to a rare glimpse of Louise, who spent most of her time in the tiny kitchen producing wonderful fare. Stewart, on the other hand, blossomed as our front of house host. Their family expanded when Blair was born in 2018, followed by Finlay in 2020.

Mary Chilvers, a 'frequent flyer' at The Greyhound, couldn't let them go without a proper send off, so organised the bring and share event (a Pettistree speciality) as well as a collection for the couple, with John Lewis vouchers being presented to them after a speech by none other than local lad, Jim Jarvie (unaccustomed as he is to public speaking...).

Jim referred to some of their special events over the years, including Burns Nights at which he piped, as well as themed food evenings, a notable one being a German evening when Stewart sported lederhosen – once seen never to be forgotten (never to sit down either!).

The couple were always willing to try different ideas out, such as a regular curry evening on Thursdays, which was always popular. In recent times Jim reminded us how fortunate we were to have them on our side. When Covid struck in March 2020 they were already anticipating having to change the way they worked – they'd seen the



*Louise, Stewart and Mary Chilvers*



writing on the wall – and so the 'Finish at Home' range of meals came into being, keeping us supplied with really good home-cooked food each week, including the curries (92 servings on one of those days), throughout the Covid lockdowns. They also provided kegs of ale and boxes of fresh fruit and veg. Those brown paper bags were a welcome sight when, at the end of the week, we queued, at a suitable distance to

from the table outside the kitchen. Such a treat – I know our family really looked forward to them.

Louise and Stewart have loved being here in Pettistree and have appreciated the warmth and support everyone has given them. Their leaving of the premises was sadly rather abrupt, all down to last minute legal decisions, but this event gave them the chance to say thank you properly. They are still living in Parham, having taken on part-time jobs for the moment until the future becomes clearer to them. At our gathering many familiar Pettistree faces were in evidence, testament to Louise and Stewart's popularity. Thanks to Mary for arranging this.



## Church News

Maggie Hallett

The Harvest festival service and 'Bring & Share' lunch scheduled for 18 September had to be changed as it was the day before Queen Elizabeth's funeral. The vicar altered the Sunday's service to be one of thanksgiving for her life and he included the harvest thanksgiving theme.

The last Sunday of September was the final Evensong service and concluded its trial period. At the PPC meeting in October it was agreed that as they have been popular they will return once the clocks change again in the Spring.

The problem of the church redecoration was again discussed by the relevant Diocesan Authority (DAC) and it is likely that Pettistree PCC's request to remove all the unsuitable plaster and replace it with lime plaster will mean a consultation exercise with relevant heritage organisations.

The vicar was away in South Sudan for 3 weeks in late October and early November working with the Mathetes Trust. This charity aims to advance Christian discipleship through training, support and provision of resource materials to churches worldwide. I hope he will write about his experience in Africa in a forthcoming edition of Pettistree People.



The village says goodbye to Stewart and Louise

## QUIET LANES

After a rather long wait our application to make Walnuts Lane and Rogues Lane into Quiet Lanes was approved. We now await action to fix poles and the notices. Hopefully this will be done before our next issue.

The routes are intended for cycling, horse riding, jogging and walking but they do not restrict vehicles. The advisory signs show the hierarchy of priority on the roads with pedestrians first and vehicles last.

## New MP

The Boundary Commission has been reviewing parliamentary constituencies in England and has recommended that constituencies must have no fewer than 69,724 Parliamentary electors and no more than 77,062.

As a result, Pettistree will be moved, at the next General Election, to Central Suffolk which means that our MP will be Dr Dan Poulter.

## County Broadband

A new broadband provider is surveying the village for customers. The company has requested a meeting with the Parish Council to explain its offering and this has been agreed.

## Christmas at Church

A **Christingle** Service, particularly for the pre-school children, but for all age-groups from babies to grand-parents will be held on Friday 9 December at 10.30am.

Once again everyone is welcome to **Carols in the Churchyard** on **Sunday 11 December at 3pm**. We hope that everyone will be able to enjoy traditional refreshments after the service and take the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours. Warm clothes, wet weather gear and a torch to light your way home are recommended.

### Poppy Appeal in Pettistree and Loudham

£ 750.82

Collected this year

2021 £741.66

2020 £220.96

### Pettistree Remembers

**James Fuller, Albert William Hines, Herbert Garnham Howard, Arthur William Leach, Frederick Boon, Walter Boon, Samuel Sawyer Berry, Frank Cleveland, James Clements, Isaac Charles Thurkettle**

### Tractor Parade

On Sunday 18 December there will be a Christmas Tractor Light Parade, through Pettistree to raise money for Community First Responders and Suffolk Mind. It will set off from Rendlesham and travel through Tunstall, Campsea Ashe, Wickham Market, Pettistree, Ufford, Melton, Eyke and finish back at Rendlesham.

The organisers are asking volunteers to be marshals to ensure safety of observers.

You can also find further information on Facebook, by searching for Suffolk Tractor Light Parade.



This year, in the Vicar's absence abroad, the service was led by Rev Rob Rose and attended by over 30 locals and a visitor from the Netherlands. Maureen Stollery whose father died during the war laid the Pettistree Poppy wreath. We were joined by trumpeter Peter Holloway from Charsfield for The Last Post & Reveille and Jim Jarvie played the lament 'The Dark Isle' on the bagpipes to conclude the service.



## A Red Poll Surprise!

*Rita Smith, Church Farm*

Jessica's pregnant! I say this with great surprise because firstly, I knew that Dick didn't want to increase the number of cows in the herd, and secondly, she'd been very difficult to get into calf in the first place.

We have had as many as 20 animals in the fields at the back of Church Farm (aptly named Back Field), and behind the Village Hall (known as Eight Acres), but as we've grown older it's seemed sensible to cut the numbers to lessen the work involved. Last year, Dick was suffering badly from hip and back pain, and when the opportunity arose, he either sold a cow – with her calf if possible - to another Red Poll breeder, or to someone who wanted to start a herd. The steers could go for beef. He was lucky enough to get an appointment for a hip replacement in September and at that point we were down to five animals. However, he came to the conclusion that even five could be too many for me to cope with during his stay in hospital, and not knowing what he would be capable of doing afterwards, when a friend offered to take as many as Dick wanted, to graze on the marshes near Aldeburgh, he gratefully accepted the offer.



Would he get rid of them all? No! He simply couldn't part with Alice, a long-time favourite. It was me who said, 'We can't keep one by herself, she'll be lonely. Let's keep her granddaughter, Jessica, as well'. What I hadn't realized was that Alice and Jessica, despite their relationship, did not get on well together, and certainly didn't need each other for company. Alice would push Jessica out of the way in order to get the most pulp nuts, and in the field they took little notice of each other.

Dick felt so much better after his operation, and in January, when Jessica came bulling, he called the AI man to serve her – hoping to increase his herd again. We could tell by the expression on Sam's face that the insemination was not going well, and when he pronounced the cervix as being too tight, we knew this was unlikely to succeed. All we could do was wait for three weeks and see whether she came bulling again – which she did. Dick decided to try a second time, and Sam was called again, but regrettably, couldn't get her in calf. Not being one to give up easily Dick decided to borrow a bull from his friend and let Mother Nature take her course – which she has! That's why I'm surprised.

Dick had a College Re-union in Alcester last week-end, so I was responsible for caring for the cows in his absence. Jessica's calf isn't due till January, so I wasn't concerned about that, but when I went to give them their portions of hay on Saturday afternoon, she wasn't there. Alice ambled slowly in, but I couldn't see Jessica anywhere. Surely, if anything had happened to Jessica, Alice would have been more concerned and at least moo'd a bit. I decided to go to the Church to lock the door after four, which we do every day, and then have a really good look for Jessica round the perimeter of the field. I got distracted. Two new gravestones had appeared but were positioned the wrong way! Or at least they were different from all the other head stones in that part of the graveyard. It looked very odd, but I remembered I had more important issues to think of – where was Jessica? I walked slowly round the field. Looking into the church yard but there was no sign of Jessica. I began to wonder if she had gone into early labour and taken herself off to a quiet nook or cranny to be alone.

I had no idea what I'd do if I found her in that position. But as I arrived at the very far end of the field, where our kids used to make camps when they were young, I found her. She was tucked in the side of the fallen ash tree, with branches overhead and tall stinging nettles forming her very own perfect little den. I did wonder if she was stuck in some way, but when she saw me she walked out quite easily, as if to say "Ha! Got you worried that time, didn't I?" It made me wonder what we were in for in January!



## Headstones in Pettistree churchyard

*Maggie Hallett*

I have been asked to explain the positioning of the graves and gravestones placed in the churchyard recently.

Before Christianity those who practiced paganism or sun-based religions buried their dead facing east because they believed their dead should face the rising sun to greet each new day and their life after death. The traditional Christian method was to have the body placed face up with the head to the west, feet to the east. This is because Christians believe in the second coming of Christ, and scripture teaches that he will come from the east. In this manner, they place their dead in a position so they can meet Christ face-to-face during his second coming. One theory is that early Christians adopted this custom from pagans and other early religions.

We assume that 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> century burials in Pettistree churchyard were carried out in this manner, and possibly marked with a simple wooden cross which would have been placed at the head or west end of the grave. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century more permanent headstones were appearing but initially it was only the upper class who could afford to commemorate the deceased in this expensive way. The lower classes would have to make do with what they had, which was probably wood.

By the 19<sup>th</sup> century gravestones were commonplace as the Victorians popularised funerals with elaborate memorials, in costly material and with detailed inscriptions. This was still too expensive for many and some of the headstones from that time are very simple.

In 2021 once the burial plot on the North side of the church was full it was agreed with the diocese that  
The most suitable area for new graves was on the south side of the church. This was last used in the

1800s and means the wild-life conservation meadow between the church and Rogues Lane can be preserved as a green-space.

Unfortunately, the headstone on the first grave in the row was incorrectly placed by the stonemasons at the foot of the grave. Future headstones will continue to be placed at the west or head end of the grave in the traditional manner.

There are strict diocesan rules as to the type and style of headstones suitable for a churchyard, and these can be found on the diocesan website. These state that "Headstones must not be garish in colour, must be of natural stone but not marble of any colour and not black, red or pink granite." There is also a list of prohibited items, including statues, sundials, bird baths, portraits, wind-chimes, windmills, candles, trees, shrubs, photographs, laminated cards, lights, toys, and other things not specifically permitted. It is very difficult for the Vicar and PCC to 'police' these rules without upsetting a bereaved family who do not realise the difference between a churchyard and a Cemetery which does not have the same restrictions.

I am sometimes asked who can be buried or have their cremated remains interred in Pettistree churchyard, that is simple to answer: residents in the parish; those whose names are on the church electoral roll; anyone dying in the parish; someone with a strong family connection with Pettistree.

To answer Rita's question: The inscription on a headstone can be on either side.



## Village Hall – Autumn Update

*Jim Jarvie, Chairman*

Our coffee mornings continue to be well attended and will continue for the foreseeable future. The atmosphere in the room is terrific and the sound of villagers and friends engaged in conversations makes it all worthwhile. Kathy Hilton and Maureen Stollery have proved to be excellent baristas and thanks to them for keeping the show on the road!

Our Xmas bring a plate get together will be on Sunday 18 December at midday (see separate notice). Please bring a plate of food, your own drink and singing voices as Xmas carols will also be on the menu.

We are hoping to have a Burn's Night (a date to be confirmed next month but it will be sometime in February). I will be giving a talk in early Spring, on terra firma for a change, on my forty- year career as a Customs Investigator. Any profits from these events will be donated to Riding for the Disabled, a worthy cause. Thanks again to all the committee members for their support.

Energy costs meant the Committee had no alternative but to raise the letting charges for the remainder of the year and 2023. But an increase to £10 an hour has not deterred our regular groups and children's parties and we will of course keep the charges under review.

Dave Caudwell has re-calibrated the security lights and we now have cover round the hall and in the car park. We will be looking to replace the felt on the roof above the main entrance in the coming weeks. Our thanks to Louis Deliss for arranging the cutting of hedges around the car park.

The Committee was re-elected at our AGM in August. Pat Deliss indicated she wished to step down as the Committee Secretary. Our thanks to Pat for her efforts. Dave has 'volunteered' to take the minutes of our meetings.

## Pettistree People

**This village has a great group of stalwarts who make a difference. They organise events, protect its heritage and put time, effort and care into a thriving community. PP will aim to bring long established residents and newer settlers into view. The Clarke family have been in the village for some time but are still relative newbies. Here's their story.**



**David,  
Olivia and  
Sarah Clarke**

Sarah says: We moved to Jasmine House in November 2018 from our renovated farmhouse in the Mid Suffolk village of Battsford, primarily to be closer to family and friends but also to move to an area of which we are extremely fond.

David, previous owner and hands-on butcher at two establishments in East Anglia, serving both catering and retail customers, sold the businesses at which we both worked and retired in 2016 in order to help raise our daughter Olivia. Nonetheless, David is never completely without a project and now keeps himself busy in property development. In our spare time we enjoy boating and exploring the UK in our motorhome as a family.

We feel very fortunate to have settled in such a wonderful village and have made some firm friends in the process.

## Wispy Spider

I am lurking in the corner but I'm hardly really  
there my wispy legs and body could be mistaken  
for a hair

You only really notice me when I leave a mess  
behind and still you'll have to look hard if it's me  
you wish to find

I tried life in the shower  
but nearly I did drown  
I got a little careless  
and the plug hole was washed down

Some may say  
that I'm not a proper spider I assure you that I  
am and a splendid little hider...

*Olivia MJ Smith*

## SID savvy

Councillor James Clarke has the job of dealing with matters related to the roads in the parish. He is the person who moves the Speed Indicator Device (SID) to a different location each month.

SID records speed and time of day so is useful for monitoring any changes in traffic flows and for pinpointing the times of excess speed. His latest report is that: The Street averaged 88 vehicles a day over a month in September-October, 48 Vehicles were recorded as driving in excess of 30mph. The highest recorded was 34mph.

Presmere Road, during a month in August-September, had an average of 93 vehicles a day. In that period 69 vehicles were being driven in excess of 30mph. The highest speed recorded was 39mph.

## Pettistree Community Fund

So much has happened since the well-attended Platinum Jubilee events. The organisers were able to report that all expenses were covered and resulted in a small excess of £365. This will start a new Community Fund for donations at future events. The money will be held in the Parish Council's account as a reserve and ring-fenced for future use.

Raffle tickets raised £348 and contributions at the BBQ were £272. Sales of the horse brasses amounted to £837 Thirty brasses plus a few leathers were not sold, worth a total of £242.55. They can still be bought from Maggie Hallett and any remainder will be kept for prizes at raffles or other events. A donation of £150 for the children's brasses came from County Councillor Alexander Nicholl's Locality fund. Craft and art sales were donated to the Church which also collected £84 in donations: a total of £205.56.

A highly successful series of events organised by volunteers culminated in a Bring & Share lunch and a Heritage Exhibition. Next in our sights: the Coronation. Pettistree Heritage will compile an album of photographs, meeting notes and reports as a historical record of events, using Pettistree People as one of the sources.

The Jubilee celebrations were exactly right and superbly timed. What better 'thank you' could the nation have devised? Royal visit planning is always exceptional and the Queen's leadership would have played a large part. Assistance from willing helpers across the country was also part of that national effort. In Pettistree the bellringers gave us a half muffled respectful peal and Nick Beagley ensured the new tower flag was flown appropriately – ed



## Autumn on the Farm

### ...and is there honey for Pettistree?

*James Hayward*

I'm very pleased to say that most winter crops are now in and coming up well. But our water-starved Sugar Beet has not fared well and the first yields were well below the break-even point. There's rarely a year where everything goes well, so we'll just have to take it on the chin.

The weather and other external circumstances have led to decisions to reduce risk for the business in the year ahead. The huge surge in energy prices is having an impact because gas is a crucial component in fertiliser production. Fertiliser costs have increased fourfold and the rise in prices for fuel and sprays means overheads will be magnitudes greater than in the past. This has increased price of food. Crop production is largely governed by the weather, so the increase in base costs mean that we have a roughly 3 x greater risk to production, without any change in pay off. You might see a few stressed farmers around!

The imperative is to minimise financial risks and optimise operations to maximise yield. We've switched from expensive ammonium-nitrate-based liquid fertilisers to (marginally less expensive) solid urea + ammonium sulphate. To spread this solid granular fertiliser we've had to purchase a spreader. The overall spend, though, is less than it would have been had we stuck to what we've been doing in the past.

We've also made an investment in robots to map fields on a plant-by-plant basis to gain a far more accurate picture of every field. Using The Small Robot Company's equipment, we hope that, in time, we'll be able to apply fertiliser, herbicides and fungicides directly to where they are needed and in precise quantities. That should hugely reduce the volume needed, reduce costs and achieve a far more environmentally sustainable approach to farming. We look forward to seeing the SRC robots about on the farm in Spring 2023!

Diversification is an important part of spreading risk and we've planted willow trees for cricket bats at Fowles Watering and put in a new paddock for ponies in Wickham Market. We've also provided a home for a small number of beehives in Pettistree. If anyone else would like to get in touch with innovative, sustainable ideas, please don't hesitate to reach out!

The ground was so incredibly dry through the summer we had to re-design our cropping plan. Rather than 90 Hectares of Oil Seed Rape, we've planted just 25Ha, but five of those hectares have succumbed to Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle against which we have no defence. They have been re-planted with Winter Wheat. The remaining area has been planted into winter beans, which have gone in very nicely, and sugar beet will be planted in the Spring.

A new programme will map the carbon footprint of the farm as we work towards being Carbon Zero. Renewable energy, planting trees and changing our farming methods should help us achieve this in fairly short time and set the benchmark for other businesses in Suffolk.

Many of you will notice that we're putting up some new grain stores at our Whitehouse yard. I hope this is non-intrusive and keeps farm/haulage traffic out of the village. They should allow us to store our cereals more easily and our machinery will finally have a home indoors. Then the chaps on the farm can stop badgering me about having to leave things outside! I'll leave you with a request – if you see a stressed farmer in the pub, please buy him (or her) a beer!

## Bellringing News

Mary Garner



News of the Queen's death seemed to stop everyone in their tracks. The muffles were fitted, with thanks to Chris McArthur and Nick Beagley, as we were away.

On 14 September a half-muffled quarter was rung: 1296 Doubles (2 methods & 2 principles), Treble Pippa Moss, 2. Mary Garner, 3. Mike Cowling, 4. Mark Ogden, 5. Mike Whitby (C), 6. Chris Garner, with the following footnote: *"To mourn the passing of our most Gracious Sovereign Lady, Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Defender of the Faith. Long live the King."*

A short period of general ringing followed enabling 13 present to ring in the late Queen's memory. This footnote was added *"Tonight's practice was in honour of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and to honour His Majesty King Charles III. The bells were rung half-muffled."*

A further quarter was rung following the service on Sunday 18 September, with the following footnote *"Rung half- muffled in thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and for Harvest tide."*

A bell was tolled on 19 September during the hour preceding Her late Majesty's funeral. Since then, ringing on Wednesdays and Sundays has continued regularly. Although the number of ringers listed under our tower is only small we host a busy practice night, usually 12-15, with many of same visitors each week. Back on 18 June in King's Lynn the Suffolk Guild took part in the East of England Ten Bell Striking Competition. Suffolk won. Two of the band are listed under Pettistree and a further two ring regularly on our practice night. We are hosting the Ridgman Trophy for the next few months.

The muffles were replaced for Remembrance on the 11 and 13 November. A quarter peal was rung on the 11<sup>th</sup> 1260 Plain Bob Doubles: Treble Ray Lewis, 2. Mary Garner (C), 3. Mark Ogden, 4. Chris McArthur, 5. Mike Cowling, 6. Chris Garner. Rung half-muffled preceding the Act of Remembrance at Pettistree War Memorial.

There is a national initiative, "Ring for the King". Nationwide it would be wonderful if all the church bells could be rung simultaneously on Coronation Day. To do that many, many people need to learn. Like riding a bike, it can take a little while but once you have learned to handle a bell you can be part of the team. You don't require strength but should be able to raise your arms above your head easily. It's useful to have a bit of height so we say it could suit anyone from nine to ninety.

We'd love to teach some more to ring. If you would like to find out more or give it a try please contact me, Mary Garner, 01728 746097, 07791 585127, [marysgarner@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marysgarner@tiscali.co.uk) I'm looking forward to hearing from you.



*Practice night at Pettistree Church*

*The Ridgman Trophy is awarded to the winner of a striking competition on ten bells, held annually in May or June.*



## My Footpath Journey

Judy Steventon

It was delightful that shortly after moving to Pettistree, Tony Franklin invited us, with others, to join them walking the Suffolk Coastal Footpath. It has come full circle now as Pettistree with Loudham Parish Council invited me to become their Footpath Warden. I walk all the parish footpaths regularly and have reported several issues to the County Council on its on-line rights of way 'report an issue' tool. Do get in touch with me if there are footpath issues to resolve. I will do my best to help.

Walking, with the opportunity to embrace the great outdoors, has always been a passion. As a teenager on my first independent holiday loose from parents, I set off on a walking adventure.



In the past and with my husband, I have enjoyed many long-distance paths, each one unique and with wonderful sights. On the Ridgeway, I learnt to travel as light as you can. One's most valued and necessary item is comfortable footwear. Through the decades we have also enjoyed the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path, the West Highland Way, Southern Upland Coast to Coast, the Dingle Way and parts of the South West Coastal Path and Offa's Dyke.

We have enjoyed long distance walking in friendly groups in Tasmania, New Zealand and outback Australia. We have challenged ourselves with some high altitude trekking in Mongolia, Ladakh, the Indian Himalayas, Gokyo Lakes and Everest Base Camp in Nepal and the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru.

With all the great trips to look back on, nothing pleases me more than opening my door each day and heading off around the nooks and crannies of Pettistree and Loudham with their wonderful hidden footpaths.

*This stile is very difficult and needs an extra step, or longer legs!*





## Jeff's bench

When Jeff Hallett decided to resign from the chairmanship of Pettistree Parish Council in May some of us wondered what we would do without him. Jeff and wife, Maggie, have been at the centre of village events for many years. They now live in Wickham Market but are still very much attached to Pettistree and the friends they have here. Jeff is still a parish councillor after 23 years and was chairman for 18 years. We didn't feel we could let that kind of public service go without a pat on the back or a bench in the churchyard. Hence, Jeff's bench, which will be placed soon when the weather improves.

Councillor Chris Cook took on the project.

"PC Chairman is an arduous job involving many different duties. For much of this time he bore the brunt of the work, corresponding with the planning department, representing this village at numerous meetings and generally ensuring that our Council meetings ran smoothly – and legally!

"His fellow councillors felt that such service should be recognised and it soon became apparent that many villagers felt the same way. But how best to mark this service? The first suggestion was to plant a tree on the village green but a quick investigation revealed the existence of an underground BT fibre broadband junction box. It put paid to that idea. Eventually, it was decided that a hardwood bench in the churchyard would be appropriate, a solution with which Jeff was pleased.

The next job was to source the bench and following a suggestion from William Notcutt, Sue Jones and I visited the Genesis Orwell Mencap factory in

## NEW COUNCILLORS

Councillor TOM OVER and wife, Alice, were married in Pettistree church and have two children. Tom is farm manager at Westrope Farming Ltd and they have lived at Home Farm since 2018. He is Pettistree's hedge cutter.

He says: "I am very passionate about protecting and preserving our beautiful village for future generations and am particularly interested in the potential impacts of Sizewell C and what can be done to mitigate them. I take great pride in keeping the village looking smart without affecting local wildlife."

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Councillor JAMES CLARKE has lived in the area for five years. His background is business development, marketing and account management in the shipping industry and the legal sector. He says: "I have genuinely enjoyed my time here but more importantly been made to feel very welcome by residents. I feel with my energy and motivation now is the right time to get involved with local projects and give something back to the community that so warmly welcomed me here when I arrived.

Ipswich to see what was available there. The idea of supporting the Mencap charity was also appealing. We found a very modern workshop making high quality products and quickly decided on a Brandon bench in oroko, a sustainable hardwood. We also thought it sensible to order some security fittings at the same time. Sue undertook to arrange for a simple brass plaque to be made and, thanks to the generosity of many villagers, sufficient money had been collected to cover all the costs."

*Hopefully, a picture of Jeff plus bench in the churchyard will appear in the next issue -ed*

## Worth noting

The Disability Advice Service, at The Square in Martlesham Heath, offers help for people with disabilities, their families and carers. 'Warm Homes Healthy People' is a Suffolk multi-agency partnership that offers grants to help reduce energy use in the home. The Green Home Grant is available where the Energy Proficiency Certificate is D or below and the house holders' income is below £30,000 a year.

Stepping Home from Hospital is designed to avoid people going into hospital or help with being discharged by providing housing support. For more information, go to:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/energy-efficiency-and-warm-homes/stepping-home-from-hospital/>

The East Suffolk Cost of Living Community Grant Fund has been set up to enable voluntary organisations and community groups to support people who are struggling because of increases in the cost of living. Grants are for activities delivered by community, voluntary and social enterprise organisations or Town/Parish Councils. The purpose of the grant is to keep people warm, well-fed, safe and connected, with a particular focus on a reduction of incidents of respiratory conditions this Winter.

## Sizewell C Latest

The Government's Autumn Statement had news, in particular, for Suffolk: £700million for Sizewell C. The project is finding it tough to attract investors so the cash is for a confidence boost.

A final decision on whether to build the power plant will be taken in 2023. The Government has already confirmed that it could be built under the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) funding model intended to drive down the costs to consumers of new nuclear plants.

According to EDF, a recent opinion poll conducted in East Suffolk showed that 61% of people supported Sizewell C while 24% were opposed. Two thirds (66%) believed that it would bring jobs and training to the area, and a majority (59%) agreed that the benefits would outweigh temporary disruption during construction.

Funny, I never seem to be included in these polls  
- ed

## News from District Councillor Carol Poulter

East Suffolk Council will begin engagement with local communities following the launch of a consultation on two major energy projects.

National Grid Ventures (NGV) and National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) are consulting on the EuroLink and Sea Link projects.

Sea Link is a domestic interconnector between Suffolk and Kent. EuroLink is an international interconnector between the Netherlands and Suffolk.

The informal consultations will end on 18 December. East Suffolk Council will be inviting parish and town council affected to comment on the proposals.

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**Suffolk County Council has an online survey for you to tell them what services are important as the council sets its budget for next year. The survey is open until the end of November.**



May you  
never be so  
grown up  
that you  
don't search  
the sky on  
Christmas  
Eve X

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## About Pettistree People

The Parish Council funds this newsletter but it is **Your** record of news and events. Do contact me with ideas for articles and pictures. Or anything you think the Parish Council or the editor should know.

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