



Pettistree People

Issue 98 March 2023

Pettistree Parish Council Newsletter

In this Issue

Parish Council Report
Burns Night
New woodland
More to life than bagpipes
A Christmas tragedy
The salt path of Pettistree
My place in the Churchyard
A vineyard for Pettistree
Vicar on a mission

Diary Dates

8 March - table tennis at the village hall 5.30pm
23 March - Parish Council meeting
5 April – table tennis 5.30pm
20 April - Annual Parish meeting at the village hall 7pm
4 May - Council elections –
May Annual Parish Council meeting (AGM)

Coronation Events

6 May - Coronation
7 May - The Big Lunch BBQ at the village hall
8 May - The Big Help Out Litter Pick & Tidy Up



Maggie and Jeff Hallett trying out Jeff's new bench see page 11



New woodland is being created in Java Lodge Road with the help of volunteers.

See page 6

Parish Council Chair's Report

Sue Jones

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll still get run over if you just sit there." Will Rogers, American satirist and politician

I realised the truth of this on a Saturday morning in Grundisburgh. Gathered was a large crowd of people from parish councils across East Suffolk. On the agenda was a simple question: how to stop the continuing ruination of our rural villages. The stories came thick and fast and became 'the war stories' of the past few years as developers moved into small villages, with the blessing of district council planners, to build huge estates off single track roads and without any interest in existing residents.

As we know, Pettistree has its own war story. Vigorous local objection to what has been described as the 'land snatch' for the new Hopkins development on Main Road counted for not a brick. East Suffolk Council re-designated Pettistree from 'countryside' to 'a small village' without consultation with the people who have the largest investment here: the homeowners. Similar and worse experiences were in evidence at the Grundisburgh meeting, the purpose of which was to start a campaign to ramp up the power of parish councils and residents. Council planners have to accept that their influential stakeholders are not confined to landowners and developers.

The agreement of those present at the meeting was that a new East Suffolk Planning Alliance should be established to provide a united voice for our rural communities. We want a top seat at the table when district planners meet to discuss planning applications for large developments on green fields.

The general themes of the Grundisburgh meeting were that: the estates are not for meeting local housing needs, too little account is taken of the impact on villages and schools, medical centres and roads and community concerns are dismissed as NIMBYism.

Our famous Suffolk resident, Griff Rhys Jones, is also outraged at the authorities' attitude.

As he put it in a recent article for the East Anglian Times: "I think we should alert people to the desecration of the countryside in East Anglia". And "...it would seem that beauty, modesty, history, continuity, romance and charm and liveability everywhere is increasingly under threat".

Happily, Michael Gove seems to agree. The Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing & Communities issued a letter to all MPs on 5 December 2022 about planning control in England.

In it were details of the changes he is making to the planning system and what is in his consultation document: the National Planning Policy Framework.

In particular, an end to the obligation on local authorities for a rolling 5-year supply of land for housing if they have up-to-date Local Plans. Communities, he says "... will have a much more powerful incentive to get involved in drawing up local plans. They can protect the important landscapes they cherish, direct homes to the places they want and adopt design codes to ensure the houses they want to see. Once a plan is in place, these changes mean that they will no longer be exposed to speculative developments on which they have less of a say".

The letter goes on: "local authorities will not be expected to build developments at densities that would be wholly out of character with existing areas or which would lead to a significant change of character" and "I will increase community protections afforded by a neighbourhood plan against developer appeals."

Pettistree has been advised to develop its own Neighbourhood Plan (see page 15). If we had one, the district council would have to take it into account when deciding on planning applications and, crucially, its Local Plan. The last one of those paved the way (literally) for the second development on Main Road.

No village should want to stop all new development but nor do we want to live in a place quite different to that we bought into, and with infrastructure that can't cope with additional population.



Road closed

A man, he came the other day,
and put some bollards in the way,
'Road is Closed', the sign did say,
he got in van and went away.

I wonder what they're going to do,
who will arrive, a chap or two,
replace the manhole for a new,
or fix a leaky pipe with glue.

Time went on, no one did show,
the reason why, I could not know,
then suddenly, the signs did go,
my curiosity, did grow.

Then after that, a man did come,
and parked in road, work had begun,
without a sign, there was not one,
he just got on, repair job done...

Olivia M J Smith

Lots of lovely food and Christmas carols led by Rita Smith on the piano and two merry gentlemen, Dave Caudwell and Jim Jarvie, in festive gear. That was [Pettistree's Christmas event](#) at the village hall. Solos were heard from Chris Cook, David Harris and Betty Beale as the well-attended, bring and share lunch burst into song. A jolly time was had and many thanks given to everyone who took part.

Anyone for Table Tennis?

Alun Davies

The first table tennis get together in the village hall was in January and it was great fun. Jim Jarvie and I wheeled our table tennis tables to the hall in the afternoon causing not too many traffic problems. The hall heats up quickly which was a relief!

Ten village table tennis players turned up and one bell ringer from Woodbridge, Henry from TFS the photography store by the station. The table tennis was very casual, even the novices played well, and everybody swapped round after one game. We asked everyone to bring their own refreshments as the Greyhound was closed. Cath Caudwell's amazing Mary Berry caramel cake was a treat.

The session on 15 February continued at the pub.





“The wide world is all before us – but a world with friends” ...sorry Rabbie



Back with a Burns fling

“Some hae meat and canna eat,
and some wad eat that want it; But
we hae meat, and we can eat, Sae
let the Lord be thankit.”



Zoe Davies and Jim Jarvie



Fair fa' your honest sonsie face

Jim and Pauline Jarvie

After a couple of years we were able to hear the immortal words of Robert Burn's address to the haggis. Reluctant to hold an event in 2022 as the lockdown rules had just been relaxed, we met again on 11 February. More than fifty residents and friends attended our Burns Night in the Village Hall.

The evening started with a toast to absent friends. Sadly, our resident piper Rod Caird, passed away in 2021. John Speedman who took on the role as our 'clan chief' and eloquently addressed the haggis had also passed away and is sorely missed by us all.

Pauline spent all of Saturday cooking cock-a-leekie soup, haggis and 'neeps - my hands were aching having peeled vegetables for a couple of hours. After the Selkirk grace was given by Rob Rose, Pauline, Cath, Dave, and Saska served the soup, the main meal and dessert. It was like a well-oiled machine.

I piped the haggis, carried by Ron Bossingham, to the top table to a Burn's tune 'A Man's a man; I appreciate probably not a politically correct tune! Helen Stollery volunteered to address the haggis, press ganged by me. She delivered the address with passion and humour and quite rightly she received loud and long applause. Well done Helen and there is no escape for you now! Following the meal we served typsy lairds prepared by Rita Smith, Chris Spinks and Sue Jones Then the tables and chairs were moved for our attempt at Scottish country dancing. Jeff Hallett and Chris Cook were our DJs for the night and Cath Caudwell took on her usual role as a 'caller'. The dancing was not our finest hour and perhaps we should have done it before the drinking started.

There are so many people we need to thank who made our Burn's Night such an eventful and fun evening. Alan and Evelyn Whitfield were our 'bouncers' on the night. Maggie Hallett and Chris Spinks organised the raffle and we had some fantastic prizes including a wonderful Scot's themed

True Grit

Bends like ice rinks. Pettistree's blind bends became even more problematic when the temperatures dropped before Christmas. Thankfully there was grit in the six bins dotted throughout the parish and three volunteers, councillor James Clarke, Mick Hilton and Marc of KindWater went out with shovels to spread the grit around. Suffolk County Council will insure local volunteers if they have names on their records. It was a team effort. Councillor Jeff Hallett, then went out in slippery conditions to check the boxes and order more grit from SCC. Thanks too to Julian Hobday for loaning us one of his staff.

An extra grit bin at the junction of Byng Hall Road where it meets High Farm Lane will be funded by the Parish Council. This was requested by local residents.

Resilience Crew

As the gritting demonstrated, we have people in the village willing to step in to help with small tasks that have an immediate and useful impact. We need more volunteers. If you are happy to join the *Pettistree Resilience Crew* please let a parish councillor know by text or email.

If we have the names of volunteers, we can ensure the crew has insurance cover. The jobs will be very occasional and may involve clearing the verge gripes to drain the roads of excess water, litter picking, erecting and dismantling the marquee, setting up for a village event. A good way to get to know your neighbours...

hamper donated by Claire Signy. In addition, thanks go to Dave and Cath for the tatties and of course Pauline for cooking and choreographing the meal.

As with previous years, we decided to donate any profits to the wonderful local charity, Riding for The Disabled. Thanks to the generosity of the villagers and friends, the raffle and payment for the tickets we have been able to donate £890.

New Pettistree woodland

Work has started on planting a new community wood in Pettistree: The Java Lodge Spinney. The land has been made available by local farmer and parish councillor, James Hayward, who mucked in to help volunteers make a start.

Led by Wickham Market parish councillor, Anne Westover, a team of nine set out on a chilled and windy day to make fast work of planting 48 trees and hedging: a mix of oak, horse chestnut, field maple, dogwood and hawthorn. Native and cultivated fruit and nut trees will complement the apple orchard in the churchyard and be planted on the edges of the woodland and near the public footpath in Java Lodge Road.

Anne, a landscape architect, and volunteers have been planting hedges and trees throughout Wickham Market parish for more than 20 years. They were joined on the Pettistree project by Dale Mayhew, Alan Steventon and David Harris. District Councillor Carol Poulter offered funding to cover the cost of stakes and hedge plants.

Councillor Hayward said: "I've given a free licence to plant trees and harvest fruit as villagers wish. From my perspective, having an orchard/spinney on that piece of land is something I'll personally enjoy and is a thank you to Pettistree for putting up with my tractors and mud on the roads." More volunteers will be needed in the future to finish the planting and maintain the Spinney.



Volunteer Dale Mayhew and Cllr James Hayward

Good news on footpaths

Judy Steventon, Footpaths Warden

Footpaths 15 and 20 have been well cleared from the stile over Byng Brook, by Byng Brook House, to Byng Hall. This follows a report to Suffolk County Council that the path was impassable. I shall continue to contact SCC regarding the hazardous state of the stile at FP 15.

Footpath 27, the bridge over the roadside ditch off the street by Strawtops, was reported to me as very slippery. It was particularly hazardous if taking the dog for a walk. This has now been wire-netted by a volunteer in line with the other local wooden bridges.



MORE TO LIFE THAN BAGPIPES!

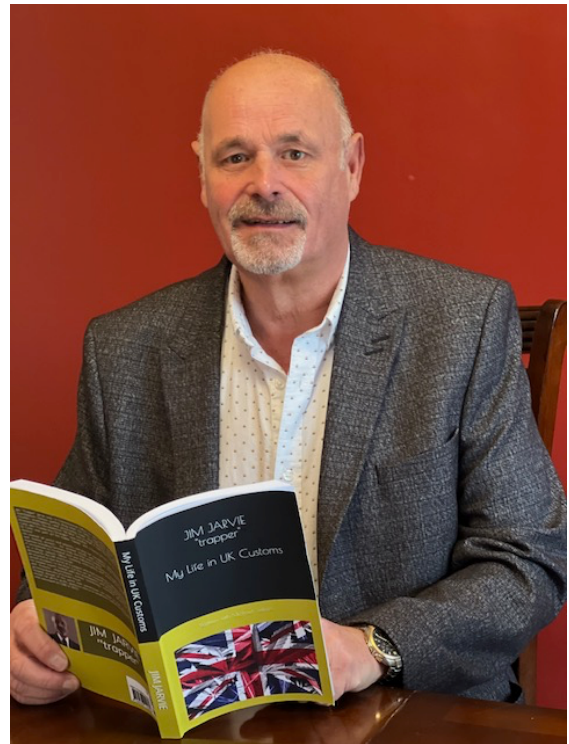
Jim (Trapper) Jarvie

Some of you will have heard my talks on a 40- year career as a drugs and border crime investigator in Customs and Excise and Border Force. Now you can read about it too! My book: *My Life in HM Customs* was published just before Christmas. This is how it happened...

I retired in 2012 and, as well as learning to play the bagpipes, I was taking on the occasional consultancy job. Chatting to Jenny Barnes, when she was out walking her dog Snoopy, she asked me if I would give a talk about my work to Ufford WI. I had to look up the best way of presenting to an audience and opted for Powerpoint. It was a steep learning curve for me but using images from court exhibits and Google eventually I created a presentation. I think it went down well and I subsequently gave talks at Dennington and Wickham Market WI and Parham village halls.

Steve Hines then approached me to give a talk to the Probus Business group and he suggested I get in touch with Carnival Cruises (Cunard and P&O) to explore the possibility of speaking on cruise ships. Pauline and I had never been on a cruise, so we were reluctant to do that. But after a lot of badgering by Steve I emailed Carnival and to my utter amazement I was asked to attend an audition...luvvie! in Southampton. A few days later we were offered a 10 day cruise on the Oriana from Southampton to Venice.

We weren't expecting a luxurious cabin but were taken aback when shown to our tiny inside cabin in the crew's section. We had to attend watertight door drills and I started to think "what have I done!". Eventually we did get used to the accommodation and had started to enjoy ourselves, but I was a bit shocked on the first night when the compere announced that I was giving a talk in the theatre the following morning. Subsequent cruises on Cunard were a different story.



After giving one of my talks Pauline was approached by a biographer, Michal Sellers, to see if I would be willing to write a book. "You better ask him" was her reply. After a long chat with Michael, I agreed I would think about it. He told me he had written a biography for Derek Fowlds, the assistant to Basil Brush. That swung it for me!

Michael lives in Frome in Somerset so regular meetings were off the agenda. I purchased a cassette recorder - remember those! - and some tapes and just spoke about my experiences. Michael typed up the narrative and eventually a draft book had taken shape. It was sent to a number of publishers, but the world and his mother were writing books during lockdown so we received no offers. We eventually opted to self-publish with Amazon and just before Christmas I received the first sample copies.

Some of my former colleagues had a field day asking whether it was in the fiction or non-fiction section, and one said he was buying it for his granddaughter who "loves fairy stories!". That's showbiz. I wrote the book so my children and grandchildren have a record of what I did for a job. It is available on Amazon, just search for Jim Jarvie and the book will come up. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Christmas Day 2022

And a pregnant Red Poll

Rita Smith

Christmas Day. I'm organising our contribution to the lunch we're having with George and his family in Norwich. Stuffing (page 202 of my Mum's Radiation Cookery Book for Gas Cookers), and brussels sprouts with bacon and chestnuts, when Dick bursts through the back door. "We won't be going to Norwich" he says, "Jessica's in a right state. Looks as if she's gone into labour – at least one month early. Come and help me get her inside." I wipe my hands, throw on coat, boots and gloves, and get to the meadow to see Jessica in real distress.

She's running around the field with her tail held high, looking as if she's trying to escape the pain in her belly. She needs to be indoors. We try to funnel her into the cow-shed, but she's having none of it, and ends up tucking herself deep into the bushes on the far side of the field where Alice, her grandmother, comes to protect her.

We need help. Dick says that the person he'd most like to call is Sam, but as he's not well, we can't. He then calls George to tell him what's happening, but unwittingly dials Sam's number. We're relieved, but embarrassed that Sam says he'll come straight away, and the three of us try to encourage Jessica out of her 'nest' and into the cowshed – but fail. From experience, Dick knows that nothing will happen with Jessica for at least three hours, so we decide to join George and family in Norwich, have a dog walk along the river, exchange presents, hand over the food, and return home to an unplanned egg and bacon Christmas lunch. We check on Jessica several times during the afternoon, but she stays firmly in her hide-away. At evening time, with no further progress being made with the birth, we have to leave the mother-to-be and hope that she'll be inside at breakfast-time.

The next morning, Boxing Day, we go to the meadow, meet Sam as arranged, and fortunately find both cows indoors, though there's still no sign of a calf. Dick decides that the birth cannot wait any longer, so rolls up his sleeves and proceeds to

Our famous pub

Open only a few months and our Greyhound Inn is famous. The *Sunday Times* claims it to be a favourite of actress Keira Knightley and its columnist, India Knight – they may need a round table – writes that she "is itching to go to the Greyhound Inn" because she recently interviewed Ruth Rogers at the River Café "and they all said chef, Harry McKenzie was probably the most talented cook to pass through their kitchen".

Meanwhile, the 14th Estrella Damm Top 100 Gastropubs placed it at 87. Woodbridge's Unruly Pig made second so maybe there's a competition to be had...?

feel inside the cow. He finds the head and the two front legs, but can't feel the calf moving, so he proceeds to secure chains to the legs, and starts to pull whilst I keep the head-end secure.

The operation is made more difficult as the cow is having no contractions, and Dick is pretty sure that the calf is dead. He asks me to phone Stephen in Earl Soham and Jim two doors away, and they come quickly to help with the pulling. As it's becoming impossible to move the calf, Sam tries another idea, whereby he attaches a thinner rope to the feet, and secures the other end round a post, using that as a lever. But the calf is jammed tight. Jessica, by this time, has had more than enough and collapses to the ground. It's now impossible to do any more pulling, and we start to consider a next step. A caesarean operation? Dick couldn't do it by himself and the nearest vet who may be able to is in Beccles. Birthing a dead calf in a mucky cow-shed did not bode well, and after much deliberation, the sad decision was taken to have Jessica put down.

I was upstairs at 1.00 o'clock when I heard the thud of a gun – a much lower sound than the usual gun shots we hear. Philip Clarke, the knacker-man, had been.

Renovation result!

The former Sunday School next to Pettistree's church has a nearly new roof. Leaks have been a problem for a while, but a new timber structure and weatherproof membrane are now in place and the original tiles have been put back.

Church warden, Kevin Blyth told PP: "Some of the tiles had slipped during last



Winter but when we looked at repair it became clear that the wooden structure was rotten." The cost to the Church Fund was £11,000.

Dealing with the main problem at the Victorian building, variously known as the Church Room or the Parish Room, means floors and internal walls can now be checked for defects. The interior will need re-decoration and some volunteers and donations may be needed. The Parochial Church Council is considering a long list of repairs to the church and has limited funds left.

The Parish Room is currently used for PCC and parish council meetings. Wider community use would require some thought to be given to insurance and catering potential. The room was renovated in 1982 in memory of Phyllis Joy Larter and fundraising between 2007 and 2009 enabled the cloakroom porch to be converted into a wc.

The building was built on the site of an old cottage in 1891 and was used for Sunday School until the 1980s. Many Christian churches had classrooms, usually attached to the church. The schools appeared in the 18th century to provide education for working children and reading classes for adults.

Can we turn this lovely old building back into a reading room with some comfortable sofas and a welcome place for residents to meet and socialise?

Church News

Maggie Hallett

It was wonderful to be back to normal for the Christmas celebrations after two years of Covid distancing. The church was decorated beautifully. Suffolk Plants via William Notcutt once again donated a Christmas tree that the Beagley family decorated, and the usual services were held.

The monthly Friday Communion services restarted on 17 February and the next one will be on Friday 17 March at 10.30am. All are welcome to these relatively short services, after which we enjoy coffee and cake in the Parish room.

At the January meeting of the PCC it was agreed that Evensong services will be held once a month during the summer months from May to September.

Unfortunately, progress is still slow on the redecoration work of the church. The DAC (Diocesan planning authority) is sympathetic to our wish to remove and then replaster the walls, but will have to consult Historic England, The Society for the protection of Ancient Buildings and the Church Building Council! Meanwhile, other urgent work to conserve the building is needed such as netting over the louvres in the tower, repairing cracks in the lead on the tower roof, do some monitoring for some of the cracks and clear and rod the drains. The PCC has authorised the church architect to proceed with arranging for this work to be done.

Bellringing News

Mary Garner

There was much joyous ringing in December in the run up to Christmas, in particular a quarter peal before the Carol Service on December 18th, in addition to our weekly Wednesday evening quarter peal attempts prior to practices. Sadly, we were unable to welcome 2023 at Midnight on 31 December but the passing of the old year was marked with a peal in the afternoon and the New Year was welcomed in style with a quarter peal on Sunday 1 January.

Saturday 31 December in 2 hours 38 minutes, 5040 Surprise Minor (7 methods)

1. Katherine J Eagle	2. Ruth Munnings	3. Michael J Cowling
4. P Mark Ogden	5. Thomas G Scase	6. Michael G Whitby (C)

35th Anniversary of the first peal on the rehung bells.

Sunday 1 January 1272 Norwich Surprise Minor

1. Mike Cowling	2. Hilary Stearn	3. Peter Harper
4. Kate Eagle	5. Richard Munnings	6. Mike Whitby (C)

We have managed to ring for every Sunday service and continued to meet on Wednesdays. Now into February, with the days drawing out and the weather less cold our practices are becoming a little busier again.

On a practical note our bells were inspected at the beginning of December. All was well, a few nuts and bolts were tightened and some of the odd struckness dealt with. I'm still awed and feel privileged that we use kit every week that has witnessed so much. Our oldest bells, the 4th & 5th, were cast around 1410, possibly in the churchyard, amazingly more than 600 years ago. Our newest bells were cast in 1848, not long into Queen Victoria's reign.

We held our AGM over Zoom at the beginning December, we looked back on the year, re-elected the officers and planned future events. The first of these was the Annual Dinner. Twenty five of us sat down to a three course meal at the beginning of February. The Annual Award, Mary's Plate, went to John Horsnell. John learned to ring at Wickham Market but has also become a regular service and practice night ringer in Pettistree.

The next activity to plan is ringing for the coronation and the outing in July.



Meanwhile 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 more 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 more people to ring. If you would like to find out more or give it a try please make contact with me, Mary Garner, 01728 746097, 07791 585127, marysgarner@tiscali.co.uk I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

My Place in the Churchyard

Jeff Hallett

Not many people can say that they have a named place in the churchyard before they are dead. This may sound like a gloomy topic but in fact it gives me great pleasure to have been given the privilege of having a lovely wooden bench-seat positioned in the churchyard with my name on its brass plaque.

As my 27 years on Pettistree Parish Council is coming to an end, including 18 years as Chairman, I was very surprised to learn that unbeknown to me, there had been a collection in the village and the bench had been purchased. Permission was given for the seat be sited in the Churchyard, where it was felt it would be able to provide a welcome resting place for walkers and other visitors.

As most people know, the Hallett family lived at The Laurels for 38 years before downsizing to Wickham Market. Pettistree has always been a very welcoming village and we became more and more involved in the organising of events and upkeep of the Church and its grounds, including the ancient meadow.

The administration of the Parish Council has become more bureaucratic and I think there is a danger of councillors having to concentrate so much on

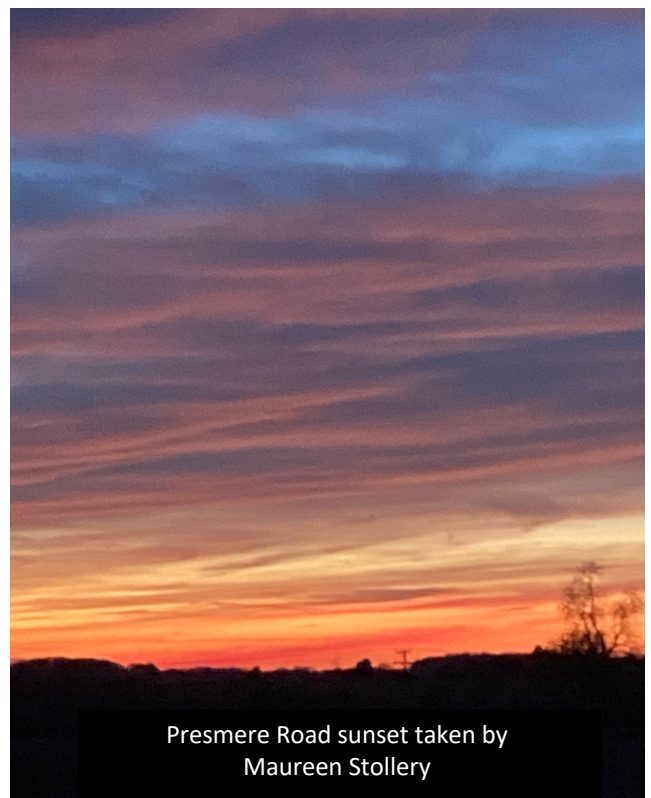
complying with the myriad of regulations and record-keeping, that their commitment to the welfare of the community and its activities is put at risk. We do not have a parish clerk at present, so I am undertaking some of the tasks until I leave the Parish Council completely at the election on 4 May. I have been sent 17-page nomination forms for each candidate planning to remain a parish councillor. We are fortunate in usually being able to fill all seven seats on the Parish Council. If the number of candidates equals the number of vacancies, the election will be declared 'uncontested' and the village will be spared the inconvenience and expense of a full election procedure.

I'm able to finish this note on a more optimistic theme because I feel the Parish Council is in good hands. If the election goes as expected, the new council will have a significantly reduced age profile while retaining a good amount of previous experience. Please work with the Parish Council to share your wants and suggestions by talking to councillors, and especially attending the Annual Parish Meeting

Church News continued...

Many will have noticed that the churchyard has been improved during the past year and the PCC are very grateful to Dick Smith who arranged for the community workers to attend regularly. They have cleared a lot of scrub, brambles and ivy from the periphery of the churchyard and from old tombstones on the South side and have cut back the hedge. Thanks also to Dave Caudwell for dealing with the bonfire.

STOP PRESS Sadly the vicar has been 'head-hunted' to go to work in Hong-Kong. After much thought and prayer the family will be leaving towards the end of June, so more details will follow in the next edition.



Presmere Road sunset taken by
Maureen Stollery



Business News

One of the surprising things about our country village is how many businesses it accommodates. As they are part of Pettistree we thought we would find out how they are getting on and who the people are. We're starting with the very popular [KindWater](#) of Presmere Road

Julian Hobday, Managing Director

We started our water softening business in early 2002 from the front room of my then home in Byng Brook Chapel in Ufford. Four years later we moved to our current base in Water Tower Yard next to Joe Arbon's animal menagerie where chickens were occasional visitors to our office.

As anyone living here will know, the mains water is exceptionally hard and the need for our product is high and increasing. We were approached by Kinetico, the world leaders in water softener technology, to become their main dealer for East Anglia and we have been one of their top three dealers for the past 15 years.

They tell us our customer satisfaction level is unrivalled anywhere in their world despite post-covid shipping issues, the invasion of Ukraine, energy cost increases and historic underinvestment in Western European capacity. It has taken loyalty and team effort from our staff of 15.

We deliver salt locally and during the first lockdown we extended deliveries to homes and businesses nationwide. Everything from full lorry loads direct from the manufacturer to a major food producer or retailer to single pallets to hospitals and leisure centres.

In 2013 we bought the premises and upgraded the office section to improve comfort and energy efficiency, earning us Silver status membership of the Suffolk Carbon Charter. Last year we bought the neighbouring beet pad and turned it into a car park and improved access to our yard. At the same time we replaced the collapsed drain running under the former access to the beet pad, although I suspect that there is still a blockage downstream.



Amanda Tyrell, Operations Manager and Julian Hobday

A new gate will deter further break-ins we Hope and give automatic timed access at 8am for delivery lorries. We're also going to plant native hedging along the line of the former hedge and across the former beet pad access, to provide an attractive screen. There will be a couple of native trees in the hedge-line and we'll reseed the verge and plant daffodils. Beyond that we're hoping to add a bicycle shed and a new barn to provide a better work environment for our packing team.

We inherited the buildings, and I can't say they're attractive in such a beautiful village so we're exploring options to replace the ageing roofing and cladding materials. We're looking at the possibility of changing the roofline so that it intrudes less on our neighbours and can support solar panels.

We all love working in Pettistree and are always open to suggestions for improvement and how we can give something back to the village for being such good neighbours.

[A link with Venice](#)

The Republic of Venice was active in salt trading and products from the 7th century. KindWater trades in salt for many uses and must source from abroad when necessary. Our own salt trader prides itself on being able to find salt to meet the wide range of uses.

On the Farm – Pettistree’s first vineyard!

James Hayward

Winter is generally a fairly quiet time on the farm. It’s a chance to make repairs, check stocks and plan for the coming spring. The weather has been relatively kind; rains are replenishing the water table, which was desperately depleted last summer, yet it has been dry enough to allow us to get on with some winter cultivations. The couple of cold snaps should hopefully have knocked the aphid population back. It’s been a remarkably dry January and February, so the rain dances will need to come out shortly if that doesn’t change.

Along with the weather, macro-economic conditions have also cooled somewhat, allowing fuel and fertiliser prices to come back a little. With the situation in Ukraine looking more likely every day to deteriorate, we’ve taken the opportunity of slightly lower prices to get some stocks on-farm. However, this presents a complicated cash-flow situation as grain prices have dropped significantly and covering costs is far from straight-forward. It will be extremely interesting to see what the next few months bring...

Closer to home, there are a few projects we’ve been getting our teeth stuck into. We’ve finally built the grain stores we achieved planning for back in 2017. These will allow the farm to store all crops and straw produced each harvest, as well as the fertiliser and machinery required to support the operation. We’ll be adding hedging around the buildings and on the road frontage which should help to improve the look of the site. Hopefully the new Java Lodge Spinney - once grown - will also provide some cover from the village side. Finances providing, we’ll also be looking to make other improvements to the Whitehouse yard to generally tidy it up as it is definitely in need of some TLC!

Alongside the Spinney, we’ve also been planting cricket bat willows in Wickham Market – 400 more, to go with the 1,000 planted last year. The idea is to provide a diverse income stream which is robust to changes in climate year-on-year as well as over the next 15+ years. Though we will have to wait 18 years to find out if this has been successful...

Perhaps most excitingly, we’ve also decided to plant a small vineyard on a relatively unproductive few acres down Stump Street. In a few years’ time, this should hopefully provide an income in the drier, sunnier years where my cereal and root crops may otherwise be struggling – as we’ve seen in each of the last few years. Most importantly, my garage will remain stocked without any effect on the ‘bottom line’. We welcome ideas from the village as to what to name our first vintage!



Cast your minds forward 4 years...

And think of a name for our Pettistree vintage

Vicar on a mission

Our vicar, Rev Leslie Siu has been on a mission. He was in South Sudan on a *Rooted in Jesus* course designed to help Christians grow and learn together.

The Rev Leslie Siu

Our three-week trip took us to three dioceses. At Nyamlel we had a wonderful conference when joyful singing spontaneously erupted and we spent time with children playing games. We were encouraged by a thriving Mother's Union and many young people who were keen to learn more about Jesus. We left uplifted and praising the Lord having opened the Word in a service of worship at the Cathedral and a nearby local church. One of our services went on for nearly 4 hours!

Our journey to Aweil was along dusty bumpy tracks - I'm unlikely to complain about potholes in British roads ever again – and people walking seemingly endless miles in baking heat. We visited a bridge where many displaced people were living along the road because of serious flooding. The drive to Wanyjok diocese was through lots of water even though the roads had been repaired.

We stayed in the half-completed Bishop's house and had the opportunity to get to know the young people who served us and the older women who cooked for us. It seemed to be expected that women and children would always be ready to serve, so an important contribution from us was to occasionally push against local protocol and to take part in serving.

We preached at Sunday worship and then Bishop Joseph took us to the area near his childhood home, the dusty ground where he learnt to write his ABCs and the river he had to cross (swim) to get to school. Many of the young have few opportunities for education as families cannot afford to send them to school with any consistency. Many cannot read or only have basic literacy. For this reason, *Rooted in Jesus* teaches memory verses. Sung worship has always been an integral part of



Christian worship and is very much the case in South Sudan.

One of the great stand out encouragements for me was the joy of worshipping with other Christians. In so many ways, our lives were completely incomparable. Yet we were united in the ways that truly matter - our common need for a Saviour and the life-changing joy of being a child of the Living God. Our teaching and ministry took place within the context of prayerful worship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and so we were family together in the presence of the Lord.

Coronation Clean Up

King Charles III has chosen volunteering as the theme for his coronation on 6 May. The 'Big Help Out' will place the emphasis on helping others and the nation is expected to join in with a

Big Lunch on Sunday 7 May.

Pettistree is pretty good at organising lunches and for the coronation it will be a BBQ at the village hall.

The Big Help Out on Monday, 7 May

is more of a challenge but could include a general clean-up of the village including a litter pick. Ideas welcome!

The Village Decides

About planning

Sue Jones

A Neighbourhood Plan for Pettistree will be one of the topics for discussion at the Annual Meeting of the parish on 20 April at the Village Hall. A plan would enable us to state where we want new homes and businesses, what they should look like and what infrastructure should be provided. It would not, however, enable us to say that we do not want **any** development nor would it mean that we **must** designate land for development.

But it would give the Parish Council significantly more power to shape land use and increase our influence at ESC as we would have establish close working relations with the planning department.

Our NP would have the same legal status as the district's Local Plan. An NP would give us the opportunity to set out a positive vision for how we want our community to develop over the next 10, 15, 20 years in ways that meet identified local need and make sense for us.

But there are some significant challenges. A Steering Group (6-8 people) would have to be formed and be committed to seeing the project through. The Parish Council would have to lead this and become the Qualifying Body. Additional helpers would be needed for 'leg work' largely because this would be a community project and there are processes to be adhered to and evidence to be collected. Significant extra work would be needed to meet NP requirements and timescales. Wickham Market is about to reach the referendum stage of its NP nearly seven years after it was started. It's a long term commitment in every sense.

Hedgerows

Before working on a hedgerow, check whether there are any restrictions in place. You must not do any work which might harm nesting birds or destroy their nests during the main nesting and breeding season from 1 March to 31 August.

Have your say

An Annual Parish Meeting must be held to give electors the chance to interact with their parish council and raise issues. Ours will be on **Thursday 20 April** at the village hall. We have two interesting topics already for discussion:

- Neighbourhood planning for Pettistree (see separate story); and
- What to do with the money we have been awarded from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The Levy from Hopkins Homes development is already in our account £11,721 and there is the potential for another £20,000 plus from the solar park development in Loudham, should it go ahead.

CIL money has to be spent on infrastructure projects of benefit to the community. We have five years to spend it, but annual reports have to be made to the district council about how much has been spent and on what project. **If you do have a suggestion please pass it on to Cllr James Hayward, our infrastructure planner, or bring it to the meeting.**

An election

Every four years parish councils must have an election. This is the year and 4 May is the date. The council has changed significantly in the past 12 months but all councillors will now have to apply for re-election.

Voting will only be required if more than seven people apply to be councillors. If we do go this route photo ID will have to be shown at the polling station for the first time.

The current councillors are:

Susan Jones, chair former journalist, civil servant and partner in a business development consultancy.

Jeff Hallett, vice chair who is a former NHS surgeon
Mary Chilvers, retired care practitioner for Suffolk County Council

Chris Cook, retired commercial accountant
James Clarke, self-employed in business development

James Hayward, landowner, farmer and director in a cyber security firm

Tom Over, manager of Westrope Farms Ltd

Village traffic

James Clarke

According to our SID (speed indicator device) speeding remains low in the village but is still higher on Presmere Rd and The Street. Vehicle traffic was greater before Christmas than previous months but this could be because of deliveries, the works carried out at Kind Water and road closure in Wickham forcing people to cut through Java Lodge Lane and The Street. Speeding delivery vans could also result in the near 40mph speeds recorded at Presmere and The Street.

Speeding remains very low at Thong Hall Road and I think this is largely down to it being almost impossible to reach 30mph around a blind bend leading up to the junction at the village green.

Thong Hall Road between 14 October –and 1 November 2022

1408 Counts in total

Average of 88 vehicles per day 0.6% of vehicles speeding

Highest speed recorded was 32mph

The Street between 1 November and 1 December 2022

3028 Counts in total

Average of 94 vehicles per day 3.2% of vehicles were speeding Highest speed recorded was 38mph

Presmere Road between 1 January and 1 February 2023

3455 Counts in total

Average of 107 vehicles per day 3.4% of vehicles speeding

Highest speed recorded was 42mph

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.

Editor - Sue Jones, Holmleigh

chairman@pettistreesuffolk.org.uk

CONTACTS DIRECTORY

Parish Councillors

Chair	Sue Jones,	747277
Vice Chair	Jeff Hallett	746210
	Mary Chilvers	746123
	James Clarke	07949 796007
	Chris Cook	748388
	James Hayward	07500 818121
	Tom Over	07767 111267

Roads: James Clarke

Footpaths: Judy Steventon

Planning: Tom Over

Landscape & Trees: James Hayward

Village maintenance contact: Chris Cook

Safeguarding: Mary Chilvers

Village hall rep: Chris Cook

PC delivery: Sue Jones

Clerk: Vacant

Responsible Financial Officer: Simon Ashton

Pettistree People editor: Sue Jones

Pettistree News editor: Cath Caudwell

Whats App Group administrators: Alice Over and Sue Jones

Website

www.pettistreesuffolk.org.uk

Webmaster: webmaster@pettistreesuffolk.org.uk

Village Hall

Booking: Pauline Jarvie 745030

Church

Vicar: Leslie Siu 561572

Wardens: Carolyn Westrope 746139

Kevin Blyth 748205

Bellringers: Mary Garner 746097