



Pettistree People

Issue 104

September 2024

Pettistree Parish Council Newsletter

A restoration fund

A piece of Pettistree heritage needs your support - and cash!

The Church Room, built for Sunday school in the 19th century, needs internal restoration work. The hope is that can be used as a meeting place and heritage centre. The Church and Parish Council are prepared to put up money, but the Church grant depends on donations from the local community. Story page 5



What's On

Parish Council meeting - 7pm in the Church Room on **Thursday, 12 September**

Harvest Festival at the Church - 9.30am service on **Sunday 6 October** followed by coffee and cake

Suffolk Churches Ride & Stride 9am-5pm **14 September**

Bell ringing practice: Wednesdays 7pm at the church

Coffee mornings: First Wednesday in month at the village hall

Table tennis: third Wednesday of the month at the village hall

We did it this way

First Responder, Colin Davis, getting to grips with a defibrillator to show us how it should be used. Report and pictures page 8 & 9



A very special arrival

Dick Smith of Church Farm is a very happy man. At last we have a Red Poll calf by Alice. But what is her name? See page 3

And a terrible loss

Mike Lynch and his daughter Hannah were lost at sea when their yacht capsized off the coast of Sicily.

Mike, said to be celebrating his successful acquittal from US fraud charges, was on holiday with friends and family.

Earlier he had been at his farm at Loudham Hall. Story page 3

Solar-ng?

Sue Jones

Chair, Pettistree Parish Council

WILL we, won't we have a solar park in Loudham? It seemed very much that we would. After 3 years in the planning application stages, the developer, BSR, headed for the East Suffolk District Council Planning Committee in May to put its case for the 50acre park, on Westrope land, to be given planning permission. And we went too but to argue against the development.

Pettistree was the only parish council allowed to appear before the committee and so yours truly had to represent four parish councils asking people, who don't live here, to please not plonk 40000 solar panels and associate ironmongery on Loudham's fields.

Even if you are in favour of solar, and I am, what will we be left with in 40 years' time but a pile of scrap metal? Right part solution to the UK's energy crisis but wrong location. Having said that, where are all these grey and brown sites politicians keep talking about? If we want green energy solar must go somewhere. Just not near a river valley and two heritage sites please.

What happened at the committee was a bit of a surprise and indicative of how everyone is in two minds about solar parks. There were two abstentions, two for and two against allowing the park. Then the chair had a casting vote and we were the losers. To be honest I thought we'd be wasting our time trying to influence this one.

And then came another surprise. Will Harrison, estate manager at Loudham Hall and one of the appellants on behalf of the estate, decided not to give up. You can read his report on page 12.

Whatever happens with council and developer, the matter may be taken out of everyone's hands as, in the meantime, the Government changed hands. The new energy secretary, Ed Miliband, is flushing solar parks through the system without any ado and in at least one case over the top of the Planning Inspectorate. We live in iconoclastic times.

One of the projects the PC has approved is a new village website. The current one has grown large over the years, so we've transferred its content to a new one. The intention is to carry some new pictures of Pettistree and Loudham and keep an archive of past photos on the site. The text will be updated and more added. All

but one of the copies of Pettistree People - one is still missing - will be there.

Cllr Chris Cook has volunteered to upload new and regular items like Church Events. Andrew Staples, our clerk, will upload all the parish council documents.

One of the items on the website must be a list of councillors' roles and responsibilities. We will consider those at our next meeting in September. Until then the existing ones apply.

At the PC meeting in July we co-opted a new councillor: Will Harrison (pictured) estate manager at Loudham Hall. We're now back to seven.



The council received a new sum of CIL money, which brings our CIL fund to approximately £24,000. As mentioned before, some will be used for new chairs and tables at the Village Hall and £5000 will be granted to Wickham Market PC for the refurbishment of their village hall. Our PC is still open for suggestions on how to spend the rest, but we have agreed to pay some of the costs for refurbishment of the Church Hall. This would have to be in addition to the donations from local people and the Church.

One planning application was permitted by East Suffolk Council: an office, showroom and customer hosting facilities connected with Bridge Classic Cars.

The business had asked for permission to operate up to 2300 hours Monday to Saturday. The parish council thought this to be excessive and potentially opening the door to other businesses wanting to extend working hours.

The planners have applied a condition that working/operating hours of the premises shall be: Monday to Saturday 08:00 hours to 21:00 hours Sundays and Bank Holidays 08:00 hours to 17:00

In addition, the owner may host up to 12 events a year within the office building which may exceed these operating times Monday - Saturday until 23:00.

A terrible loss

ENTREPRENEUR, Mike Lynch and his 18 years old daughter, Hannah, were lost when a tornado hit their superyacht off the coast of Sicily. His wife, Angela Bacares, survived but four of their guests also died when the yacht sank.

Only a few weeks ago the couple were greeting friends and neighbours at a Summer garden party in the magnificent grounds of their 18th century property. The guests were very glad to have him back in Pettistree. Mike had owned Loudham Hall since 2009 and it was the place where he reared rare breeds: a Red Poll herd, Gloucester Old Spots and Suffolk sheep.

Another enthusiastic breeder of Red Poll cattle, Dick Smith of Church Farm, was able to give journalists some background and interviews on Mike. The pair were connected by the ownership of the cattle. Dick's Red Poll, Alice, was bought from the Loudham estate. He described the exceptional businessman as always affable and approachable. Likeable and good to talk to. The reaction from others who knew him was that he was a lovely person and that it is

utterly tragic that this should have happened, and just when he was finally free of the legal stress of his US court case and planning, what he described, as a second life.

*Dick Smith
being interviewed
by the BBC*



Greyhound success

THE reputation of the Greyhound continues to grow. It hit the top 100 restaurants in the UK in the Good Food Guide and then won the regional heat (central and east of England). Staff said to be "overwhelmed but very proud" of their achievements in a relatively short time. The Guide says: *Refreshingly ordinary, with nothing overtly fashionable - just candlelit tables, a cosy fire and absolutely delicious food.*

A very special arrival

Pettistree Alice has a new calf

Dick Smith



PETTISTREE ALICE, my 14-year-old Red Poll cow, gave birth on 11th July. This may not sound particularly news-worthy, but she is my last remaining cow and, at 14 years of age, is quite old for any cow. She had a dead calf last year and I had become very twitchy as we neared her calving date, so much so that I shut her in the yard for about 10 days before she decided the time was right.

To add to things, Sam Reeve, my 'stockman', on whom I very much depend, had gone back into hospital that week so the situation became even more worrying – and Jim Jarvie was away cruising. Thankfully, on the morning of the 11th, I was up early and there was a calf already up on her feet and trying to suckle. What a relief!

This heifer calf was the result of an insemination, done by Sam, with some very old semen (about 60 years old) from the prize-winning Mistley Herd. Mistley Linking Licias, the bull, had a Register of Merit for milk yield in his progeny, and that goes back to the time when the Red Poll was the major breed in East Anglia, with many breeders in competition for such an accolade.

Alice's heifer is now thriving, been ear-tagged, and is enjoying life in Pettistree, as is her mother whose year of loneliness is now over. I have yet to register her, and this year all females need to have a name beginning with 'O'. I like short names, as they are easier to call out, and so far she is called 'Olly'. But any ideas with a noble descent, after her sire, or even of Australian origin as Alice's grandfather was Australian, are welcome.

No 'Sheila' won't do. If you have an inspirational idea for a name, please send it to Dick or post it on the village WhatsApp - Ed

CATH's CORNER

In this corner of *Pettistree People* Cath Caudwell of Rogues Cottage gives a more 'global' picture of where we live and what is going on.

THIS time I'd like to introduce you to Wickham Market Shed in more detail.

Wickham Market Shed project held its introductory meeting in January 2020, at which 16 attended to listen to a presentation from an ambassador from the UK Men's Shed Association (UKMSA) about the value of giving men in particular the opportunity to Connect, Converse and Create. Following this, fortnightly meetings ensued where options for the siting of a Shed were explored, other Shed projects were visited and ideas for the type of Shed shared. The Covid pandemic curtailed these until late 2021.



Shedders have since been patiently exploring options for venues and working on small scale refurbishments and sorting the wide range of donated tools and equipment. With the move of the Archive Centre to its new premises they have been able to take on the two portacabins and a wooden shed behind the Village Hall and Football Club and have been busy developing a functioning workshop. This is with the agreement of the Wickham Market Parish Council and marks a significant step forward for the project.

Following a successful grant application by the Partnership to the Co-op Community Cares Fund (managed by Suffolk Community Foundation), which is facilitating this project, the workshop has been fully rewired with new sockets, lighting, cut-out switch, heaters and consumer unit by local firm Hudsons Electrical. The company offered its time and some of the materials free of charge. The work was completed in one day, which was an amazing offer by the directors. New flooring has also been laid and most of the equipment has now been rationalised. Shedders are looking forward to getting creative.

But what is a Shed I hear you ask? The Shed movement began in Australia in 1999 and has since extended to Europe and the USA. Men's Sheds (or Sheds) are similar to garden sheds: a place to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practice skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference is that garden sheds and their activities are often solitary in nature while Men's Sheds are the opposite. They are about social connections and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge and, of course, a lot of laughter.

The UK Men's Shed Association helps Sheds to form and develop, offering advice and template documents and organises a 'Shedfest' each year. The importance of Sheds for men's mental health is not to be underestimated – so often it is heard that men don't talk about such things but when working side by side and having a common goal this becomes much easier: the UKMSA newsletter is called *Shoulder to Shoulder*.

Currently Shedders attend on Monday afternoons, 2.00 – 4.00pm (apart from bank holidays) and anyone can drop in to find out more. Tea and cake happen at 3.30pm. It is an important element of any Shed session!

To find out more

go to <https://menssheds.org.uk>

or our own website

at <https://www.wmshed.org.uk>

You can also email the

Shed at wmshedders@gmail.com





Pretty as a picture. The Laurels after extensive refurbishment and interior design by Alun and Zoe Davies. The garden had a make-over too. The grade II listed Georgian-fronted house dates to the 15th and 16th centuries

GIVE TO GO GREEN

Your Church Room
needs you!

Carolyn Westrope and Martin Corrall - churchwardens

PETTISTREE church has successfully applied for match funding of up to £10,000 to upgrade the Church Room in Walnuts Lane. *Give to Go Green* is part of a central Church initiative with the goal of reaching Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The qualifying works will include replacing the rotten floor with a new insulated concrete floor, adding ceiling insulation, repairing the windows, and upgrading the heaters to energy efficient units. Plus a new kitchen.

It is our hope that the new improved, redecorated, hopefully warmer church room will attract more use from within the village.

Contributions from individuals will be needed to match funds from the Church up to a ceiling of £10,000. We are intending to focus our fundraising over the six-week period commencing October 1st, 2024. We will be using a contactless card reader to receive your donations and there will also be the facility to give online – full details will be provided very shortly.

We intend to complete the work this Autumn. **Your support and generosity will be very much appreciated.**

● There will be a Harvest Festival service at 9.30am on Sunday 6th, October followed by coffee and cake. All are welcome and we will be pleased to answer your questions about the church room and, most importantly, how to donate to make the project happen.

● We are optimistic that completion of the redecoration of the church Nave will be achieved in early 2025 at the expense of the insurers of the architect that caused the problem by applying paint not limewash.

History Notes

Porchless

Ray Whitehand

NEXT time you visit St Peter & St Paul, as you approach the south door, stop for a few minutes and imagine a porch protecting the entrance. Look carefully and you may spot some clues. The 20th century entrance door is open to the elements but there was once a considerable porch.

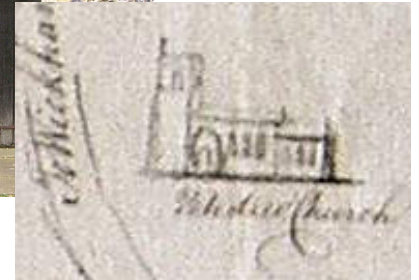
Wooden porches were erected over southern doors from as early as the 12th and 13th century. They were often constructed to provide a meeting place for secular business before parties entered the sacred building. Legal contracts would be negotiated in the porch, with parties sitting on benches facing each other. Families would negotiate dowries or other important issues prior to a wedding. Once agreed the parties would be admitted into the church for the holy sacrament of marriage.

While there may well have been a porch at the southern entrance to the nave in medieval times, the earliest reference identified was 1641. An entry in the manorial book for Wickham and membris reads: '*for moneys to be paid in the church porch of Pettistree*'.

We get a good idea of the structure from the *Liber visitacionis* for Wilford and Orford dated 1686. '*the church porch to be floared.[sic] and a rail to be putt up there to prevent cattle coming in*'. When Tom Martin visited our church in 1744, he noted the porch and nave roofs were leaded and the chancel roof tiled. He also mentions carvings of St Michael or St George & his Dragon in the spandrels over its entrance arch.

Other visitations record that ivy was a constant problem. Notes following the bishop's visitation in 1790s state the buttresses on the porch needed repair, the front of the porch wanted pointing and stonework of the west window of porch needed to be repaired as '*wet gets through the roof!*' Then on 26 August 1780 we learn from the town book, '*Paid for 300 bricks for repairs to the church porch.*' This payment seems to have been at least partly offset by the sale of old lead for £105.

Physical evidence of the porch's existence can be found on a little pencil sketch on the highways document of 1789 but notes of a visit on 29 May 1823 states '*the Porch is not there*'. **Footnote: It would be lovely if someone with artistic skills could create a detailed image of Porch in all its glory.**



Should it be Loudham with Pettistree?

IN 1086 when William the Conqueror sent his agents to every shire in England to list his holdings, Pettistree was nowhere to be found.

Recorded - in a special East Anglian volume known as the Little Domesday Book - were the manors of Loudham, Byng, Wickham Market, Campsey Ashe, Dallinghoo, Hacheston and Ufford as being in the ownership of numerous Norman worthies, including Robert Malet's mother.

Loudham (Ludham) had the largest population of 79.5 households which put it in the largest 20per cent of settlements recorded in the Domesday. In 1086 it had a manor and a mill. Byng (Bing) was likely a continuation of a Roman settlement, Wickham Market (Wikham) was a small town beside a Roman road. Campsey Ashe had two mills, three beehives and a huge fishpond. Ufford had two mills and three fords. Dallinghoo had a church. None of the seven principal towns of Suffolk, which included Dunwich, had more than 3000 inhabitants. But the county did have 4343 goats.

It would be 1278 before our church was built and in a place that was between the settlements of Byng and Loudham. Worship hitherto had been at a chapel in the grounds of medieval Loudham Hall. The chapel was completely removed in 1591.

Establishing a new village around St Peter & St Paul Church close to the Ipswich to Yarmouth road made sense. Pettistree absorbed Loudham around 1535 and Byng at a date unknown.

Sue Jones



Pettistree's got talent (part 2)

Jim Jarvie

IN July our son, Jimmy - the shy, retiring Jarvie boy! - performed at the *Music in The Park* event held in Christchurch Park. Over three hundred acts applied and under forty were successful.

Jimmy and his friend Andrew Wilson, a music teacher and international DJ, formed a techno band called Dregs a couple of years ago and have released their first album *Bourne Again* named after Jimmy's local park. If you or your children/ grandchildren want to hear the tracks it can be found on Spotify and other social media. None of which I understand...

Dregs - just remember we had groups such as Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band so we can't be too judgemental - have appeared at pubs in Ipswich and at private functions. On 22 June they were invited to perform live on BBC Radio Suffolk/ Norfolk's Music Introducing session.

At *Music in the Park* Dregs appeared on the Ed Sheeran stage but the weather on the day was horrendous and there was a biblical down pour throughout the 45-minute performance. Luckily, the audience were able to shelter under some nearby trees and hardy supporters were determined to perform 'singing in the rain'.

The type of music, 'Techno' is not our choice, although we did enjoy YMCA and Shut Uppa Ya Face, Dregs are very professional and becoming well respected on the local music scene.

Jimmy has moved on from working as a teenager in the Three Tuns and the Greyhound and delivering the local paper - although I ended up as your paperboy when it rained - and currently is employed as a full-time postman in Ipswich.



Jim and Pauline Jarvie



Jimmy Jarvie

Rural crime

SUFFOLK has a new police leader for a team of specialists combatting rural crime. Sergeant Chris Green is based at Landmark House in Ipswich. He is keen for people to report incidents as under reporting can have an impact on the allocation of resources. The team is also keen for more horseback volunteers to help with monitoring crime.

Not what we expected...



WE knew the parish had a defibrillator. The large yellow box on the side of the Church Room has a sign and a new security light. What we didn't know was how to use it.

So, with a steer from Amy Nicholls, the Parish Council contacted Community First Responders based in Wickham Market and nearby villages. Four of them turned up at the village hall in July armed with dummy chests and their own defibrillators.

They were welcomed with a great deal of enthusiasm by 17 villagers keen to learn a new skill. It was hands on, slightly hard work and very rewarding.

What we learned was that when someone is unconscious the chance to save a life happens in the first few minutes. But first check they're in trouble. If they are not responding to you and not breathing, it is time to shift and phone 999. Lie the person on a hard surface, tip the head back to clear the airway and check for breathing.

If no breathing can be detected then use the scissors in the defib pack to cut away clothing, shave if necessary and with both hands apply regular pumping pressure to the chest midway between nipples. This CPR has to continue even with a defibrillator attached.

Next send for the defibrillator. Open it up, switch it on, apply two sticky pads to the chest and the machine will take readings of the heart and tell you what to do next and in a very soothing voice. Continue with CPR until the ambulance or a First Responder arrives.



In the pictures from left: Lisa Kenyon, Jim Jarvie, Jennie Barnes, Jenny Ayris, Mary Garner, Dave Coyle, Maureen Stollery, Chris Spinks, Chris Cook, Jeff Hallett, Colin Davis. Opposite: Olivia Smith, Jane Welton, Mark Welton, Amy Nicholls, Chris Garner.

But we're glad we did it!



Some useful tips

- always carry Aspirin, it thins the blood in seconds
- never be scared to use the defibrillator because the person will be on the point of death anyway
- yes, you will probably break bones with CPR but that is better than the alternative
- the defib must have a green light showing
- the pads are one-use only and need replacing from time to time
- no-one dies of a heart attack, they die from cardiac arrest
- the defib decides whether a shock is necessary to tense the heart and then let it go to get it to work normally
- if it tells you that no shock is needed carry on with CPR as the odds of saving a life rise significantly by using it so once started it must be continued until someone can take over
- what3words helps an ambulance to find where you are. Your own location can be registered with the service. First Responders are trying to put what3words signs onto field fences so even in the middle of a pasture you can be found.

Community First Responders

This area has seven Community First Responders. All are volunteers with full-time jobs and work for the Trust for 20 hours a month.

When a 999 call is made, First Responders will be first on the scene in some not all emergencies. They specialise in cardiac arrest and strokes but also carry oxygen and tourniquets (for cases such as stabbings).

The teams get basic kit from the Ambulance Service but raises funds for extra kit like more defibrillators. They don't mind receiving donations... We had a whip round.

The job includes triage and can get an ambulance to you quicker than normal if necessary.

Our team:

Colin Davis
Dave Coyle
Lisa Kenyon
Simon Sinclair

Thanks, you were great!



Christopher Hamilton Dawson 1957-2024 - Obituary

Christopher Dawson of Stone Cottage, Loudham Hall Road, Pettistree died in May aged 66. His friend *Alan Ayers* reflects on his life.

Chris Dawson was a gifted entrepreneur and property developer whose vision and determination created business opportunities across Suffolk. But family always came first, with his wife Lesley, who he married in 1980, their son Ben and daughter Milly, and their grandchildren.

A sense of adventure was at the heart of the family's life together, sharing sailing and motor-boating experiences in Suffolk and the Mediterranean, flying helicopters, skiing, collecting cars and enjoying holidays with friends. His gentle sense of humour and warm personality were enjoyed by a circle of close friends and wider family.

Chris and Lesley's home at Pettistree was a haven of fun for over 40 years. It was also where Chris dreamed up his latest projects - and there were many.

After running a successful commercial property agency in Ipswich, he began developing Masterlord Office Village in Ipswich. Offices at Brightwell Barns, then offices and industrial units at Clopton Park followed, both are now managed by Milly and Ben Dawson. He also developed Riduna Park at Melton and gave a disused Pettistree pub - the Three Tuns - a new lease of life as a well-being centre and 12 self-catering suites. He was still dreaming up new opportunities when he passed away from cancer on 24th May, 2024.

Chris's life was full of love, adventure, ambition, encouragement, generosity and many, many stories. His enthusiasm for life was infectious, with family and friends invited along for the ride.

Power infrastructure affects value of homes

Research by the London School of Economics has shown that power infrastructure - pylons, wind turbines and solar farms - can reduce the value of homes by 3.9 per cent. An average of £12,000. The loss could be greater: separate research in Scotland indicated a loss of 21 per cent within 250m of pylon or power line. There are currently no restrictions on how close a home can be built to energy infrastructure.

Village Hall AGM

Jim Jarvie - chairman

The Village Hall AGM was held on 20 August and the committee was joined by several villagers. The minutes from the 2023 AGM were summarised and agreed.

The chairman, Jim Jarvie, gave his yearly report. The most pressing issue is the legacy (£250,000) contained in Mike Watts' will. A letter was sent to the solicitors outlining our proposal and suggesting we would not be able to construct a new hall, particularly as it is located in a conservation area. A new hall would cost a lot more than the amount contained in the legacy.

The solicitors appear to be dragging their heels and have not acknowledged letters, emails and phone call. It was agreed a letter would be sent direct to the executors to see if this results in a positive update.

In addition to the legacy, the committee has secured Parish Council CIL funding for new chairs, as well as a table tennis table for the monthly meetings. A sample chair was secured by Dave Caudwell and tested by all attendees resulting in positive feedback.

The hall is used most days by various groups which has resulted in a healthy financial bank balance (£15,000).

It was suggested we hold an event later in the year to raise funds for our local First Responders. The committee will also explore how we can improve the acoustics in the hall.

The hall is for the whole community and the committee would welcome suggestions as to future events.

The 2023 Committee was elected en bloc for the coming year and the representatives for the Parish Council, Chris Cook and PCC, Maggie Hallett were appointed.

Officers elected:

Jim Jarvie – Chairman
Steve Boardley – Vice Chairman
Dave Caudwell – Treasurer
Pauline Jarvie – Lettings secretary



He turned left!

Stephen at Levington

Rita Smith

Earlier this year, when our family was planning a holiday in Cornwall, our son Stephen suggested he joined us in his boat. We knew that he'd sailed to Mersea Island, but no further, so no-one took the suggestion seriously. However, on Monday, June 17th we had a text saying he was heading for Grimsby and that, if we wanted to, we could follow his travels on a website called Vessel-finder. This certainly made us wonder. Was he really going to join us in Cornwall by circumnavigating the UK anticlockwise in Karina?

Having gone down the Orwell and turned left, we followed his passage to Wells, where brother George and family greeted him. He then sailed on to Grimsby. Here was the big question: would he turn left on leaving the anchorage at Grimsby, go round Britain and meet us in Cornwall, or turn right and come home? To our surprise he turned left, and continued turning left until the job was done!

Almost two months later, on Thursday 15th August we waved our Union Jacks to welcome him home at Landguard Point. George had met him in Cornwall and Katharine, his sister, in Devon, and I was longing to hear of his adventures over a glass of champagne at Levington Marina. He was exhausted. He spoke of Cape Wrath living up to its name; of often having to be on the move at 2am to catch the wind and the tide and steering for 9 hours solidly; of the hordes of boats around the Isle of Wight dancing in all directions on the water, and causing him to be unexpectedly and dangerously close to the Southampton to Cowes ferry.

Tales of further adventures had to wait because he had a lot of packing-up to do and needed to get home to rest.

Reading the paper that night I noticed two words, 'courage' and 'steadfast' that I felt very much applied to Stephen, but when I explained this to a friend the next day, he said "I think I'd add 'foolhardy' to that list! Well done Stephen! We're so proud of you.

New MP

PETTISTREE now has a new MP in a new constituency: Central Suffolk and North Ipswich. Patrick Spencer lives in Suffolk with his wife Anna and two sons.



He is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Social Justice and a Trustee of the Jobs Foundation. Patrick was a Senior Adviser at the Department for Education and a Director at a family-run Private Equity and Venture Capital firm.

He will be focusing on flooding, protecting the countryside from unnecessary developments, delivering more funding for local NHS services and arguing for a fairer funding deal for schools in Suffolk.

He says his happiest childhood memories were spent on the Aldeburgh seafront and at Portman Road.

Planning appeal won

WHITEHOUSE Farm on Main Road will have a vehicle maintenance and repair business following a planning appeal judgement. The Planning Inspectorate overturned the refusal by East Suffolk Council to grant planning permission to Kevin Melton for workshops and an MOT bay in a disused farm building. Mr Melton currently owns KPM Vehicle Maintenance and Sales Ltd in Ufford.

The Planning Inspector concluded that: the business would be appropriate in its location, a suitable location for employment, is opposite commercial premises and well-positioned on the approach to Wickham Market. Furthermore, the Noise Impact Assessment *'demonstrates that the proposal would not result in harm to the living conditions of occupants of neighbouring properties'*.

The appeal had been determined on the basis that it does not include vehicle sales.

Solar farm decision quashed

Will Harrison estate manager at Loudham Hall

THE decision to approve a 60-acre solar farm east of Pettistree has been overturned following a legal challenge. East Suffolk District Council quashed its own decision after the Loudham Hall Estate argued that due consideration of the heritage of the area had not been made. An assessment of the impact on local heritage is required by national planning policy.

The proposal, brought forward by British Solar Renewables Ltd, would have powered 5,250 homes from 40,000 solar panels standing eight feet off the ground. Pettistree, Ufford, Campsea Ashe and Wickham Market parish councils all objected to the proposal, citing its impact on the historic and sensitive Deben valley landscape, while local householders also expressed their concerns about the industrialisation of the countryside, the proximity of the site to houses and the impact of glare from the panels.

Several people, including local district councillor Sally Noble and chair of Pettistree Parish Council Sue Jones, spoke against the proposal at the planning committee meeting in Melton on 28 May, but the committee was split, with the chair's being the casting vote to approve the development.

Planning decisions made by local authorities are open to challenge in the High Court through the judicial review process, if it is thought that the decision was made contrary to the law or to planning policy.

It was disappointing that the challenge had to be brought. Despite their relative inefficiency compared with other renewables, solar farms have their place in the mix of national sustainable energy production. However, their visual and infrastructure impact is huge and there needs to be much stronger national policy on where such development does and doesn't belong.

It would be an easy step for the Government to insist on solar panels being installed on new houses and industrial buildings to maintain the beauty, habitats and history of the countryside. This challenge was brought because no consideration was given to listed heritage assets close to the development site, and it's disappointing that all the impacts of this proposal were not fully explored.

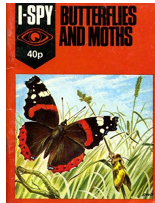
Watching Wildlife *with Darren Tansley*

I Spy butterflies

I am sure that part of my love of wildlife stems from the *I Spy* book of Butterflies and Moths that I had as a child, because the Red Admiral that dominated the cover has stayed with me ever since. It's never too late to ignite that passion for the butterflies we see in Pettistree and learning about a few of the large summer species. Here are three of the favourites that got me started.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

This large (7cm wingspan) black, red and white butterfly does hibernate over winter in southern England but it is mainly a migrant that flies all the way from North Africa or Europe to reach our shores and lay its eggs on common nettle (although it can also use hop, elm, or small nettle). This gives rise to a new emergence from July onwards and most of the vibrant coloured adults are from this generation. In October and November, they often feed on Buddleia or Ivy or rotting fruit so make sure to retain some ivy and don't tidy up all those windfall apples!



Peacock *Aglais io*

Possibly the most distinctive Summer butterfly with its impressive, colourful 'peacock' eyespots on its wings. These are used to confuse or startle potential predators but the underside of the wings look like dry leaves so provide perfect camouflage. It is a butterfly of woodland rides and clearings but is also fond of 'the butterfly bush' Buddleia. Again the main food for the larvae is common stinging nettle and although slightly smaller than a red admiral (6.5 cm wingspan) it is still a large striking butterfly easy to spot.



Comma *Polygonia c-album*

Although there are plenty of large orange and black butterflies out there, none have such distinctive shaped wings. The weird, scalloped shapes perfectly camouflage the hibernating adults during hibernation among dead leaves. The common name 'comma' comes from a little white comma shaped pattern on the underside of the wings. The smallest of the three (6cm wingspan) it is mostly seen along woodland edge or hedgerows so more often seen when out walking or if you have really nice, mature hedges. Another common nettle feeder during the larval stage but elm and hop are also good food sources. The adults feed on nectar and rotting fruit before hibernating.



Water warning

THE rivers in Suffolk are regularly tested for water quality and the reports are often not good.

Ufford Parish Council issued a danger notice in August advising that it was unsafe use the Lower Pool at Hawkswade Bridge near the White Horse pub, also known as Ufford Hole. On 15 August E.coli tests showed the water had twice the recommended 'safe bathing level' for inland waterways. Ufford subsequently removed the warning as E.coli levels had reduced.

The Deben Climate Centre has 40 volunteers taking samples at 30 locations on the Deben and its tributaries plus a couple of laboratories for tracking E.coli, phosphates, ammonia and nitrates.

Can't be bothered?



WHAT greeted a litter picker at one of Pettistree's bus shelters. The litter bin is just outside the door! But we also found a pound coin for our trouble. The bus shelters are looking worse for wear too so a clean-up is needed and will be on the Parish Council's September agenda.

On the Farm

Time for donkey rides

James Hayward - a dispatch from Margate

HARVEST has swung around, and the combines have whirred into life. Time to find out whether we've done a good job all year, or not...

So, I've headed off to Margate for an exotic weekend away with the family. That's what I'm calling it. The guys on the farm call it: any excuse to get James as far away as possible so he can't break anything!

This year has been a real mixed bag. Every year has a lesson and this year it was to spread our risks, have a back-up plan (or three) and be prepared to be flexible. The wettest Autumn and Winter on record meant winter wheat – normally our staple crop – had to take a back seat. Much of the productive area was switched into spring crops, spring barley. By February I think we were genuinely on Plan F.

Our oilseed rape went in before the torrential October rain and absolutely flourished in the wet and warm autumn conditions. I hadn't intended to plant any this year but thank goodness we did. The switch from winter wheat to more sugar beet and spring barley has paid dividends as the weather continued to be unsettled. That said, with the wheat, spring barley and sugar beet yet to harvest, I won't be counting my chickens any time soon!

As ever, when conditions are most trying there's an opportunity to do something a bit different. This year we planted the worst water-logged fields with a 9-species cover crop, mainly of borage, clover and mustard. This included the field which has been hosting my two new lakes along the Main Road. The new plantings (*pictured*) have flowered into gorgeous purples and whites and will improve soil drainage, increase carbon and nitrogen content and provide a haven for bees. This might feel like throwing money away – not a luxury most farmers can afford – but I'm hopeful we can improve the productivity of the entire farm by helping our insects and encouraging our soils to steadily recover.

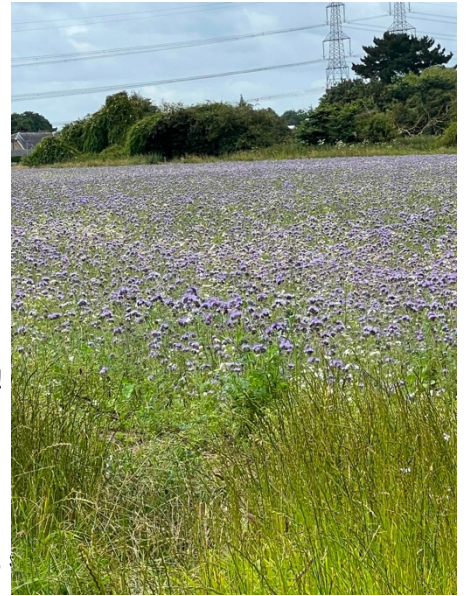
At the same time as creating bee-paradise, we've taken the opportunity to clear out ditches, as promised in the 101st edition of Pettistree People. This is the beginning of continuous ditch-cleaning to alleviate some of the issues we had over the past winter.

Away from the agricultural side of the business, we're very glad to have renewed our partnership with Paul Scales and his auto-memorabilia shop in the Old School building. Several retailers operate under his banner and you can find all sorts of wonderful art, woodwork, plants and antiques in the shop – alongside some lovely motorbikes. The rental income from the shop has enabled us to give the old building a proper birthday by making some crucial repairs to the old slate roof and repainting the windows.

We've also achieved planning permission to convert an old grain store – no-longer fit for purpose – into an MOT test centre at White House Farm opposite Suffolk plant Centre. The site will be powered entirely using the new solar panels making it carbon neutral. It will also have a bike storage facility and EV charging point. Strict working hours between 9-5 (on weekdays only) will apply and no car sales are permitted.

Some of you many have seen us putting in a horse paddock on Walnuts Lane for new Wickham Market resident Libby Wilson-Smith. This will make good use of a less-productive corner of a field whilst allowing Libby to keep a close eye on her two ponies. I'm looking forward to seeing them hacking around the village. And finally, big apologies to anyone who suffered a loss of water pressure when the fencing contractors decided to add an extra outlet to the water main in the process!

Anyway, enough from me. Time for some fish and chips...



Church News



Jenny gets a new title

THE Rev. Jenny Catchpole has a new title: Assistant Priest of the Benefice which comprises Pettistree and Wickham Market churches. The title followed a licensing ceremony with the Archdeacon of Suffolk, Rich Henderson, in attendance.

In the absence of a vicar, Jenny now leads a ministry team ensuring both churches can offer services, weddings and baptisms. She has already officiated at quite a lot of funerals which she says is a 'privilege'.

Jenny met her husband Paul at Charsfield Baptist Church and has been a resident of Wickham Market for 48 years. Both are Suffolk born. It was the advice of other people that convinced her to train through the Auxiliary Ordination Pathway to work at her local churches. She was ordained three years ago and became a priest a year later working on a self-supporting basis.

So, has she any plans to make changes? "I think I'll wait for a new vicar to be appointed," she says diplomatically.

News on a new vicar: the post is to be advertised again.

Cooking with grass*

POWERING homes with grass clippings sounds too good to be true. But Bridgwater in Somerset is doing just that. Grass clippings from verges are being collected by the district council and fed into an anaerobic digester with a bit of maize. What comes out is biomethane to power 8000 homes with a gas not obviously different from mains gas.

*with thanks to the Sunday Times for the headline

Bells

Mary Garner - Pettistree Tower Captain

Ringers continue winning streak!

ON May 18th many teams of ringers from across Suffolk met at Falkenham for the Suffolk Guild 6 Bell Striking Competition.

There were two competitions, Method and Call Changes. We were entered for Method and won. We hold the Mitson Shield trophy for a year (*pictured below*). Although we have won both the SE District and Guild Competitions several times in the last 35 years or so this is the first time we have held both trophies simultaneously.

Our practices and service ringing have continued weekly despite people being away at various times during the summer. Quarter peals have been rung before practices on most Wednesdays and frequently celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. In particular, we rang 1280 changes of doubles, six different methods, on June 5th, the eve of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

You may have heard a single bell ringing a few times outside regular service and practice times. This has been for individual teaching. If you are at all interested trying ringing, or finding out more about the bells, please contact me, marysgarner@tiscali.co.uk, 01728 746097 and a time can be arranged to suit.



Covid latest

97,904 cases daily across the UK recorded on 5 August so that cold may well be covid.

WhatsApp Pettistree

The WhatsApp Group now has **45** members and is open to many more residents of Pettistree and Loudham.

The messaging service is particularly useful when help is needed: either to alert us to the floods or recommendations for tradespeople.

If you would like to join please send a WhatsApp message to Sue Jones on 07725197654

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

chair@pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk

A WhatsApp Reminder

The group was set up to be a community benefit. It is useful to exchange news and knowledge and get a view from others about local issues. But it is not X so please bear that in mind even when you feel emotional about something or someone. Let's keep it friendly and useful. If you have something you want the Parish Council to know please email the Clerk and include your name and address.

Pettistree Pith

Lyfe is striefe according to Pettistree's 16th century vicar, Leonard Staveley. It still is Leonard!

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