



# Pettistree People

Issue 105

December 2024

Pettistree Parish Council Newsletter



## Parish Room Fund

A major effort was made during six weeks of October and November to raise money to renovate the Parish Room.

Report on pages 8 and 9



New Priest in Charge see page 4



A bumper grape harvest by one of our own. See page 6

## What's On

Carols in Barn @ The Laurels, The Street on Friday, 13 December @ 7pm

Bring a Dish @ the village hall on Sunday, 15 December @ 1pm

Christmas Carol Service @ All Saints Wickham Market on Sunday 15 December @ 6.30pm

Christingle @ the Church on Tuesday 17 December @ 1030am

Carol Service @ the Church on Sunday 22 December @ 0930am

Christmas Day Holy Communion @ the Church on Wednesday 25 December @ 0930

Pettistree People is published in the first week of: March, June, September and December



They cook but do they sing as well? Jim and Dave were up to something in their pinafores. See page 3.

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas*



## Quiet and 60?

*Sue Jones*

### Chair, Pettistree Parish Council

We had to wait at least a couple of years for Suffolk County Council to approve and install Quiet Lane signs on Walnuts Lane and Rogues Lane. Ah, we thought, that should alert drivers to the narrowness of the road - single track, no passing places, no jumping off verges - because the sign indicates that walkers have priority. Followed by cyclists and horse riders. Cars come last. Lorries don't appear.

But overnight in October SCC workmen sidled up to Rogues Lane at its junction with Main Road and erected two signs. They made sure all drivers would think it ok to drive down it at 60mph and, given the height of the signs, they seemed especially designed for truck drivers. In fact, one had already done so taking overhead tree branches and some of the verge with it. Not confusing is it? Come from the 30mph limited Main Road into Rogues Lane, put your foot down and go as far as you can at speed until you reach a pedestrian who thought they were safe in a Quiet Lane. That said, walkers also need to be aware that the road is not closed to traffic. See *Not that quiet* on page 11.

What we really, really want is for the whole of Rogues Lane to be limited to 30mph and the SID recording any Rogue Rushers.

I've been reading a book called *The Ministry of Common Sense* by Martin Lindstrom. I recommend it to all those who spend their precious days waiting on the phone to speak to a human at large company, banks, those beacons of democracy our councils and government agencies.

The author reckons things are going magnificently wrong because common sense requires empathy, and we've lost it. Suppliers, of whatever, now serve themselves instead of their users and consumers. My latest experience was to pay the AA for Audi Roadside Assistance in August and be told by letter in October that I was no longer covered as I hadn't renewed. A phone call: yes you are covered but because you renewed online we had to send you a letter to tell you that your contract (previous) was ended. No wonder all these fabulous beasts start their telephone contact with a robot warning that anger and invective will not be tolerated.

I hope the Parish Council is much easier to contact: every councillor can be emailed. Please copy in our clerk, Andrew Staples clerk@pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk if you choose this route.

We now have a new website which carries all the Parish Council agendas, meeting minutes and policy documents: www.pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk. Although its address looks as though it is just for council matters, the website is for the village and will be updated with events and news. If you have something you wish to publicise, please let me know.

Among the few things the parish council has some control over are the bus shelters on the Main Road. Thanks to Councillor Will Harrison one of them received a long awaited clean. Will has taken on the Roads brief so he has also restored the SID to working order and will move it between our three locations. One of its two batteries is already in need of replacement, and we will have to include it in next year's budget.

The 25/26 budget was for discussion at our meeting on 28 November. As usual it will be tight. We have a very small council taxed population and the precept has to cover officers' salaries and essential running costs. You could say we are asset rich and cash poor!

### TechElf

This is the little guy who loves to scramble my efforts in publishing. In the last issue of *Cath's Corner* she gave information about the Men's Shed in Wickham Market. Unfortunately, when the PDF file was sent to the printers TechElf decided to mask some of the text with a picture. I swear it was ok when it left me. It should have said: *Currently Shedd attend on Monday afternoons, 2.00 – 4.00pm (apart from bank holidays) and anyone can drop in to find out more. Tea and cake happens at 3.30pm. It is important element of any Shed session!* Sorry Cath.



# First class response for our First Responders

*Jim Jarvie*

In July our local First Responders demonstrated how to use a defibrillator (the village machine is located at the Parish Room) and how to administer CPR. For most of us the thought of having to do both filled us with trepidation but those attending had hands-on training and will feel more capable if called on to respond to an emergency.

We were surprised to learn that some funding is provided by the NHS but the majority comes from charitable donations. We had a collection on the night (£70) but as a community we wanted to do more. It was decided to have a BBQ and games evening in the village hall. Several First Responders came along. With one eye on the weather, we moved our new table tennis table and Alun and Zoe Davies' giant Jenga and Splat the Rat into the carpark. It was the first village outing for our new chairs funded by the Parish Council. Just as we lit the BBQ it started to rain but not too much. At one stage myself and Dave Caudwell moved the BBQ under the trees but then we moved back because of falling leaves! Revetts kindly gave us a discount for the meat.



## A Chrismarriage

Congratulations to Chris Cook (left) and Chris Spinks who were due to be married on 29 November. Chris Cook is a parish councillor and the couple live at Byng Brook House. They met 40 years ago through golf but covid brought them together in lockdown.

Almost fifty people attended the event and others, who could not make it, made a contribution. With the money collected on the night and these donations the community raised an incredible £500 for our First Responders.

Sue Jones will be arranging another defibrillator training session for those who couldn't attend first time. I would encourage everyone to go along and learn something we hope we will never have to use but if we do will have an idea what to do. Thanks to everyone who attended and for the generous donations.

**Please keep an eye on WhatsApp for possible dates for a new session when we will also judge the level of interest. It may also be possible to run a basic first aid session in the future.**



## CATH's CORNER



As many of you will know, a committed group of volunteers has been working for 8 years to bring The George Pub back to life after it suffered a catastrophic fire more than 11 years ago. It is a significant project for Wickham Market and the surrounding area. Funding is in place for the major restoration and improvement works, which have begun, whilst fundraising continues for the decorative and fit-out elements. One of the things they are keen to action prior to the pub re-opening is an Activity Space. Below is news from their latest newsletter:

### **The George Community Pub Activity Space**

"Over the past year we have been busy forging links with a large number of organisations in the local area who provide health, wellbeing and community services in and around Wickham Market. This has demonstrated the need for good quality facilities for groups and one-to-one meeting places that the village currently lacks. The activity space at The George will provide these facilities and, along with usage generated by our own Community Engagement Co-Ordinator, will form the core community activities that take place at The George. There is also the opportunity for usage of the activity space as an entertainment venue and, although limited by a seating capacity of around 50, ideas are welcome as to what shareholders and supporters would like to see happening in the space."

You can follow The George at @thegeorgewm on Instagram or Facebook for restoration updates and news of events. Their website also gives information on progress at [www.wmgeorge.co.uk](http://www.wmgeorge.co.uk)

## The Dragon Patcher

Suffolk County Council is trialling new methods of pothole filling. The Dragon Patcher enables repairs at up to five times faster than traditional methods of filling and saves on CO2 emissions. On urban roads they are sealing the holes with a new material called Elastomac which is made from used tyres.

Pettistree's potholes continue to appear and widen, a situation that will only get worse if we get ice. So, if you want to help please take a photo and upload it with the location using the SCC's online reporting tool. Anyone can do it!



## New priest

The Revd Charlotte Wallington has been appointed as Priest in Charge of the Wickham Market and Pettistree Benefice. Charlotte is presently Assistant Curate in the United Benefice of Hathersage, Bamford with Derwent and Grindleford in the diocese of Derby. A licensing date will be confirmed in due course. The appointment is subject to the completion of legal formalities.

Charlotte grew up in Greater London and says she came to faith at the age of nine. She studied at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford and gives her personal interests as reading, meeting up and chatting with friends, and walking.

We hope to catch up with her when she arrives to welcome her to Pettistree and *Pettistree People*.

## Naming of calf

We asked for ideas for a name for Dick Smith's new Red Poll calf. He decided she should be registered as Olympica in the year of the Olympics. Calf and mother Alice are doing well and can be seen in the meadow behind the church.



## We remembered them

**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** Pettistree and Loudham remembered their war dead at St Peter and St Paul Church on 10 November. The service was led by the Rev. Richard Frost. Jim Jarvie played the bagpipes, Peter Holloway played the Last Post and Reveille and Cllr Susan Jones placed the wreath. This year the Poppy Appeal raised **£608.29**

## Ringling for Remembrance

*Mary Garner - Pettistree Tower Captain*

The muffles were fitted to the bells before the Remembrance Services in the Church and Churchyard. They remained for Armistice Day, when a Sunday Service band rang a quarter peal following the national silence at 11am. Chris Garner is our steeplekeeper and the band is indebted to him for scrambling around beneath the bells to fit and remove the muffles.

### 1260 Changes of Plain Bob

#### Doubles

1 Chris McArthur	4 Mark Ogden
2 Mary Garner (C)	5 Ray Lewis
3 Steve Elliott	6 Chris Garner

#### For the Fallen

Rung half-muffled on Armistice Day

On the last Saturday of October we had a visiting band of ringers come along as part of their day out in Suffolk.



*l-r: Steve Elliott, Chris Garner, Mary Garner, Ray Lewis, Chris McArthur, Mark Ogden*

They came from Great Tey in Essex and were a very enthusiastic and lively crowd.

As I write this we are looking forward to our AGM and Social at the end of the November, where we shall report on the last twelve months and elect officers for the forthcoming year. Looking ahead, we will plan Christmas and New Year ringing and choose dates for the Annual Dinner and a Ringers' Outing.

## Garden Grape Cultivation

*Jeff Hallett*

Now that the effects of global warming on Suffolk's weather have become more obvious, many more people are thinking of growing eating-grapes in their gardens. I can boast of being ahead of the game by taking grape grafts in the early 1980's.

The Hallett family came to Suffolk and moved into The Laurels in September 1983. I rented consulting rooms in Ipswich and found that the garden there had an old greenhouse with a rampant grapevine that had sweet dark-blue grapes. A previous owner of the building had been a blood pathologist working in the nearby hospital. I never knew whether to believe the stories of how he fed the grapevine with time-expired stock.

I took some small stems as grafts and potted them in my own old timber-framed greenhouse. They took very easily, and I was able to plant two young grape plants in corners of the greenhouse. Over the years the grapes flourished, and we always had a small crop. A great deal of pruning was needed to stop the grapes completely filling the greenhouse. When the wooden greenhouse became too fragile, we bought a new aluminium-framed one in 2015 that we managed to erect around the existing extensive grape branch structure, with the root outside. Alan Whitfield was a huge help, being braver and more agile than me.

We were always struck by the sweetness and strawberry flavour, but they do have pips and the skins are a bit tough. We showed the vine and the grapes to Douglas Goldsmith who then owned "Crown" plant nursery in Ufford. He said with confidence that they were an old variety called "Strawberry". One year we could not eat all the grapes, and I managed to make a gallon or more of acceptable white wine.

Over the years I took quite a lot of cuttings, and they rooted easily. I kept some as spares and gave others to friends. When we 'downsized' and moved to Wickham Market in April 2021 I took some of my rooted cuttings and planted one in the corner of our new lean-to greenhouse after removing one of the patio paving slabs. The greenhouse is south-facing and the vine cutting grew like a rocket. I was soon able to prune it to form a main trunk system around the walls of the small green house. It is now only three years since the cutting was planted, but the crop is excellent. The grapes have ripened well in the recent hot weather and the grapes are, if anything, larger and sweeter than we have ever had before.

Growing grapes is quite hard work. When they do grow, they grow very fast. They need pruning at least three times in the growth season, and stripping completely in the winter. They like to grow as high as possible, so you end up pruning from a ladder and trying to stop them blocking the roof ventilation openings. Mildew can be a big problem so good ventilation must be maintained and overcrowding avoided. Details of looking after the really big grapevine at Hampton Court Palace can be found at <https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/whats-on/the-great-vine/#gs.erp3xe>



Jeff Hallett

### Grape Strawberry

From the greenhouse at 89 Berner's Street, Ipswich. Identified by Douglas Goldsmith (Nurseryman) as "Strawberry". Recognised by our friend Denise Webb (who goes to Italy) as "Clinto" a red variety of hybrid grape. It's phylloxera resistance led to its being planted in small amounts in the eastern Alps.

Grape (Vitis)

Species *Vitis riparia* x *labrusco*

Also called Clinto (more)

Origin New York USA

Notable regions Austria and Italy but also grown in Brazil, France and Italian Switzerland. In Austria it is one of the hybrid grapes used in Uhdler wines. In France it is illegal to sell commercially. In Italy it is known as Clinto, and is sometimes confused with the *vitis* x *labruscana* variety *Isabella* known as "Fragola" (Strawberry) in Italy *Ubricco al Fragola Clinto* is a Veneto cheese rubbed with the must of *Fragola* and *Clinton*. The vine grows rapidly and is propagated easily, striking more readily from cuttings than any other variety I know in the whole catalogue of popular native and foreign sorts. The shoots are slender and wiry, ripening so well as to acquire a great firmness, and hence it is so hardy that the severe cold of a Northern winter never affects never the softest parts of the young shoots.



## Ee oo oh ha ha

Who knew? According to the *British Medical Journal*, talking nonsense for five minutes could treat dry eye disease. And you thought politicians were just grandstanding... Subjects in the research project were told to repeat phrases that mimic the function of laughing. We had a laughing class in Pettistree but it is now out of mirth.

## And more good news....

Dementia can be avoided by changes in lifestyle or environment according to the *Lancet* Commission on Dementia Prevention. High cholesterol and hearing loss are among the most significant risk factors. Sadly, another research group found that processed meat such as bacon and sausages also raised the risk. But red wine and chocolate (70% plus cocoa solids) are going to reduce it. So, full English followed by full-on Barrosa Valley Shiraz. I think I can cope -ed

## Are you missing out?

Pettistree's table tennis players enjoy a sociable and active workout every month at the village hall. They'd like more neighbours to join them for a knock about. on Wednesday evenings between 5.30 and 7.30. Don't worry if you haven't played before you will soon get the hang of it and they're a welcoming group. Bring your own drinks and £2 towards the hire of the hall.



## How did we do?

The parish was given the challenge by the Church of England to raise £10,000 in six weeks. That was the sum the church was offering to match to give us a total of £20,000 to start the renovation of the Parish Room in Walnuts Lane.

**£21,785**

At the end of the six weeks £21,785 had been raised. Of that £19,100 included funding matched by the Church of England through its Go Green initiative. The rest came in through very generous gifts of cheques and cash.

Four events helped to swell the total: a concert and art talk in the church and talks by Jim Jarvie and Darren Tansley in the village hall. Cath Caudwell and Mary Garner arranged a heritage display of documents related to the building of the Parish Room. Many thanks for a sterling (literally) effort by all involved.

The Room, built in 1891 for £77, has already been fitted with a new roof to reduce damp problems. But it needs internal works to reduce mould and make it more eco-friendly. The Victorian builders were good at their job, but the structure is of single brick with a wooden floor. Quotes have been sought for insulating floor, walls and roof space, plus adding a kitchen area and new heating. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) will decide on contractor and a schedule of works.

When complete the room will be a parish resource available for social occasions and meetings.

## A fantastic effort by fundraisers and donors

*Martin Corrall*

On 27 October the church was the venue for an afternoon concert by *The Delightful Companions* – a quartet comprising two recorders, a cello, and a harpsichord. They entertained a packed church with music from the Baroque in a delightful repertoire of works drawn from Handel, Bach, and William Williams.

One of the joys of live music played in a medieval building light on soft-furnishings and indeed furniture is that they provide a wonderful acoustic resonance which really adds to the pleasure of the audience experience.

The performers were arranged by Liz Page who was instrumental in putting the concert together and the harpsichord was kindly lent by Philip Reed of The Early Music Shop in Snape Maltings – our heartfelt thanks to them both. Cash collected on the evening exceeded £500 and in addition a lot of match-funded donations were made online and via the card reader at the back of the church.

A very different evening was held on 10 November with a very enlightening art talk on Doris and Anna Zinkeisen – two artists whose major contributions to the worlds of theatre design, posters, art and portraiture have been rather neglected. Of interest to us in Suffolk is that they both chose to live in the county with Anna residing in Burgh and Doris in Badingham after establishing their careers in London. The illustrated talk was delivered to a full church by Emma Roodhouse, a curator from Ipswich and Colchester Museums. The talk was engaging, content rich and even included some music from Andy Pandy which brought back childhood memories to many in the audience! Again, contributions on the night were very generous and thank you to all who came along to these events to provide their support.



A free talk by Pettistree resident and former Customs and Border Force investigator

Donations in aid of the Parish Room refurbishment





## AN (UN)NATURAL HISTORY OF RIVERS

An exploration with **Darren Tansley**  
 Wilder Rivers Manager at Essex Wildlife Trust



SUNDAY 27 OCTOBER  
*The Delightful Companions*

Four highly accomplished musicians will perform music from the 17th and 18th Century on Recorder Harpsichord and Baroque Cello



MUSIC CONCERT

Pettistree Church 4pm  
 Free admission but donations towards the refurbishment of the Parish Room will be most welcome.

### TRANSCRIPT OF ESTIMATE DATED 1891

#### Estimate

Submitted to Mr W Smith for the erection of Mission Room, Pettistree  
 As per plan -

- To Excavate and level all.....
  - Concrete foundations.
  - Build all walls.
  - To tile the roof with plain tile.
  - The Gable Ends of Brickwork to be covered over.
  - 12" -12" red coping set in cement.
  - The ridge of roof to be covered with Staffordshire ridge roof tile.
  - To plaster the ceiling.
  - & colour the place throughout.
  - Pave the porch with 9" -9" red Staffordshire tile.
  - To fix a stone hearth & fender.
  - " " windowsill to windows.
  - To provide & fix in 8 - 3" x 9" Air Bk
  - " " scraper to doors.
- The forgoing to be done in a good and workmanlike manner will cost the sum of £77-00

Harry Dale  
 Received on acct £60-00  
 In settlement £17-00  
 Ans<sup>d</sup> paid in full 5th May 1892 77-00

Harry Dale



## Pettistree Pith

Generosity is like rain: essential for growth.

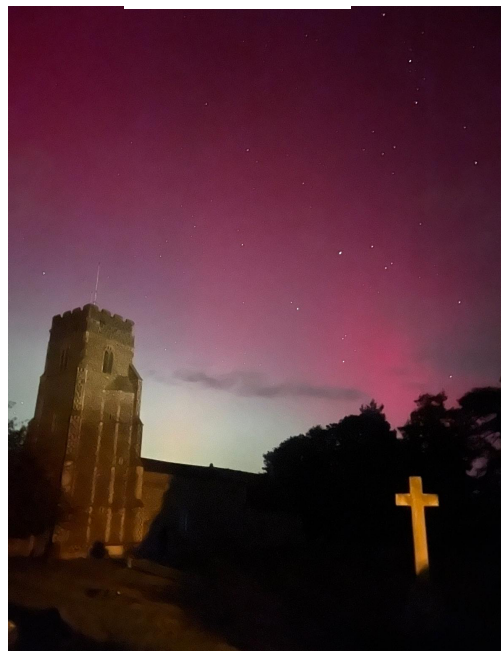


Masood Sharif

One to capture and we did! The Aurora Borealis appeared in Pettistree and we have the pictures to prove it.

Liisa Beagley

Will Orrock



Happy Christmas  
St Peter & St Paul's  
Church  
hope that Christmas  
will be filled with joy  
and gladness  
for you and your  
loved ones.



## Not that Quiet

*Jeff Hallett*

We have relatively new road signs in Pettistree but there is some misunderstanding about what they mean. The Quiet Lanes designation of Rogues Lane and Walnuts Lane has caused confusion about restrictions.

The Parish Council, when I was chairman, was strongly encouraged by Suffolk County Council (SCC) to adopt this initiative to promote more healthy exercise. We agreed that the Pettistree part of Chapel Lane should also be included but we resisted including Loudham Hall Road because of large agricultural vehicles; the sheer sides of the verge and hedges would have made escape impossible for a walker or rider. Visibility is also severely restricted.

So, we have Quiet Lanes but that does not mean vehicles are banned. What the signs indicate is that the lanes are for the use of walkers, cyclists and horse riders *in addition* to motor vehicles. But I have had personal experience of being abused when very carefully and slowly driving past a pedestrian, and I know others who have too. It is difficult to find a straightforward account of the rules for Quiet Lanes, but the here is a collation of information from *The Highway Code* and *Quiet Lanes Suffolk*.

- A Quiet Lane is a single-track road without surface markings, where motor vehicles continue to have access, but visitors and locals can enjoy the natural surroundings and activities such as cycling, horse-riding, jogging and walking.
- The idea is not to restrict motor vehicles on these rural routes, but to encourage considerate use of the road.
- Quiet Lanes are for everyone!
- A Quiet Lane is not a traffic calming measure, but drivers are encouraged to exercise caution when travelling along it and to respect other users.
- The signage is to remind drivers to moderate their speed and take extra care.
- It is wrong for anyone to say that motor vehicles are not allowed on a Quiet Lane. None of the users has the right to block the passage of others.
- The Highway Code states: 206 Drive carefully and slowly when in crowded shopping streets, Home Zones and Quiet Lanes (see Rule 218). 218 Home Zones and Quiet Lanes are places where people could be using the whole of the road for a range of activities such as children playing or for a community event. You should drive slowly and carefully and be prepared to stop to allow people extra time to make space for you to pass them in safety.
- The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has also commented on priority on Quiet Lanes as follows: "Currently, the legislation does not afford any user group priority on a Quiet Lane and use is shared."



### Bread for blessing

Wow! This wheatsheaf loaf was created for the Harvest Festival at the Church by Harvey & Co of Vida Haus cafe. Traditionally, on Lammas Day, the first of August, bread was baked with freshly picked corn and taken to the local church to be blessed.

### Going natural

*Wild East* aims to help one million people support nature recovery by 2030. It does this by encouraging organisations and individuals to pledge 20% of their own outside space to nature.

Sizewell C has pledged to naturalise a large part of the land used during construction of the nuclear power station. In addition to its 67-hectare Wild Aldhurst nature reserve in Leiston, it plans to create wetland habitat at three other nature reserves at Benhall, Halesworth and Pakenham.

## Watching Wildlife *with Darren Tansley*

### Dormice – wake me up in the Spring

One of our true hibernators in Suffolk is the rare and highly endangered Hazel Dormouse (pictured). Apart from stirring for an occasional quick drink of dew, they sleep from December to March most years. Their distinctive bushy tails set them aside from other rodents and they have big eyes and long whiskers to help them navigate around the trees and scrubby habitat at night, as they are nocturnal. But look for them in Norfolk and you won't find them anywhere as their East Anglian home range is limited to Essex and the South of Suffolk.

In 2001 we knew very little about dormice in the East and I was lucky enough to be one of a small group of 9 surveyors who got together to form the **Essex & Suffolk Dormouse Group**. We knew of only a few sites with dormice, mainly Wildlife Trust nature reserves, but soon managed to fill in the gaps. Today the Dormouse Group has grown to over 100 volunteers monitoring sites throughout the two counties and we've discovered a lot along the way. It turns out that dormice are surprisingly long lived. Most mice and voles rarely survive 18 months but one of our tagged dormice in Bradfield Woods (Mid Suffolk), is now at least 6 years old and during that time has given birth to many litters. They produce nests, woven out of honeysuckle bark and wreathed in leaves, from March to November. There is typically only one litter of 3-6 young in a year although with warmer winters they may breed a second time.

But dormice face numerous threats and are extinct in 20 counties. How can we turn this around? Dormice spend all summer in the canopy of trees or scrub, so their woodland homes need to be connected by good hedgerows to other sites to enable them to move about. Hedge removal and intense flailing during the breeding season can destroy nests and young while cutting off dispersal routes. Sensitive hedgerow management and replanting of gaps in the existing hedge network is therefore vital to their survival in Suffolk.

These beautiful nocturnal tree-dwellers are a wonderful part of our natural world and we are always happy to provide free surveys and advice for landowners. We are also happy to welcome new dormouse volunteers to the Group so please do get in touch if you think you can help to preserve this wonderful species for generations to come.  
darrent@essexwt.org.uk



The UK is failing to plant enough trees to stop global warming, says the Woodlands Trust. To get to carbon net zero by 2050 we need to plant three times the number being planted each year. The Trust is urging gardeners to help by planting native trees. The RHS is trialling 10 types of trees to see which cope best with climate change and flooding.

Ticks are increasing across UK largely because of deer visiting gardens. Advice is to cover up and check yourself when you've been in long grass.

Suffolk has hotspots of Japanese knotweed according to Environet Ltd, a company that specialises in its removal. The plant can grow up to four inches a day and can affect buildings. Our warmer and wetter weather has given it a boost. It was detected in Pettistree a few years ago. Please keep a lookout and report if found.



### Fungi perfection

Fungi comes in all shapes and sizes and some can be just rather lovely. This is a Shaggy Inkcap found on its own in the field near the village hall.

# On the Farm

Farming is topping the news agenda currently. Everyone will have their own views on the Inheritance Tax issue but here it is from the perspective of someone who farms in Pettistree.

*James Hayward*

## A Kick in the teeth

This is my most emotive column yet. Difficult to know where to start. I consider myself a farmer because I care about the world around me. I love to see things grow, I love the countryside that we're so incredibly lucky to have. I consider myself a custodian of that countryside for my lifetime and it will be my duty to pass that on to the next generation in a better state than that in which I inherited it.

I've previously written that I dislike this time of year. During Winter my crops die back, the days are short and cold and sometimes it can be difficult to have a positive view. But this is far surpassed by Spring when the world is so full of life. Every year it fills me with joy to see the frosts abating, the new flowers and birds in full song. It gives a really special feeling of hope. The recent Labour Budget, however, has landed a crushing blow to that sense of hope which pulls us through the long Winter.

The Labour Government has upended every farming family's life by removing Agricultural Property Relief. This means my family will have to pay 20% Inheritance Tax (IHT) on the value of the farm when I die. These days no-one goes into farming to make money. We operate extremely close to the profit line. We will not have the cashflow to pay the IHT. For me it will mean selling nearly half of my farm. It will no longer be viable as a commercial entity and would stop producing food.

It is likely that very large farms, who have no regard for the environment, will buy us out or wealthy business people will buy up small farms for a hobby. In both cases animal welfare will likely decrease, food standards will go down and food production will suffer. As net importers this will further expose us all to high food prices and put us at the mercy of global markets.

Most of you know I work in London so the change won't immediately affect my daily life. So I want to tell you about my sister, Charlotte. Her husband, Howard, has a dairy farm worth around £8m. He works a 15 hour day, 365 days a year with one member of staff and once a month he takes a weekend off. My two-years old nephew goes to a state nursery and they can sometimes cobble together enough money to take a holiday in the Lakes once a year. Howard's parents are not in the best of health and this means it will be difficult to gift the farm to the next generation within seven year in order to avoid IHT. The family will have to pay £1.4m in tax - cash they don't have - and will have to sell roughly one-third of the farm which will put them on the edge of sustainable. The gains the family has made in two generations will be wiped out and my nephew's future upended. Why would Howard continue to maintain the land to the highest standards when that future no longer exists?

Farmers work long days every single day of the year. They own expensive assets but are cash poor. The majority drive beaten-up trucks and Ford Fiestas. This year has been pretty awful for R Hayward & Son. All crop yields were down after a very wet Autumn 2023. The only crop that might have done well - sugar beet - was damaged beyond saving by an uninsured spray contractor, leaving us with the stress of cashflow juggling. We're now back on track for 2025.

I'll be attending the march on Westminster on the 19 November to protest about the IHT change. When you tuck into your Christmas dinner please take a moment to think of the farmers who helped to put it on the plate. The National Farmers Union is campaigning for a review of the legislation and you can add your support by searching *NFU-overturn the family farm tax* or going to the union website.



# History Notes

## Ray Whitehand

On 14 April 1253 Roger de Huntingfield was granted the right to hold a market, fair and free warren at Byng. It was decreed that the market was to be held on Thursdays and the fair, annually, on 29 June. That was the day of the feast of St Peter and St Paul to mark the martyrdom in Rome of both apostles. Obviously it was linked to the dedication of Pettistree church, but it begs the question of which came first.

Frustratingly, the actual date of dedication is unknown. The earliest known mention of the parish is 1202 but the earliest identified reference to the church is the induction of Ric of Clerke, possibly as the first priest of the new church. There are remnants of an earlier building in the structure but the core of the nave and chancel dates the 13th century.

Following Roger's untimely death in 1285, his mother as Lady of the Manor Byng, claimed the right to hold the market. There is an Upper Market field and a Lower Market field clearly marked on the tithe map (below) situated to the south of Byng Hall. Roger had used the well-established name of Byng in the grant application rather than the fledgling Pettistree.

This was a period when more fairs and markets were created in the county than at any other time. Between 1200 and 1349, 74 markets and 99 fairs were established in Suffolk. By 1349 the county possessed 10 market sitters per 100 square miles. All trade had to take place outdoors and the markets opened at dawn and closed during the afternoon. They were expected to enforce various assizes which standardised weights and measures.

The markets and fairs would have increased the footfall of traders, entertainers and public beating a pathway to Byng. This would have had a significant impact on the landscape. Evidence can be seen in the height of the fields to the roads. The roads were constantly scraped of waste created by the movement of livestock. The area would also have been a magnet for bands of rogues and vagabonds.

A 1448 document refers to the 'mill on the mount' which is two fields away from the market fields and it also references 'le market grene'. This is the last known reference to Byng market. The right to hold a twice weekly market was granted to Wickham Market in 1443 and that would have had a severe impact on Byng's market.

## New in the village

### Suffolk Animal Rescue

Whitehouse Kennels in The Street has new occupiers. The rescue charity, founded by Jayne Roberts, moved in during the Summer. The charity prides itself on accepting any dog or cat for re-homing.

### Soil Moisture Sense

The sign advertising holiday letting has gone and a new tenant has moved into the front block of the Old Engineering site in The Street.

The company describes itself as one of the leading providers of crop and weather monitoring.





## We love you but...

All trees are lovely. But some outgrow their place. In this case, the great Lombardy Poplar on the village green has been raised as a possible fall risk, and it is near the road.

The Parish Council discussed what action to take at its September meeting. It was decided to get professional advice and quotes for reduction.

Lombardy Poplars were introduced to the UK in the 18th century for screening. They are fast growing (up to 6ft in a year) but short lived and prone to storm breakage, infections and pests. The wood shatters easily under stress and they have a shallow root system.

The Parish Council has insurance cover for the village green but would rather mitigate a risk than wait for damage to happen.

We asked for and received approval from East Suffolk Council to reduce the Poplar to 10m from the ground. At the same time, two other trees on the green will have dead wood removed and receive a bit of a haircut: the oak's branches that overhang the road and pollarding of the top of the willow.

ESC approval was needed because the trees are in the Conservation Area. The process is quick and painless. The ESC website has instructions, and a free application can be made online or by mail/email by downloading a form.

## Gritty humour

A competition to name 38 new county council gritters included these winners: Gritney Spears, Alexander the Grit, Grit Britain, Gritter Thunberg, Sir David Attenbrrrrrr, Father Gritmas and Grit Rhys Jones.

The gritters have a digital operating system with the latest route map planning software to ensure they can keep the roads safe.

But the gritters don't cover rural roads so it will be up to us to grit Pettistree and Loudham. We have four grit bins: opposite Pettistree Grange, near the village green, opposite Presmere Pond and at the entrance to Hungarian Close.

**Volunteers will be needed to use them when the roads are icy. Please report when they need filling (Suffolk County Council reporting tool) or let the parish council know.**



## A natural wonder

Suffolk came 15th in the list of English counties judged (by the *Daily Telegraph*) to be the loveliest. Devon came first, Norfolk came 7th. Bedfordshire came last. But we did come in the top 10 of natural wonders. Is the *DT* trying to increase its Suffolk readers hmm?

## WhatsApp Pettistree

The WhatsApp Group now has **52** 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

## Scam warnings

Police are warning about scam messages offering extra cost of living support and claiming to offer help with winter fuel payments. The scam encourages you to click on a link to 'update' or 'provide' your details to receive the payment. Please don't. Instead check out whether you are eligible for Pension Credit which automatically provides a winter fuel allowance.

Do be aware that your bank cards can be duplicated when you hand them over to pay for a meal, hotel etc. We've had experience of two card readers being used for one transaction - one hidden and being used by a scammer (otherwise known as a thief) who can then download your card details to pay for their own meal in a nice restaurant!

## CONTACTS

### Parish Councillors

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**Trees & Infrastructure:** James Hayward

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**Pettistree People editor:** Sue Jones

**Pettistree News editor:** Cath Caudwell

**Whats App Group administrators:** Alice Over and Sue Jones

### Website

www.pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk

### Village Hall

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### Church

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PCC Secretary, Leanne Castle 07375 825063

Wardens:

Carolyn Westrope 746139

Martin Corral

Bellringers: Mary Garner 746097