



Pettistree People

Issue 103

June 2024

Pettistree Parish Council Newsletter

What's On

6 June – 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings commemorated with events across the UK and France

7 June – Joan Peck funeral at noon Seven Hills Crematorium

13 June – Parish Council meeting in the Parish Room at 7pm (finance and audit)

18 July – Parish Council meeting in the Parish Room at 7pm

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

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



We lost Joan

It is rare to find someone who makes such an impact upon a place, but Joan Peck was that person. She arrived in Pettistree 54 years ago and death was the only way she was going to leave the village she loved. Joan died aged 96 on May Day, the first day of Summer. Her many friends reflect on her life and what they will miss about her (page 4)



Northern lights reach Pettistree

It was worth waiting for...pictured by Darren Tansley

The Road not taken

Probably because it was closed...

Sue Jones

Chair, Pettistree Parish Council

It was a honey day in Portmeirion and, as I lapped up the view and the softness of the white sands of the Dwyrdd estuary, the phone buzzed. It was my first engagement with the Ufford Road Closure. Due to start on 13 May for 13 weeks it was raising eyebrows and not a few questions. Amy Nicholls had helpfully posted the notice on our WhatsApp group and subsequent enquiries revealed that Ufford Parish Council had been informed, or should that be 'consulted', but no other parish council had.

An urgent meeting arranged by our county councillor, Alexander Nicoll, revealed that there should have been a public consultation in March but it didn't happen. The road closer, Cadent, was obliged to postpone work until after a hastily arranged public consultation on 23 May. As any proposed diversions were not obvious from an online map of the works, I began to wonder if they had any ideas on the subject.

A phone call to Cadent, the UK's largest natural gas distributor, didn't go well. After 15 minutes of quite nice traditional jazz music I gave up and sent an email instead to the person who had issued a stakeholder letter with the wrong date for the consultation. No answer. Do let me have your views on what happens when Cadent and its contractor, Costain, finally get going with the replacement of pre-war leaky gas pipes.

Roads in Pettistree are becoming a priority for the parish council. The Annual Parish Meeting (report on page 9) discussed the mega-truck traffic through the village, and we're considering whether a traffic audit would be worthwhile. It would help if the registration and haulier name on large trucks using small roads, like Byng and Rogues Lane, were passed to the PC. We know many of them go to Kind Water in Presmere Road but not all.

The AGM of the parish council was held on 9 May when I was re-elected as chair and Tom Over was elected as vice-chair. Cllr James Clarke resigned and a vacancy notice was posted on the noticeboard near the church.

By a roundabout route we discovered that more CIL (community infrastructure levy) was due to us from the Hopkins' Wickham Gate development. Wickham Market parish councillors, when talking to East Suffolk Council about grant aid for renovation of



their village hall, were told that Pettistree would be getting more money. So they should ask us for some of it. To date we expect by the end of the year to have just short of £39,000 in our CIL Reserves account.

How do we feel about giving WM a grant? It was decided that one could be made but only after Pettistree's needs had been met. We still want to help with the internal renovation of the Parish Room and agreed that our village hall should receive up to £7,000 for new folding chairs, four small tables, chair storage trolleys and a table tennis table. The aim is to make it easier to move chairs and free up space for storage. We are checking whether we can use CIL for a new village website. Chris Garner has been our webmaster for 10 years and would now like someone else to take on the job. Volunteers welcome!

Our defibrillator will guide us through its use when necessary, but we thought some training would be beneficial. Cllr Olivia Smith is leading this project. If we can find the right training at the right price, we'll keep you informed and call out for participants.

Finally, Loudham Solar Park. After a request for the PC to change its 'no objection' position, and a site visit, we held an extraordinary PC meeting. Two councillors were inclined not to object to the park, two were in opposition. I used my casting vote to register an objection after concluding that our job was to represent local people who may have to live with it. There are myriad of reasons to object and I will be speaking for some of them at the ESC planning committee meeting on 28 May. It seems the government has also changed its mind about solar parks. It is telling councils to refuse applications to turn good food fields into panel prairies. Although, they're still open to middling arable land being used. FGS plant sunflowers instead! Otherwise, future generations will be walking amid fields of finally scrapped metal.

New arrival

Loudham

The Harrisons had a dramatic introduction to their new life in Loudham. Their home at Ashe Abbey was hit by The Deluge.

“The river was rising but when I woke at about 1am and looked down into the dining room I saw water and knew we had to get out,” says Will (pictured). The family, wife Alex, Chloe 14 and Daniel 12 headed for Loudham Hall where Will is estate manager.



They are still there and hoping to move back to Abbey House* soon.

Meanwhile, Will and his gardening and maintenance team are caring for an estate which has a menagerie of rare breeds including Rheas - not as challenging as they look but not that nice to each other, he says. Unlike the people of Suffolk who are “really lovely”.

Will had a rural childhood in Nottinghamshire, worked as a journalist in Newark and then became press officer to the Bishop of Lincoln. The job segued into operations management at Lincoln Cathedral and a master’s degree in estate and land management. Wife, Alex is training to be a health visitor after a career in nursing.

In just over a year, they have settled into a lifestyle enhanced by music. Both children are choristers at St Mary Le Tower in Ipswich and Will is a member of Aldeburgh Voices. His brother is Director of Music at Chichester Cathedral.

There was also an appearance in the film *Napoleon* for dad and son. “They were filming at the cathedral and so we became film stars in a very small way.”

The drama hasn’t stopped. Will is a Blood Biker. When he gets the call, the race is on to pick up blood in a motorbike relay between hospitals. “It has to be quick but we don’t break the speed limits”. What next?

Abbey House on the banks of the river Deben is a Grade II property formed from the Augustinian Campsey Priory founded before 1195. The house is believed to date to 14c.



East Suffolk Council: Councillor Sally Noble

Each year, East Suffolk Council distributes free packs of bulbs to town and parish councils, community groups and organisations to plant locally as part of the East Suffolk Blooms campaign. Packs will be available to collect around October. A ‘Bees Mix’ of flowers from February to May and includes crocuses, chionodoxas, scillas, muscaris and naturalising tulips, while the ‘Butterfly Mix’ flowers between May and July and comprises camassias, nectaroscordums, irises and alliums.

The scheme is funded by East Suffolk Council’s trading company and services operator, East Suffolk Services Ltd, and from the Enabling Communities Budget scheme. An application form will be available to complete online until 30 June, before a judging panel meets to decide the successful applicants. Applicants will then be informed of the decision by August.

A cross-party working group of councillors is looking at different ways to maintain the beauty of East Suffolk, which includes encouraging more residents to take active pride in their local area. We are also working closely and collaboratively with Suffolk County Council who have responsibility for weeds on roads and pavements, potholes and road signs.

Councillor Olivia Smith will be making an application on behalf of Pettistree and Loudham.



Joan Mary Peck, 29th January 1928 – 1st May 2024

Served on Pettistree Parish Council from 1988 until 2002, much of that time as chairman
Chairman of the Village Hall Committee when the WI gave it to Pettistree in the early 1990s
Editor of Pettistree People from 2002 until 2013
Village History Recorder

A tribute from a few of her many friends

Joan was born in Barham, near Claydon on January 29th 1928. Sadly, her father died when she was only a few weeks old and she and her mother moved to Felixstowe to live with her older sister and husband.

In 1938, aged 10, she visited the newly excavated Sutton Hoo with the Guides. They were shown round by Basil Brown who said they could have anything from the spoil heap. Joan found a rivet which she treasured until it was lost when the family were evacuated to the Midlands. She remembered seeing Coventry burning in the distance after an aid raid. After the war the family moved back to Felsham near Bury.

Joan wanted to go into farming but this was not possible when men returned after the war. Instead, she became a teacher, trained in Norwich and took her first job in Birmingham. Joan then fell ill was sent home to recuperate and failed to return to the school. She said, with a twinkle in her eye, that she wanted to be a Head as she preferred bossing people about rather than being told what to do.

In 1956 Joan was appointed Head at Bredfield and then in 1970 Head at Wickham Market when she moved to Pettistree with her mother and friend Dot. Maureen Stollery was already running the playgroup at Wickham Market School when Joan was appointed. She remembers that staff and pupils were in awe and not a little scared of their new head, but not Maureen. At the end of the school day Joan would walk around the building and, on seeing Maureen, would ask about the children and their families. She soon set about updating the school buildings, most notably having the 'outdoor' corridor around the inside of the quadrangle walled and glazed and toilets built inside too. Queues of children waiting outside in the rain were at an end. Fundraising enabled a swimming pool to be built in the quadrangle.

Carol and John Speedman moved to Pettistree in 1977. John arrived a few weeks earlier than his wife who had stayed in Scotland with their two boys until the end of term. The new neighbours chatted across the garden fence and very quickly Joan enquired whether Carol had a job, yes was the reply, she's a primary school teacher. By the time Carol arrived she had a new job! Joan had rung around all the local schools and a new career in supply teaching began for Carol.

Joan loved Pettistree but not the church bells. Before long an official complaint was made. Notes were then put through her door if any extra ringing was planned, so that she could go out. Many, many years later Joan admitted that "the ringing has improved and anyway I have run out of places to go". She masterminded the first village exhibition held in the church over a weekend in the summer of 1995. For weeks before Suzanne Stevens had helped with mounting information on the required pink paper. Mary Garner liaised with the Record Office in Ipswich, and records dating back to the 1530s were borrowed. A computer arrived at The Den in 1999. By this time Cath Caudwell was on board with heritage research and as a typist. The yellow Pettistree booklets went into full production, which many houses in the village have to this day. The Millennium enabled the Pettistree 2000 Trust to be formed, later called Pettistree Heritage. It attracted funding and was chaired by Joan. As well as looking back Joan felt it was important to record what was happening in the present. Events, photographic surveys, Jubilee celebrations and much more have continued to be recorded. Joan used her computer to further village research and make contact with descendants from past residents and so glean more information for the records. She met some very interesting people from around the world. Joan became editor of Pettistree People in 2002 continuing until 2013, working with Maureen, who also acted as the roving reporter.

After Dot died, Joan lived alone but with a 'watch committee' of friends. Three telephone rings at 8.15am were put in place, which ensured we knew that all was well. *Continued...*



Squidgy has gone to another good home



Getting the files ready for a move (left) while Squidgy wonders what is going on. Finally, the Peck Collection has gone and Mary and Joan take a rest



The Village Records were stored in Joan's spare room and were catalogued over a five year period from about 2005. By 2014 Joan felt it was best to pass on the responsibility, so on the 25th March 2014 the records were collected by Suffolk's Chief Archivist and deposited at the Suffolk Record Office in Ipswich, and are now known as The Joan Peck Collection (see page 6).

Joan loved driving. She was member of the Institute of Advanced motorists. There was the time that she took a new car out for a run on a Saturday afternoon and finished up in Hastings ... Eventually, a crane was fitted in the boot so she could take a stroll along the prom in her buggy. But the time came to give up driving and thereafter she enjoyed riding around the village on the buggy and spotting the changes!

Throughout her life Joan was a keen gardener. Her orchard was planted back in the 70s, vegetables were grown every year and the flower beds maintained. As time went on, more and more people worked in Joan's garden and Olivia Smith recounts how she had the handles of her edging shears shortened so she could use them from the buggy. Joan also invested in a long-handled fork and trowel. Who could forget the Joan Peck method of planting?

Squidgy, the cat, was her full-time companion, a daily walk around the house was taken, firstly Joan using sticks and then the buggy. As it became more difficult to look after Squidgy's needs Carol came in each morning and Olivia every evening. Once the job was done they enjoyed many long conversations together. In the last few weeks Joan enjoyed the mini meals from M&S which Carol shopped for. By mistake she once had chicken with dumplings. Joan enjoyed the dumplings so much Carol found a recipe and made some for her. Not long after Carol's phone rang and a voice said: "There was only one thing wrong with the dumplings, they weren't big enough!"

Joan was a very organised person and had strict ideas about how things should be done. As mobility and physical strength became a problem, she looked for ways to help maintain these standards. Once she had decided on a course of action it was carried out immediately. It often seemed spontaneous but no doubt it had been thought through for some time and only shared when it was ready to happen.

Joan was a great listener, very perceptive and encouraged everyone to use their strengths in whatever project was on hand. She was a keen observer, had a wicked sense of humour, was a stickler for doing things the correct way but ever open to try new ideas. All her friends miss her. She leaves a huge gap in the life of Pettistree and its people.

Contributions by: Carol Speedman, Cath Caudwell, Mary Garner, Maureen Stollery, Olivia Smith, Suzanne Stevens

The Joan Peck Collection

Ray Whitehand

As many of you will know Joan Peck was the village recorder for many years and with a small group of enthusiastic helpers she amassed a catalogue of anything of interest for present and future generations. The cataloguing coding system was a unique feature. It did what it said on tin. In 2016 Joan decided to hang up her pen and magnifying glass. Arrangements were made with the then Ipswich Record Office to deposit the vast majority of the collection with what is the second largest archive in the country. She rightly reasoned this way it would be preserved and made available for future generations. Archivists Bridget Hanley and Louise Kennedy brought their cars to The Den so the collection could be relocated to the Gateacre Road establishment. On arrival it was recorded and stored in archive boxes as Accession no: IP/16896. awaiting re-cataloguing into the archives own database.

It remained in its original boxes until April 2022 when I was invited to take on the challenge of sorting through and re-cataloguing the Collection. The first task was to fully catalogue it in its original format, thereby retaining the original structure of the collection. This was unique to Joan's archive for instance TS for 'top shelf', BDL for 'bottom drawer left' or T1 for trolley. It worked! This is the first principal of archive cataloguing to ensure the compiler's format is secured. Only then can you start to rearrange any part of it.

The next task was to compile a structure and we finished up with 15 sections divided into further sub-groups. These include:
 HD3083/1/Families and People
 HD3083/2/Residential Properties
 HD3083/4/Church
 HD3083/10/Celebrations and Events
 HD3083/10/2/Village events which has 10 sub-sub groups.

All of which creates a database of over 1,500 items. Bearing in mind some of these 'items' relate to folders containing several individual pieces of information. It is one of the largest single parish collection and is highly valued by the Suffolk Archive. A credit to Joan and her team.

Following the relocation of reorganisation of Suffolk Archives in The Hold, now situated in Fore Street opposite the University, the collection can be accessed by the public. The new archivist

Hannah Glasse was keen to get it uploaded before she went on maternity leave. My thanks to Hannah for guiding me through the cataloguing process.



For a peep into the collection

[HD3083/1/3/3](#) Darnley/Cobham family; Includes one of the many Heritage Group Booklets which includes Pettistree's claim to the origins of The Ashes.

[HD3083/2/39a](#) The Rosery including bills and accounts of George Johnson c1854-1906.

[HD3083/7/1](#) The Mount. includes a detailed civil engineered style calculation of this viewing structure created in c1745 with its height at 25ft, and mass volume of 2,791 tons.

[HD3083/10/1/8](#) Diamond Jubilee album (2012)

[HD3083/11/3](#) Chelsea Pensioners as drawn from 1851 & 1861 census

[HD3083/12/1](#) General Memories (of residents) these include Daphne Gibson nee Dunnett of Sunnyside; Mamie Clements of church cottage 1953; and my dear sister Margaret Emery nee Whitehand of Potash cottages c1990.

Finally in early November 2023 after approximately 176 hours of collating and inputting, the CD of 'Winter Scenes and Carols in the Barn 2009/2010' became the 1,520th and final entry on my Excel database. The Joan Peck Collection HD3083: was ready to pass over to Hannah to give it a final proof ready to upload to the County's CARM database for public access.

To view catalogue visit the Suffolk Archive website, www.suffolkarchives.co.uk. then insert either HD3083 or 'The Joan Peck collection' into the search engine and have a browse of this invaluable parish collection.



Keeping an eye on the village green



Pettistree's got talent

Jim Jarvie

Nearly fifty villagers and village hall supporters attended an afternoon BBQ followed by a performance by our local all-round entertainer Peter Holloway. Many of you will know Peter, who is a leading light in the Charsfield Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS), and will have attended their very amusing yearly review.

We were lucky to have chosen a day when the weather was sunny and warm, so we were able to have the BBQ outside. The BBQ, donated by Jeff Hallett, was fired up and we had a plentiful supply of Revetts' sausages and Swiss Farm burgers. We also provided a veggie option and bread pudding, prepared by Pauline, as a dessert. Steve and Elaine Boardley contributed several boxes of biscuits.

The operation to transfer the tables and chairs back into the hall went like clockwork and within ten minutes the chairs were all in place for Peter's performance. For an hour, Peter entertained us with magic, comedy and music and nobody was safe from being called up by Peter. Despite insisting on sitting at the back, Flo Beagley was called up to assist with a magic trick. Jacki Franklin played a blinder with a manual whisk as Peter attempted to read her mind. I'm sure Tony would appreciate any hints how to achieve that!

As usual, those attending stepped up to the mark and a terrific £270 was raised for our chosen charity Riding for the Disabled (Woodbridge). Look out for our next event and we welcome any suggestions for future events villagers may wish to organise.

My thanks go to all those that helped on the day, particularly Dave and Cath Caudwell and a big thank you goes to Peter Holloway.



Darren Tansley warned about a bee swarm in the hedgerow near the village hall. Nick Beagley gathered them up and moved them to a hive

Annual Reports

Heritage Trust

Cath Caudwell

I'd like to begin my report by thanking Ray Whitehand, who was a Pettistree resident many years ago and who has taken a keen interest in its history ever since. Ray has been diligently cataloguing Pettistree's archive records which are on loan to the Suffolk Record Office (SRO). Quite rightly the records were listed as the Joan Peck Collection after Joan's many years' work as our Local History Recorder and then on the Pettistree Heritage Committee. Ray's volunteer work with the SRO has resulted in the Collection being listed online so that anyone can now see what records are held about Pettistree and visit The Hold with confidence to do further research.

King Charles III and Queen Camilla's coronation in May was celebrated by the village with a BBQ and social occasion, enjoying the weather and company after watching the ceremony the day before.

During the year the booklet about The Mount was updated and reprinted following conservation work by Natural England around the canal and the Mount itself. The last few months of exceptional rainfall have benefited the water levels within the canal so that it probably looks more like it was originally intended.

The village itself has experienced a lot of road flooding from field run-off and blocked drains, with an event at the Village Hall having to be postponed during the Storm Babet period. The area around Presmere Pond, in The Street near Holmleigh, by the church car park, in Walnuts Lane near the Village Hall and Rogues Lane at both ends experienced extended periods of varying depths of standing water. Rogues Lane continues to suffer due to large vehicles which arguably shouldn't use it. Their size is damaging the verges and leaves substantial deposits of soil in the middle of the lane, now seemingly on a permanent basis.

Small enquiries continue to be answered as and when they arise but there have been no exhibitions since the Platinum Jubilee.

Village Hall

Jim Jarvie, Chairman Pettistree and Loudham Village Hall

Bookings for the village hall have remained high and groups using the facility have been varied. Almost all weekdays are being used for pilates, art classes, basket weaving, patchwork, quilting and laughter therapy. Children's parties (up to 12 years of age) continue to be booked at weekends. The hall is also used for local and national elections and hosting our Annual Parish Meeting.

Our coffee mornings, held on the first Wednesday of month have proved incredibly popular and we have up to thirty attendees from the village, the church and surrounding community. There is an incredible buzz when those attending engage with friends and neighbours. The coffee machine purchased by Cath and Dave Caudwell prepares excellent coffee, on a par with the major chains. Alun and Zoe Davies started a table tennis evening on the third Wednesday of each month and, although participants are in single figures, we are hoping to encourage more people to attend this 'for fun' event.

The hall has been maintained throughout the year and we have undertaken improvements. The felt roof over the entrance was repaired by Brad Bye and Cath ensures superficial marks, mainly from children's parties are cleaned. This is in addition to her weekly duties keeping the hall clean and well stocked. The hedges around the carpark were trimmed in Autumn. Our thanks go to Louis Deliss and Tom Over.

The hall hosted a Xmas bring and share and Debbie Hayward's children performed their nativity play. Our annual Burns night, hosted by the Jarvies, was a great success and, thanks to all those that helped with the food and with the raffle. We were able to donate £930 to the Woodbridge branch of Riding for the Disabled.

The finances of the hall are very healthy and no doubt you are aware of legacy amounting to £250,000 which was included in Mike Watt's will. We are currently corresponding with the solicitors and the executors to determine the way forward. The consensus is we do not want to change the character of the hall and a brand-new replacement is not what we want. The planners are unlikely to agree to a new build within our conservation area. The village hall is a terrific community asset and we would welcome any suggestions for future events. It is for us all to use and enjoy. My thanks go to all the committee members and supporters for their continuing support.

Annual Parish Meeting

Every parish council must hold an annual meeting for all electors between 1 March and 1 June and not before 6pm. So, we had ours on 25 April and made sure it was well advertised.

Around 14 residents turned up to hear a report on the PC's activities and from the leaders of village groups. Then there was an opportunity to raise issues.

The first was a complaint about the megatrucks travelling several times every working day through The Street and occasionally down Rogues Lane. This, speakers said, had resulted in damaged roads, damaged verges and a safety hazard. Pictures were provided by the Cllr Jones of a not uncommon mega stand-off.

The owner of Kind Water, Julian Hobday, had agreed to attend the meeting and respond as most, if not all, the trucks deliver salt to his business.

Julian's reply was that attempts were being made to ensure the vehicles are loaded arriving and leaving to reduce movements. His aspiration is to limit movements to four a day.

Occasionally deliveries overlap so the trucks meet on the single-track road and have to reverse. He was not convinced that the lorries were damaging verges, grips and roads but was happy to fund repairs. The business had agreed to pay for a 'not suitable for HGVs' sign at the start of Java Lodge Road. Not using 44-tonne trucks would mean more vehicle movements if smaller trucks were used. There are plans to grow the business and an additional site is being sought. It was important to stay in the locality because Kind Water employs local people.

The belief that the trucks are not damaging the road surface was challenged by county councillor Alexander Nicoll who has been dealing with similar problems at Bentwaters. He suggested a traffic audit to provide facts about the impact and whether the HGVs have other users. This would be useful in monitoring HGV movements related to Sizewell C construction, he said.

Traffic was also raised by Dave Caudwell who said that parking on the wildflower meadow on church land was damaging part of the meadow. Maggie Hallett pointed out that a lot of churchgoers do not live in the village and some have mobility issues. At least 12 spaces were needed and the solution would be to have village parking in addition to the pub and the village hall.



Some of the challenges being dealt with by the PC were reported by the chair, Cllr Jones. Potholes were increasing and being reported but residents could also report through the SCC website.

Loudham Solar Park is nearing a decision from the ESC planning committee. The PC had changed its view on this after a site visit and had registered an objection.

Unexpectedly, the PC had received more CIL money from the Wickham Gate development and Wickham Market PC had requested a grant towards renovation of their village hall. A query was raised about using CIL for ditch and drainage maintenance.

The PC had requested an increased precept to cover running costs but it still allows very little scope for additional spending. CIL cannot be used for running costs though cllr Nicoll advised that a change in that policy may occur and the PC should make enquiries of ESC.

The meeting closed at 20.42 with applause for the parish councillors who give free time to the village.

Then we had Mary Chilvers' special sausage rolls and cake. Thank you, Mary.

CATH'S CORNER

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

I am a firm believer that Pettistree's success as a community is augmented by its proximity to Wickham Market and its facilities. Many of you will know that I am a Trustee of the Wickham Market Partnership (WMP), a local charity that works to improve the social, economic and leisure facilities in Wickham Market and the surrounding parishes. It seeks funding in the form of grants for specific projects, hires out rooms at the Resource Centre, including offering a treatment room for a Chiropractic business, and can also give small grants. Three important projects with which we've been involved include:



Inspirations: A Community Interest Company that developed out of the then Town Team, a subgroup of WMP. Its remit was to fill vacant premises that had laid empty for several years by providing a space for small independent retailers to sell clothes, homewares, gifts and artisan products. A 10-year lease was negotiated with the East of England Co-operative, shares sold and grants sourced to fund the project. Despite the many challenges presented along the way, especially in the last 4 years, the business was a success. However, continuing increased costs and a desire by many of the retailers to lessen their workload or retire meant that a collective decision was made to close the shop in April of this year after 8 successful years. As a volunteer Director I learnt a tremendous amount from these hardworking retailers and will really miss dropping in to see and work with them all. The personal touch and advice they offered will be greatly missed by those who frequented the shop regularly. I had great fun over the years, especially when doing fashion shows as a model. However, I won't miss doing the finances!!

Wickham Market Area Archive Centre: The much-loved Archive Centre has just re-opened, after four years, in its new home in the rear garden of the Resource Centre. WMP assisted its move by negotiating a lease with the landlord, Suffolk County Council, sourcing grants, purchasing a log cabin and helping to build it. The Open Day on 6th May saw the building named as the Morris Dyke Centre after Mary Morris and Gwen Dyke, who were the inspiration and instigators of the venture more than 30 years ago. I had the honour of cutting the ribbon to officially open the Morris Dyke Centre, having been the lead trustee closely involved with all aspects of the project to give it a new home. Exhibits on the Roman Hoard found in Bordercot Lane, Whitmore & Binyon Ironworks, the Plomesgate Union Workhouse and the impact of WWII on Wickham Market were all on show in the garden, supplemented by lovely refreshments being served. The Centre will open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for members of the public to make enquiries and to do research.



Wickham Market Shed: The move of the Archive Centre released the portacabins at the rear of the Village Hall and Football Club to be developed as a Men's Shed and WMP has been facilitating this. Regular sessions take place on a Monday afternoon, 2 – 4pm. I'll do a fuller report in the next edition of PP but if you want to find out more in the meantime go to: www.wmshed.org.uk or email wmshedders@gmail.com (you'll reach me!). For general information on Men's Sheds and their value on men's mental

health visit www.menssheds.org.uk

Church Tower Open Morning

Mary Garner

How lucky were we to hold our open tower on 4 May. It rained the previous day but Saturday morning dawned with lovely warm sunshine. We were able to open the West door so people could view the ringing directly. Entering by the South door there were displays about the history of the rehang of the bells in 1986 and how they work. A TV screen showed one of the bells turning as it was being rung. There was a large model bell in the centre and a bell wheel from the previous rehang in 1901. This had information about the mechanics of ringing a single bell as well as ringing them all together.

Between forty and fifty people visited and there was a great deal of chatter and laughter. It was so good to talk to several family groups coming to find out about ringing for the first time. We were “well-staffed”, so as well as being able to watch ringing and have a try, there were others only too keen to discuss enthusiastically the many aspects of the ringing. It was an opportunity to meet old friends too. Several expressed an interest in learning ... Needless to say plenty of coffee and cake was consumed.

We meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm and would be delighted to see anyone who would like to find out more about the bells, ringing, watching, having a go, or a look around the church. We ring the bells from the ground floor so it's easy just to pop in for a little while and there's always somebody ready for a chat. If you'd like to know more please contact Mary Garner, 07791 585127 marysgarner@tiscali.co.uk

We continue to practise every Wednesday, attempting a non-stop piece from about 6.30 -7.15pm known as a quarter peal, before our general practice where we ring for about five minutes at a time. We have rung for half an hour before each service, with one exception. This was Easter Day, March 31st, when a specially organised quarter peal was rung before the service. We met at 8.15 BST, but it really felt like 7.15 am because it was the morning the clocks changed.



South East District Striking Competition

On May 11th eight teams of ringers representing several different towers met at Clopton for the annual District Striking Competition. Each team rang for about 4 minutes and were judged on how evenly the bells were rung. The judges, from Essex, were away from the tower where they could hear each bell clearly, but not see the teams. Each row was marked for equally spaced striking and the one with the lowest score won. There were three teams in our category and we were pleased to be placed 1st.

The four ringers pictured below are Chris Garner, Mary Garner, Kate Eagle and Mark Ogden. Richard and Ruth Munnings completed the team.



Before the practice on May 8th a specially arranged quarter was rung:

A Quarter Peal in memory of Joan Peck

On Wednesday 8th May 2024

1260 Changes of Grandsire Doubles

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Suzanne M J Stevens | 4. Peter Harper |
| 2. Elaine Townsend | 5. Kate Eagle |
| 3. Mary Garner (C) | 6. Christopher McArthur |

In thanksgiving for the life of Joan Mary Peck
29th January 2028 – 1st May 2024

Watching Wildlife *with Darren Tansley*

Return of the Migrants

All our migratory birds are returning to Pettistree and among them are the swallows, swifts and martins. But how do you tell them apart? Sue is forever calling out on our dog walks “Look! There’s a swallowswiftmartin” and at first glance the three do look similar. To make things even more confusing they all start to arrive around May in order to breed, leaving in the autumn on their epic journeys south. So here are some pointers to tell them apart.



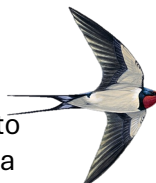
Swift *Apus apus*

As the name implies, these birds fly fast, often in tight flying flocks that thunder along our streets with a shrill screaming *srriiirr* sounding call. They are the only one of the three that looks almost entirely black (actually dark brown up close), with just a small light patch under the chin. Their wings look sickle-shaped and apart from when they are in the nest, they never perch. Incredibly they feed, travel and even sleep in flight.



Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The most colourful of the three with a pale to deep pink buff chest, glossy blue back and a red throat. In flight the pale chest alone is enough to tell it apart from a swift but swallows also have long pointed wings and deeply forked tails with long tail streamers (longest in older males). They hunt insects by flying low over fields or open water with a fluid swooping, twisting flight, and often issue little *vit vit* calls as they pass. But when perched they issue a series of bubbling trills interspersed with dry rattles.



The village duck family has chosen to raise offspring on the pond at the home of Pat and Louis Deliss this year. A delighted Pat sent us some photos.

I do wonder if it is the same pair who sniffily check out the ponds earlier in the year. They came to our very small ponds at Holmleigh, spent the afternoon and then decided on a much better berth.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

A smaller bird than the swallow it has a bold white patch across its rump contrasting with the otherwise dark back. The chest and chin are also white so there should be no confusion with the swift. It has a slightly forked tail but not as pronounced as the swallow and there are notail streamers. Whilst the swallow hunts low, martins tend to fly much higher and with a less powerful and agile acrobatic flight. Their calls are a dry chattering *priiit* sound. They will perch on wires along with swifts at the end of the summer before the return migration.



Cowslips in the church flower meadow

Images: Mike Langman rspb

On the Farm

James Hayward

“Jeremy and I are on the same page.”

I never thought I’d say this, but Jeremy Clarkson is doing more for the public perception of farming than anyone has done for years. Sure, he may not be actually *changing* anything, but if you watch the latest series of Clarkson’s Farm – as I’ve just done – you’ll get a real appreciation of what farming is all about. Jeremy and I are lucky enough to have other incomes, but for those farmers who are entirely reliant on food production for a living, things really are tougher than ever.

For anyone who doesn’t want to watch Clarkson: it shows farming as bloody hard work, unbelievably expensive and you spend almost every day wondering why you bother. Except for at this time of year. Spring is always a wonderful time of year on the farm; everything is growing, the days are getting warmer and there’s nothing better than spending time outside, surrounded by nature.

Unfortunately, before we get to Spring, Autumn and Winter have to be negotiated – and this year they were both *thoroughly* miserable.

In my last column, I commented that Spring would be especially busy after so much failed Winter cropping. Fortunately, we managed to get our various crops drilled up in good time – in-between the bouts of wet and cold weather and now it’s really a case of hoping for warmth and rains through to harvest. And for the wheat price to go back to a level where we might actually make some money!

Unfortunately, some fields have had to be written off. Many of you will have seen my two new duck ponds in our field bordering Rogues Lane and the Main Road. Despite the money lost from the failed crop of winter barley in there and zero prospects of being able to do anything useful with it, you have to try to see the funny side. This is the first year that I’ve woken up to equal amounts of barking and quacking as the dog faced off with a duck in the back garden! Maybe I’ll stock the ‘pond’ with fish and add some pontoons...

The installation of our first solar array went smoothly and we’re now feeding back into the grid and selling power to our tenants – as well as mitigating 100% of the farm’s electricity usage. This is yet another attempt to diversify our income stream, though still one dependent on the weather! Another of our new enterprises – the Car Boot – has been retired after just one season because the operating couple decided they needed to focus on other



James and Tom York talking about their own experiences of mental health issues

Spot the interloper



things to do. At least we tried.

Finally, I had the pleasure of being asked to speak at a Farming Community Network event, hosted by Claas Manns. The FCN supports people mainly, though not solely, in the agricultural industry going through tough times. The event was attended by over 40 representatives of local Suffolk businesses. The aim is to encourage them to act as ‘look-outs’ to spot the early signs of mental health issues and what to do should you feel someone could do with some extra support. For anyone reading this and thinking a friend or family member may be having a tough time, please get in contact with myself directly, or with the FCN – they are a great bunch of people.

As well as speaking about my own family’s experiences of mental health issues, it was also great to introduce Tom York who’s competing in an Ironman Triathlon in a couple of weeks to raise money for the FCN. That’s a 2-mile open swim, followed by 120 miles cycling and finishing with a marathon! Tom’s fundraising page can be found on JustGiving ‘Tom York’s Ultimate Triathlon’.

Church News and Annual Report

Kevin Blyth and Maggie Hallett



The Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held in the church on 13th May. The churchwardens for year ahead were elected. Brian Nobbs has retired from the role, having been churchwarden over the last year and on many previous occasions. We're all very grateful for what Brian has done, and no doubt will continue to do to support the life of the church in Pettistree. We're grateful to Carolyn Westrope who continues as churchwarden, and is joined by Martin Corral, who kindly volunteered to take on the role this year. The PCC members continue as before, with the addition of Francis Wadley who joined this year.

The meeting reviewed activities and finance over the year. Financially, church income and giving is just about covering regular running costs, but challenges, such as the significant increase in energy costs, are having an impact. Sunday services at 9.30am were held all year, and monthly 6pm Evensong services were held again during the summer. A monthly Friday morning communion service also restarted following a pause during Covid.

Following the departure of the vicar, Leslie Siu, the process to find our new Priest in Charge has continued. The first two rounds of advertising the vacancy, although attracting a small number of applicants, have been unsuccessful. The role is currently being advertised again with applications invited by 3rd July, and interviews scheduled for later that month. However, during this period of interregnum, we are extremely lucky to have Rev. Jenny Catchpole, three retired clergy and other members of the benefice ministry team helping to ensure the regular service pattern continues.

Festival services were held a usual with Easter, Harvest and Christmas celebrated with the church being beautifully decorated at these times. A weekday children's harvest service and a Christingle service were held, predominantly for the Presmere nursery children, parents, and staff to attend. These have been very much appreciated and well attended. A Christmas 'Songs of Praise' was held in the churchyard followed by mulled wine supplied by Will from the Greyhound.

The bellringers continue to be an important part of church life, with the bells rung every Sunday for morning services. The bellringers also continue to mark royal events, ringing two quarters of King Charles Delight Minor and on the eve of the King's Coronation,

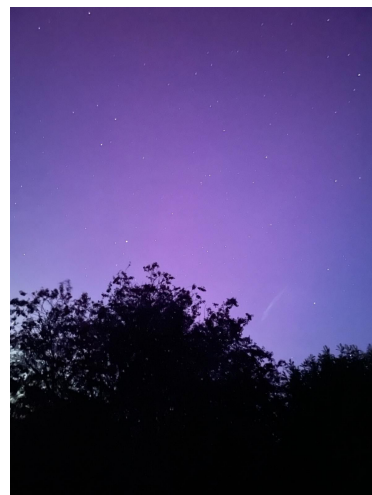
a full peal of 5040 changes was rung, taking 2 hours and 40 minutes. The band was also a joint winner of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers Cecil Pipe Memorial Bell Method Striking Competition, a lovely achievement. They are an extremely welcoming and very proficient band and would be delighted to show anyone interested 'the ropes'.

The Community Payback Service team returned regularly to work in the churchyard and the PCC are very grateful to Andy Curtis for mowing the churchyard and to Dave Caudwell for ensuring that the bonfire does not get out of hand!

The PCC are investigating the most cost-efficient way to sort out the damp problems of the Church Room and ideally upgrade it to make it more user-friendly!

The nave wall restoration issues continue, though the PCC were pleased to recently obtain permission from the Chancellor of the Diocese to progress with a plan of work to re-plaster the nave walls and then limewash. The PCC is now seeking a new architect to lead the next stages of this project, with some further planning to do before a contractor can be selected and any practical work started.

Following a review with the church architect, the PCC identified immediate maintenance needs and monitoring actions to help with planning for the more extensive repairs may be required. This work covered internal and external repairs, drainage inspections and placement of monitoring patches to assess wall crack movements. Unfortunately, it was found that the stone cross at the Gable end of the chancel roof was unstable. It was not possible to repair this at that time due its height, so the area of churchyard immediately under that section has been cordoned off. A report summarising the work carried out, together with recommendations for future planning, is being prepared by the church



May 2024 when Pettistree didn't so much gaze at the stars but at the aurora borealis. Pictures were shared with the WhatsApp group. This one was taken by Sarah Clarke

Footpath Report

Judy Steventon

It is with great joy that we welcome back our footpaths. At last sun, warmth and wind are drying our muddy, slippery impassable footpaths.

The Suffolk County Council have finally taken note of my filing on the dangerous bridge and replaced it with a safe and sturdy bridge across the Byng Brook, on the footpath from Byng Brook House to Byng Hall.

I have reported the terrible state of the access to the footpath from Loudham Hall Road beside the hedge then onwards, across the A12 to reach Chapel Lane.

The roadside finger post has been broken, and the path access from the road is completely overgrown by brambles and the hedge. Ref 467254 (pictured). Ref 467245 reports the very muddy state of the access to the footpath to Grove farm from Byng Lane.



new Byng Brook Bridge



A new safety mirror has been installed at the junction of Byng Road and Stump Street. This one replaces the original which wasn't around long before it was whacked by a van or lorry. Thanks to Cllr Chris Cook for taking this on. Let's hope drivers use it for safe passage rather than a target.



Pettistree's café

Tim Hargraves of Woodbridge was barista of the day at Harvey & Co's café at Vida Haus. The new venture at the Three Tuns is bringing in passing trade and local fans of sourdough.

WhatsApp Pettistree

The WhatsApp Group now has **43** participants 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

The switchover scam

In 2025 (later for BT) the analogue copper telephone landline network will be switched to digital. That means all calls will go through the internet and everyone will need broadband.

Not slack in picking up an opportunity, fraudsters are telling people that bank details are needed as part of the switchover otherwise the service will be disconnected. Tell 'em to scam!

And always question when an unsolicited caller tries to persuade you to download an App or go to a website.

Pettistree Pith

Nature gets her core balance right...eventually

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Trees & Infrastructure: James Hayward

Village maintenance contact: Chris Cook

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Pettistree News editor: Cath Caudwell

Whats App Group administrators: Alice Over and Sue Jones

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Church

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PCC Secretary, Leanne Castle 07375 825063

Wardens: Carolyn Westrope 746139

Bellringers: Mary Garner 746097