



Pettistree People

Issue 109

December 2025

Pettistree Parish Council Newsletter

What's On

Carols in the Barn

Friday, 12 December 7pm at The Laurels

Christmas Bring & Share Lunch

14 December, noon at the Village Hall

Christingle Service

Monday 15 December, 10.30am at the church

Carol Service

Sunday 21 December 9.30am at the church

Christmas Day Holy Communion

Thursday, 25 December 9.30am at the church

Pettistree Parish Council meeting:

Thursday, 15 January, 7pm in the Parish Room

Table tennis: 5.30pm on third Wednesday in the month at the Village Hall

Coffee morning: 10.30am first Wednesday in the month at the Village Hall

Bell ringing practice: 7pm, Wednesdays at the Church



Just checking with Amazon



Happiness Glows!



The Warburgs of Loudham were feeling good about something see Page 6

So was Ruth Leigh also of Loudham see page 5



What a generous community we have.

The Poppy Appeal raised **£792.60** from Pettistree and Loudham and the Bonfire raised **£1000** for the Bumblebee charity

The Greyhound was added to the Michelin Guide just days after being named one of the best pubs in Britain.

The Good Food Guide describes it as: "A gem of a village pub". Some of its offerings are to be found on page 7

It's a tough one

Sue Jones

Chair, Pettistree Parish Council

Modern life, and its many demands, can bump up against the past and the treasured. That's what I thought when looking at a couple of village issues that are not strictly PC -owned but nevertheless affect the parish and its residents.

The first is the Parish Room which is near completion. This was built as a Sunday School and had limped unloved into the present. Now it is once again a lovely place for villagers to meet. In this case the old bumped into the present and we have all benefited. A great example of what unity - and generosity - can achieve.

The second is car parking. Traffic is increasing everywhere but places to park in Pettistree are not. Occasionally visitors park on the village green which causes some annoyance. The PC is keeping this under review, but it is hard to deal with unless we erect 'no parking' signs. The village roads are not, generally, suitable for parking so where do we want visitors to go? Currently we have the choice of the village hall, the church carpark and The Greyhound. None of these are huge or enough for when all three places are busy, or there are village events such as weddings. We were asked about using CIL money for a new car park but, frankly, PC finances are not up to buying land - if such were available - or annual maintenance costs.

The Parochial Church Council says it has a particular problem providing parking for its ageing congregation. The church car park is not big enough for everyone who would like to park near the church. It has a plan to extend the space. But here's where modern life is bumping up against what is old and treasured. Those who have tended the church's wildflower meadow over many decades are not at all happy with part of it being used for cars. See pages 10/11 for more detail.

The parish council's responsibility here is objecting, supporting or giving no view at all if the plan comes to us as a planning application from via East Suffolk Council Planning Department. At our September meeting we did give support to the plan-in-principle: it seemed to us like a practical solution to a pressing need. At our November meeting we received some heartfelt objections

It's a tough one this. Both viewpoints have merit. The church owns the land and depends on its congregation to help financially with maintenance and avoid the building becoming redundant. But part of the overall assistance comes from people who may not be churchgoers but are prepared to put time and effort into preserving Pettistree's most valued possession. It should be noted here that the plan is restricted to the area just behind the Parish Room and not the whole meadow. But modern cars do need plenty of room for manoeuvre. What do you think? Let us know. Perhaps the question to be asked is: what would be a fair outcome?

Maintenance of the bus shelters on Main Road are the PC's responsibility and are listed as an asset. Sadly, they're not the most welcoming of places and we do not have money to pay for a shelter-keeper. A volunteer is needed to sweep them occasionally and bin litter.

A retrospective planning application has been made for the shipping containers at Whitehouse Farm which are being offered for domestic self-storage. ESC's environmental department has recommended limiting their operational hours to normal working hours to avoid the potential impact of noise.

At our November meeting our district councillor Sally Noble had some news about vandalism in Wickham Market: public lavatories burned and trashed, the Archive Centre broken into and damaged several times, Rackhams Mill burgled. Moped riders have also been causing mayhem through the village. Sally is encouraging anyone who sees anything that could identify the culprits - including young children- to report to the police.

Work has started on a new Local Plan for East Suffolk to guide development for the next 20 years. The district council is calling for potential sites to be submitted for a variety of uses including housing.

The amount of housing to be planned for is set by the Government and. As of October 2025, for East Suffolk, this is 1,667 homes per year: an 80% increase over the current Local Plan. But councils are going to lose the power to block developments of 150 homes and above. The decisions will be made by central government.

Pettistree Parish Council wishes you all a very happy and contented Christmas and New Year



We've lost one of our best loved residents - Jenny Barnes of Strawtop died suddenly at home



Jenny was born and raised in London. She married very young but was widowed young too when her son Grant was 6 months old. She had many careers but was working in banking when she met her second husband Mike. She and Mike travelled a lot but settled in Pettistree where Jenny - and her Golden Retriever, Poppy - were steadfast supporters of village events. Grant, who lives and works in Cambodia, had visited his mother for six weeks during the Summer but had to return to his teaching job. After her death his travel back to the UK was delayed by a motorbike accident. Details of a funeral are unknown as Jenny had specified a simple cremation. We asked a few of her friends what they will remember of Jenny.

Jen and I met most days to chat and review the news. Jenny had great love for animals After Mike and Grant Poppy, was of the most importance to her. I miss her, she loved my family and was just a lovely person. *Jenny Ayris*

Jenny had a big social circle and lived in Ufford for a while. We became great friends over our love of dogs and she was incredibly helpful to me. We met at a party after my dog died and when Poppy had surgery, and Jenny was heading to Cambodia to see her son, I said I would dog sit. It prompted me to get another dog and Jenny came with me to pick up Stanley my rescue foxhound. He proved somewhat difficult for a while but Jen was always there for support and we met every Sunday at the Pettistree Dog Walking Ground. *Sophie Hide*

When Jenny arrived in Pettistree with her husband Mike we often chatted but over the past couple of years I got to know her much better. When she sustained injuries to her shoulder, and then her legs, help was needed to walk Poppy. Initially by Jim Jarvie and then Dave and I got involved. Jenny was a private person and maintained a quiet dignity throughout. We shared a lot of conversations in the past few months, having similar medical treatments and she was determined she would come out stronger and was always looking to the future and arranging get-togethers. She was hugely appreciative of the help people offered. Jenny made several trips to Cambodia to see her son and was planning another in the New Year. She was so proud of Grant. Her friends here and in other parts of the country are shocked at losing her: a testament to her courage and that quiet determination that was always evident. *Cath Caudwell*

The first time I met Jenny she had only recently moved into Pettistree, and we were both walking our dogs, Snoopy and Jacko. We stopped for a chat and I told Jenny how our Jacko had been thrown out of a car near Woodbridge Veterinary Surgery, how the nurses there persuaded us to adopt him and that Dick had castrated him. The next time we met, Jenny said to me, "Did Dick really castrate Jacko? Surely, he's not allowed to do that!" I realised I hadn't made it clear that Dick was a vet. Jenny said that she had told Mike that Pettistree had some very odd people in it. Jenny, I shall miss you so much, you were such a good friend. The village will miss you too. *Rita Smith*

Jenny befriended me when I moved to Ufford and fed me information and cake. I came to my new home to find it on my doorstep. A lovely person. *Ray Whitehand*

A friendly face in Pettistree when we arrived 15 years ago, Jen always had something supporting and uplifting to say about our renovation efforts. A kind soul. *Sue Jones*

Sophie and Jenny had a clever idea for keeping a check on each other: a whatsapp group of two where they sent each other a tick every morning. "We were concerned about our dogs if anything happened to either of us. One day the tick didn't come and I went to check on them."



On the 11 November villagers met at the parish war memorial to give thanks and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in two World Wars. This year 36 people attended. The bells were rung half-muffle before the service, a very evocative sound, and Peter Holloway from Charsfield played the *Last Post* and *Reveille* before and after the two-minute silence. Jim Jarvie played *The Dark Isle* lament on the bagpipes, the final bars of this were particularly effective as he walked slowly away from the War Memorial. Vicar, the Rev Charlotte Wallington, led the remembrance. The parish's poppy wreath was laid by chair of the parish council, councillor Susan Jones.

The Remembrance Day service has been held at the Pettistree War Memorial in the churchyard since 2004. It was started by Ned Hogg, one of the churchwardens, who served with the Royal Marines during WWII. He realised it was important to mark Armistice Day not just Remembrance Sunday.

The Poppy Appeal raised £792.60 from the parish. Just over £2000 was collected in the region so as Jim says: "Our community really punches above its weight".

The men remembered were:

WW1

Samuel Sawyer Berry of Brick Kiln cottages; James Fuller, Albert William Hines, Herbert Garnham Howard, Arthur William Leach, Frederick Boon, Walter Boon, Frank Cleveland, James Clements, Isaac Charles Thurkettle

WW2

George Sutton

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them." — From *For the Fallen* by Laurence Binyon

Village Hall Update

Jim Jarvie - chairman

Given the Village Hall's healthy financial status, we commissioned Brad Bye to undertake some urgent repair work. The barge boards on the two ends of the building have been replaced and the window in the entrance hall constructed and fitted. The storage area has been significantly expanded and we are now able to store the village marquee and other items more safely.

Some of the timber panels in the entrance hall were found to be rotting. Thankfully, no dry rot was discovered and Brad was able to repair the damage. We were able to work around the groups using the hall and no sessions were cancelled. Our next stage will be to install a new kitchen. Other work is on hold until we resolve the financial matters linked to Mike Watts' legacy.

That is moving slowly, but we have heard from the solicitors representing the five charities who are the residuary beneficiaries. The charities have agreed to our proposal for £50,000 (instead of the full £250,000) which will be used to improve the hall. We have received an email from The Charity Commission asking us to clarify the situation and why we are not looking to build a new hall in accordance with Mike's wishes. The working group - myself, Dave Caudwell and Steve Boardley - and with the valuable guidance from Adam Signy - have put together a reply which we hope will satisfy the Commission.

The diary of Ruth - a winner

Ruth Leigh

In 2006, we moved to Loudham with a toddler and a brand-new baby. All my life, I'd dreamed of being a writer, but more and more, it was a dream that felt like pie in the sky. Anyway, I had more than enough to do, what with nursery runs, broken nights and bedding us into a new community.

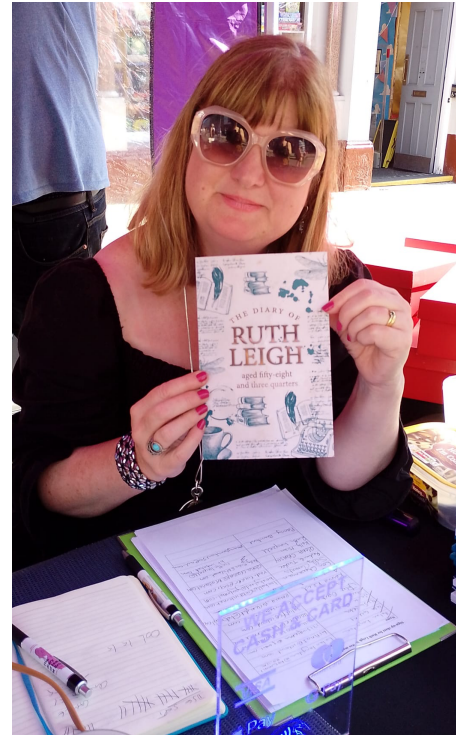
My freelance writing career started in 2008 and I was fortunate to be able to do most of it from home while looking after the boys and our daughter who arrived that same year.

In lockdown, with most of my work gone and time on my hands, I started blogging for a national writers' association. In April 2020, tired of the constant internet insta-bragging by people making banana bread, living their best lives and making memories, I created the frightful Isabella M Smugge (her name spells out I Am Smug) and, in January 2021, I published my first novel *The Diary of Isabella M Smugge*. I've been a full-time writer since 2022.

Working in such beautiful and peaceful surroundings definitely helps with the creative process. My Palace of Creativity is in the garden with views of farmland and trees and, if there's a better place to sit and write books, then I don't know where it is.

Lockdown provided me with plenty of time to write and I produced hundreds of short pieces, many of which featured Pettistree and my neighbours. In August this year, I published, *The Diary of Ruth Leigh Aged Fifty Eight and Three Quarters*, a collection of the best ones. Jim Jarvie gets a mention, as do many features of our neighbourhood.

In September, I was up for two awards for my fourth book, *The Further Adventures of Isabella M Smugge*. I sat at the awards ceremony telling myself I wouldn't win and practicing my Gracious Loser face.



I was right about one, but wrong about the other. Being given the ACW Book of the Year Award made me feel seen and valued and encouraged me to keep going.

Writing is a lonely job and we writers often doubt ourselves. 2025 was a good year for me and as I write the fifth in the Issy Smugge series and look to the future, I hope 2026 will be too.

Some Christmassy things in December - instead of November...

Christmas markets have often been and gone by December but there are delights to be had nearer the big day. Lights are being switched on in Framlingham on **Friday 5** to start the town's two-day Christmas celebration. There will be a lantern parade from the castle and street food followed on **Saturday 6 December** by a Christmas Market on the hill, a fair and a tree festival at St Michael's Church.

In Leiston on **13 December** the tree will be switched on in the company of the Film Theatre's Mother Goose pantomime team. The Long Shop museum will be playing a vintage fairground organ and there will be fairground rides plus Santa of course (booking required).

The stunning Suffolk Tractor Light Parade will start and finish at Campse Ashe on **Sunday 14 December** and will travel through Wickham Market and Pettistree on its way. The parade will start at 4.30pm.

In Beach Street, Felixstowe a Christmas Market is planned for **Sunday 7 December**.



Cleo and her pet bee

Blazing marvellous

About 150 people turned up for the second bonfire organised by Jess and Charlie Warburg in Lower Ufford Lane. Last year they raised £350 for the Suffolk-based Bumblebee charity. This year it was £1000. The couple started with an annual bonfire in Melton but now they live in Loudham and are planning an annual bonfire. They had some generous help: Revetts provided sausages, sausage rolls and a giant quiche, Human-nature Events of Suffolk did the lighting for free and Pier Avenue Clacton provided more sausages. The couple made it possible for people with wheelchairs to attend by laying matting in the field.

The Bumblebee charity is close to the hearts of the Warburgs as their eldest daughter, Cleo, was born with an undiagnosed illness which compromised her growth and ability to feed. Until she joined Bumblebee Cleo was only able to sit. Now the five-year-old can walk unaided. Jess says the progress is due to Bumblebee which offers 'miracles in movement'. Jess says that is exactly what has happened for Cleo. Music and movement encouraged Cleo to stand, crawl, walk with a frame and without". Now she is in reception class at Wickham Market. A Bumblebee miracle.

The charity at its Sproughton base helps children under five overcome physical difficulties and complex medical needs. It was named by parents because according to the laws of aerodynamics the bumblebee shouldn't be able to fly. The children it helps have often been told they will not be able to walk, talk or look after themselves. They too achieve what's said to be impossible.

Special tuition



An astonishing 1 in 4 children in rural England get extra tuition, says Nick Anikitou, who delivers some of it. Nick who lives in Grove Farm Cottage has been teaching since leaving Middlesex University. He is now semi-retired but still offering tuition to those in need of extra help. A Diploma in Humanistic Counselling and Supervision was the founding base for specialising in mentoring and neurodiversity. Nick is a school admissions tutor for academically selective schools and covers Maths, English, Verbal and Non-verbal Reasoning. The tuition is face to face or online. What brought him to Pettistree? Nick's parents emigrated to England from Cyprus in the early 60s. He was born in London, worked in Berlin and, when a student, visited a friend and his family at weekends at their 16c home in Suffolk. Forty years later his love for the area led him back.
aanikitou@yahoo.com 07974 001 202



The Greyhound stars

The Greyhound was added to the Michelin Guide just days after being named number 6 of the Good Food Guide's top 100 pubs in Britain. "A gem of a village pub. The Greyhound is also a proper boozier, welcoming drinkers for honest sustenance" according to the Guide.

There are only 162 restaurants with one Michelin star in the UK and Ireland, so the pub's owners, Will Orrock and Cassidy Hughes, and their head chef Adam Spicer, have triumphed in the three years they've been in Pettistree. Says Will: "It feels rather extraordinary and more than a little humbling". The trio have plenty of plans for next year but especially the festive season.

Feasting menus are available to pre-order throughout December. This is shared dining, with mains served on platters down the table for bookings of four or more, and for larger gatherings. The pub will be serving a New Year's Eve menu across two sittings: 6 - 8pm and 8:30 - late.

The Claret Club will meet on Friday 12th December as part of the Pastoral Table Series. The menu will draw on the traditional cookery of Bordeaux. Claret clubs were once a fixture of British dining, says Will "Convivial evenings where good bottles were shared among friends and conversation flowed as easily as the wine". Guests will be encouraged to bring a bottle of claret they may have been saving.

Estrella Damm which included the Greyhound in its Top 50 Gastropubs had this to say: "A trip to this enthusiastically run country pub feels a little like stepping back in time, in the best possible way. It's all simply joyous cooking, made even better by the welcoming team and idyllic location in the shadow of this tiny hamlet's picturesque church".

A perfect 10

Low Farm in Byng Lane has plenty of space. That is why a multi-generational family of 10 moved there in August.

The big draw for the McLean family from Essex were the paddocks for their six pet horses. Billie Cooper, her partner Connor McLean, their two sons, Noah 8 and Hayden 6 were joined at the farm by Connor's parents, Kelly and Jon, Connor's sisters Cara and Casey and her fiancé Elliot, and Billie's sister Izzy 16. Oh yes there is an Old English Bulldog too called Arnie.

Billie worked in a bank but is now at home and Connor and his father, Jon are self-employed bricklayers. The group lived together before they found their way to Suffolk. Low Farm came onto the market at the right time.

Says Billie: "We very quickly met some of the neighbours and the kids are having a great time. It's like being on holiday. Being in Suffolk is a big difference for us. It is a lot more chilled out than where we were in Essex and we have beautiful views".



The **Parish Room** is near completion. It now has a servery - for tea and cake of course - and is looking lush. The room has also had its loo upgraded and this has its own entrance where the Sunday School's original cloakroom used to be. Many, many thanks to the people who donated, worked on it, supported it and especially to churchwarden Martin Corral who led the refit. Two years ago, the renovation of this Victorian building seemed almost impossible.

Church News

Maggie Hallett

The Church congregation has been very much enjoying using the redecorated building. It seems that the acoustics, which were already good, have been improved; we have yet to replace the hearing loop so those leading are remembering to speak clearly and slightly slower than usual.

Harvest Festival was on Sunday 3 October and the church was again beautifully decorated as it was for the re-dedication service a fortnight earlier. Many donations of produce were made at the harvest service and these were all given to the 'Open Pantry' which is run weekly at All Saints, Wickham Market. Donations were also brought by the children from Presmere Nursery.

As the Harvest and re-dedication of the church were so close together it was decided not to have a harvest meal as we had very much enjoyed tea and cake in the Village Hall so recently.

The Parish Room restoration is almost complete, when writing these notes, and we plan to serve the traditional refreshments there after the Carol Service, so everyone can appreciate the vast improvement in this facility.



Christmas Social

'Bring & Share' Lunch

for
Pettistree Friends & Residents

Sunday 14th December 2025
12.00pm

Pettistree Village Hall

Join us for a get-together, bringing your favourite dish to share (sweet and/or savoury).
Soft drinks/tea/coffee will be provided.

Please let us know if you can come by e-mailing
roquescottage@mypostoffice.co.uk
or phoning 01728 747170

Christmas services at St Peter & St Paul, Pettistree

All are welcome to any or all of
the Christmas services.

Monday 15 December 10.30am
Christingle Service.

This is a service particularly
suited to younger children but
all are welcome

Sunday 21 December 9.30am
Carol Service

Thursday 25 December 9.30am
Christmas Day Holy
Communion

At All Saints Church,
Wickham Market

Wednesday 24 December
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Sunday 28 December Benefice
Service 10.30am



CAROLS IN THE BARN

& Sausage and Mash
(Veggie Options)

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER @ 19.00

at

THE LAURELS, THE STREET, PETTISTREE, IP13 OHU

(OPPOSITE THE GREYHOUND) PARKING AVAILABLE

Donations towards the food and any profits will go to cancer charities

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINK

Space is limited so please book early with Rita at

ritasmith@uwclub.net



History Notes

Ray Whitehand

When Dick Smith and Maggie Hallett challenged me to identify the teenager painter of the recently conserved Royal Coat of Arms, which has adorned the north wall of the nave of St Peter & St Paul for more than 200 years, I relished the challenge. Little did I realise the success I would enjoy. The now transparent signature on the emblem in the bottom left corner reads **E C Kemp Aged 13**, and the bottom right **Pinit** (*latin for Painted*) **1808**.

After drawing a blank on local parish registers, I turned to personal indexes for guidance and eventually found a candidate in a now archaic fiche index originally drawn up for the Mormon church. The entry was for Edward Curtis Kemp baptised on 22 April 1795 in Melton. He was the son of William Kemp and wife Anna nee Curtis. Their engagement announcement in a local newspaper described them as: *William Kemp a schoolmaster from Woodbridge to Miss Curtis a lady with a genteel fortune or a good amount of money.*

I have not identified the parentage of William yet, but he had businesses and property in Wickham Market and Woodbridge. He died in 1840. I recently discovered the tomb of wife Anna in Rendlesham churchyard. I have not found any entry of her husband's death or of him being laid to rest beside her, but he had an unusual request in his Will: *"first I desire to be decently buried without any funeral pomp whatsoever at Rendlesham in the vault where in the remains of my right dear wife deposited"*.

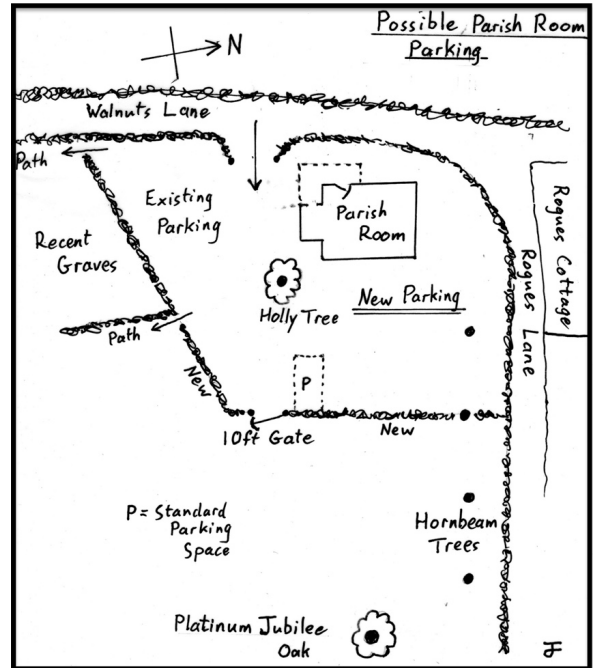
It seems probable that Anne had been laid to rest beside her parents for the names of Edward Curtis and wife Mary nee King are on gravestones beside her. I have not yet identified any baptism entry for Anne. The grandeur of the tomb demonstrates the wealth of the family though it is currently hidden by a shroud of Ivy.

Of our painter Edward: He attended Saint John's college Cambridge where he attained a BA in 1816 and an MA in 1820. In June 1826 he married Elizabeth Anne Reynolds. Continued on page 12

Additional car parking for the church has been talked about for some time, but views vary. Here we set out the PCC's proposal and the response of some residents.

The Parochial Church Council perspective

The need for increased car parking space for village events has been recognised by the parish council (PC), but it has decided that this cannot be provided by the PC. The most frequent need for parking comes from the increasing church congregation, many of whom need to drive to get to weekly services and bell ringing. The costs of maintaining the church, the parish room, the graveyard and the wildflower meadow are nearly all provided by the congregation. The Parish Room has been used for parish council meetings for many years and increased use, by other village groups, is anticipated following its recent upgrade.



A small group has drawn up a plan to increase the space for car parking at the parish room while minimising encroachment on the wildflower meadow. We know this is a much-loved feature of the churchyard alongside the avenue of apple trees and the seven coppiced hornbeam trees. The plan needs to be supported by the village and PC, approved by the county church authorities (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and then get planning permission from the district council.

The draft plan shows the existing parking area and the proposed new area. This uses the existing access from Walnuts Lane, preserves the large holly tree, and uses the area adjacent to the back of the Parish Room that has been cleared of undergrowth. A similar plastic grass-matting would be used to that we laid for the existing car park and pegged with large metal staples. This is normally sufficient to support axle-loads of about four and a half tons. A small area has been identified where a new soakaway has been dug, and this will need reinforcement. The matting should protect the root-spread area of the closest hornbeams from soil compaction. The Queen's Jubilee oak tree and the apple avenue will not be affected at all. An important feature would be a new natural hedge, with a lockable gate, to prevent cars straying onto the wildflower meadow. This would give occasional controlled access for large weddings, funerals, or special village events. The siting of essential "disabled" spaces has not been decided.

Residents' perspective

I've been involved in helping maintain the Church Meadow for more than 20 years and can see this small area of native Suffolk flora being further depleted. The show of cowslips in the Spring is a joy and there are other species of plants, previously common, preserved in this area of grassland. I am particularly concerned about the holly tree, now about 125 years old, and possible damage to its root system. It is in its prime and a source of feed for the holly blue butterflies and an area beneath for their larvae to pupate. My objections are not just about their loss, but the effect the hedge and gates across the meadow would have on the views of the churchyard from the roadside. These views are an important part of Pettistree and should be kept for future generations.

Car parking at the church

Residents' perspective continued

I am totally against the idea of taking more of the church meadow for a car park. We have lived in Pettistree for 47 years and in the early days scythed the grass in the meadow and brought it into Church Farm for the Red Poll cows using Jenny, the donkey, and her cart. The appearance of the wild flowers in Summer was a joy! Cowslips, common vetch, the occasional pyramidal orchid. When Ned Hogg was churchwarden, he organised a survey by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust who counted 34 different species of plants, including pig nuts and Ladies Bedstraw. In those days there was no need for a car park. The majority of the congregation lived in Pettistree and walked to church. Those who came from out-lying villages shared The Greyhound car park or parked in The Street. Over the years church attendance has changed, now very few people from Pettistree attend and more people are coming from further afield.

As PCCs have recognised the need for more car parking, the beautiful meadow has been impinged upon, and now they want to nibble away at an even larger area.

There are occasions when the parking is insufficient and I think we have been remiss in not informing churchgoers where they can find alternative parking at the Village Hall and The Greyhound. The driveway at Church Farm is available (it will take at least 7 cars) for weddings and other occasions and people can then walk through the back field to the church.



If the occasional car has to park further into the meadow, I don't think it will do much harm, but it would be abhorrent to see a whole new section of the meadow given over permanently to cars. PLEASE leave it as it is.

We are not in favour of any such development and would wish to see the meadow returned to its former status following the recent building works. It is interesting to note that the Church of England is actively promoting the development of wildflower meadows and other measures for wildlife and biodiversity, whilst Suffolk Wildlife Trust is also encouraging the use of church lands in this way.

Presmere Day Nursery - days to remember

Debbie Hayward

All the children have had a lovely term learning about woodland animals, Autumn and sustainability. We really enjoyed a beautiful Autumn walk to Pettistree Church for our Harvest Festival in October and the Vicar and her team did a lovely service for us. Thank you.

We had lots of fun looking at pumpkins talking about where they come from, carving lots of faces and shapes in them and making delicious soup for tea. Thank you to Woodbridge Pumpkin Patch for their generous donations.

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning raised a fantastic £512! Thankyou everyone who so kindly supported it. We are now looking forward to Christmas with lots of exciting activities planned for the children. And, of course, our special **Christingle Service** at Pettistree church which is on Monday 15 December at 10.30am. All local pre-school children and their families are very welcome to join us. We would love to see you!

Watching Wildlife – The Winter Migrants

Darren Tansley

Our coastline is internationally important for migrating birds that flock south to our saltmarshes and mudflats along estuaries like the Deben to escape these harsher conditions in their summer breeding grounds. The mud here provides a huge stock of worms, shellfish, crabs and other marine life that allow these flocks to refuel and survive after journeys of hundreds of miles. Spectacular flocks of dark-bellied brent geese arrive from October and will stay with us until Spring. This is a small goose – about the size of a mallard duck - with a beautiful gentle call unlike the usual honking associated with other species.

We also have less obvious migrations of smaller birds that flock to our hedgerows in search of berries – a reason why it is important to manage non-roadside hedges on a two year cycle rather than cutting them back every year.

Fieldfare - This is a large thrush arriving in flocks from breeding grounds in Scandinavia, western Russia and eastern Europe. Fieldfares can be seen during the day or night and you can recognise them from the unusual sound of their loud, dry *Chak Chak* call as they pass overhead.

Redwing - Our smallest thrush is one of the most recognisable birds to land in the UK for winter. They generally summer in Scandinavia though a few pairs also nest in the UK. Although they eat earthworms, the bulk of their diet is a mix of berries including hawthorn, holly and rowan. Large flocks can be identified by their constant whistling *tseep* sounding calls to each other in flight. As they often migrate after dark this can be a truly unique and unexpected sound on an Autumn night as they pass unseen overhead.

Waxwing- Their distinctive crests and brightly coloured wings are arguably the most small migrant. The size of a finch, their arrival is almost entirely dependent on food availability in northern Europe and western Russia with as few as a hundred appearing in the UK one year to be followed by thousands in another. Bizarrely many sightings come from supermarket car parks where it was common practice to plant non-native Cotoneaster. The berries shrubs can be stripped in one feeding session.



History Notes continued: He was then Rector of Whissonsett and Horningtoft in Norfolk between 1829 and 1865, and a chaplain in Berlin and then to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. Edward was rector of Saint George's church Great Yarmouth between 1865 and 1881. Edward and Elizabeth had seven children between 1827 and 1838 but two of them died young. During his life he wrote several publications including a small dictionary intended principally for the use of the poor, and in 1859 an introduction to newly discovered proofs of the divine authority of the New Testament. Edward died in Great Yarmouth in 1881.

On the Farm

“It’s all going to plan, for now”

James Hayward

November is unseasonably warm at over 10°C and it hasn’t rained much but after an exceptionally hot and dry summer, temperatures have finally cooled off. The long hours of summer sunshine have produced stunning autumn colours as trees push sugars into their leaves before shedding them.

You'll have guessed, reading my column, that farmers talk a lot about the weather. October offered near-perfect drilling conditions, allowing us to make excellent progress. Contrast that with last October, when Suffolk endured a complete washout, or the year before, when Storm Babet wreaked havoc (the less said about that, the better!). The year before that? Bone-dry conditions again. Such variability makes it incredibly challenging to establish crops under ideal circumstances. Drill too early, and you risk disease and high weed pressure; drill too late, and wet conditions can slash yields by 40% or worse sometimes preventing drilling altogether. With margins so tight and weather so unpredictable, we have drill throughout the season to manage risk.

This year Winter Barley and Winter Oilseed Rape have been sown at Hemley, while Winter Wheat and Winter Beans are planted at Wickham Market and Pettistree. Just one field of Sugar Beet remains to be harvested and then drilled for wheat. After that, drilling for 2025 will be complete. In Spring 2026 Sugar Beet and Maize will be drilled at Pettistree. In my last update, I hoped to report perfect drilling conditions and well-established crops, and I’m pleased to say that’s exactly what we’ve achieved. Proof that farmers don’t always moan! Now, all we need is some Spring rain...

David Harris has suggested putting signs in the fields, so walkers know what crops they’re looking at and what they’re used for. The farm team might think I’ve lost the plot, but it’s a small step toward sharing insight with those out enjoying the countryside.

Finally, to put some rumours to bed... There’s talk that we’re selling land to Hopkins for development south of Wickham Market. Despite pressure from Sizewell, the Labour government, and Suffolk’s housing targets, I can confirm this is absolutely untrue. We have no plans to sell any more land to housing developers anytime soon. As always, if you have questions or concerns about the farm, I’m happy to walk you through future plans over a coffee.



David Harris of Holmleigh has become a Freeman of the City of London. Nominated by the Livery of Air Pilots, the business development consultant is also a free-time pilot of the company's light aircraft. As a Freeman the Aussie-Brit, of Lincolnshire farming ancestry, is entitled to drive his sheep over Southwark Bridge without being taxed: which he did in October. David was caught looking very farmerish on BBC's *Countryfile*.

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If you think a great Christmas or birthday gift would be a pet portrait *Tori Watson* may be your artist. London based but a frequent visitor, she is also producing delightful dog-centred Christmas cards.

Sue's new venture in art and photography



Sue Tansley

One day in Framlingham I found myself bumping into Jim and Pauline Jarvie and Cath and Dave Caudwell. I'd recently left full-time teaching and middle management and was forming a business model for a semi-retired art teacher, ex-commercial photographer and frustrated artist. Before I bumped into them, I thought I would be tutoring online, in person and then a part time job. When I said this the four piped up with: why don't you run some art classes in the village hall?

I went home and said to Darren: it's a great idea, but I don't know how to do photography classes without cameras. Darren was sure I'd come up

with a plan. I did. I thought that if people came in the morning to do the art class they might decide to stay to do the photography class in the afternoon. I also thought about some of the things I'd been teaching for the past 21 years, and which would be fun for adults.

We started in October and I was quite nervous because I'd never taught adults. Mostly children do what you tell them to do; I wasn't so sure about adults. Art is something I'm hugely passionate about and I wanted everything we were going to do to be placed in context with known artists. In the first class we looked at Kandinsky, drew to music and enjoyed using pastels. The photographers made pictures out of torches and colored pieces of paper and card and learned about light.



Week two focused on Suffolk skies and nature's colours in the context of Turner and Constable and with the difficult medium of watercolour. Week three and we experimented with just using our hands for inspiration in the context of Henry Moore and Tina Modotti. Week 4 was self-portraiture and continuous line drawings with biros inspired by local artist Adam Riches. The photographers in the afternoon had hats, glasses and scarves for some really fun black and white moody



portraits inspired by David Bailey and CS Bull.

In week 5 half my kitchen cupboards were emptied as I set up several still life arrangements. In week 6. The artists went back to abstraction and were able to create exquisite, colorful books which they took home with them. In the afternoon, the photographers found out how to use torches and fairy lights to create light painting.

We were more than halfway through the course, and I asked participants if they wanted this to continue. And they did. And I do because I've really enjoyed it. Is it financially viable? My 'Sue Maths' says yes. So, when January comes round, the classes will start again. Every Thursday 10-12 for art and 1.30-3.30 for photography. I do hope to see more of you because we have a lot of fun. You don't have to come every week, just now and then. And if you let me know you're coming I'll buy more biscuits. Also, please tell your friends.

If anyone has old digital SLR or bridge cameras they no longer use I'll happily take them as donations. A lovely 85-year-old lady, from Martlesham, donated her late husband's cameras, so I have a couple, but more would be useful.

Sue's photography classes are very good too for finding out about using smart phone cameras and editing Apps - ed

Bellringing

Mary Garner - Tower Captain

The bells have rung out on every Sunday and Wednesday since the last Pettistree People was published. Quarter peals have been rung before each practice night. These usually mark a national anniversary or very frequently a ringer's birthday. There have been several notable occasions to mark.

On 21 September 21a quarter peal was arranged especially to precede the Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication: **1260 Doubles***(4 methods)

1 Rhonda Murkin, 2 Joanna Crowe, 3 Pippa Moss, 4 Mark Ogden, 5 Mike Whitby (C)**,
6 Steve Elliott.

Rung immediately before the Thanksgiving and Rededication Service following major building works in the Nave.

(*Doubles – bells 1 to 5 change places every row while bell 6 (the lowest note) always rings last.

(C)** indicates the person who starts and finishes the ringing and puts in calls to minimise the number of repeated rows)

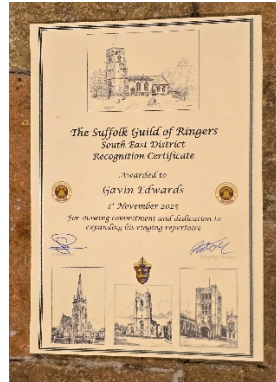
The first week of October was busy. The first Wednesday saw a joint practice with Wickham Market ringers prior to our hosting the Suffolk Guild of Ringers (SGR) SE District monthly practice. This practice was followed by a Ringers' Tea and meeting in the Village Hall. The sumptuous spread was provided by the Pettistree and Wickham Market (WM) ringers. A big thank you to the team that set out the hall and food and washed up after. Between those two events Ray Lewis (tower captain at WM) celebrated his 80th birthday.

Let us grit

If we get snow, please remember that our roads won't be visited by council gritting lorries. We have to do it ourselves. The grit is in the bright yellow boxes near Pettistree Grange, the village green and opposite Presmere Pond.

Grants

Small grants - up to £1000 - for biodiversity projects are on offer. The Nature First Grant Scheme is funded by East Suffolk Council. Bird boxes on the village green perhaps?



The SE District held its AGM on November 1st at Bramford, and Gavin Edwards, a Pettistree Ringer, was awarded the first SE District Recognition Certificate which is in the gift of the District Ringing Master. Gavin was ringing elsewhere on that day so the presentation was made at Pettistree by our Ringing Master Mike.



Coming up to date, Chris, our steeplekeeper, fitted muffles to the bells in time for Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. It is the muffles which create the mournful and reflective sound, almost like an echo. (The muffle itself is a double thickness of leather which is strapped to one side of the ball of the clapper. Great care has to be taken to ensure that the correct side is muffled and made secure so that it doesn't move whilst being rung). The bells were rung half-muffled for the Pettistree service on Remembrance Sunday and again for a quarter peal on Armistice Day.

1260 Grandsire Doubles

1 Christopher McArthur, 2 Michael Pilgrim, 3 Mary Garner (C), 4 Ray Lewis. 5 Mark Ogden.
6 Chris Garner

Rung, half muffled, immediately before the Remembrance Service at the Village War Memorial.

WhatsApp Pettistree

The WhatsApp Group now has **69** members and is open to 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

Useful contacts

Fallen trees: Landowner in the first instance otherwise and in emergencies: 0345 606 6171

Highways and recycling: 0345 606 6067

Highway flooding: Suffolk County Council (SCC) 0345 606 6171 or 0300 1235000

Power cuts: 105 0r 999

Water leaks: Anglian Water 24/7: 0345 145 145

East Suffolk Council
Emergency out of hours: 0800 440 2516

Waste collection: 0333 016 2000

Police: Emergency 999 or non-emergency 101
Online via the website - www.suffolk.police.uk
Email - cpt.ipswicheast@suffolk.police

CONTACTS

Parish Councillors

Chair Sue Jones 07725 197654
chair@pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Vice Chair Tom Over 07767 111267

Cllr[surname]@pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Mary Chilvers 746123
Charlie Warburg
Olivia Smith 07866 652062
James Hayward 07500 818121
Will Harrison

Responsibilities

Communications and PC delivery: Sue Jones
Planning: Tom Over
Community spaces & landscaping: James Hayward
Roads: Will Harrison
Safeguarding: Mary Chilvers
Village hall rep: Olivia Smith
Council IT: Charlie Warburg
GDPR Data Controller: Cllr Hayward
Footpaths: Judy Steventon

Clerk: Andrew Staples
clerk@pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Responsible Financial Officer: Simon Ashton
rfo@pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Pettistree People editor: Sue Jones
Pettistree News editor: Cath Caudwell
Whats App Group administrators: Alice Over and Sue Jones
Website: Meg Lucas
www.pettistreeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Village Hall

Booking: Pauline Jarvie 745030

Church

Vicar: Charlotte Wallington
Wardens:
Carolyn Westrope 746139
Martin Corral