



Pettistree People

Issue 100

September 2023

Pettistree Parish Council Newsletter

Issue

100

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Past Lives
CIL Survey
Planting a vineyard
Orchids and wildlife

Diary Dates

Bell ringing practice: Wednesdays 7pm
at the church

Coffee mornings: First Wednesday in
month at the village hall

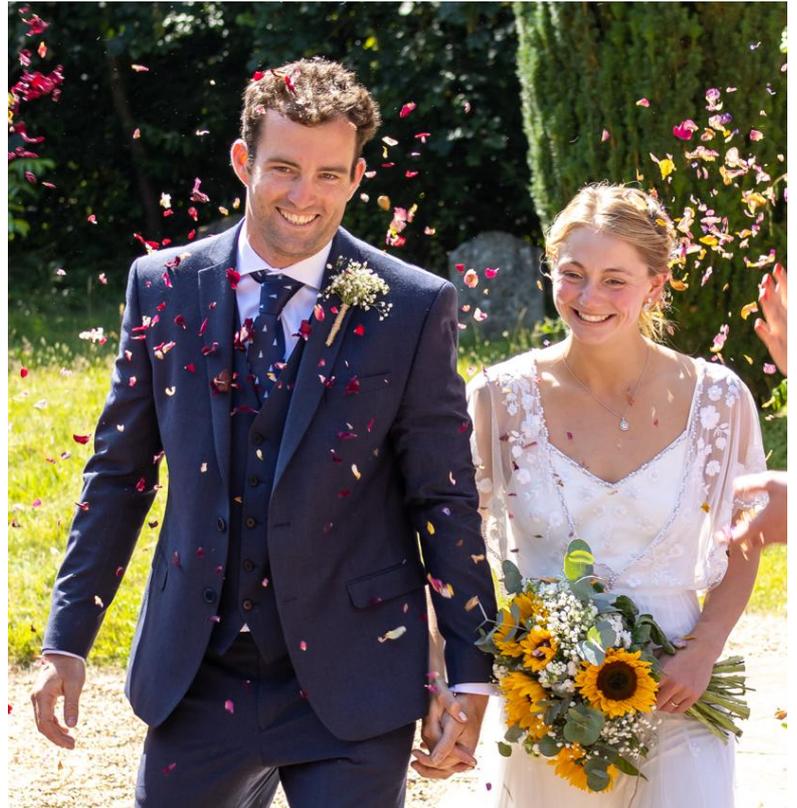
Table tennis: third Wednesday of the
month at the village hall

12,13 and 14 September craft
workshops at Suffolksense studio,
Wickham Market

Parish Council meetings: 7pm in the
Parish Room

Thursday, 14 September

Thursday, 9 November



A couple of celebrations

Dominic Davies, son of Zoe and Alun from the Laurels, was married to Laetitia Corbett from Bentley on 7 July. The ceremony was in Bentley and the wedding celebration the following day were in the field behind the Laurels. The music was for everyone. The band was The Serious Hat Band. Alun Davies said: "Without any guidance the band had everybody up and dancing for hours, so highly recommended and they are a local band!".

One of Pettistree's leading conservationists, Jeff Hallett, has written a booklet explaining how the church's apple avenue was planted, how big the trees will get, and how they should be pruned: not in the same way as smaller apple trees. A copy has been given to the church.



Parish Council Chair's Report

Sue Jones

Great British excuses

If you thought that Pettistree and Loudham were of small consequence to district and county councils you could be right. Blocked drains, blocked footpaths and a broken pavement have been reported to SCC and resulted in virtually the same overwritten responses from Highways and the Rights of Way Team: *"Thank you for your report. We have powers to improve a route, but not a duty. The route is not considered of high enough priority to commit resources to this route given the competing demand for resources. Hence no action is proposed here."* Report of a blocked drain and the pavement from Rogues Lane to Wickham Market to SCC Highways: *"Our staff have visited the location of your report and assessed the issue you reported. We believe that at this time it does not warrant remedial action."* The thought occurs that if someone has inspected a problem then maybe they could have resolved it at the same time. The drain in question is the one at the entrance to the church car park. It is obviously silted so it remains blocked (see the drainage report by Cllr Smith on page 14). The broken pavement from Rogues Lane to Wickham Market was reported as a high priority for improvement 18 years ago, when a Village Plan was put together. I assume it has been re-surfaced since then...

In the same deadlock, some of the parish's potholes have been filled but others haven't and no-one else is allowed to do the work other than the county council.

Clearance of footpaths is often the responsibility of a landowner, but if they don't wish to do the job then no-one else can do it without permission. Meanwhile there are a myriad of district and county council initiatives desperate to help with anything other than potholes and pathways.

We're not going to let SCC Highways have too much rest though. The parish council has requested 20 mph speed limits for Walnuts Lane and Rogues Lane. We've also requested Pettistree & Loudham signs for the B1438 leaving Wickham Market and entering the parish from Ufford – currently the Main Road is 'no

persons' land - plus two 'Pettistree Please drive carefully' signs at Rogues Lane junction with Main road and the start of Java Lodge Road - which seems to be the satnaved route for some truckers.

The blocked arteries of government were a discussion point at our July parish council meeting when we welcomed our new district councillor, Sally Noble. The Greens became the single largest party on East Suffolk Council after the May election. But 16 councillors does not give them a majority on the 55-seat authority. Nevertheless, they have a long wish list, though much of it is dependent on national government wanting the same things.

The Greens want new-build homes to be energy efficient but have no power to force developers to do it. Yes, they want to take more control over new housing in east Suffolk villages but permissions have already been given, and where they may want to refuse new applications, the likelihood is that the council cannot afford to meet the cost of planning appeals. That said, we've asked why planning conditions can't be better used to improve new developments. Chris Bally, the new Chief Executive of East Suffolk Council, will be a guest of the parish council on 14 September so some of the questions will be raised then. If you have a question for him please email me or the clerk.

By the way, our new clerk, Andrew Staples is doing a fantastic job as is our Responsible Financial Officer, Simon Ashton. We're lucky to have both.

The parish council is now affiliated with the East Suffolk Planning Alliance (ESPA) and joins 45 other town/parish councils and residents' associations across the district. ESPA was formed earlier this year to represent local communities in the decision-making processes of East Suffolk's planning authority. The early movers were from villages and towns unhappy with the way new development was - and is - being forced upon communities without sufficient infrastructure and suitable roads. ESPA has now joined with the national Community Planning Alliance to press for 'the right development in the right places' and energy efficient housing.

Defibrillator delivered!

Thanks to the persistence of Councillor Chris Cook and the agreement of the Parochial Church Council, the defibrillator has been installed on the south wall of the Parish Room. The installation cost was met by county councillor Alexander Nicholl's locality budget.

The machine has been registered on The Circuit and Councillor Olivia Smith (07866 652062) has agreed to be its Guardian. She will be the contact for the Defibrillator, and will check it from time to time and respond to messages from the Circuit when something needs doing such as changing the pads. Ours are dated July 2025.

The machine is fully automatic and will guide users. We may also want to arrange training courses for CPR and the defibrillator.

So, what do you do with a defibrillator? Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart goes into a chaotic rhythm and causes the heart to stop. The person will collapse, lose consciousness and stop breathing or not breathe normally.

- 1 Start CPR
- 2 Call 999
- 3 Switch on the defibrillator
- 4 Remove clothing to attach the pads to the chest area: the upper right side below collar bone and the left side below the arm pit - the machine will analyse the heart rhythm
- 5 Follow voice and visual prompts
- 6 If a shock is needed it will tell you to when to press the button
- 7 After that continue CPR for two minutes before the machine re-analyses the heart rhythm
- 8 If the casualty shows no sign of responsiveness put them in recovery position and leave the defibrillator attached

The East of England Ambulance Service can call on Community First Responders from a 999 call. These are volunteers trained to attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work. Their aim is to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives. We have responders in Wickham Market and Woodbridge. More volunteers are being sought.



Welcome to the wild side. Thank you to whoever decided to plant – or leave wild - the verge near the Three Tuns. More on wild and wonderful from Darren Tansley (page 19) - who took this picture near Stump Street.



Michael Hammond Watts - obituary



Pettistree lost a well-known character in June. Mike Watts died at his home, Burways, in Thong Hall Road.

He and his late wife, Marlene, arrived in the village in 2003 from Nazeing, Essex. Mike was a parish councillor from 2010 until 2022 and he was editor of Pettistree People for nine years. He and Maureen Stollery won the SALC Newsletter of the Year in 2013 and were runners up in 2014 and 2015. Typically, Mike thought they should try harder to get back to first base. During his editorship he produced a special supplement of the *Wipers Times* to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The Times was a satirical trench magazine published by British soldiers fighting in the Ypres Salient. Mike's version was a compilation of extracts from the newsletters.

He had hoped to edit the magazine until its 100th issue so it is particularly sad to report his death in this centenary edition.

Mike was born in Hackney in 1937 and started working life in banking before retiring as company director of a systems office furniture firm. He met Marlene at a wedding and three months later they were married in Marylebone. Mike took great delight in telling everyone that Marlene, a fashion model, owned the hands in the Fairy Liquid tv adverts.

Most people in the village have a story to tell about Mike. Mine is of a conversation about what he had wanted to do for a career. Surprisingly, it was to be a geographer and work for Ordnance Survey because of his love for maps. It is difficult to tell you much about the person as Mike didn't speak much about himself. He contributed intelligent commentary to parish council meetings and produced a very comprehensive record of the memorials in the churchyard. This extremely useful document includes drawings of the tombstones, inscriptions and their exact location. The document is just inside the door of the church. Mike's quiet presence will be missed at the regular village hall coffee mornings and bring and share lunches. His funeral was held at Pettistree Church on 24 August.

Philip Westrope

Philip Westrope, well-known landowner, farmer, conservationist and Pettistree parish councillor, died on 11 August. Funeral details were not available at the time of going to Press.

Village Green or a bit wild?

Should the village green be mown regularly or left to nature? That was the discussion at the July parish council meeting when councillors were considering a maintenance contract. The unanimous verdict was: it should be tidy. So, once a month trimming with some consideration for wildflowers like the pyramid orchid, which appeared out of nowhere. Also appearing after *No Mow May* were rather too many self-seeded oaks. Hopefully, they will be persuaded to put down roots in Java Lodge Spinney instead. Thanks to Bradley Bye the village green signs have been cleaned and the grips cleared.



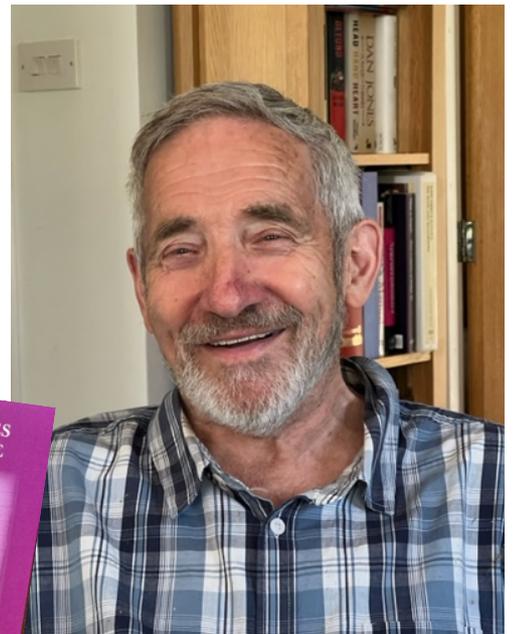
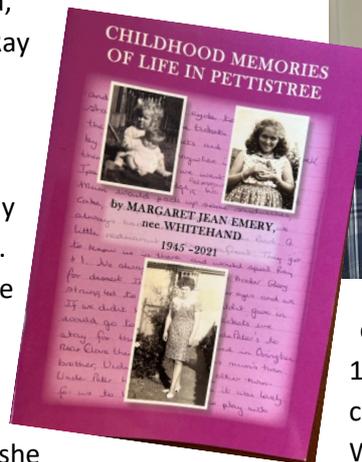
Remembering Potash Cottages

Potash Cottages in Stump Street have echoed with the sound of children's laughter for a very long time. The building next to Debbie Hayward's children's nursery became the home of Margaret Whitehand, Daisy the sheepdog and a year later her brother, Ray in 1947.

The happy times of their childhood in Pettistree were recalled by Margaret before her death in 2021 and have now been published by Ray Whitehand, (pictured) a prolific writer on local life. *Childhood Memories of Life in Pettistree* is available on his website www.historicalsuffolk.com

Ray explained: "During the pandemic my sister struggled with anxiety to a much greater degree than most. To get her through I suggested she write down her memories to stand alongside her husband's recollections *The Life of a Marlesford Lad*". The result is a 28-page turner starting with the move to Potash Cottages, "I remember mum saying, to go into a three bedroom three downstairs rooms was like a mansion".

Mum was Ethel Jane, nee Kindred who helped with fruit picking and was a houseworker at Green Farm and Ashmoor Hall. Dad was Frank Barham Whitehand who worked as a cowman for Dick Hayward of Grange Farm in Wickham Market. They were busy... "In the winter when Dad came home from a hard day's work, he would hang a tilly lamp in one of the trees or on the linen prop so he could see to dig the garden ready for spring planting". The garden was home to pigs, a goat and



chickens. Water was laid on in the 1950s before that, it had to be collected in buckets from Mrs Woodleys (Well Cottage). Groceries

were delivered from Halls and cooked on a range which took nearly all day to achieve a rice pudding. In 1968 Margaret married Kenneth James Emery and the pair had a daughter, Anita and son, Neil.

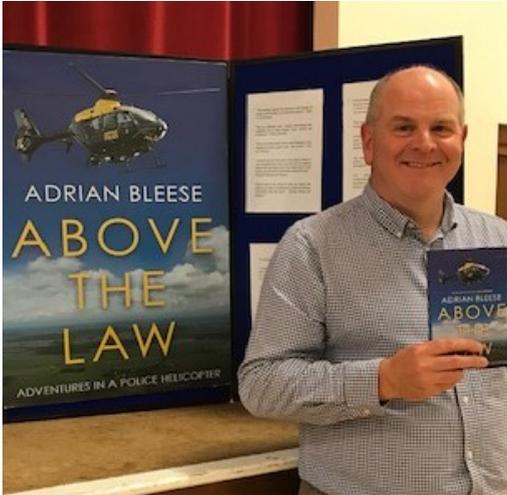
For anyone born in the 1950s the book will connect with personal memories of village life in England when fetes, carnivals, church festivals and neighbours were of central importance and pleasures were simple and much appreciated.

Ray, who worked as a gardener at Notcutts, has also published an updated guide to Pettistree Church dedicated to his son David and Margaret. He is currently curating *The Joan Peck Collection* of Pettistree's history for the Suffolk Record Office. He lives in Trimley but is hoping to return to his childhood parish.

Katch a Bus

The on-demand electric Katch bus is advertising for passengers. The service travels between Framlingham, Parham, Hacheston, Wickham Market, Campse Ashe, Tunstall and Snape. It has been re-launched after a pilot with a *Flexiroute Passenger App* and other booking options. The bus operators will pick up and return passengers from a stop and time of their choosing. Katch has discounts for young people with *Endeavour Cards*: free - from Suffolk County Council for 16 to 19-year-olds. Trips are free with a *Katch Loyalty Card*. The service was developed by CATS (Coastal Accessible Transport Service) and East Suffolk Council. It will be funded for 12 months with the intention of extending the contract if there is enough demand.

POLICE FORCE MEETS BORDER FORCE or A TALE OF TWO AUTHORS



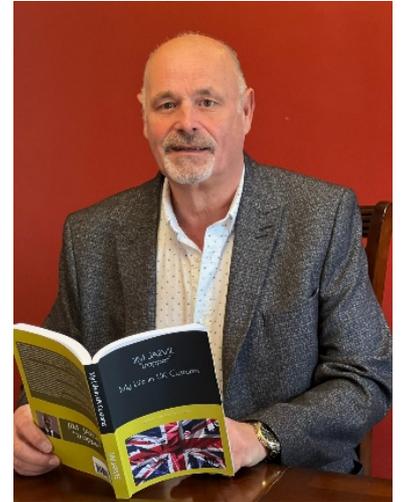
Saturday, 21 October

7pm

Pettistree Village Hall

Cost: £5

In aid of Riding for the Disabled



Make a date in your diary to listen to two local authors regale you with stories from their fascinating careers. Adrian Blease, author of *Above the Law*, was a civilian observer in the Suffolk Police Helicopter. Jim Jarvie, author of *My Life in UK Customs*, was a senior officer in Customs and later the Border Force. The evening will consist of two presentations with an interval for refreshments with cake. Proceeds from the evening will be in aid of Riding for the Disabled, Woodbridge & District Group, which operates from Shop Farm in Clopton.

Tickets can be booked through Dave & Cath Caudwell (747170) or Jim & Pauline Jarvie (745030) or by emailing: cath@rdawoodbridge.org.uk

Planning Update

The **Three Tuns** received permission for its new suites for short-term letting. The business now has 12. Three are in the new building which was originally planned for a cookery school.



The Planning Inspectorate has still to decide on an appeal by Lynda Last, against refusal of East Suffolk Council for removal of working hour restrictions on the tenant, **AirManageSuffolk**, operating out of the Old Engineering site in The Street. Complaints were lodged with the council more than a year ago when the business started to breach current planning conditions. East Suffolk planners have told the Inspectorate they would accept an extension of Saturday working from 8am until 4pm but object to Sunday working because (to paraphrase) residents should have one day of peace from any noise, nuisance etc. The Appeal is ongoing.

A request to change the plans for a four-bedroom detached house on **land south of Scotts Hall** in Presmere Road has been agreed. A new design was submitted by the new owner of the site.

Tree blocking road: no problem

Cath Caudwell

Late evening, 4th July, heard slight rumbling noise. Couldn't work out what it was. Checked the recording we were watching – nothing. Shrugged and went to bed. Around 4.15am we both woke and decided we weren't going back to sleep. It had rained heavily so I looked out to see how flooded the lane was (a regular occurrence which Highways thinks isn't a problem). No reflection of the moon on water, just a mass of what looked like small branches and leaves. Sent husband Dave out to investigate. He came back and announced, "I can't move that!" A very large branch of Sycamore had dropped across the road.

Fortunately, the bough just missed the corner of the Parish Room. We found that Suffolk County Council had an emergency 24/7 number for just such eventualities. A 04.22 call resulted in contractors arriving just three hours later. Rogues Cottage tearoom was in full flow that morning and all was done in a couple of hours. Unfortunately, their chipper wasn't working properly so they left behind a mass of branches to be collected at a later date (reminders have been sent).

I knew the Refuse Collectors were due that morning so emailed them to let them know the situation, calling them by phone once the road had been cleared. They were very appreciative. The village email also forewarned residents of the problem – we did have a coffee morning to get to!

If you have a highways emergency* the number to call is: 03456 066171. You do get through to a human! They asked for the 'What3Words' to pinpoint the location precisely – felt rather smug as I'd already thought of that and was able to give it to them straightaway!

* Go to <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/reporting-highway-maintenance-emergencies> to find out what they consider to be emergencies.



Boiler ban backlash

Environment Secretary sounds like quite a nice job doesn't it? But take it from someone who has worked in the Department: it can feel like trying to dry washing in a Force 10 gale. Everything from dangerous dogs to council taxes.

Our MP Therese Coffey, the current Environment Secretary, is very much in the national news. One day she was being photographed heading up efforts to clean up the River Deben. Next day, she was being asked to defuse a boiler bomb in her own constituency.

The Government's plan to ban new oil-powered boilers from 2026 has raised a storm in rural areas where gas is not an option: one in five households in our county is 'off the grid'. The Government's preferred alternative – heat pumps – are said to be too expensive to install and not greatly efficient.

Suffolk County Council has urged the MP and cabinet minister to abandon the policy and in its response to consultation on the plan said: "There is ...a significant risk that existing inequalities and rural fuel poverty will be further entrenched." The Government has not yet responded but a source has said it was only a proposal. Oh dear yet another conundrum if you are wanting to install or renew an oil-fired boiler. Fret Zero - Ed

Church News

Maggie Hallett

Evensong September 24th at 6 pm will be the final service for 2023 of Evensong led by the benefice choir. Once the clocks change it is too dark to expect people to turn out on a Sunday evening to a village church without street lights or pavement. The PCC will decide when Evensong should be held next year after review. If you have an opinion on this please let us know.

The PCC is very grateful that Ray Whitehand, a former Pettistree resident, has undertaken to keep the cremation plot area tidy and this has been much improved this year. Andy Curtis cuts the more accessible areas of the church yard, and the PCC are extremely grateful to all those who help to keep the area around the church in such a good state.

It has not been quite so productive a year for the apple trees which were planted by Pettistree Village to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth in 2012. All Pettistree members are welcome to harvest the apples for their own



enjoyment but please remember there are different types of tree and the cider apples for example do not taste good! Windfalls should be left for the wildlife to enjoy.

Please continue to keep the church car-park free for church and churchyard visitors particularly at service times. People driving to the village to go to The Greyhound or for a walk should park at the village hall.

Dates for your Diary

The **Harvest festival** service will be on October 1st at 9.30am. The church will be decorated and all are welcome to come to the service, or visit the church that afternoon and during the following week to enjoy the flowers. There is a 'Bring and Share' lunch in the village hall planned, so check the noticeboard for details.

Remembrance Day The customary short service will be held at the War memorial in the churchyard where the Pettistree poppy wreath will be laid, and the names of the fallen read.

Christmas The traditional Carol service will be on Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve at 9.30 am. On Christmas Day there will be a Holy Communion service at 9.30am. The benefice midnight service will be at All Saints Church, Wickham Market on Christmas Eve.



A table tennis challenge for Autumn

Table tennis resumes on 21 September at the Village Hall (5.30 to 7.30pm). The session before the summer break was held on 19 June and it generally attracts 10 people but there is room for more. Jim Jarvie and Alun Davies are going to try to arrange for a coach to come along for some casual coaching / tips. The plan is to hold the sessions on the third Wednesday of every month.

Pettistree & Loudham

CIL survey 2023

This survey is designed to canvas ideas on how the CIL money – received by Pettistree through the Hopkins' Wickham Gate development – for **Community Infrastructure Projects** should be spent.

The result of the survey will be used to inform the next round of consultation and implementation of a CIL list of projects.

The Parish Council has a statutory duty to spend CIL on:

- The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure (physical, social, green) or
- Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demand that development places on an area such as: parking, roads, areas for children, pub, church etc. affected by the influx of people.

Key points:

1. There is £11,721.64 to spend.
2. We have 5 years from receipt (October 2022) to spend it.
3. We may join with other councils should we wish to. This is pertinent in this specific case, given the development will predominantly make use of services in Wickham Market *who have not received a CIL payment.*

Survey Begins:

Where an answer requires yes/no, please circle your preferred answer.

Please select 3 options only from the list over the page, indicating your first preference with a '1' in the answer box, a '2' in your second preference and a '3' in your third preference. Additional suggestions may be added at the bottom of this form. Please do not select more than 3 options, as these will not be considered.

Please return this survey by **30 September 2023** to jhayward9631@yahoo.co.uk or The Old School Farm, Wickham Market, IP13 0HE or Holmleigh, The Street, Pettistree

1. Which of the following community infrastructure projects do you believe should be prioritised for funding?

- a. Green spaces & recreational facilities
- b. Transportation & road improvements (where these can be achieved by the parish council)
- c. Educational facilities eg grants to the school
- d. Healthcare provision
- e. Community centres and spaces
- f. Public safety measures
- g. Environment & sustainability initiatives
- h. Energy efficiency measures where possible
- i. Conservation initiatives
- j. Other (please specify and describe in the box below)

Other:

2. In your opinion, what specific improvements or upgrades are most needed within the above selected project areas? Examples could include provision of bins, footpath improvements, road maintenance outdoor play/gym equipment, tree/hedgerow planting, car park provision etc.

Please return this survey by **30 September 2023** to jhayward9631@yahoo.co.uk or The Old School Farm, Wickham Market, IP13 0HE or Holmleigh, The Street, Pettistree

3. Relative to 2 how important is it to you that we allocate funding for maintenance and repair of existing infrastructure? Examples include the pond fence, drainage, hedgerow management, additions to the village hall etc. Indicate your preference with a tick in the relevant box:

- a. Extremely important
- b. Somewhat important
- c. Neutral
- d. Not very important
- e. Not important at all

4. Are there any marginalised groups within Pettistree whom you feel should be the focus of any such projects?

5. Should current and any future funding be used to promote economic development and job creation within Pettistree? Please tell us: what, why or why not?

Please return this survey by **30 September 2023** to jhayward9631@yahoo.co.uk or The Old School Farm, Wickham Market, IP13 0HE or Holmleigh, the Street, Pettistree

6. How would you prefer the CIL funding to be spent?

- a. Equally distributed across multiple projects
- b. Based on a priority ranking determined by community input determining a 'top 3'
- c. Based on a priority ranking determined by community input determining a single 'winner'
- d. Other (please specify)

Is there any additional feedback or suggestions you'd like to provide regarding this survey and the allocation of CIL funds?

Example projects

- Grants to the school for improvements
- Repair of Presmere Pond safety fence
- Speed indicator devices (SIDs)
- Drainage fixes
- Children's play area
- Outside gym equipment
- Tree planting and management
- Community garden/allotments
- Eco ware: solar panels, electric car charge point
- Waste management
- Provision of support for local businesses
- Hedgerow & verge management, bulb/flower planting
- Footpath maintenance and creation
- Village handy person

Please return this survey by **30 September 2023** to jhayward9631@yahoo.co.uk or The Old School Farm, Wickham Market, IP13 0HE or Holmleigh, The Street, Pettistree

It's a Century for PP

We thought it a good moment to congratulate the people who have contributed, delivered and edited Pettistree People on this its 100th issue.

Pettistree People first appeared in February 1996 edited by Tony Franklin who lived in Rogues Cottage and the Scotts Hall with wife, Jacki. That first edition welcomed Bill and Jackie Woolven to The Greyhound and carried photos of the work undertaken by Mick and Kathy Hilton to restore Presmere Pond.

Tony Franklin

As far as I can recall it was November 1995 when I first had the idea that Pettistree needed its own newsletter. At that time, I was a member and clerk of the parish council and I proposed we seek financial and practical support for a magazine which was to be titled *Pettistree People*. It was agreed that the guiding principle of the magazine was that it was about people of the village and not issues. Thankfully the support I requested was readily forthcoming and I set to work.

Putting the first edition together proved to be a hugely enjoyable but mammoth task in that I had no experience of reporting, writing, or editing and it took until February 1996 before the first edition was published. However, for subsequent issues I was fortunate to receive lots of support from friends in the village especially Maureen Stollery who acted as my news gatherer and collator.

I think that Pettistree People was well received in the village but that is for others to say. One feature that I was particularly keen on was a series of short biographies of village residents. These usually required interviews with each of the residents which proved to be rather time-consuming task and, eventually, these features regrettably petered out.



By about the year 2000 demands on my time from family and work overseas made it difficult for me to deliver an edition each quarter and I sadly decided to relinquish the role and hand over to Joan Peck (pictured) who had been developing her computing expertise. Hopefully, Pettistree People will provide a historical legacy of life in a Suffolk village.

Joan Peck

Joan, of The Den, was headteacher at Wickham Market Primary School from 1970-83 and when taking the reins of PP was chairwoman of the parish council and village hall and our Local History Recorder. Joan was also assisted by Maureen Stollery who has been of great help to all the editors.

Mike Watts

The next editor was Mike Watts, also a parish councillor who also had help from Maureen and Pat Deliss. Mike was editor from 2013 to 2022 before handing over to Sue Jones, the current editor.

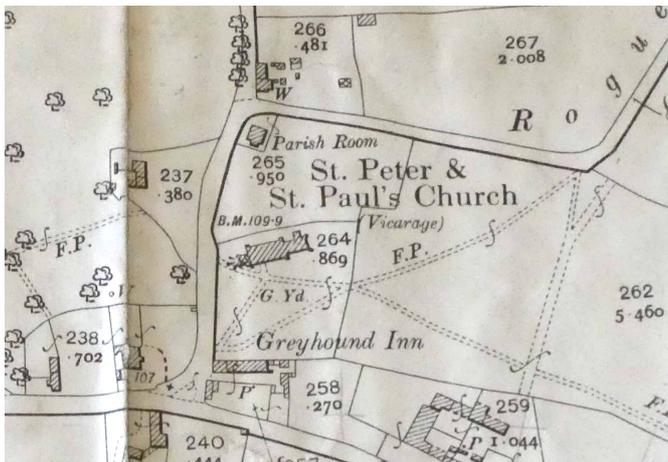
A big thank you to all involved over many years

Ancient tracks 2

Joan Peck

Several footpaths converge near the church and pub as might be expected. These are shown on the OS map of 1809 (below). One of these from Loudham probably originated at the time Pettistree church was being built around the C13th, another by way of Back Lane and Stump Street from Byng and another, not now in use, crossed Dick Smith's meadow from the stile in the church hedge across to the field gate in Rogues Lane. This latter raises the questions: Did Rogues Lane exist as it is now or was this third footpath the main route from the bend in Rogues Lane, over Dicks meadow, rather than going directly to join Walnuts Lane? Why is Rogues Lane so called?" There are two stories but no evidence.

In the C18th due to high taxes, smuggling of certain goods was rife and our coastline was no exception. The illegal cargoes were brought inland, hidden from the excise men until it was safe to dispose of them and rewards were given in kind to various helpers (see *Gentlemen* by Rudyard Kipling). As Sizewell can be seen from the top of Pettistree church tower on a clear day it is not difficult to see that Rogues Lane could easily have been on one of their routes.



The other story is that in 1834, Wickham Market's Plomesgate workhouse was built and vagabonds seeking a night's shelter were not allowed to take anything in with them, poor as they were. They therefore left whatever they had nearby, perhaps at Rogues Cottage, or even burying it in the bank in the lane from where they could collect it next morning. It would have been easy to walk across the field and down the lane before resuming their journey.



Flooding the drains

Cllr Olivia Smith

I recently carried out an assessment of our village drainage and flood issues. Two big floods that occur, are a result of blocked drains and have been reported to 'Highways': The one on Lower Ufford Lane has now been cleared and the second, outside the Parish Room is on the list for inspection.

The other flood issues are mostly a result of verge Grips (Groops) in need of clearing, Highways work on a cyclic maintenance system, which should be carried out every 6-7 years, enquiries have been made to see when this was last done and when it is due to happen again, I am still waiting for a response. Until then, I have been out with my spade and cleared a couple myself.

I believe ditches and piped ditches are the responsibility of the land / homeowner.

If anyone spots an issue, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to get it resolved.

Pictured: flooding in Walnuts Lane has been reported several times to Suffolk Highways but they won't deal with it if it has not been a nuisance for more than 24 hours. If anyone has a gully sucker to free up the silted drain do let us know ☺

When the boot was on the other turf

Wickham Market's new car boot sale has one peculiar feature: it is being held in Pettistree. The site between new and old Main Road is owned by R Hayward & Son but is very definitely within the Pettistree and Loudham parish.

James Hayward told PP: "We were approached by the car boot company and agreed to let them rent this site. Most farmers are now looking to diversify because the rewards from agriculture are so poor. Yes, the sales are in Pettistree but for marketing purposes the hirers wanted to make the link with Wickham Market and its shops." The sales started on Saturday, 15 July and will be held every third and last Saturday in the month.



New PCC secretary

The Parochial Church Council has a new secretary, Leanne Castle who told PP: "I moved to Wickham with my family ten months ago having been long term residents on the Shotley Peninsular I work full time as an events and marketing manager.

"We greatly enjoy living in Wickham and worshipping at Pettistree Church, where we help with bible reading and prayer leading on a regular basis. We find the local community, our neighbours and the trades and businesses we use, incredibly friendly and welcoming.

"We love walking and most days will find at least one of us wandering the footpaths of Wickham or Charsfield."



Daisy is 21!

Daisy Kiddy (left) of Pear Tree Cottage reached the grand age of 21 in June with a gold-themed party. Her brother Jake (in the picture) turned 17 just four days later.



On the Farm

Harvest 2023: wet, wet, wet

James Hayward

Harvest is about 10per cent complete, with the seemingly endless rain increasingly frustrating for farmers. Crazy, when you think back to the last few summers of blue skies and temperatures in the high thirties. That said, every time it rains, I get a reminder of last years' extreme heat; despite the torrential downpours, there are very few puddles – a clear sign the land is still parched.

May started an exciting new chapter for the R Hayward & Son, with our vineyard project coming into fruition. With the help of friends from Campsea Ashe & Woodbridge, more than a thousand vines were planted across two weeks. It was a huge effort and many thanks to all who were involved – your cases of wine will be in the post when we've produced them.

It feels like a long time ago now, but during and following planting, it was exceptionally dry and some of you may have seen us out watering the vines by hand. All I can say is, let's hope the quality of wine and effort are proportionate!

We have three varieties and plan to add further acreage in the coming years; they are Bacchus, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris. In three years', time we'll have some delightful still and sparkling white & rosé for the village to try – on the assumption that I can count on some volunteer pruners and pickers please!!! In the meantime, I'm still looking for names for our first vintages: please send in your suggestions.

Elsewhere, the ample rain is providing a bumper crops of potatoes and sugar beet, even if it is holding up harvest currently. Fertiliser and fuel prices have come back a little, though not as much as commodity prices, meaning

that farmers in many places are still struggling to make ends meet. It's very difficult to understand that with prices to consumers still on the rise, and access to grain from Ukraine looking ever more precarious by the day, the price that farmers can command is still unattractive when compared to costs. I know I'm speaking for the entire British Agricultural industry when asking anyone reading this to please *buy British* and consider where your food comes from!

Finally, some very sad news that Granny - Jenie Hayward of Coppens, Pettistree - passed away at the beginning of August. Jenie lived in Wickham Market (at The Grange) and Pettistree for her entire married life and was the life and soul of every party; inviting residents to The Grange for a 'pre-drink' before church on Christmas eve, always ensuring no-one went thirsty! Then in later life she and Grandad spent much of their time away on their yacht in Portugal swimming and enjoying the sunshine.

Fortunately, she was able to meet her great-Grandson Guy, just before leaving us – perhaps there is some higher power pulling the strings somewhere. If so, please can we have some sunshine so I can finish combining my wheat? Thank you!



Charlotte, Guy and Jenie



Pettistree's new vineyard



The Wine Shack courtesy of Zoe and Alun Davies



Help arrives?

Followed by foreigners from Campsea Ashe and Woodbridge who wonder what all the fuss is about



MOT test centre refused

The application to turn a grain store at Whitehouse Farm into an MOT test centre and motor repair workshops has been refused. East Suffolk Council's reasons were that the site is in the countryside where new employment is only supported if a need is demonstrated and the buildings are not required for their original purpose or had become under-used. This store had been used recently as a grain store and two new similar sized units had recently been constructed for the same purpose. The submission failed to explain why the unit was no longer being required as it is still an active farmstead. In addition, no attempt had been made to find a more appropriate site.

This is interesting because Pettistree is now being called 'countryside' again when the last ESC Local Plan re-designated us as a 'small village' - Ed

July 2023

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Is the Church a Community Asset?

One of the potential projects for CIL money was to help with renovation of the Parish Room. So, the parish council was surprised to learn that it is banned from doing so because of an 1894 law which has not been updated. Section 8(1) (i) of the Local Government Act gives councils power to improve or maintain parish property *not being property relating to affairs of the church or held for an ecclesiastical charity*. The purpose of the law was, presumably, to remove influence of one on the other; parochial church councils had been responsible originally for parish matters.

As our 13c church is the most important building in the village and a special community asset it seemed worth a bit of foraging. In fact, the prohibition on funding is being challenged.

In March 2017, the Church of England's Church Buildings Council posted an opinion in which it cast doubt on the position adopted by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), to maintain the prohibition. Legal advice, had concluded that the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and the Local Government Act 1972 do allow all local authorities, including parish councils, to contribute towards the maintenance, repair or adaptation of churches on the basis that the expenditure **would be in the interests of, and bring benefits to, some or all the inhabitants of the area**. This view was supported by the 2017 English Cathedral and Church Buildings Sustainability Review commissioned by the Government. The Act also allows parish councils, that meet certain criteria, to pass a resolution which allows them to have the benefit of a 'General Power of Competence'. Having passed such a resolution, the

parish council would have the power to fund repairs and improvements and changes to church property.

A House of Commons Briefing Paper sums up the position: *"There is a competing provision in section 137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 that allows parish and town councils to give funding to charitable bodies. Awareness that the law is unclear has discouraged many parish councils from providing funding for churches, in case they attract a legal challenge. Councils concerned over the legality of proposed donations should take legal advice."* The current law is confusing and needs to be clarified.

Invitation to Bellringing

Mary Garner, Tower Captain

During Summer our practices continue to be well supported. There have been quarter peals rung before most of the practices and we have rung for every Sunday service. We are really pleased that we have two people learning to handle at present, with our practices catering for a wide range of skills and abilities. Sunday service ringing continues to be a challenge because many of our practice night ringers are ringing in their own towers.

During September and October we are planning to have some open sessions on Saturday mornings. If you are interested in finding out more about our village bells, ringing in general, would like to have a go or just fancy a cup of tea or coffee, please come along. Exact dates are still being finalised, but once they are, we shall publish them on the village round robin. Hope to see you soon.



Orchids and a wildlife haven

Darren Tansley

reflects on how meadows appear when left wild

As I write this I have just rediscovered the stands of pyramidal orchids on the grassland meadow to the south-east of Stump Street. Although we are lucky to have these spectacular wildflowers on our doorstep they are also a sad reminder of what we have lost over the past 50 years.

Grassland changes so much over the year. In Winter grass is short, in Spring, swathes of cowslips emerge as clouds of yellow on a sea of green. The damp conditions in parts, and free draining soils in others, then give rise to a huge diversity of grass species and wildflowers. The pea family is particularly abundant from the tiny Tares to Black Medick, Hop Trefoil, two types of clover and the fabulous Bird's-foot Trefoil, a great plant for pollinators like the White-tailed Bumble Bee. Wild Carrot, with its sprays of white flowers, attracts bright red soldier beetles and seven-spot ladybirds whilst bursts of Ox-eyed Daisy brighten the summer palette. Rushes grow in and around small winter pools whilst Lady's Bedstraw and Knapweed favour the drier soils.

The plants attract a wide variety of insects. Among them Gatekeeper, Peacock and Meadow Brown butterflies, day flying moths like the striking red and black Cinnabar, hoverflies and at least 4 species of bumble bee. In the tussocks on warm days, you can hear the rasping stridulations of Meadow Grasshoppers and bush crickets. This is an important source of food for migrant warblers such as Chiff Chaff, and recently fledged farmland and garden birds, themselves in steep decline since the second world war. The sound of Skylarks on their fluttering upward flight can be heard above the meadow and arable crops alike.

But one bird that relies on the grassland is one of our most spectacular resident species in Pettistree: the Barn Owl. Known as the ghost owl, this silent predator of dusk and dark quarters the meadow on silent wings listening for the scurry of field voles that love the tussocky Cocksfoot and swaying purple Yorkshire Fog grass. By the autumn there will be hundreds of these round-faced little rodents living in a network of tunnels and burrows just below the surface and they not only provide a good meal for a hungry owl but are the top prey of weasels.



Weasels track them through the undergrowth using the vole's distinctive scent trails and, if they track the breeding burrows of females, they get a litter of young as well.

Kestrels also hunt the field voles but can actually see their urine scent trails rather than listening for movement. They track to a burrow then hover in wait for a rodent to emerge. Luckily the other mammalian residents of the meadow are quite safe from this small aerial predator. Brown hares feed and rest in the tall sward over summer once the leverets have become independent. We often see them dashing away as we walk the dogs along the footpath. Foxes also hunt for voles and soon vanish at our approach.

But badgers have other interests. Their trails criss-cross the grassland on paths that have remained unchanged for years, even decades. They particularly like the damper areas where they forage for their main food of earthworms. Their trails are U-shaped, worn into the ground by generations of predecessors, and are pock-marked with scrapes where they have unearthed the worms. Occasionally you also find a dung pit or latrine; a sure sign that badgers are about.

We often take areas like this for granted but they are so precious in today's busy countryside. This grassland is not only home to a wide variety of species but connects the Byng Brook valley in the south to the wet woodland to the north. "Bigger, Better, More Connected" is the byword in an ever more fragmented landscape. Let's celebrate our few remaining wild grasslands and cherish them for future generations of people and wildlife.

Anti-social help

Pettistree and Loudham are happily free from vandalism and anti-social behaviour – unless it has not been reported – but just in case here’s how to do it:

www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something or www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/anti-social-behaviour/

I note the list of what is considered anti-social includes ‘vehicle annoyance and inconsiderate use of motor vehicles’. Plenty of scope there then...

Other help

Road problems such as flooding or blockage and pavement repair

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance>

Sizewell

SZC Co has an online tracker with information about the various elements of the scheme being delivered in the near future. If you don't already know about it this is the link: szcworkstracker.co.uk

Pettistree Pith

Sow kindness and harvest happiness, sow meanness and reap nettles: although the kind people will probably use them to make quite nice tea.

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.

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