



Pettistree People

Issue 101

December 2023 Pettistree Parish Council Newslette

L Pets

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Diary Dates

Bell ringing practice: Wednesdays 7pm
at the church

Coffee mornings: First Wednesday in
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Table tennis: third Wednesday of the
month at the village hall

Christmas Services: see page 13

Sunday 17 December: **Bring & Share
Christmas Lunch** at the village hall

Parish Council meeting:

Thursday, 11 January 2024 at 7pm in the
Parish Room

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



From rescue with love...

Pets are important members of village families so they are being featured in this and future issues. Dogs, in particular, have a special place in Pettistree (see the feature on the Dog Walking Field on page 11 and, surprisingly, they've come from all around the world. Here are **Fern** and Olivia and Dick Smith getting some loving from his two rescue dogs, **Maya** and **Izola**.



Seven years old Olivia, daughter of David and Sarah Clarke of Jasmine House, has a very lively playmate in Fern. According to mum, Sarah, their pet is a bit of a juggler and able to cope with several balls being thrown at once. Born in Romania, Fern's pedigree is described by Sarah as: "a Saturday night special".



Floods and Ditches

Sue Jones

Chair Pettistree Parish Council

Drain, the very word conjures the gentle gurgling of liquid and energy. But in Pettistree several hours of Storm Babet meant water wasn't going anywhere. Neither were the residents of Stump St. They were isolated by the flood at Presmere Pond and another in the valley of Byng Lane. Couldn't get out: Sue Tansley and Zoe Kiddy couldn't get in and home. Although they eventually did. Local farmers with tractors became rescuers for schoolchildren, stranded motorists and livestock in fields transformed into lakes.

What had happened? The most rainfall in October since records began. It was a deluge. Other floods were in Rogues Lane, Walnuts Lane, The Street and Loudham Lane. The Two Authors event at the village hall had to be cancelled and re-scheduled. Long-time Pettistree residents, Joan Peck and Roger Chilvers hadn't seen the like in 30 years or at all... Houses weren't flooded, as they were in Ufford and Wickham Market, but it was a shock and raised the question again: is the village drainage in good order? The answer seems to be that the system of grips and ditches is not what it was in the past but, thanks to volunteers clearing some of the grips (channels from roads to ditches) the water did subside. The next question: can floods be avoided in the future?

Drainage is something the parish council will keep under review, but it must work within its powers. Ditches that run alongside, or within, a highway generally do not form part of the highway and remain the responsibility of the adjacent landowner or occupier. Suffolk County Council is responsible for clearing drains that form part of a highway and where a ditch has been constructed for the purpose of draining the highway.

Unfortunately, though the Parish Council would just like to pay someone to clear the ditches in the village, we are not allowed to do so because they are on privately owned land. In sum: landowners are responsible for keeping ditches in good order and that applies to hedges too.

Chancers

Hands up those who have been surprised, even shocked, to meet a racer round the blind bends of Pettistree. Our Speed Indicator Device (SID) does record speeds and for the most part drivers are sensible and stick to 30 but the bends are a challenge. We have a new mirror to improve safety at the junction of Stump Street and Byng Road thanks to Councillor Cook - but the bends near Pettistree Grange and Presmere Pond have a magic quality that protects speeders; probably because more careful drivers are just around the bend...

The Parish Council has discussed whether a 20 speed limit would be more appropriate than 30 on our single track village roads. We're not alone. The campaign group *20's Plenty for Suffolk* is campaigning to make it easier to achieve the change where there is community agreement. The group suggested we contact SAVID (Safer Village Driving): a group of several parishes nearby who are campaigning for a more effective response to the problem of speeding. Advice from SCC Highways about a change to 20 in our parish wasn't hopeful. A good case would have to be made for safety improvement. The prevailing view is that roads like Walnuts and Rogues are natural speed reducers and so are derestricted. This means you can drive Walnuts at 60 if you like but it may put you at risk of a charge for careless driving if anything or anyone gets in the way...

Our county councillor Alexander Nicoll has reported that funding is available for the replacement of damaged highway signage, overgrown or unsafe footpaths, potholes and bus services. The money is on offer from the Government following the cancellation of HS2.

And finally, the PC is to get a new domain name. We are now obliged to switch to gov.uk for emails: a good reminder that despite our size the parish council is part of local government.

*We wish everyone a happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year X*



Outside the village hall causing an event to be postponed



Walnuts Lane



Presmere Pond couldn't cope with the amount of rainfall and taking water from nearby drainage ditches. It overflowed into adjacent roads. The flood was finally released when grips were opened up and the water flowed into the field ditch.



A new sign erected by councillor James Hayward to warn of a very deep ditch near Presmere Pond.





We remembered

Pettistree and Loudham remembered their war dead at St Peter and St Paul Church on Armistice Day. There was a good turn-out for the service led by the Rev Rob Rose. Jim Jarvie played the bagpipes and Peter Holloway of Charsfield played the Last Post and Reveille. Those present sang a hymn and said prayers for the fallen of the parish:

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

The Poppy Appeal raised **£722.64** from the parish.



Maureen Stollery lays the wreath

CIL for School

The September issue of PP included a survey asking for views on how our CIL money should be spent. This money was raised from the Wickham Gate development and must be spent on community infrastructure projects.

Cllr Hayward designed the survey and reported the results to the Parish Council. There were 12 responses, and the overall view was that funding should be split between several items rather than all being spent on one item.

The most popular suggestions were: a grant to Wickham Market's primary school, clearing ditches and drainage, a grant to Pettistree village hall, the provision of litter bins, and other items for outdoor areas, and road repairs.

As indicated elsewhere, using it for drainage is a challenge and so the council has decided to investigate making grants to the school, the village hall (for chairs and a table tennis table) and where litter bins may be needed. One potential place for a bin is in Loudham Lane. This was reported to the PC for the large amount of strong lager cans found on verges on both sides of the road. Should we supply a bin for the cans or the drinkers?



Ah that's how it's done!

A 'fairy bridge' in Norfolk has been mysteriously rebuilt after being removed by the National Trust on safety grounds. The locals, who were not happy about losing their bridge, said 'fairies' were responsible. If anyone has fairies in their garden, would they please have a word about Pettistree's potholes.



Rita writes...

Rita Smith

I've written a book! Well, a diary with memories to be exact. It's called *I'm 77. My Diary and Me*.

On the first copy published by Amazon 'Diary' was misspelt, and it read 'I'm 77. My **Dairy** and Me', which could have been very apt as we do keep cows, but we don't milk them. What used to be the dairy, when Gertrude and Horace Last lived at Church Farm over 60 years ago, is now our kitchen.

I enjoy writing, and the number 7 has always been of special significance to me. So, when I reached 77, I wanted to do something special. I promised myself I would write a diary - not one that fizzled out before the end of January, but one that I'd keep for the entire year, recording the minutiae of my life. I hoped my descendants, and even my contemporaries, might read it and see what life is like in the early 21st century in Pettistree, at Church Farm.

The year was 2018 and it turned out to be very eventful. In 2017 I had joined the Group in Wickham Market that was fund-raising for a new Village Hall. As 2018 was the centenary of the ending of the First World War, it gave me a wonderful opportunity to create a soiree to celebrate this as a fund-raiser for the Hall. I organised a chorus of soldiers and we produced the soiree in July entitled *In Flanders' Fields the Poppies blo*. We repeated this in November – *Encore, with more* and had three more productions throughout the year which grew from these, including *The Battles Over* event in the Chilvers' Barn on the 11th of the 11th and the *Soldiers Singing* at the Christmas Market on the Hill.

Other events with the fund-raising group included talks, sales, a grand raffle, a craft fair and Gloria Theobold's delight: *The Sconathon*. Dick and I also celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2018, the evening of that being the most frightening of our lives – we thought we were going to be murdered! Along with the Beast from the East, new neighbours, Stephen's house being burgled, Dick's new hip, the arrival of Olga, and much more – it was certainly a very busy year, and it's all recorded in my Diary, now available on Amazon if anyone fancies sharing the exploits with me.



A memorable birthday

Poppy, the golden retriever at Strawtops was born on 11.11.2018 when we were marking 100 years from the end of the First World War. Hence her name. Owner, Jennie Barnes, has always had dogs and this one is a beauty. Golden retrievers are

known for their friendly nature and Poppy greets visitors with a toy from her basket. She will soon tell you though that it's **not** a gift...





Philip Robert Charles Westrope - obituary

10 July 1953 - 11 August 2023 (Age 70)

Philip was born on 10 July 1953 at Priestly Farm in Flitwick, Bedfordshire to Ken and Mary Westrope. As a child he had dreadful asthma and allergies and would often be confined to the house. His mother brought trays of soil in into the house so he could farm with his toy tractors. The family moved to Ashfield Hall in Suffolk where his father's illness meant that instead of going to college, Philip had to take over the day to day running of the farm.

In 1983 Philip persuaded his parents to sell Ashfield Hall for a light land farm because he saw huge potential in lighter soils for vegetable farming with irrigation. They bought Park Farm, Loudham, and it allowed the production of other crops beyond cereals and pigs.

It was through Young Farmers that he met Carolyn (pictured) and fell in love with her when she was only 17. Unfortunately for him she wasn't quite so keen and made him wait another 11 years before she would go out with him again. They were married within three months on the coldest and rainiest day in February 1984.

In 1986 their first child and eldest daughter Rebecca was born. Thomas followed in 1987, just after the hurricane, and family life started in earnest in a house without heating and both Mum and Dad working full time. In 1993 Alice (now Over) was born and the family was complete.

Philip always put work first but the Young Farmers and The Cretingham Bell became very important to his social life. He loved to ski and according to his family: "he was the only one brave or stupid enough to take on the Cresta run on a wooden skeleton sledge". The family stress that despite his work he played a full and loving part in family life and he enjoyed spending time at their holiday house near the beach in Southwold.

In his first year at Park Farm Philip planted 8 acres of potatoes with a borrowed planter and harvested them by hand. Since then, the area farmed and the crops have become much bigger. Philip became a member on the Suffolk Agricultural Association Council, developed a large farm-contracting business and took on the running of several local farms.

He loved countryside pursuits and enjoyed shooting with friends, trips to Scotland and becoming a member of a syndicate at Euston Hall. In 2013 he became a grandfather and was a doting grandfather to all seven grandchildren.

Philip had a very strong Christian faith and attended Wickham Market and Pettistree churches when able. When he was diagnosed with cancer 5 years ago. Carolyn nursed him and kept his spirits up through it all. Covid times were especially hard as he had no immunity and had to strictly isolate and miss seeing all his friends.

He loved Ipswich Town FC and was a season ticket holder for most of his life. In later years Alice and Philip used to go together, which they both cherished. He enjoyed a good party and family pranks and joined in enthusiastically to organise a massive bonfire beacon for the village to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Philip took a keen interest in local affairs: he was a member of the Parochial Church Council and a parish councillor for Pettistree from February 2015. He was one of the most conscientious councillors in responding to messages attending meetings. In October 2022 he felt he had to resign





Errant lorries

Reports have been made by residents living near the pond that occasionally an HGV heading for KindWater – or Suffolk Plants – is following satnav and ending up along Java Lodge Road. Julian Hobday of KindWater has offered to pay for a sign on the Main Road to discourage use of Java Lodge by HGVs. A weight restriction would require a legal order by the SCC and very large expense, so the Parish Council has decided to pursue the option of a non-legally binding sign ‘Not suitable for HGVs’.

A Cuban companion

Pat Deliss travelled to the Isle of Wight to collect **Tilly**, the Havanese. But Tilly’s ancestry is from further afield as the breed is Cuban. She belongs to the barbichon family of dogs, which in turn, is descended from the Mediterranean barbet and developed from



extinct *Blanquito de la Habana* (little white dog of Havana). It is believed that the Blanquito was cross-bred with other bichon types and the poodle. Tilly is a clever dog who thinks walking is for lesser breeds. This one travels with wheels occasionally. A true companion.



Canine choristers

Jonathan Bierowiec of Pettistree Cottage (above) with **Guna** a Spanish rescue dog and **Alfie** the Highland Terrier. Their home rings with canine singing ever Wednesday night when Alfie joins in with the bellringers. He is the smaller dog but with the bigger voice. Guna is a Spanish Griffon used for hunting as a scenthound and sadly one of many discarded when not wanted for work.

Obituary continued... as parish councillor and actually thanked the Parish Council for allowing him to serve on it.

Philip was buried in Pettistree churchyard during a funeral service on 14 September 2023 led by Rev. Jenny Catchpole. There was then a Service of Thanksgiving at All Saints Church, Wickham Market conducted by Revs Jenny Catchpole and Rob Rose. Eulogies were by his friend Paul Tuckwell and Philip’s children, Rebecca, Thomas, and Alice. Alice’s husband Tom Over, read the lesson. There were about 450 mourners inside and outside the church most of whom went on to Park Farm for a wake in the garden. Philip is already sadly missed by the village, his other friends, and of course by his family.

Jeff Hallett (incorporating information from the family)



Where are the pubs?

Tony Franklin asks

A week or so ago I popped into one of my favourite pubs, the White Hart in Aldeburgh. It was reasonably busy, and my wife asked a small group of gentlemen if we could share their table to which they readily agreed. Over a couple of pints of fine Adnams ale we chatted to our neighbours, exchanging anecdotes, information and gossip and we then went on our way, perhaps never to see them again.

Our experience in the White Hart demonstrated the quintessential nature of the British Pub; a friendly and convivial atmosphere in which people from different walks of life, who otherwise may not have met, can meet each other to chat over a pint or a glass of wine.

Sadly however, many pubs are losing their traditional ambiance to become overpriced eateries where ale, which may not be real, costing close to £5 a pint, wine at £30 a bottle rising quickly to over £100+ for a half decent grape, while the menu, which may be in French, can sometimes look like one you might find in Michelin starred establishments.

Yes, pubs do need to offer food to their customers, and many do excellent pub food without compromising that pub feeling. But alas, a growing number of 'pubs' cram tables into the bar area and in doing so force out the community spirit of the place. Some even prohibit drinking customers from sitting at tables and in doing so change the pub into an exclusive café or restaurant in which local people cannot afford to dine and consequently they are edged out of their local hostelry. Perhaps traditional Suffolk Pubs are losing their attraction and will soon disappear, I hope not.

We're asking readers to tell us about the pubs they use and why. They will serve food but should also welcome drinkers. Please let us have your recommendations for future issues of PP and maybe you will find your neighbours in a local hostelry where friendly chat and fine wine flow at a reasonable rate and a reasonable price.



Starters

The White Hart, Aldeburgh – clean scrubbed tables, well-kept beer, open fire in the winter, no food but patio area outside has seating and heating (next to the famous Fish 'n Chip shop).

Tony Franklin 27 January 2023

The Cretingham Bell – small bar for drinking well-kept real ale, separate area for eating from a good all-round menu – friendly and helpful staff. *Anon 20 May 2023*

Please send us your entry to the editor sue.jones@torfinancial.com and we will include your entry in the next Pettistree People. Please say if you do not wish to be named.

Pettistree Rabbits

There is a little rabbit
Who lives just by the Green
It seems to have no ears!
Well, none I've ever seen

There is a little rabbit
Who lives near the building plot
Its fur is black as night
I see it out a lot

Of course there's other rabbits
But they all look the same
My interest in the odd ones
Is what I will maintain.

Olivia M J Smith





SAVE THE DATE!

BRING & SHARE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

FOR PETTISTREE FRIENDS & RESIDENTS

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER @ 12.00PM

PETTISTREE VILLAGE HALL

Planning Update

After rather a long time we have a decision on the working hours of the AirManageSuffolk business at the **Old Engineering Works** in Pettistree. The site owner appealed refusals by East Suffolk District Council to extend the permitted working hours to Saturday afternoons, Sundays and public holidays.

The Planning Inspectorate's decision is: "No activities shall be carried out on the site other than between the hours of 0900hrs and 1730hrs Monday to Friday, 0800hrs and 1600hrs on Bank and Public Holidays, and 0800hrs and 1300hrs on Saturdays. No activities shall be carried out on the site on Sundays".

The planning permission sought was to remove a planning condition on hours completely or to alter the hours of operation to 8.00am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30am to 4.30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. An unspecified time to allow the business owner to have flexibility to work earlier and later on occasion was also sought. The appellant advised that the existing hours restriction did not meet the needs of the business.

The Inspectorate's decision has come as a relief to residents near to the site who objected to a change in hours. Objection was also made by the Parish Council. The Planning Inspector's judgement was that: "...given the nature of this village location, the suggested inclusion of working on Sundays is likely to cause unacceptable nuisance to local residents at a time when they can reasonably expect some respite from business activities at the Old Engineering Works. This would be to the detriment of their living conditions. I am not persuaded by the appellant's view that there is sufficient distance between the premises and neighbouring properties to avoid nuisance, as business activities are not confined to inside of the building".

According to ESC enforcement the whole site is now being reviewed with regarding to working hours.



Dr Peter Hayward - obituary 1937 – 2023

Peter was born in Ipswich on 23rd January 1937. His parents lived in Stowmarket, where Peter attended the local Grammar School. Peter would recount the story of how as an eight-year-old, he saw an elderly woman, bent almost double, pass by his gate. He promised himself that he would become a doctor and make people better. Peter qualified as a doctor at Middlesex Hospital and realised his ambition to be a GP.

Returning to his native Suffolk, he joined Dr Lehmann in the old surgery at Crafers, Wickham Market. By this time, he was married to Rosie, and they moved to Marlesford, creating a family home with their three children – Becca, Chloe and Daniel. When Dr Lehmann died Peter moved the surgery to rooms adjacent to Taylor's shop, and in the early 1980's he and Dr Chris Craggs merged practices to create the Medical Centre in Wickham Market. Peter was a dedicated GP in the traditional way, visiting patients in their homes and turning out day and night in all weathers.

In 1985 Peter and Rosie swapped houses with the Biltons and bought Green Farm. Peter's father, Gramps, joined them to live in a converted granary. An interest in rheumatology persuaded Peter to create Green Farm Clinic and build a hydrotherapy pool where patients received physio and hydrotherapy. This ran as a significant enterprise for several years, supporting patients from Wickham Market, Woodbridge and further afield.

Aside from medicine, Peter enjoyed many sports, music, entertaining and latterly, painting. He had a very strong faith and it was always a pleasure to chat with him on a multitude of subjects. Whilst in Pettistree he served on the Parish Council and was very much involved in creating the circular footpath around Pettistree. Peter and Rosie moved to Woodbridge in 2018. Sadly, Peter died after a brief illness in Ipswich Hospital on 2 November 2023.

Writing as long term friends we send our condolences to Rosie and all the family on their loss. A life of true service to our community.

Dick & Rita Smith



Ancient tracks 3

Thong Hall Road

Joan Peck

No-one seems to know why Thong Hall Road is so called. Neither do I! What or where was Thong Hall? The current road extends from Pettistree Green northwards to the crossroads with Dallinghoo Road in Wickham Market, crossing the parish boundary where the footpath leads down to Grove Farm.

At one time a large area of land was divided into the Manors of Wickham, Harpole, Gelham and Byng. Pettistree did not exist, the land being partly in the Manor of Byng and partly in the Manor of Loudham. This large area must have been a tangle of footpaths and tracks. No doubt this is the road originally that linked the manors together.

When reading a book called *The History of Wickham Market*, written by Gwen Dyke in 1944 I noticed that the spelling of Harpole had changed to Thorpel then Thorpe: "Thorpe Hall consisted of a few widely separated cottages in a thickly wooded area." In early times few people were literate and the handwriting of those who were was difficult to read; the spelling changed and has continued to change over the years. Thorpe could have become Thong and thus we have Thong Hall.

On the tithe map for Wickham Market

(1841) there is a Thorpell Wood which is approximately 1 mile NW of Thong Hall Cottages. There is an 'old garden' marked on this map which could indicate an important feature possibly linked to a building of some consequence. This is only a suggestion and if anyone has any other ideas or



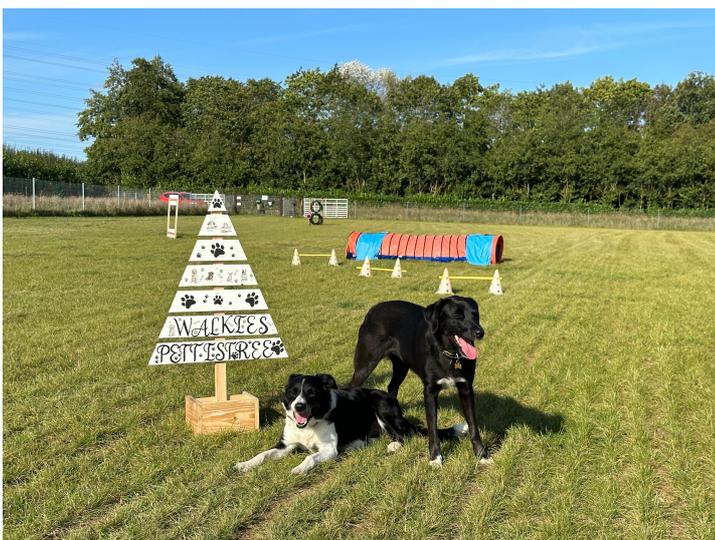
Pettistree Dog Walking Field

Owners have been enjoying a safe space to walk their dogs since Pettistree’s Dog Walking Field opened in May.

The three-acre field on the B1438 between Wickham Market and Ufford is well screened by roadside hedges. This sense of enclosure is further strengthened by the planting of wildflowers that wrap around the field. Set within the wildflowers is a 1.6m tall fence and double-gated airlock car park that means the dogs, and their owners are protected from interference by other dogs or cars. A field shelter and picnic bench provide a focal point along with the assorted dog agility and play equipment.

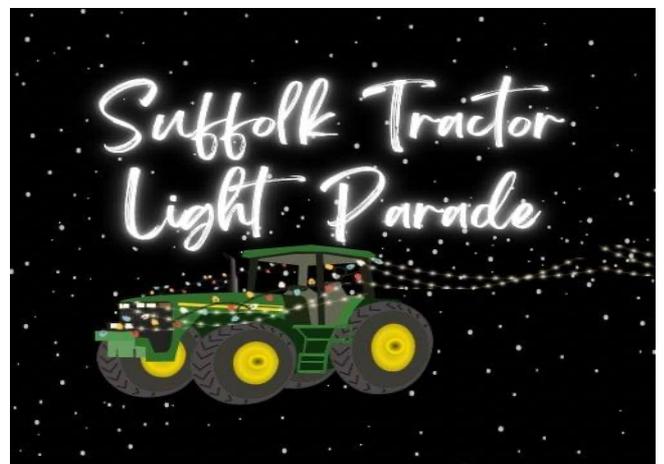
It provides a safe and secure training area where dogs can be trained without distraction from other dogs or the risk of them not returning when called. It also provides a safe space for reactive dogs, those that are nervous with other dogs or overly aggressive.

Very positive reviews have been received from users, with many repeat customers making this a frequent part of their weekly walking routines. Booking and payment is easily achieved online with sessions starting on the hour and lasting for 50 minutes: www.walkiesfieldpettistree.net. Check slot availability on *facebook*.



Finally convinced...

Dale and Nicki Mayhew of Scotts Hall managed something difficult with **Bear**, the 7 years old Chocolate Labrador and **Scout**, the 6months old Glen of Imaal terrier: getting them to look at the camera! “It took lots of attempts,” said Nicki and “I never wanted a dog. It took Dale 20 years to convince me and now we have two...”. The terrier is special: one of four Irish terrier breeds reportedly bred out of local terriers and the hounds brought to Ireland by French and German mercenaries hired by Queen Elizabeth I to put down a rebellion.



Sunday, 17 December

Pettistree Pith

While we were arguing about responsibility...everyone drowned



On the Farm

James Hayward

Don't mention the weather

I'm writing this in my office on the farm; the sun is going down, amidst a perfectly blue sky and scattered clouds. The wind is dying down and – although a little chilly – it looks like a perfect evening for fireworks. Looking out of the window at such idyllic conditions, you can almost start to forget the last five weeks of torrential rain, flooding and general chaos.

For many farmers, the sheer volume of rain has been catastrophic. Crops already planted have been lost or are submerged and those fields yet to plant are impossible to go near with a tractor. We'll simply have to wait for things to dry out. In conditions such as this I'm very thankful the farm has other income streams: willow trees, commercial & residential lets and horse paddocks. Many do not have these luxuries and face a very difficult year.

As landowners, we're responsible for looking after our own ditches and the recent rain has prompted us to review of every ditch and drain on the farm. We'll use the period when fields are in stubble to clear and deepen the ditches in turn over the next 3-4 years. Not only will this help to keep the water off the roads, but it should also provide more volume to drain the fields, so that they are more resilient to heavy rainfall. This had been on our agenda for the last couple of years, but – as so often is the case – it takes a really serious situation to prompt action. If anyone else needs their ditches clearing, you know where we are!

The UK harvest this year was average which actually made a pleasant change from the past few years. The weather made for a frustrating stop-start operation, and the Sugar Beet harvest, has yet to start but hopefully we'll have a bumper crop (if it ever dries up enough to get the blooming things out!). Our Oil Seed Rape looks the best it has for years. We now need a month of dry conditions and we'll be back on track.

The vineyard is looking healthy after year 1 and we'll plant to replace those vines that didn't grow well this year, before putting up trellises.



Pettistree on an early morning – and cold – run.

Photo by James Hayward

Likely we'll then plant the rest of the fenced-in plot in 2025 once we've figured out what we're doing a little more! It's certainly been a steep learning curve with plenty of things going awry – mainly the deer taking a fancy to the new shoots and persuading us to erect the fencing while the vines get established. Hopefully this will come down in future years when the vines are mature – it will return the vineyard to a more natural look.

The Car Boot sale saw a slow start but gained traction through the summer. We decided to close it earlier than planned to regroup and come back next year with some a better advertising.

We have a new tenant in the Old School building in Wickham Market – Paul Scales who sells auto-memorabilia. He has an exciting selection of sellers also operating from the site (previously Old School Antiques) – including artists, woodworkers and more traditional antique sellers. For anyone unsure of what to buy their family for Christmas, it's certainly worth a look. For any of my family reading this, you can guess what you'll be getting for Christmas!...

At the same time, we've taken the opportunity to give the building a bit of a long-overdue 'birthday'. The windows and weatherboards are being repaired along with the guttering and everything is being re-painted. Already the lovely old building is looking much smarter! Now, better get back to my sun-dance...



Far too old for a puppy!

Rita Smith

The black and white dog was tied to a tree with a piece of string, outside the Cypriot Refuge. She was pregnant. The kind people in the Refuge took her in and fed her, after a month she gave birth to twelve puppies.

Dick and I had been looking for a dog. The house was strangely quiet since Pip died six months earlier, and we hoped for a dog that would fit in with our lives. We'd applied to the Labrador Rescue Society, but they said they could only offer us one that was older than 10, as we were over 80 - they may have been right - but they didn't have one anyway.

We applied to other Dog Trusts, but every dog we looked at online came with problems: not good with children, ongoing medical problems, doesn't get on with other dogs, afraid of men, or just too far away for us to visit them the 3 or 4 times that was necessary. We were then told, by several people, to look on Facebook for rescued foreign dogs.

There we discovered the little Cypriot dog that had been tied up outside the Refuge. She came with fairly good references: she's gentle (yes); walks well on a lead (don't think she'd ever seen a lead); frightened of men (yes); and separation anxiety. At this point we were shown a video of mum, Maya, with her 12 puppies – black, brown, golden, and black and white, and I wanted one!!! I asked for one named Izola as I thought this might help Maya's anxiety. But the lady in charge of transporting the dogs said, "No way. You're far too old to have a puppy – and your children agree with me!" Not good when your children won't let you have what you want!

But when the day of the long journey came, the lady contacted me and said, "Do you still want a puppy? I've found homes for five of them in Cyprus, and the lady who fosters them for me in Shropshire really can't take seven, so if you still want one I can let you foster one – but you can't adopt it!"

That was last February. We have now adopted both little treasures. They still pull badly on the lead and bark loudly when they see other dogs. Maya has escaped 14 times, and we're very grateful to Sarah next door who has managed to find her for us. Neither can be let off the lead safely. We're doing our best to teach these wild spirits to conform and have made good use of the fenced area of the Pettistree Walkies. We very much love these new additions to our home.



All are welcome to join us at
Pettistree Church

Thursday 14th December 10.30 a.m.
Christingle Service

*A service which is particularly suitable for
young children but all are welcome*

Sunday 17th December 3.00
p.m.

after the Bring & Share lunch at the
Village Hall

Carols in the Churchyard

leaving plenty of time to watch the

Suffolk Tractor Light Parade

which plans to get to the The Three
Tuns around 5.15- 5.30 pm

Sunday 24th December 9.30 a.m.
A Traditional Carol Service

Monday 25th December 9.30 a.m.
Christmas Day Holy Communion
and at

All Saints Wickham Market

Sunday 24th December 11.30 p.m.
Midnight Communion



Folk on Foot in Pettistree

Darren Tansley

BBC Radio 4 host and founder of Folk on Foot, Matthew Bannister, set off on his biggest walk in August from Wickham Festival in Hampshire to Folk East in Suffolk. Over two weeks, he covered 186 miles, took 465,137 steps and raised nearly £20,000 for *Help Musicians*. Each evening, he was joined in a pub enroute by some of folk’s finest musicians. His last evening was at The Duck in Campsea Ashe in the company of Folk East patrons, The Young Uns.

I was lucky enough to join Matthew for the final day of his walk, from Bredfield to Glemham (10 miles) ending up at the Folk East Festival. The route went right past our drive, on to Presmere pond then along by the Greyhound before turning left through the Churchyard and across Dick and Rita’s field and off to Loudham. It was a delight to walk the last day of the Big Walk route with him and along some paths I knew well in Bredfield and Pettistree then on through Loudham, Campsea Ashe and Blaxhall, through woods and fields I’d never seen before. Sue and I had been at The Duck the previous evening to see the Young Uns do their set for him. It was a fabulous experience and we will definitely be going to Folk East next year for more of the same.

They say never meet your heroes but Matthew is an inspiration. He genuinely cares about people and the music they create. A champion of the underdog, he features artists on Folk on Foot that you may never have heard before, as well as some favourites such as Martin Simpson, Show of Hands and Kathryn Tickell. He is also passionate about the environment: a man after my own heart. In fact over the last three years he has raised more than £350,000 to help out with everything from financial support to mental health assistance or childcare.

As a former professional touring and recording musician myself, I know how difficult it is to make a living from music. I was lucky enough to tour extensively across the world, playing every type of venue from small pubs to sports arenas and festivals like Glastonbury, but we still lived hand to mouth. It is even harder for musicians now than it was back in the 1990s because streaming services have become the main way for people to ‘buy’ music. Unfortunately, only a tiny proportion of that revenue goes to the musicians themselves. When 100,000 streams on Spotify would only earn a band the same as selling 30 CDs at a gig, it is easy to see how much they now rely on live concerts to keep the rent paid. During the pandemic, with venues closed, many were pushed into bankruptcy.

If you want to hear more music and see or listen to some of the artists then check out FOLK ON FOOT on YouTube or go to the website. They do the folk Album chart run down every month plus other live videos from the walks across the British Isles with musicians leading the way. Our lives are made all the richer with music and nature in them. But both are under greater threat than ever so we all need to do our bit to support them.

<https://www.folkonfoot.com/>



Bellringing News

Mary Garner – Tower Captain

Our weekly Wednesday night practices are fairly buzzing at present. Three people are learning to handle (ie ring a bell on their own) and several are learning five bell methods, the first building blocks for method ringing. A good number of regular visitors, between 12 and 20 most weeks, enables us to cater for a wide range of skills and abilities.

We are looking forward to our 38th AGM. These were established in 1986 when the bells were restored. The band that rang at the dedication service in December 1986 had started to learn in the previous June. Mike Whitby recruited ringing friends from nearby to come and help teach about 18 of us, practising one or two nights a week. It was a fantastic commitment by all those helpers.

Amazingly Mike is still with us as our ringing master and people come from a fair distance to enjoy his tuition and expertise. Of the original band only Chris and I are ringing in Pettistree, but one our first helpers has joined the band in recent years. One or two other stalwarts joined in the nineties. Several of the original band are still ringing in other parts of the country. Our village bells and their ringing are admired across the county and that is in no small way thanks to Mike.

We have rung quarter peals to mark several special occasions over the past few months: on September 13th as a memorial to Philip Westrope on the eve of his funeral. He had been a PCC member at Pettistree Church, where his wife is a Churchwarden. Also in September, we rang a quarter to celebrate the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of a couple who had been married in Newmarket, but the bells were not rung. There was a family gathering in the churchyard where table and chairs were set up and a toast drunk.

You may have had heard the bells being rung on Armistice Day. The bells were half muffled, which means that a leather pad had been strapped to one side of the clapper, so that an echo effect was created every other stroke. We rang a quarter peal immediately preceding the Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial in the churchyard, which was attended by about forty people. Thanks to Chris for fixing the muffles.

The Pettistree Ringers are currently custodians of

Speed to go

Someone fed up with speeding vehicles, along the Main Road from Ufford into Pettistree? Who decided to fix the problem themselves... with a can of grey paint? This wiped out the de-restricted speed signs presumably in the hope that drivers would assume they were still in Ufford's 30 zone. The signs should, of course, have marked entry into national speed limit for the type of road in this case 60. They are now back to being legal.



Village house for sale

Church Cottage in Walnuts Lane is on the market with Jackson-Stops. The thatched 16th century Grade II listed property was divided into two cottages before becoming the home in 1999 of Ambrose Argenti, a book publisher.

the Rose Striking Competition Trophy. It was won by the SE District of the Guild. Four of the eight ringers in the band were from Pettistree. This is a Guild Competition for 8 bells and there were six teams taking part.

Unfortunately, our previously planned open mornings (mentioned in the last issue of PP) didn't happen, so we have postponed to the spring. If, however, you would like to find out more now, please don't feel you need to wait till the spring, just get in touch. (marysgarner@tiscali.co.uk / 07791 585127)



WhatsApp Pettistree

The WhatsApp Group has 32 participants and is open to many more residents of Pettistree and Loudham.

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

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

About Pettistree People

The Parish Council funds this newsletter but it is **Your** record of news and events. Do contact me with ideas for articles and pictures. Or anything you think the Parish Council or the editor should know.

Editor - Sue Jones, Holmleigh
chairman@pettistreesuffolk.org.uk

A scam: If you get a missed call from a 00 number please be careful as it may be a costly scam. The temptation is to ring back to find out who is calling but you may be ringing a premium line at extremely high rates and to an overseas number. The scammers take a cut from the cost of the call.



Don't forget to keep your toes warm

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Footpaths: Judy Steventon

Planning: Tom Over

Landscape, Trees & Infrastructure: James Hayward

Village maintenance contact: Chris Cook

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Environment: Olivia Smith

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Clerk: Andrew Staples

Responsible Financial Officer: Simon Ashton

Pettistree People editor: Sue Jones

Pettistree News editor: Cath Caudwell

Whats App Group administrators: Alice Over and Sue Jones

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Church

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PCC Secretary, Leanne Castle 07375 825063

Wardens: Carolyn Westrope 746139

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