



Pettistree People

Issue 99 June 2023

Pettistree Parish Council Newsletter

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Diary Dates

Wednesdays – bell ringing practice – 7pm
First Wednesday in month – coffee morning at the village hall
Third Wednesday of the month – table tennis at the village hall
Yoga beginners – 6 June – Vida Haus
28 July – Kirtan chanting – Vida Haus – 7pm



Scarecrow judging

Debbie Hayward owner of Presmere Day Nursery with some of her charges who were wondering why they were surrounded by scarecrows. Debbie decided to involve parents and children in 'Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle' themed scarecrow competition. David Harris of Holmleigh was given the challenge of picking the best. See page 5 for winners and pictures.



See page 10



Emelia & Abigail Smith (Cath and Dave Caudwell's granddaughters) looking very cheerful about collecting the village's litter. Report on page 5

Parish Council Chair's Report

Sue Jones

Councils must have an election every four years and ours was this year. It's an opportunity to refresh the governing body but in Pettistree we'd already done that. The council membership has changed in the past three years.

The election was uncontested which meant that seven people applied to become councillors for seven places. One more application and we would have had to go to a vote. As it was, we were able to confirm our co-optees as councillors and add a new one: Olivia Smith of Woodlands. She takes the place of Jeff Hallett who had been a parish councillor in Pettistree for 28 years. Jeff had the opportunity to review his time in office at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20 April.

Thirteen residents were at the meeting to give us their views on what is happening in Pettistree and what needs to improve. These can be summarised as planning, drainage, traffic and what to do with our CIL money from the Hopkins development.

Cllr Tom Over has agreed to take on the Council's planning brief. The meeting discussed whether a Neighbourhood Plan would be useful for Pettistree to give us more control over how the village develops. It was agreed that the amount of work and time needed for a plan – a very bureaucratic process – would not be worthwhile because land use changes over time and planners are not obliged to reflect NPs in their Local Plans. Instead, the Parish Council will discuss an overall vision for Pettistree's future development to inform PC commentary on planning applications, and the delivery of community benefits.

The meeting agreed that planning applications should be subject to wider consultation. East Suffolk Council (ESC) must consult the PC and neighbours of proposed developments, but this is proving inconsistent even haphazard. We will now post notices of all significant applications on *Pettistree News* so that residents can either send comments to the PC or to ESC via its planning portal. It is also possible to sign up to ESC alerts of Pettistree and Loudham applications.

In addition, a new Planning Assessment Tool has been devised to enable the PC to evaluate an application according to impact on key markers such as infrastructure, social benefit, economic and environment. This will enable us to suggest conditions that would get a proposal from binary 'object or approve' to a 'approve if..' status.

The tool was used to enhance PC comments on the retrospective planning application for more short-term lets at the Three Tuns.

An application to use an old farm building at Whitehouse Farm on Main Road for an MOT testing centre and car repairs is awaiting a decision by district planners. Details can be found on the ESC planning website with the parish council's views.

A letter was also sent to the Head of Planning at ESC about the continuing breaches of planning conditions at the Old Engineering site. It is now a year since breaches of planning conditions were brought to the attention of that council. We will now raise the matter with our new Green district councillor, Sally Noble.

On the roads, Cllr James Clarke reported that speeding was low at 1-2% of traffic movements at the three SID sites. Questions were raised again about the value of having SID in Thong Hall Road near a junction and the value of the scheme in general. Walnuts Lane near Rogues Lane junction was said to be preferable, but Cllr Hallett reported that Suffolk Highways would have to give permission and was unlikely to do that given the nearness of the 30-limit sign. Cllr Clarke has been successful in steering Suffolk County Council Highways to fixing potholes in the village.

The size of lorries supplying KindWater was also raised at the Parish Meeting now that the business is shifting large volumes of salt. A check with the office about traffic movements revealed that they are trying to restrict them to four a weekday.

It became clear, during the meeting, that there are actions we want from Suffolk County Highways and the PC will request these: the whole of Rogues Lane and Walnuts Lanes to be subject to a 30 speed limit (Rogues is now feeding into a 30 limit on Main Road related to the new Hopkins development); a sign at the Main Road end of Rogues Lane which indicates that travellers are entering Pettistree and movement of the broadband box at The Street entrance because it obscures the sight of traffic approaching the junction. Any others please let us know.

I reported that the PC has a healthy bank balance thanks to some savings from previous years and reduced costs through not having a parish council clerk for more than a year. A slight increase in the precept for this year will go towards the salary of our Responsible Finance Officer, Simon Ashton, and our new clerk, Andrew Staples (see page 12).

How to spend the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money from the Hopkins development was a question posed to participants in the annual parish meeting. No conclusions were drawn other than renovating the Parish Room and having a professional survey of Pettistree's ground water drainage. We will canvass wider village views on what will benefit our community long term. Watch out for a voting form coming your way!

Village Hall activities

The following activities are currently being held in the Village Hall

- Coffee mornings – first Wednesday of each month
- Art Class - Monday mornings and from April afternoons
- Pilates - Monday evenings
- Willow weaving - Tuesday daytime fortnightly
- Upholstery class - every Tuesday evening
- Patchwork and Quilting - Thursdays fortnightly
- Table Tennis - third Wednesday of each month



Maureen Stollery was more than ready for the coronation



The Coronation Barbecue

Held at and hosted by the village hall the barbecue went well under the supervision of Jim Jarvie and Dave Caudwell. There were some excellent salads and puddings brought by others. Around 50 enjoyed the afternoon and there was a good mixture of residents, ex-residents and church members. The weather was very good as the sun appeared and everyone was glad of the gazebos –put up as protection from expected rain – which instead provided some shade.



Projector

The Parish Council has bought a projector to modernise its meetings. It will be available for loan to residents.

Loudham

May we have some reports from Loudham please? If you live or work in the village, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the editor either by phone or email.

Ancestral tracks

Joan Peck

S.A, Q.S.276/238 Pettistree and Ufford

Nowadays footpaths are for walkers' pleasure and sometimes convenience, but they were once the main routes joining settlements. Some were wider than others and became green lanes, bridleways and driftways.

Pettistree has a network of ancient tracks. A few have been lost but many are still in use, although their names and positions changed slightly with the coming of field enclosures in the 16th century, mechanisation in the late 18th century and the invention of tarmac.

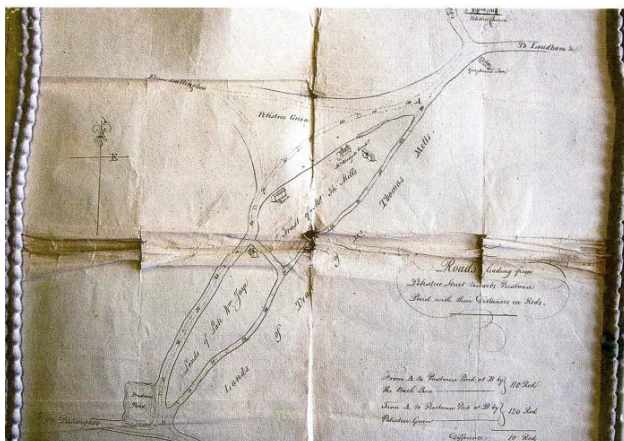
One such road is Presmere Road which leads to Stump Street. The word 'pres' implies a Priest and 'mere' a shallow pond. Stump suggests the remains of possibly an important tree previously used as the meeting place or sacred place before the church was built in the 13th century. If so, the pond was conveniently placed for baptisms.

There is a footpath starting between Garden House - built in the 1970s - and Green Farm which goes in a south easterly direction between both houses and ends near the pond. It was called Back Lane. In the late 18th century this track became "muddy, dirty, and uncommodius" according to two Suffolk Clerks, Francis Brooke JP and Thomas Carthew JP. They ordered that it be stopped up and no longer used as a public highway. A new route was decided upon, but it is not clear what the status of the new route* was previously.

The map below shows the church with a porch and in the R H corner a road junction with roads to Loudham and Wickham Market. A third road leads west to the corner of the village green. Mr Woodgate was occupier of Green Farm and a barn on the land was marked 'Trust of Mr Thomas Mills'. A path behind cottages at Scott's Hall seems to link two routes. The rest of the land to the pond is marked 'Lands of Late Mr William Jay'. Back Lane was a shorter route to the pond from The Street: said to be 110 rods instead of 120.

The old English measure of a rod was about 5m.

*Presumably Presmere Road



Walking with Judy

We have an excellent opportunity to get off the couch and into Pettistree and Loudham's Countryside with Judy Steventon. Our Footpaths Warden, has offered to walk both villages' footpaths with anyone who would like to find and enjoy them.



Judy of Old Carleford in Presmere Road, has international experience of hiking in the Antipodes, the Himalayas and Peru. She said: "Nothing pleases me more than heading off around the nooks and crannies of Pettistree and Loudham with their wonderful hidden footpaths; seeing the changing seasons, weather and wildlife. I would be delighted to accompany others on these journeys to suit time, distance and ability." Do send Judy an email if you would like to go for a walk...

judy.steventon@yahoo.com

Judy's latest report on footpaths

FP 15 which has been problematic to use in previous years and was cleared by the January Report has remained accessible. The style accessing FP15 has been improved by a volunteer and is now usable.

FP 10 crosses the back of the Suffolk Plant Centre. Following the good work done to improve the FPs, gates and stiles through the Plant Centre. I have expressed thanks to the Manager and Owner of the site. We discussed a remaining strip of footpath needing attention. He said they will be putting up new green houses in that area in the autumn, and the footpath will be renewed at that time.

The working copy of the SCC footpath map still records the very steep access from Byng Lane to FP 25 (Ref 374847) as "under investigation".

Note from the Parish Council:

The footpath along Main Road from Rogues Lane to Wickham Market is in a poor condition. Councillor James Clarke will be making enquiries of Suffolk County Council about improvements. If you see anything related to footpaths that needs fixing please alert Judy.

Litter pickers head out...

The Government's announcement of a crackdown on anti-social behaviour coincided with Pettistree and Loudham's experience of litter loutery. A village litter pick was organised by Sarah Clarke.

Sarah Clarke

Despite falling on the first day of British Summer time, you'd have been forgiven for thinking that the village litter pick was taking place in the dead of winter! However, despite the cold and rain there was a fantastic turnout of villagers which meant that nearly all Pettistree's roadside verges and footpaths were successfully cleared of litter.

The most found items were drinks bottles and cans discarded in hedges, closely followed by food wrappers and fast-food containers. A substantial amount of plastic sheeting and polystyrene were also found in ditches and caught in undergrowth near to the Wickham Gate development. In all, villagers cleared in excess of 10 bags full of rubbish - a fantastic achievement, not only ensuring that our wonderful village looks at its best but also benefiting the pets, farm animals and wildlife that call it home. Following this year's success, hopefully the Pettistree litter pick will become a regular date on the calendar once again!

Editor: There was a follow up by the Parish Council to reports of litter from the Wickham Gate development and the cigarette ends found near the parish noticeboard.



*Jim & Pauline Jarvie
Sarah & Olivia Clarke
Alan & Evelyn Whitfield
Cath & Dave Caudwell
Emelia and Abigail Smith*



Will Orrick of The Greyhound reported that more ash cans had been sited at the pub to encourage smokers to do the right thing and the Head of Planning at Hopkins Homes reported that site managers had been requested to stop the litter. A layby in Lower Ufford Road behind Loudham Hall proved to be a place to drink and dump so if anyone has an idea how to tackle it please let us know. Our thanks to those who took part in the pick and those who responded to our complaints.

*Scarecrow judge, David Harris
with winning entry by Daisy and
Toby*



Scary!

*3rd prize to Noah for
the king though we
weren't sure of his
ability to scare crows*



*2nd prize to
Dora for a
'recycle'
triumph*





Business News

All things natural



Bilyana Dawson is a force of nature and **for** nature. Her energy for bringing people and wellbeing together powers Vida Haus, part of the Three Tuns business owned by father-in-law, Chris Dawson.

The building, which was once a Victorian coaching inn, is now a refill/lifestyle shop and yoga studio. But Bily has many more plans for the place including pop up events and supper clubs. She is keen for it to become a primary community hub where new ways of shopping and connecting can be explored. The business revolves around a yoga studio because Bily is a teacher and ‘lives and breathes’ yoga. There are also contemporary dance sessions for seniors and adult ballet classes. A link-up with an herbalist offers lectures about plants and Reiki with local practitioner Rachel.

It seems a new help organisation pops up every week. Trying to find the one you need is a job in itself. Now, more than 100 organisations have signed up to Suffolk Information Partnership helping to deliver services to improve health and wellbeing.

www.suffolkinformationpartnership.onesuffolk.net Help for Households is also an umbrella website for those looking for help with the cost of living. www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.go.uk

According to the 2021 Census Pettistree with Loudham has a population of 160 and 1800 acres of farmland.



The shop offers refills of natural cleaning products, exotic foodstuffs such as goji berries and mulberries and, well, nice things...

A tie up with a local organic farm will enable Pettistree residents to collect vegetable boxes. Later in the year, Billy would like donated produce from local gardens and allotments to be available to generate small donations to Pettistree’s Community Benefit Fund. She is currently searching for a new chef/food lover to get the kitchen up and running again as a vegan café but meanwhile concentrating on the shop and studio.

“Everything here is about community. I want people to feel they can just walk in and browse the shop, have a drink, look at the yoga classes – we have chair yoga for those who find it difficult to do floor work – every day there is something going on including sessions with Suffolk Carers. We’re looking at craft evenings on Thursdays where people can come and do some knitting, sewing and have a chat. The website has details of all the events.”

The ideas stream out of Billy who graduated from McGill University in Montreal with a degree in marketing and sustainable business. Hospital treatment in her native Bulgaria led her to yoga and an exceptional teacher and then to becoming a teacher herself. In Canada when snowboarding, she met her husband, Ben Dawson. When he returned home to Pettistree Billy came too.

If you would like to order organic vegetable boxes from Fellows Farm and have them delivered to Via Haus call the farm on 07548 300244

All classes and events need to be booked online at www.threetunspettistree.co.uk/dance-yoga-studio



Reverently Poetical

The Rev Leslie Siu is Pettistree’s 30th clergyman according to the record which starts in 1279 with Ric le Clerc. The clergy also has a celebrity association in George Crabbe, Rector of Bredfield and Pettistree (1835-1857) who was the eldest son of George Crabbe, the poet. The latter, born in Aldeburgh, started out as apothecary and swiftly became a celebrated literary figure known for, among many others, poems about *The Village* and *The Parish Register*.



Hong Kong calling

Leslie Siu and family

You may have picked up the news that I will be moving from Wickham Market and Pettistree churches in June to Hong Kong. There I will be taking up a ministerial role at an Anglican church.

History repeats itself, they say. Thirty-five years ago, my family bought a one-way ticket from London to Hong Kong. I was just a year or so old when we made that 6000-mile journey. Now I'm following in the footsteps of my parents. This time, I am the father of a young family, with a one-year-old, repeating that journey.

We came to Wickham Market and Pettistree in 2018 without any explicit plans as to how long we would stay. I guess we would have expected it to be for more than five years, but as the Bible says: "We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps". We trust that as a family we are walking in the ways of God as we seek to honour Jesus as King in all that we do and going wherever he calls us to.

My childhood years were spent in Hong Kong and, although I had been in the UK at boarding school, it was only when I went to university that England began to feel more like home. Hong Kong was where my relatives lived, but it was ultimately a place to visit when holiday and finances allowed. Seventeen years later I am embedded in life in the UK. In this country I met and married Mel and it's the only place my 6 children have known as home. In the Church of England, I found a spiritual home and discerned my vocation to serve as a minister of Jesus Christ. Although much about Hong Kong will be familiar, the upcoming move feels like a huge step into the unknown.

We have had a wonderful time here in Suffolk and will cherish the many memories we have made. It hasn't been as long a stay as we had hoped but I am reminded that Abraham spent his life living in a tent. He knew his life on planet earth was the life of a pilgrim. He was on a journey that would only end when he arrived to be at home with the God who rescues and who saves. The Israelites had an annual festival of tents to embed in their collective consciousness that they are never to get too comfortable in our earthly homes. We won't be home until Jesus returns and establishes heaven on earth.

So, although there is much sadness at saying goodbye, we say it with the hope that there is an invitation from Christ to know the certainty of an eternal future with him and all God's people. A future when the whole world is renewed, and we can be at home with God forever. That is the Christian hope held by Christians everywhere and has been proclaimed for hundreds of years at Pettistree church. I'm sure will continue to be proclaimed for many more. It has been my privilege to be a small part of that history.

We are grateful for the time that we have been able to spend here, and we will treasure the memories that we have of time shared with so many of you.

Heritage Committee report

Cath Caudwell, Chair

2022 was a momentous year. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations began with a beacon and barbecue hosted by the Westrope family followed by flowers, arts and crafts in the church, Presmere Day Nursery's special 'postage stamps', a Songs of Praise service in the churchyard and a Bring and Share lunch at the Village Hall. The Heritage's exhibition of archive materials relating to past royal and significant events included a record of houses rebuilt or newly built in the last 70 years. An updated photographic record of houses was compiled by Liisa Beagley.

Dick Smith celebrated his 80th birthday with the planting of 80 trees in Uncle Bill's Meadow (postponed from 2020). Local Natural England volunteers have been working in Dick's fields and revealing the Mount from all viewpoints. This should enable even more wildflowers and wildlife to thrive. The Mount information booklet is in the process of being updated.

Early 2023 saw the planting of a spinney of trees by Java Lodge. Jim Trapper Jarvie published a book about his working life with the UK Border Force and the impending retirement of Jeff Hallett from the Parish Council has seen a bench dedicated to him placed in the churchyard as a thank you from residents. The editorship of Pettistree People was taken on by Sue Jones after Mike Watts retired. Our newsletter is an important record of local events, and all editions make their way to the Suffolk Record Office, now called The Hold. Pettistree's heritage records, known as the Joan Peck Collection, are currently being catalogued by our friend and former resident, Ray Whitehand.

Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report

Maggie Hallett

Weekly Sunday morning services at the regular 9.30am start were held all year. A monthly service of Choral Evensong at 6.00pm, with the benefice choir leading the singing, was restarted for the summer months.

The normal festival services have continued with Easter, Harvest and Christmas celebrated with the church being beautifully decorated at these times. A Christmas *Songs of Praise* was held in the churchyard and was very enjoyable on a sunny but chilly afternoon.

The bells were rung for the *Act of Remembrance* at the War memorial on November 11th. with the two-minute silence at 11.00am and the laying of the Pettistree village wreath. This year we had the benefit of Peter Holloway from Charsfield sounding the Last Post and Jim Jarvie playing his bagpipes.

The bellringers have also marked all the various royal events with a Platinum Jubilee quarter peal on June 3rd, a half-muffled quarter peal on September 14th to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth and again on the eve of the funeral. On the day of her funeral the Tenor (the biggest and lowest sounding bell) was tolled 96 times signifying her age, a tradition which goes back to the 16th Century.

In December a full peal was rung to mark the 35th anniversary of the 1st peal on the rehung bells in 1987, as previously the bells had been last rung to mark the end of WW2. That was a major fund-raising project that several of us remember well.

The Community Payback Service team returned regularly to work in the churchyard and Andy Curtis has continued mowing as the ride-on mower needed some necessary repairs by volunteers.

Electrical repairs have since been done in the Church/Parish room, but work is still required to try to sort out the damp problems and ideally upgrade to make the room more user-friendly.

The Church redecoration saga continues as although the Diocesan Advisory Committee were extremely sympathetic to our difficulties, it now has to be referred to three external bodies. It should have been discussed again by the DAC at their meeting today. I continue to hope that when this report is given next year there will be significant progress to solving the problem.

The more unsettling news was the resignation of the vicar, Leslie Siu, who has been 'head-hunted'. We wish the Siu family well with their move but realise that we are likely to have several months of an interregnum. As a benefice, however, we are extremely lucky to have Rev. Jenny Catchpole and three retired clergy willing to help with services.



Charlotte and Howard Kennerley with Guy

On the Farm



Farming life starts at 1 week old

Water and Wine

James Hayward

It's rained a lot recently, hasn't it? I haven't told anyone else yet, but I've decided to build an Ark...

In all seriousness I'm amazed that, despite the seemingly endless amount of wet stuff falling from the sky, there are still no puddles so the rowing boat can go back in the shed. It just goes to show the huge deficit we are still in from last year's searing heat and long dry spells.

I'm certainly not complaining about the rain; our winter crops are really marching on and it's a stark contrast from the extremely stressful droughts of the last three years. Anyway, we can't change the weather. If it's raining in spring, great. If it's hot and sunny, better enjoy it, sit outside with a glass of wine and try not to think about farming! It would be nice to have a little dry spell now though, so we can get the last of our sugar beet drilled and catch up on some spraying. You can't have it all.

Brexit has reared its ugly head again and temporarily delayed the planting of the Pettistree vineyard. After copious amounts of form-filling and some shouting down the phone, my vines are finally on their way from Germany. At the time of writing, I had hoped to have finished planting but it looks like that might have to be next weekend. I'll have a photo for the next edition of Pettistree People. Exciting times!

Saving the best news for last, my nephew, Guy Kennerley, was born on 21 March, the first day of Spring. He's now six weeks old and he and his mother are happy and healthy. Grandma Debbie and great-grandmas Jenie and Margot are also extremely proud.

Keeping the Church waiting...

Kevin Blyth has posted a detailed report on the Church's restoration work on the website. Here is a summary.

The nave was redecorated in 2014 but that work failed and a Consistory Court decided that the architect was at fault. In 2017 the PCC was instructed to prepare costs for new restoration work. Investigation, needed to draw up a new specification, revealed a small section of wall painting. The PCC was told by the Diocesan Registrar in 2019 that any additional costs for conservation of the wall painting would have to be funded by the PCC. Specialist reports were completed in 2020 and formed the basis for a new tender exercise. In 2021 a contractor was chosen and revised costs, to comply with the Consistory Court Restoration Order, were around £175k. But it would mean the nave being closed for 3-5 years leaving only the chancel for services.

An alternative approach would be to strip all the existing plaster from the walls, re-render and apply limewash. This would be cost neutral and much quicker.

The options were shared with church authorities in 2021 with a request for further guidance on compliance with original court judgement, and noting the impact re-rendering would have on any wall paintings. In 2022 the after a site visit a barrister was asked to provide a legal opinion on whether costs could be recovered for the failed renovation. The answer was 'no'.

Before a decision can be made on next steps, there is a statutory requirement to seek views from the Church Buildings Council, Heritage England and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. The PCC was asked to submit an application and Statement of Needs to request permission to start the work. This presented two options: the removal of Zinsser paint from the nave walls together with wall monitoring over a five-year (worst case) period or to remove the contaminated nave plasterwork and then replaster and repaint. The second option was strongly recommended by the PCC, as a pragmatic way forwards to preserve the active life of the church community. The Diocesan Advisory Committee was sympathetic to the PCC request but has to complete a consultation exercise.

Note: the George III Coat of Arms, which was beautifully restored during 2014 has not been returned to the church and it remains in safe storage.



*I wondered, as
a lonely
daffodil,
Where were
the host of
others?*

*A single
daffodil
enjoying the
sun on
Pettistree's
village green.*

Village Hall report 2023

Jim Jarvie, chairman

The hall has returned to pre-covid levels of use. Most of our regular groups have re-instated their courses and, although we have lost the architects, an upholstery class is being held each week.

To improve security, external floodlights have been installed along the side of the hall to augment the coverage in the car park. Villagers and users of the hall continue to utilise the covered bicycle shelter which has now been included on our insurance.

The coffee mornings held on the first Wednesday of the month have been well attended. Committee members have become baristas and have received many compliments regarding the quality of the coffee. The coffee machine obtained by Dave and Cath has proved a great success. We are now in possession of a robust BBQ kindly donated by Jeff Hallett and intend to put it to use later in the year.

Alun Davies suggested we hold a table tennis evening on the third Wednesday of each month and our fourth session was held on 19 April. Tables owned by Alun and myself have been moved to the hall so come along and give it a go even if you have not played before.

Pat Deliss resigned as the committee secretary and Dave Caudwell has agreed to take the minutes at our meetings. At the AGM last year, the Committee were re-elected and welcomed back Steve Boardley. The village hall is in a healthy financial position, and we will continue to explore how we can improve the facility.

My thanks go to committee members and, in particular, Cath and Dave Caudwell who do a lot of work behind the scenes. The village hall is a facility for all of us so please support our activities. We would also like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support.

Sound across centuries

Our oldest two bells were cast in 1408. They might have been rung for the Coronation of Henry V at Westminster Abbey 9th April 1413, for those of Henry VI (1431), Edward IV (1461), Richard III (1483), and Henry VII (1485). Our next oldest bell was cast in 1490. It could have been rung when Henry VIII was crowned in 1509 and another five monarchs before The Commonwealth (1649 – 1660). Many more coronations followed, Charles II (1661), James II (1685), William III & Mary II (1689), Anne (1702).

No clear evidence has been found for these early bells (quite likely to number four by 1700) being housed in Pettistree Church. The Parish Book dated 1700 states, however, that oil for the bells was regularly purchased, which certainly indicates regular ringing by then. Further research may establish when the bells were hung for full circle ringing, as today, having previously been chimed or swing chimed (hung on half wheels). Nationally, full circle ringing began in the early 1600s but it is unlikely to have reached this tiny village very quickly; more research is needed.

Pettistree records at The Hold in Ipswich are pretty comprehensive. When Henry VIII declared himself head of the Church in England in 1536 he decreed that every church should keep records of baptisms, marriages and burials. Pettistree is unusual in having a complete set of records from that time, indeed the incumbent even copied earlier events into the first volume going back to the 1490s. Additionally, the volume is illuminated.

Another six coronations: George I (1714), George II (1727), George III (1761), George IV (1821), William IV (1831), Victoria (1838) and then in 1848 the bells were augmented to six. The front three were cast by Taylors of Loughborough and I'm sure would have been hung for full circle ringing. The inscription on the 2nd: *One bell cast into three at the expense of Richard Brook Esq. of Petertree Lodge AD 1848 J Taylor Fecit*, reassures us that there had been four bells previously.

There were four coronations in the 20th century, Edward VII (1902), George V (1911), George VI (1937), Elizabeth II (1953). Whilst the bells would certainly have been rung for the first three, it is unlikely they sounded for Elizabeth II's coronation. Apart from a short ring in 1945 to mark the end of the war, the bells were silent from 1937 until the restoration at the end of 1986.

Nevertheless, it seems pretty astounding that some of bells we ring today could have sounded out for the coronations of 25 monarchs over the last 610 years. How privileged we are! Note: Edward V (1483) and Edward VIII (1936) were not crowned.

St Peter & St Paul Pettistree
Friday 5th May 2023 in 2 hours & 37 minutes

5040 Surprise Minor (7 methods)

1 extent each of Durham, York, Cambridge, Ipswich, Surfleet, Bourne, Norwich



1. *Mary S Garner*
2. *Jed Flatters*
3. *Michael J Cowling*
4. *P Mark Ogden*
5. *Richard J Munnings*
6. *Michael G Whitby (C)*

Rung for Coronation of King Charles III

Ring for the King

Mary Garner, Tower Captain

On the morning of Friday 5th May the flag was raised on Pettistree Church Tower to mark the beginning of the celebrations for the Coronation. A band of ringers met at 5.45pm for a peal attempt to mark the occasion. It was successful and took 2 hours and 37 minutes. Shortly after we started though we heard rumblings as though somebody was trying to come into the church. Eventually we saw a flash of lightning reflect on the perspex screen above us and realised that quite a storm was raging.

We had rung quarter peals of a method called King Charles Delight Minor in the weeks running up to the coronation:

Wednesday 19th April, 1320 changes of King Charles Delight Minor

Treble Mary Garner, 2 Pippa Moss, 3 Mark Ogden, 4 Mike Cowling, 5 Kate Eagle, 6 Mike Whitby (C)

Wednesday 26th April, 1320 changes of King Charles Delight Minor

Treble Elaine Townsend, 2 Pippa Moss, 3 Mary Garner, 4 Mark Ogden, 5 Mike Cowling, 6 Mike Whitby (C)

Our bells sounded again before the Coronation themed service on Sunday morning. Although we didn't ring our bells on Coronation Day, many of us rang in villages around. It was the aim of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers that all ringable towers, some 193 at the moment, should be rung as close as possible to the Coronation. If they were to be rung at the same time, a great aspiration, it would have needed 1260 ringers. There are about 580 Guild members plus maybe 50 other ringers, so it would not have been possible.



Past Lives

A story about the Greyhound prompted two people to get in touch about their village ancestors. Teresa Deal of Lincolnshire and Terry Levett who lives in Charente, France have added to our historical record.

Teresa Deal

I have been lucky enough visit Pettistree a few times. Even luckier to have enjoyed a lunch on a beautiful day outside at The Greyhound. Our family history has a direct ancestry to Richard Levott (sic) who was baptised in Pettistree in 1550 and buried there in 1583.

I found the *Ipswich Journal* of 21 August 1841, reporting the inquest of 67 years old Harriet nee Eade. She and husband Edward Levett lived opposite The Greyhound in a small cottage. Harriet's body was found by her daughter Elizabeth Cotton, wife of James whose family lived at Church Farm. The inquest was held at The Greyhound and evidence portrays a woman suffering from depression. The verdict of the jury was that she had "hanged herself being a lunatic".

Harriet's husband was the brother of my direct ancestor, Charity Levett who was married to Abraham Cooper. According to the same newspaper of 12 November 1808 Charity had searched in vain for her missing father Isaac Levett. The Greyhound was again the venue for the inquest following the discovery of his body in a field named The Winding Piece in Pettistree. Isaac had been an overseer of the poor since 1796, and, despite his purse containing parish money being missing, the verdict of the inquest jury was that he had died following "a visitation by God". Isaac was also the parish constable. His father, another Edward Levett, was baptised in 1706 and earned his living as a barber. His father, John, changed career from yeoman to owner of The Greyhound in 1733 but was buried soon after.

Charity Levett and Abraham lived at the Greyhound from about 1802. Their eldest child, also named Abraham, was the boy who ran from The Greyhound to Wickham Market for supplies for the troops returning from Waterloo. He is also my direct ancestor, marrying Sarah Chapman in Pettistree in 1827. I can quite see why my great-grandmother Amy Cooper Lucken nee Meadows felt such a family tie to the area. She was born in Wickham Market in 1863, the sixth child of Moses Meadows and Ann Cooper. By 1881 Amy was working as a domestic servant in Hackney. She married in Tottenham but her visits to Pettistree continued, despite living in western Canada from 1920 onwards. It was obviously a place dear to her and I too hold it close to my heart.

A mystery solved?

One of the many stories about the Greyhound Inn is that of the troop returning from the battle of Waterloo. They bedded down at the pub overnight – 10 to a bed –but what brought them to Pettistree? We think we have the answer.

Terry Levett

The Levett name in Pettistree can be traced back to Christian Levett born around 1480. I have a copy of his Will and the last Levett of this line lived in the village in 1904. Of particular interest was John Levett born on Christmas Eve 1780 to Mary Walton and Isaac Levett of the mysterious death (see left).

Although there is no written proof that John was the son of Isaac and Mary I have found no other John Levett (or Levitt) born in Pettistree that fits.

In April 1800 John joined the 1st Kings Dragoon Guards at Ipswich. He was 19. A steady move up the ranks brought him to Troop Sergeant Major. The Guards were a sabre wielding heavy cavalry regiment and John was in charge of no. 3 Troop which consisted of about 70 NCO's and privates. A report from the time indicates that Sgt. Major Levitt had his wife with him, one of only 23 women to accompany the troop, and each earning half an allowance free of expense.

The first charge of the battle at Waterloo was decisive but decimated the regiment. The information comes from a book by Richard Goldsbrough, *The Cavalry that Broke Napoleon*.

The Prince Regent decreed that those who had fought were to be given the title of 'Waterloo Man' and a special medal. John Levett's is now with an American collector in Texas and its present value is about £8000.

I can't prove it but if John Levett is the one that appears in the 1841 census for Butley, he is my 4xgreatgrandfather. If he is the one that fought at Waterloo, DNA results from descendants of Charity Cooper nee Levett, sister of Waterloo Man, match my own.

Editor: This does offer an explanation for the troop bedding down at the Greyhound. John Levett had brought them home...

New faces

The May local government elections brought a new face to Pettistree Parish Council. Olivia Smith became a councillor. Shortly afterwards another new face appeared. Eighteen months after losing our clerk, Rod Caird - and just when we were giving up hope of finding a new one - an email arrived from Andrew Staples. He was just in time to take the minutes of our AGM which you will be able to find on our website. Welcome Olivia and Andrew!

Olivia Smith

I have lived in Pettistree for more Than 10 years, after Brad and I built our home Woodlands next to the village green. We have 2 dogs and I am a self-employed gardener, with most of my work being within the village or surrounding area. Pettistree is a wonderful place to live, so I am keen to be part of helping to get the village what it needs and protecting it from what it doesn't.



Andrew Staples

I have recently retired from His Majesty's Courts and employed as a Legal Adviser / Clerk to the magistrates' court in Ipswich. I am a qualified solicitor with extensive experience in interpreting legislation and rules. My home is in Easton.



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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