



# Kettlestone & Pensthorpe Parish News April 2022

If you would like to include an article for publication in the Parish News, please send your item by 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month to the Editor: [kettlestonepc@googlemail.com](mailto:kettlestonepc@googlemail.com).

Kettlestone Parish website: <https://kettlestoneparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

## Kettlestone Parish Council

Contact details: **Clerk** Joanna Otte, Little Manor, Thursford Rd, Little Snoring, NR21 0JN.

Telephone: 01328 822366

Email: [kettlestonepc@googlemail.com](mailto:kettlestonepc@googlemail.com)

**Councillors:** Gill Ashby (Chair) 878639; Christine Hipkin 878241; Marlene Hoad 822101; Trevor Hoad 822101; Robert Kilbourn (Vice-Chair) 851633; Barbara Wyvill 878790. Do contact the Clerk (details above) if you have anything that you wish to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.

Agenda, minutes and other information is available on the village website (address above).

The next meeting is on **Monday 16 May 2022 at 7pm** in the Village Hall. There will be two meetings: the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Members of the public are invited to attend and those who represent groups in the village are invited to give a short presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting of what they have been doing and their plans for the future.

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

*that a casual vacancy has arisen in the Office of Councillor for Kettlestone Parish Council.*

*If by 8 April, 2022 (14 days excluding Dies Non, after the date of this notice) a request for an election to fill said vacancy is made in writing to the Returning Officer at the address below by TEN electors for the said Parish, an election will be held to fill the said vacancy, otherwise the vacancy will be filled by co-option.*

*Where a written request for an election is being made, the signatures of the ten electors should be accompanied by the printed names and addresses, so that the Proper Officer can check the validity of the request.*

*If an election is called, it will take place not later than 17 June, 2022.*

*If an election is not requested, the Parish Council will fill this vacancy by co-option.*

*Dated 21 March, 2022, Steve Blatch, Returning Officer, Electoral Services, North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN.*

-----  
If you would like to be considered for co-option please do speak to a parish councillor or contact the clerk.

## Kettlestone Church

The PCC have a lot to celebrate this month:

- We have seen the installation of the bench in the Churchyard in memory of Clare Kay's mothers. It looks so nice, and we owe many thanks to Ken and Graham for their hard work in putting down the base and fixing the bench securely.
- We have also been successful with a grant application to Norfolk Churches Trust. We hope that this will enable us to do some remedial work to the leadwork on the tower roof. In turn this should help to prevent water penetrating the tower. The grant also encourages other funders and us to apply for further funding to undertake more of the urgent work needed on both the tower and the main body of the church.
- Lastly, Martyn Proffitt organised a "pre-mowing" clear up, which was very well attended and achieved even more than we had hoped by way of removal of twigs, branches, ivy off walls, and strimming. Very many thanks to all the volunteers, it was great to see some of our "new" neighbours joining the "old" guard. No offence!!

We have started to build a small "bug lodge" in the corner near Church View. So if you see a rather random pile of sticks, please leave it – we hope to encourage the wildlife. Last but by no means least, repairs to the table tomb are underway: it will take a little while, and please be assured that the surrounding ground will be restored to its normal state once it has been finished!

Thank you one and all.

## Village Hall News

The Hall Committee, as ever, worked very hard on Sunday morning for the Breakfast. It was lovely to see so many of you there, and I would like to thank both the committee, and you all, for your support. It has been very difficult to know how events will be supported in view of the very natural caution we have all been exercising with regard to Covid, and our efforts were very well rewarded on Sunday. In addition, the fundraising appeal for the Ukraine raised an amazing £515.00 for which we thank you all.

We had a very memorable production from Creative Arts East on 11 March. The 'NotNow Production Company' performed *Pepper and Honey* which was a very poignant and relevant story about a girl and her grandmother being separated in different countries and their torn emotions about starting a new life, settling in to a community as an immigrant and the guilt of leaving

family behind. The story also described the tensions and emotions experienced by an immigrant going through the immigration process. All this brought home how tough it is and I personally found it very moving.

Our next event is the [talk on Seahenges on 19 April](#). This has been postponed three times so Fourth Time Lucky, I hope.

Doors will open at 7.00pm as usual, and tickets (£7.50/£10.00 for members/non-members and £5.00 for children. I do hope you will support this if you can: I'm sure it will be interesting.

We are planning further activities for May and June – the Jubilee Celebration included so watch this space for details.

Erica

### **Norfolk Citizens Advice**

Norfolk Citizens Advice are recruiting volunteers! We are looking for volunteers in various roles - Face to Face Advisers, Telephone Advisers, Email Advisers, Webchat Advisers, Research and Campaigns Volunteers, Social Media Volunteers, Volunteer Referrals Administrators and a Volunteer Copywriter. Volunteering is a great way to give back to your local community, gain new skills and meet new people. It is highly rewarding whatever your personal circumstances. If you are looking to get into work or fancy a change of career, volunteering with us can help to give you an extra edge and experience with us is highly regarded by employers. Take a look at our role specs for more perks of volunteering with us! For more information on these roles and how to apply please see our website [www.ncab.org.uk/i-want-tovolunteer](http://www.ncab.org.uk/i-want-tovolunteer) or email [v.recruitment@ncab.org.uk](mailto:v.recruitment@ncab.org.uk) for an application pack or call Emma on 01603 273116.

### **Turn Up the Heat on Oil Thieves**

As the cost of fuel increases, oil becomes a favourable target for thieves. Don't become a victim, but protect your oil tank:

- Keep your tank in a well overlooked position – this will ensure thieves are more likely to be seen.
- Security lights can help deter potential thieves.
- If you have a gate, keep it closed and locked when you are out.
- Invest in a good quality oil tank lock.
- Check your oil gauges regularly to alert you to any potential theft.

[www.norfolk.police.uk](http://www.norfolk.police.uk)

### **For Peat's Sake**

Peatlands cover around 12 per cent of the UK – nearly three million hectares, including The Fens, the Yorkshire Moors, and the Somerset Levels. They supply over a quarter of the UK's drinking water and provide habitats for endangered species. The beautiful landscapes are tourist magnets. Most importantly, they are huge carbon sinks, storing more carbon than they release. In the UK that's 3.2 billion tonnes – as much as the carbon stored in all the forests of the UK, Germany, and France.

Peat forms very slowly (1,000 years for a metre) from the accumulation and compaction of incompletely decomposed plants in waterlogged habitats. (Habitats which also have low pH, low nutrient availability, low oxygen, and reduced decomposition rates.) During their life, the plants captured carbon dioxide from the air, and it is now locked up in the peat. Such carbon sinks are vital for combating climate change.

However, very little of our peatland is protected and only about a fifth is in good condition. When degraded, peatland emits greenhouse gases, with negative effects on our climate.

One example of land use that degrades peatland in the UK is the 2.1 million cubic metres of peat used in the horticulture industry every year – enough to fill over 800 swimming pools. Not only is it used by the industry and included as a growing medium for pot plants sold in garden centres, it is also sold as compost.

While it is great for these purposes – it holds water and air and is disease and pest-free – its use is ruinous to peatlands and climate.

The good news is that many peat-free potting composts are available. The main peat substitute is coir; other components can be wood fibre, bark, seaweed, green waste, loam, wool, bracken, comfrey, plus nutrients. Peat-free composts vary so try out different ones. Other things to consider: are they organic? where do the components come from (and are the components listed)? and the price range – which is broad (£6 for 50 litres (Wickes own) to £24 for 60 litres (Fertile Fibre). Also available: grow bags, coir plug pellets, mulches, and soil improvers. But if you really can't live without peat, Moorland Gold contains peat particles reclaimed from reservoir dredging in the Pennines.

And check the labels of pot plants and bedding plants to make sure the nurseries are peat-free. Consumer power can make a difference!

Lucy Spink and Barbara Wyvill

[wecan@educari.com](mailto:wecan@educari.com)



A typical fen landscape