



Kettlestone & Pensthorpe Parish News May 2023

We welcome articles for the newsletter, including village news and photos, historical articles, welcoming new villagers, details of village organisations, village activities etc.

Please send any articles to: kettlestonepc@googlemail.com by 25th of each month.

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

Summary of Dates

- Thursday 4 May – local elections remember to bring your photo ID
- Sunday 7 May 3 pm Coronation celebration
- Wed 10 May 2 pm Crafts and Games afternoon
- Friday 19 May 7 pm Sonrisa – musical evening
- Sunday 4 June 10 am Sunday breakfast
- Saturday 17 June 10:30 – 12 noon: Cake (& Coffee) Moring with Kettlestone History Project
- Sat 17 June 7 pm St Nicholas, Wells, Summer Concert Fakenham Choral Society
- Church services:
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/10291/

Kettlestone Parish Council

Contact details: **Clerk** Joanna Otte, Little Manor, Thursford Rd, Little Snoring, NR21 0JN
Tel: 01328 822366; kettlestonepc@googlemail.com
Agenda, minutes and other information is available on the village website (address above).

All Saints Church

A new ramp for wheelchair access and a sound system to provide organ music for hymn singing have been donated to the church. They are in memory of Paddy Greenwood from his family in the village.



Paddy Greenwood

100 Club

MARCH: 1st Sophie Ribet, 2nd Lesley White (who very kindly donated the prize back to the Church funds. Much appreciated), 3rd Robert Kilbourn

APRIL: 1st Tony Wilcock, 2nd Jo Coubrough, 3rd Corinne Merrick

Kettlestone Village Hall News

Subscriptions

Just a reminder that subscriptions for membership to the Kettlestone Village hall and Social Club for 2023/24 are due on 1 June - £5 per individual or £10

per family. Please see Clare Kay to join the Club or renew your subscription.

Sunday 7 May: King's Coronation Celebration

3 – 5 pm. Do come and celebrate this historic event with us. We will be serving a traditional afternoon tea in the village hall with homemade sandwiches, cakes and cream teas. There will be no charge for these refreshments. The bar will also be open with a special 'Coronation Cocktail' to try!

Friday 19 May 7 pm: Sonrisa. We are looking forward to an exciting musical evening with this trio of musicians. Tickets will be available to buy at the door. £10 members, £12 non-members, £5 child.

Sunday 4 June Sunday Breakfast 10am - 12 noon: a very popular village event. Come along for a freshly cooked breakfast or just have a coffee/tea and a chat with your fellow residents if you prefer. Donations gratefully received.

Produce Show Saturday 2 September - details about the show have been circulated. Please note we have changed some of the classes this year and hope to include an arts and crafts exhibition for local entrants. Last year we had to cancel due to the difficult growing conditions let's hope this year the weather will be less extreme.

Regular Events

- **Bar** open every Friday evening from 7 pm
- **Table tennis sessions: £2 a session:**
 - Wednesday evenings 7 pm
 - Thursday afternoons 2 pm

Crafts and Games afternoons £3 a session includes tea and cake 2nd Wednesday in the month - the next session is **Wednesday 10 May 2 – 4 pm**

Corinne Merrick

Kettlestone History Project

CAKE MORNING [WITH COFFEE]

Sat 17 June 10.30 – 12 noon in the Village Hall

Please join us for homemade cakes and an update on the History Project. Any donations will help fund the continuation of the website and pay for future speakers.

RECENT HISTORY PROJECT RESEARCH THE TOMB IN THE CHURCHYARD

When the large raised tomb to the west of the church was being repaired the following inscription was revealed:

*In a vault beneath are deposited the remains of
TM DENNES
Who died 11th April 1811
Aged 57 years
Also of Henry his son*

Who died March 1806

Aged 12 years

Anne Dennes his wife

Died Dec 20 1813

Aged 55 years

Intrigued by this inscription, Judith and I began to investigate the Dennes family. To our great surprise we discovered that Thomas Martin Dennes once owned large parts of Kettlestone and the Snorings. On Saturday 29 May 1813, the following notice appeared in the Norfolk Chronicle:

To be sold by auction

In the month of June next, at the Red Lion Inn at Fakenham in the county of Norfolk by order of the trustees under the will of Thos. Martin Dennes, gentleman, deceased [unless previously disposed of by Private Contract] The valuable manors of Great Snoring, Cantlow Netherhall, and Snorings, in Great Snoring, in the county of Norfolk with their Quit-rents, Fines, [arbitrary] Rights, Royalties and Privileges. Also a most substantial brick Mansion-house, with commodious attached and detached offices, a good farmhouse with barns, stables, and other outbuildings in excellent repair and about 300 acres of rich arable meadow and pasture land in well-formed enclosures, in Kettlestone, in the said county, late in the occupation of the said Thomas Martin Dennes

We have discovered that Thomas Martin Dennes was born in Great Fransham and for a large part of his life he lived at East Barsham Hall as the tenant of Sir Edward Astley of Melton Constable Hall. In 1785 he married Anne the daughter of Thomas Edgar a Fakenham doctor, and together they had eight children. Sometime after 1800 he became owner of all that is listed in the sale notice.

We are trying to discover how he had sufficient money to leave Barsham Hall and become a wealthy landowner. His father John Dennes farmed at Mintlyn near King's Lynn and in his will had left Thomas some money, but it was probably not enough to acquire so much. There are further questions: Who owned all the land before Thomas bought it? Where was the mansion house situated and has it been demolished? Who bought the property in 1813 when it was sold?

We are planning a trip to the county archive to see if we can find out more! Bridget Fielden & Judith Kilbourn

Bumblebees are the Bee's Knees

When people think of bees they may think only of honeybees (hive bees) but there are many other bee species: Britain has about 50 species of butterflies but as many as 250 species of bees. Of these, 24 are bumblebee species, of which about seven species are common in Norfolk.

Most bumblebees, like the honey bee but unlike many other bees, are social insects: a single queen forms a small colony. Bumblebee queens hibernate in winter, emerging in spring to raise the first brood of workers, which are much smaller than queens but take over the foraging, while she lays more eggs.

Bumblebees are beautiful: generally plump and densely furry, larger, broader and stouter-bodied than honeybees. Many species have broad bands of colour, with patterns that help to distinguish different species. The most common, and my favourite, is the Common Carder Bumblebee, *Bombus pascuorum*, with a ginger thorax – pictured (not to be confused with the Tree Bumblebee, *Bombus hypnorum*, the only bumblebee with ginger thorax and a prominent white tip on its abdomen).



Bees are very important pollinators. Their buzzing is the sound of summer. They seldom sting. We need more of them. We can make our gardens more bee-friendly by growing suitable flowers. Bumblebees like some herbs (rosemary, borage, chives, marjoram). Some bumblebee queens emerge as early as February; so you could grow hellebore, heathers, and winter aconites for them. Bumblebees also like scabious, foxgloves, echinops, lavender, single-flowered dahlias, red clover, and meadow cranesbill.

How many species of bumblebee do we have in Kettlestone? The Woodland Trust has a very good blog on *Types of Bee in the UK: How to Tell the Difference*. And the Field Studies Council's fold-out identification chart, *Bees in Britain*, is excellent (and on sale at Pensthorpe). Please report your sightings (with species, location, date and nearest flower) over the next few months to barbara@educari.com and we will write about the results in a future newsletter.

Climate & Environment Group

Fakenham Choral Society Summer concert 17 June

at 7pm in St Nicholas Church, Wells next the Sea
John Rutter's 'The sprig of thyme' and the very best bits for choir from the greatest classical composers: extracts from Fauré and Mozart's Requiems, Haydn's 'Creation', Mendelssohn's 'Elijah', plus Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' and his unmistakable 'Hallelujah chorus'.

Tickets are £12 (under 16s free), from Gill (878639), or 01485 544335, www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org or at the door.

Ghost Stories and Legends

Dr Paul Lee has put out a call for local ghost stories and legends which he would like to research and publish. A year and a half ago he published a book about the ghost stories and legends of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, and it seems to have been well received. He is now working on a second edition and would like to include "unknown" accounts from the region.

If you are able to assist Dr Lee with his collection of ghostly tales from around Norfolk, do email him:

paul.lee.1971@gmail.com