



Kettlestone & Pensthorpe Parish News September 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

- Sat 2 Sept Produce Show
- Wed 6 Sept 10:45 am Wells RNLI Lifeboat Station
- Fri 8 Sept 10:25 – 10:40 am Mobile Library
- Wed 13 Sept from 2 pm Arts, Crafts and Games
- Sun 10 Sept 11 am Church Service (Harvest)
- Mon 25 Sept 7:30 pm Parish Council meeting
- Fri 29 Sept 10 am Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Thurs 26 Oct 7 pm Mountain Music
- Fri 9 Nov Casino and Cocktail night
- Sat 9 Dec Christmas Dinner

Kettlestone Parish Council

Contact details: **Clerk** Joanna Otte, Little Manor, Thursford Rd, Little Snoring, NR21 0JN
Tel: 01328 822366; kettlestonepc@googlemail.com
The next meeting is on **Monday 25 Sept at 7:30 pm**.
Please note change of date.

All Saints Church Harvest Festival

We will be decorating the Church for the Harvest Festival on Saturday 9 September from 10 am onwards and would really appreciate any kind gifts of flowers, vegetables and fruit etc. Also we would welcome any offers of help decorating. The more the merrier! With all the wonderful flowers and produce in our gardens this year I am sure we can make the Church look stunning. Do come along and join us. Thankyou.

Services 10 September – Harvest Festival followed by a light lunch of Soup & Crusty Bread.

Norfolk Churches Trust bike, ride & walk

Thank you so much to everyone who has already sponsored us for this event on Sat 9 September. It is not too late to sponsor us! Please ask us for a form or just let us know how much you would like to sponsor us for. We only need to know your house name / number, postcode and whether you are a gift aid donor. Alternatively ask a member of the PCC. Our sponsorship total is well down this year and we would really like to raise as much money as we can for Kettlestone All Saints church and Norfolk Churches Trust. Thank you! Here's hoping for good weather.
Brian & Gill Ashby Gillashby28@gmail.com tel: 878639



Kettlestone Village Hall News

On a beautiful morning in August a number of us had a most enjoyable trip on the Lucy Lavers lifeboat around Wells harbour, which looked stunning in the sunshine - followed by a very interesting tour of the Wooden Rescue boat museum and workshop at Stiffkey in the afternoon. Sticking with the nautical theme and in contrast with boats of the past, we now have the opportunity of a private guided tour of the new Wells **RNLI lifeboat station** and 'state of the art' lifeboat, the Duke of Edinburgh, on **Wed 6 Sept**. There is no charge for this trip but donations to the RNLI would be appreciated. Meet up at **10.45 am** outside RNLI shop entrance. All welcome.
Then later in the month on **29 Sept** Clare Kay will be holding a **coffee and cake morning 10.00 am** in the village hall as part of the Macmillan national event. Please come and support this very worthy cause.

Corinne Merrick

The answer lies in the soil

Are you old enough to remember Kenneth Williams in the BBC radio comedy series *Beyond Our Ken*? In his role as the gardener Arthur Fallowfield, he replied to any question in a West Country accent: "Oi think the answer lies in the soil". It turns out he was right. The soil is crucial to our existence. Without soil there would be no crops and with no food we'd be dead. Although soilless agriculture is developing, we can't yet feed the world from plant factories so we'll be depending on farms and gardens and their soil for a long while to come.

Yet we haven't been looking after our soil and it is degraded after years of neglect and mistreatment. The history of the dustbowls in North America should be a salutary lesson in how fragile soils can be quickly damaged, and the current state of some English rivers should show us the risks of over-fertilisation and excess stock levels causing damage to soil structure and run-off toxic to aquatic life.

Rothamsted Research, the oldest continuously-operating agricultural research station in the world, has demonstrated, based on their unique very long-running field experiments, that common gardening and farming practices drain the soil of carbon, which alters the soil structure and its microscopic habitat where the valuable soil microbes live. The Victorian-era switch from manure to ammonia- and phosphorous-based fertilizers means that microbes nowadays metabolise more carbon and excrete less polymers: this fundamentally alters the properties of the soil. Carbon is thus lost from soil, its pores

become smaller and less connected and this changes the flow of water, nutrients and oxygen through the soil; low-carbon soils don't support growth and nutrient recycling as well as those with more carbon content. The Rothamsted Research showed for the first time a dynamic interaction between soil structure and microbial activity which is fuelled by carbon. This has implications for gardeners and farmers, because adding nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizers – and not carbon – may degrade natural fertility, not to mention the negative impacts of increased leakiness of the soil system which means nutrient loss to the atmosphere and rivers.



For gardeners, the message is the same as always – make

compost (see photo of a large compost heap). For farmers, as always, it's more complex. But recent changes to agricultural subsidies emphasise the importance of soil health and, crucially, provide some financial support to enable this.

More about the Rothamsted research can be found:

<https://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/news/where-there%E2%80%99s-muck-there%E2%80%99s-brass>

Clothes & Fabric Swap Coffee Morning

has been postponed. Keep an eye out for a new date coming soon!

Climate & Environment Group wecan@educari.com

The Railway Comes to Kettlestone part 2

The Eastern & Midland Railway was regarded as an 'aggressive' company and absorbed a number of smaller companies culminating in a network that went as far Saxby in the west, Peterborough, Bourne, Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. It developed the line to Sheringham and Cromer thereby establishing important links with the Midlands for tourist and fish transportation traffic.

Unfortunately, it always had money problems and in 1893 it was taken over by a joint enterprise between the Midland and Great Northern Railways and was then known as the Midland & Great Northern Joint Railway.

Melton Constable became an important railway centre under the managership of a man called William Marriott. The M&GN was run on fairly benevolent lines and became a much loved company by those who worked for it and used it. In the grouping of 1923 it became part of the LNER but still largely maintained its independence although Melton Constable went into decline.

There are still traces of M&GN works in the parish, the most notable being the signal box at Langor Bridge and concrete gate posts at the end of Holbrigg Lane. In the early part of the 20th century a Kettlestone family, the Elmers, lived in the gatekeeper's cottage there, with Charlie being a plate layer and his wife the gatekeeper. At Langor Bridge there was a single line siding where empty trucks would be left for loading

sugar beet from nearby farms and others loaded with coal for collection by local merchants. Thursford held the seasonal record of sending out the most sugar beet in the eastern region; a staggering 15,000 tons. During the 1930s the line became very busy with as many as 24 trains daily passing through during the holiday season and the sound of them would have been the background to life in the village. In the 1940s and after men working in the fields were timing their day by the passing of the regular timetabled trains, the 10.40 Leicester express being a typical example. Sadly, on the 28 February 1959 the line closed and the landscape fell silent. It was not a Beeching axe job but the consequences of growing road transport making the line more unprofitable.

British Rail were quick to make this section of the line unusable and contractors were tearing up the rails very soon after closure. They had already had offers for sections of the network to be taken over by private enterprise but weren't keen on this idea for several practical reasons.

However, the North Norfolk Railway from Holt to Sheringham was a part taken on privately and has become one of the most successful tourist attractions in Norfolk.

Roger Townsin

The Digital Phone Switchover

The UK's telephone network is changing. Between now and 2025 most telephone providers will be moving their customers from old analogue landlines to new upgraded landline services using digital technology. This means services that rely on the old landline system such as home phones and healthcare devices will be switched over.

The good news is – your landline isn't going anywhere and for most consumers this change will be straightforward. Your telecoms provider should contact you before the switchover to discuss what you need to do to make sure your service isn't affected. However, we're encouraging everyone to know what to expect. If you have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into your broadband router rather than the socket on the wall. If you have other devices connected to your phone line, e.g. alarm systems, your alarm service provider might need to upgrade your device to make sure it is compatible. If you are unsure about how a device in your home **it is recommended you contact the equipment supplier / manufacturer to find out if it will still work on a digital phone line.**

In an emergency, Digital Landlines cannot carry a power connection, so in the event of a power cut they will not work. If you have a mobile phone this can still be used, but if you've no other means of calling the emergency services your telecoms provider will offer a solution to allow calls to be made to emergency services. **You should tell your telecoms provider now if you have no other way of making emergency calls.**

If you're worried about your devices, telecare services etc. please contact the supplier, provider or company who provide them. They will be able to give you more information.