



Kettlestone & Pensthorpe Parish News October 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

- Sun 8 Oct 11 am Holy Communion
- Wed 18 Oct 10 am to noon. Church Coffee Morning
- Thurs 26 Oct 7 pm Mountain Music
- Fri 9 Nov Casino and Cocktail night
- Mon 20 Nov 7:30 pm Parish Council meeting
- 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 20 Nov at 7:30 pm.**

Parish Councillors:

David Head 878455, Trevor Hoad 822101, Robert Kilbourn (Chair) 851633, James Kilpatrick 878214, Barbara Wyvill (Vice-Chair) 878790.

Vacancies on the Parish Council

There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council. Do speak to a parish councillor or the Clerk for further information about the role.

Newsletter Delivery

Would you be able to spare about 30 minutes every two months to deliver newsletters in the village? If you would like to do this, please do contact the Clerk (details above). Looking forward to hearing from you.

Pea hen on the loose

Villagers may have seen a peahen wandering The Street at the pond end. It appeared few weeks ago and seems to have adopted us. It's decorative, but not wanted (noisy in the morning and damaging in the garden). If anyone knows who the owner might be, please tell them to come and catch it. It often roosts in the oak tree at Manor Farmhouse, so should be catchable when sleepy.



All Saints Coffee Morning

We are holding a Coffee Morning with a Bring and Buy Stall in our 'New Look' Church on Wednesday 18th October between 10 am and 12 noon. Do come along and catch up with friends over a cup of Coffee. All funds raised will be for the upkeep of the Church. Looking forward to seeing you. Angie Waterston

Church News

Mid-October – hopefully – will see quite some activity in the Church and Churchyard. Firstly we are expecting the leadwork on the tower roof to be undertaken. This will involve a cherry picker to access the roof (the old ladders inside the tower are not safe). Whilst we have the opportunity, a structural engineer is also looking into the old staircase that gave access to the first level in the tower, to test for its integrity, with the long-term possibility of opening it up. Access to the tower will also give the opportunity of completing the Statement of Significance that has been done for the rest of the Church building. Copies of the Statement so far are available at the back of the Church. All this work will be the culmination of three years' effort on the part of the Architect and the PCC. All good things are worth waiting for!

The second thing to be done in mid-October is the felling of the "remainder" of the walnut tree near the road. As it is so close to the road, it was felt this was necessary for safety in the long term. It became obvious that the tree was dying last year, and sadly we have had to decide to take it down. As there were electricity cables running through it, UK Power Networks came to "shroud" the cables prior to the felling to protect anyone working near the cable. However, instead of shrouding they cut away the branches which resulted in a rather ugly remain, and a lot of mess on the ground inside the churchyard wall. Our contractor will be felling the tree and cutting the bigger limbs and trunk into "roundels" suitable for log fires. (He will not be splitting them.) If anyone is interested, we will be selling them; any proceeds will go towards the cost of felling. He will be removing all the smaller branches and twigs.

Lastly, we celebrated our harvest festival on Sunday 10 September. This provided our first opportunity to use the newly cleared north aisle of the Church where we have moved the pews to run along the walls. The space created has opened up possibilities for using the Church for many more activities. Our service was followed by a delicious mug of soup and a hunk of bread, all beautifully prepared and served by Robin Norster-Files. It was lovely to be able to hold this first event in a church beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit and wild berries. A big "thank you" to one and all who contributed to removing the pews, decorating and generally supporting the Church.

Our next service will be Holy Communion held on Sunday 8 October, starting at 11 am.

Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored bike ride

Thank you so much to everyone who has sponsored us for the bike ride. On one of the hottest days of the year (Sept 9th) we managed 41 miles and visited 42 places of worship. Fortunately many churches provided refreshments and we were able to keep drinking ... and drinking....! We have collected about £300 in sponsorship so far; do feel free to pop any outstanding amounts through our letterbox at The Willows. And if anyone would still like to sponsor us it is not too late! Money raised is split equally between Kettlestone church and Norfolk Churches Trust. Thank you again.

Brian & Gill Ashby

Kettlestone Village Hall News Christmas Dinner at the Village hall

Our annual Christmas dinner plus entertainment will be held on Saturday 9th December. This year we will be offering a choice of menu as follows:-

Starter: Prawn cocktail or Fresh fruit juice

Main: Roast turkey or Poached salmon - both come with a range of vegetables

Dessert: Christmas pudding or Fresh fruit salad.

£15 per person must be booked in advance.

Numbers are limited so to book a place please ring Ken on 822081 with your menu selection by 17 Nov.

Thank you

On Thursday 26 October we are holding another Creative Arts East sponsored event. A performance of Mountain Music which promises to be a lively and fascinating musical evening.

Tickets will be sold at the door £10 members, £12 non-members, £5 child (under16)



And on Friday 9th November we will be having a casino, cocktail and canapé night. Dress up if you like, try Hans' special cocktails and have a bit of fun at the roulette wheel or Blackjack table – no real money involved so there's nothing to lose!

Corinne Merrick

Questioning Tidiness

This is the time of the year that tidy gardeners love: they can pull up those ugly dead plants, gather up leaves, do a final cut of the hedges, neaten up shrubs, rake the soil smooth, clear up the rotting windfall fruit and feel the satisfaction that the garden is 'put to bed' for the winter.

But, wait! Is this approach the best one? Not for the minibeasts who have nowhere to hide from the winter weather; not for the birds who have no hedgerow berries, fallen fruit, or seeds on which feed on frosty days; not for the hedgehogs who can't find cosy places to hibernate during the cold months. Most of us would agree with having a less-than-tidy winter garden to help our struggling wildlife. The very

committed neat-and-tidy gardener might need more convincing.

How about the argument that an uncleared winter garden is good horticultural practice?

Leaving the ground covered protects the soil a little by stopping some of the leaching that will occur during wet weather – bare soil will lose nutrients more quickly than soil that has a covering. If that covering is organic matter (such as grass clippings mixed with leaves) the worms will do their slow winter work of incorporating it into the soil. Leaving shrubs unpruned and shaggy might protect the buds from the cold.



*Ivy flowers –
a valuable source of nectar in
the autumn*

Our tidy gardener may still not be persuaded. Perhaps it is a question of aesthetics – they might say: a tidy garden just looks better. What we appreciate, what we find pleasing, is, of course, determined by our upbringing and by our culture, but perhaps, also, there is something in our 'human nature' that predisposes us towards the neat. Maybe neatness around the primordial humans' caves meant that predators could be more easily seen approaching, snakes would be more visible, there would be less chance of fire spreading. So we find a cleared environment comforting.

The tidy gardeners can re-educate themselves and learn to appreciate a bit of roughness around the edges. Because this has its own satisfying aesthetic: the rough grass moves in the wind, the stems of teasel display their spikey tops, the fennel stems stand tall through the winter, the berries in the hedges shine red, the spiders' webs strung across the shaggy shrubs glisten in the low winter light.



But some tidiness is called for: for example, should you have a patio, don't let the green algae make it slippery – don't neglect to pressure-wash it!

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Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or of Kettlestone Parish Council.