



Kettlestone & Pensthorpe Parish News December 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 9 Dec 6 for 6:30 pm Christmas Dinner
- Sun 10 Dec 11 am Prayer Book Communion
- Wed 13 Dec 2 – 4 pm Arts, Crafts and Games
- Sat 16 Dec from 10 am Decorating the Church
- Sat 16 Dec Christmas Concert Fakenham Church
- Thurs 21 Dec 7pm Carol Concert (& refreshments)
- Sun 14 Jan 11 am Communion
- Mon 15 Jan 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

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 15 Jan at 7:30 pm.**

Parish Councillors:

David Head 878455, Trevor Hoad 822101, Robert Kilbourn (Chair) 316830, James Kilpatrick 878214, Barbara Wyvill (Vice-Chair) 878790.

News from the Parish Council

The main item on the agenda at the meeting in November was setting the budget and precept for 2024-25. Having looked at the figures it was decided to have a balanced budget and not use up reserves. It was agreed to increase the precept by £360 (8.7%) to £4,500. The Parish Council resolved to make the following donations: £100 each to Kettlestone Village Hall (for meetings) and to Kettlestone PCC (for grass cutting in the graveyard); and £50 to the Air Ambulance. Ideas for a grant application to North Norfolk District Council were discussed e.g. purchasing an infrared camera for detecting heat loss in properties to help identify how to improve home insulation (more information from Cambridge Carbon Zero); bench for Public Right of Way (Holbrigg Lane – Langor Bridge) for contemplation of the views. If you have any suggestions please do get in touch (contact details above).

Poppy Appeal

The total of the village collected came to £274.06. Please accept my sincere thanks for the generous donations and my apologies to those of you who were not at home when I called. *Alec Peck*

Fakenham Choral Society Christmas Concert

Fakenham Parish Church on Sat 16 Dec at 5.30pm. With an array of Christmas favourites and works by Pergolesi and Charpentier, it is sure to set the perfect festive mood. As a gift to the community, the concert will be free to attend with retiring donations gratefully received. As admission is free, the choir is expecting a full house so please arrive in good time to secure your seat. www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org

All Saints Church

Priest-in-charge:

Rev Robin Stapleford: 01328 853226

Elected members of PCC

Erica Bishop (Vice Chair) - 01328 878834

Robin Norster-Files (Treasurer) - 01328 621281

Jenny Little - 01328 878355

Judith Manuel - 01328 878150

Angela Waterston - 01328 822394

Services: www.achurchnearyou.com

Hearty congratulations and many thanks to Gill and Brian Ashby of the village, who managed to raise an impressive £450 in sponsorships for their bike ride in aid of The Norfolk Churches Trust. Well done and thanks to those who sponsored Gill and Brian.

For those last minute Christmas Greetings, we have our '**Christmas at Kettlestone**' cards, from an original painting by our local artist Gill Baguley. £5.99 for a pack of 5 (proceeds going to the Church Tower Restoration fund). They are available at the rear of the church (please put your money into the wall safe).

We will be **decorating the Church** for Christmas on Saturday 16th December from 10 am onwards. We would very much appreciate donations of greenery and also your help (you do not have to be a flower arranger!) Do come along and join us. Thankyou.

All Saints will be holding their **annual Christmas Carol Concert** in the church on Thurs 21 Dec at 7pm. It is a great opportunity to join in some rousing

carol singing ...and there will be mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards in the Church! We very much hope you will be able to stay and join us to enjoy some Christmas cheer.

Angela Waterston, Erica Bishop, Robin Norster-Files

Kettlestone Village Hall News

Last month we held two very contrasting events. At the casino and cocktail night we were all given '£1000' to play Blackjack and roulette with for the evening. The winner managed to more than double her money for a bottle of bubbly, whilst some of us lost the lot. The following week Carlyn Kilpatrick gave a most illuminating talk on her Nurture Project at Kettlestone House working with nature to improve adult mental health. Carlyn was extremely grateful for the donations received on that evening which will be used either to:

- Help fund one person for 6 sessions on the 'It's not just a walk in the Park' group programme
- Help fund one person for 2 sessions of 'walk and talk' one to one therapy
- Help fund two people for 3 sessions of 'horticultural table top' two to two therapy.

These donations do make a difference so a big thank you to all who contributed.

We will be circulating our programme of events for the New Year shortly. In the meantime and on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, thank you for your continued support and we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2024.

Corinne

I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas

"What's on my gift wish-list this Christmas?" wondered Holly Redgreen. "I certainly don't want any more 'stuff' – I have all the things I need, all the things I want; in fact, I am often burdened by the amount of stuff I have (although I find it difficult to throw anything away. 'It could come in useful one day', is my refrain whenever it is suggested that something is surplus to requirements.)

"But I would like a tree, a real tree, as big as possible, and I'd like it early in the house and for it to stay for as long as I can bear the falling needles. A tree creates an occasion and connects us to a long history of celebration, perhaps extending into pre-history. I'll decorate it with carefully-saved, ancient and much-loved decorations. I'll 'deck the halls with boughs of holly' and for Christmas kissing I'll buy a



small sprig of mistletoe (since I can't get it established on my apple tree).



"Now I am older, it is more important for me to see family and friends at Christmas. The isolation of the pandemic has made these connections even more desirable. It's great that at this time of the year we make space in our busy lives to get together, to eat together, to celebrate together. And face-to-face is of course better than Zoom or other video calling software, although that technology will be used in our household to connect with the severally dispersed family members in foreign parts.

"I hope we will have a sing-song – some carols around the piano, and maybe someone will play her viola. There will be some wine, although I won't drink much of it – my 'addictions' are Christmas cake and Christmas pudding, which I have already begun to prepare.

"The days when I ate a cooked Christmas breakfast, a double-size lunch, followed in the early evening by Christmas high tea and then late evening snacks and drinks are past. How did I ever manage it?

"Those excessive consumption Christmases are over and done with and I am glad of that.

"But will my Christmas be 'green'? What would a 'green' Christmas mean? Does it have any meaning? Aren't Christmas trees and holly green, and isn't that enough green-ness for one sitting room?"

This short article can't answer those questions, nor many of the other questions that Christmastime raises. Holly Redgreen is, in that fashionable phrase, 'on a journey', a journey towards more sustainable lifestyle, giving a bit more thought to how she lives her life in this Anthropocene era, an age when human impact on the Earth and its ecosystems is imprinted in the geological record.

Climate and Environment Group



Preserved lemon and cinnamon bundles

Book Exchange in the Bus Shelter

We are pleased to see that the Book Exchange is well-used. Please remember if you bring items to the exchange to put them neatly on the shelves (and do not leave them in boxes or piles on the floor – the area needs to be safe and accessible). This is a community space for everyone to use and look after.

Thank you to Shane for regularly tidying up!