



Kettlestone & Pensthorpe Parish News March 2024

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

kettlestonepc@googlemail.com by 25th of preceding month.

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

Summary of Dates

- Thurs 7 Mar 7 pm 'Zeppelins Over Norfolk'
- Wed 13 Mar 2 pm Games, Arts and Crafts
- Fri 15 Mar 7pm Musical Evening with John & Mary
- Mon 18 Mar 7:30 pm Parish Council Meeting
- Fri 19 April The Shock of the Old with Terence Blacker
- Sat 20 April 7pm Verdi's Requiem, Fakenham
- Sun 21 April Sunday Breakfast 10am – 12 noon
- Fri 3 May Village Hall Social Club AGM

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 of the Parish Council is on **Monday 18 March at 7:30 pm**. All welcome to attend.

Parish Councillors:

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

Housing

A recent circular from North Norfolk District Council explains that there are 2495 households needing a new home in the District. Of these: 184 are homeless or at threat of homelessness; 153 are living in insanitary, overcrowded housing or unsatisfactory housing; 232 need to move due to medical or welfare grounds (which includes disability); 66 homeless households who have nowhere else to go and are staying in temporary accommodation such as bed & breakfast. There are 38 households with a local connection to Kettlestone and directly adjoining parishes currently on the Housing List. These are households that are part of the community through current or former residence, work in the parish or have close family living in the parish. There have been no Affordable Housing letting in Kettlestone in the last twelve months. You can help by telling the District Council about

- land you own which could be suitable for developing new Affordable Homes
- empty homes – (NNDC can talk to the owners about bringing them back into use)
- property you own which could be rented to a local household in housing need
- interest in forming a Community Land Trust which could help deliver local Affordable Homes.

Please contact Anna Clarke (Community Housing Enabler) at anna.clarke@north-norfolk.gov.uk or on 01263 516428.

All Saints Church Easter Flowers

We shall be decorating the Church on Saturday 30 March for Easter between 10 am and 12am. Do come along and join in. You don't have to be a Flower arranger! Donations of Spring flowers would be very much appreciated. Coffee and biscuits will be served.

Priest-in-charge: Robin Stapleford: 01328 853226
Elected members of PCC

Erica Bishop (Vice Chair) - 01328 878834

Robin Norster-Files (Treasurer) - 01328 621281

Martyn Proffitt – 01328 878297

Jenny Little - 01328 878355

Judith Manuel - 01328 878150

Angela Waterston - 01328 822394

Services: www.achurchnearyou.com

100 CLUB

January: 1st prize J Little; 2nd prize G Rivett;
3rd prize J Robinson

February: 1st prize R Booth; 2nd prize F Dewing;
3rd prize A Beck

Fuel Allotment Grants

Are you in having difficulty paying your energy bills? If so, please **apply for a grant** from the parish Fuel Allotment which is managed by the Trustees of Kettlestone Charities. Grants are available for those in the parish of Kettlestone and Pensthorpe who are in need, hardship or distress. Applications are considered in confidence and made at the discretion of the Trustees. For an application form, contact the Clerk: kettlestonecharities@googlemail.com or telephone 01328 822366.

KETTLESTONE HISTORY GROUP 'ZEPPELINS OVER NORFOLK'

A talk by Norfolk Historian Steve Smith
Thursday 7 March at 7 pm in Kettlestone Village Hall.
FREE ADMISSION

Kettlestone Village Hall News

Last month we were fortunate enough to have two excellent speakers on very different subjects. The talk on the Hillside Animal Sanctuary gave us a real insight into the dedication of those who work

there and the scope of the charity's remit. Donations on the night totalled £155 for the Sanctuary. This was followed by Adrian Vaughan's fascinating view of the characters and events that shaped the construction of the Fakenham to Lynn railway line. Both evenings were very well attended and we are looking forward to this month's events:

Thur 7 March 7 pm talk by the Kettlestone Local History Society

Wed 13 March 2 pm games, art & craft afternoon

Fri 15 March 7 pm A varied musical evening of Country, Blues, Gospel and Folk with Joe and Mary who regularly perform at the Running Horse in Fakenham and come highly recommended. Tickets on sale at the door. £10 members, £12 non-members, £5 for under 16s.

Other dates for the diary

Fri 19 April The Shock of the Old - 'a hilarious and spirit - lifting new show presented by song writer and author Terence Blacker on the art of ageing in style'. This is a Creative Arts East sponsored event. Tickets £10 members, £12 non-members

Sun 21 April 10 am – 12 noon Sunday Breakfast

Fri 3rd May Village Hall Social Club AGM. *Corinne*

Fakenham Choral Society

Anniversary season's highlight for Fakenham Choral Society. Of all the classic requiems, Verdi's operatic masterpiece is surely the most dramatic. Every performance of this work is a grand occasion, and it makes a wonderfully fitting highlight to Fakenham Choral Society's 50th Anniversary season. The concert, 7pm on Saturday 20 April at Fakenham Parish Church, is on a scale seldom seen in North Norfolk, with a choir of 80, a full orchestra and four internationally renowned soloists.

Former principal soprano at English National Opera, Claire Weston, will be joined by award winning mezzo Beth Mackay, tenor Daniel Bartlette (BBC Singers and Proms) and bass, Alex Ashworth, international soloist and Professor of Singing at the Royal Academy of Music. On the conductor's podium will be Mark Jones, the choir's musical director, Head of Chapel Music at Gresham's School in Holt, organ recitalist and pivotal force in Norfolk's classical music landscape.

Tickets, which are expected to sell out quickly, are now on sale. Early birds will pay just £18 per ticket until 31st March. After this, the price is £20. For more information and to buy tickets online, please visit the choir's website www.fakenhamchoralsociety.org

Sugar Beats Bees

The sugar-beet farmers of the Eastern region have had a tough time this season. Wet ground delayed the crop being lifted, sugar yields have not been great, and the subsidies that for many years made this a lucrative crop have been withdrawn. The outgoing head of the National Farmers Union, Minette Batters, recently said that none of the three post-Brexit promises to farmers had been delivered: 'Focusing on the General Election, the question now

is this: what is every party's plan for sustainable food production? That's what farmers want to know.'

Farmers want to produce food and make a living. We all want this. But most farmers – and most of the rest of us – don't want this production to harm the environment.

The UK's support for farmers, ELMS, is meant to do this: under the *Sustainable Farming Initiative* (SFI) farmers will be paid for actions such as: carbon sequestration; reducing inorganic fertiliser and pesticide use; taking care of soils; and improving biodiversity, water quality, and air quality.

Multiple aims bring tensions: a good example is the use of neonicotinoids. These systemic pesticides are applied to the seeds of some crops – in the case of sugar beet to prevent aphids spreading Virus Yellows disease that reduces yield. The EU has banned them because of their devastating effects on beneficial insects. But Britain is no longer bound by continental regulations: on 18 January, Mark Spencer, the Minister for Farming, approved 'emergency' authorisation – for the fourth year running – for the neonicotinoid, *Thiamethoxam*, to be used on sugar beet.



Nature charities were angry. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust pointed out that: '...a minuscule trace of neonicotinoids can disrupt a bee's ability to navigate and reproduce, with long-lasting consequences for their survival'.

Hang on a minute! Modern sugar beet varieties don't produce flowers so how can it affect bees? The answer is (as so often with environmental issues): it's complicated. Neonicotinoids leach into the environment and persist for years, affecting soil microorganisms, and can be taken up by wild flowering plants, or by a future flowering crop.

What are the alternatives? The formerly state-owned British Sugar, which processes all sugar in the UK, have failed in their promise of a three-year plan to end use in 2024, although research continues. British Sugar has asked for more government support in this search. Protecting the environment and supporting farmers shouldn't be in conflict, but, especially in an election year, politics gets in the way of progress.

Climate and Environment Group

Online Reporting

Norfolk County Council: 0344 800 8020

Road and footpath defects:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem> .

North Norfolk District Council 01263 513811 or <https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/> Environment and Emergencies tab to report fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling.