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Rutland's Premier Village Magazine

Easter 2021

ISSUE 72

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FRONT COVER:
'Spring Crocus'

**FOR UP-TO-DATE NEWS ON
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KETTON**

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EDITORIAL

As this edition of Chatterbox goes to press, the vaccine roll-out is proceeding at a speed that will achieve all the Governments targets and it is hoped that this, plus the continuation of social distancing, masks and other sanitizing procedures will lower the hospitalization and death rates, from the appallingly high figures we have experienced. However it came as somewhat of a surprise to receive a letter from the County informing us that our village was considered a Covid hot spot, having a significant number of Coronavirus cases, more than one would reasonably expect given the population. Nobody can say how this came about, but as the virus is primarily spread by human contact, we have therefore to draw our own conclusions. It is clear that the majority of people abide by the rules and restrictions currently in place, but sadly it only takes a few to selfishly ignore them, much to the detriment of the rest of us.

The opening of a new gym in the village will be welcome news to those who currently travel to Stamford and other places for their workouts. It is a large comprehensive set-up, spacious, with a wide variety of machines, to help get fitness enthusiasts into shape, but like all other gymnasiums it is subjected to the prevailing lock-down rules. The opening day has yet to be determined, but is eagerly awaited.

Chatterbox has received a complaint about dogs fouling public places. Of course it is the owners, not the dogs that need to be brought to book, for not cleaning up after their pets. There are instances all over the village, but one particular spot seems to have an abundance of faeces, making it a positive minefield, I refer to the Whitebread copse in Geeston, this is designated as a wildlife habitat, designed to encourage birds, mammals and invertebrates to spend time there, but as the gate is open and a bench has been installed for those who wish to take advantage of the tranquil setting, it appears that some dog owners are allowing their dogs to treat the area as a toilet. I'm sure that most owners do clean up, but for those who do not, can I appeal to their social conscience to help keep the village clean and healthy.

At a meeting of the Parish Council in February, it was announced that Ketton would benefit from the installation of superfast fibre broadband, later this year. This will provide broadband speeds many times faster than those currently available. Those who rely on broadband in their day to day activities, particularly for employment, will be much encouraged by this news. The residents of Aldgate and other areas of the village are very concerned about their wi-fi signal or rather the lack of it, which they find very challenging, perhaps an investigation by the council could help improve it.

Once again I invite village residents to write to Chatterbox to express their views or complaints on Ketton topics. All letters will be published and if required the names of the correspondents will be withheld from publication.

Those who are of an age and went to school in Ketton may well remember Miss Margaret Mills a teacher whose career spanned a number of decades starting in the '50's. She celebrated her 21st birthday in Ketton whilst lodging with the Andrew family, Monty has fond memories of her. Sadly she passed away in December 2020 aged 90.

Finally, KGNS and the Ketton Together Team would like to remind you all that they are still there to help anyone who needs support to enable them to lead as normal a life as possible, please contact Rachael on 07517 798397

The Chatterbox team wish you a Happy Easter, please obey the rules and keep us all safe
JFC

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KETTON PARISH COUNCIL: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT SPRING 2021

I am taking a risk in this report to welcome the spring and to anticipate the beginning of the end of lockdowns. The current lockdown since Christmas has been made more difficult with the bad weather and particularly the rain. The amount of rain in December through to February led to flooding in and around Ketton. Some of the worst affected areas were Bartles Hollow, the High Street and the bottom of Steadfold Lane. The gardens of the houses at the bottom of Steadfold Lane were seriously flooded twice.

Our volunteer village flood warden, Ronnie Burt, dug out grips that were silted up and this was a great help. In early March, contractors from Rutland County Council flushed the drains on Steadfold Lane, but now the ditches in the vicinity need clearing.

Anglian Water had to deal with two serious blockages in a major sewage pipe near the pumping station by the Sinc Stream. Representatives of Anglian Water attended the March meeting of the parish council to explain the issues. A site visit with members of the parish council, the county council and senior staff from Anglian Water will take place whenever permitted.

There are three major housing developments currently before Rutland County Council. These developments could add up to ten per cent to the population of the village. The Planning Committee of the parish council has been extremely active in considering these developments with site visits and many zoom meetings. To widen the discussion, in early January the parish council organised an extraordinary meeting that was very well attended by the public and the agent of the developer for two of the sites gave a presentation. The issues that particularly concern us all are the number of affordable houses, the design of the properties, a loss of biodiversity, the capability of the sewage system and the management of surface water.

Rutland County Council will be installing further parking restrictions in the centre of the village at places where parking is dangerous or obstructive. Parking wardens will help to oversee these restrictions. Parking in Aldgate and Redmiles Lane has been identified as an issue that makes the collection of rubbish and deliveries very difficult. The growth in attendance at Hall Close has also contributed to problems with access to properties on Aldgate. Speeding on the major roads in and out of the village are a concern to us all. We hope that volunteers undertaking speed watch will encourage drivers to keep within the speed limits. The sports and leisure play equipment in Hall Close has always been well used, but never more so than in the periods of lockdowns. We are now considering how best to improve and extend these facilities to include more multi-generational equipment and provide better for young people. The Highways and Open Spaces Committee have gathered views from over 60 residents as to what might be the best items. The committee is researching the possibility of grants to help with their purchase, and hopes to confirm its choices by the end of April.

In order to encourage greater biodiversity and to contribute to the battle against climate change, the parish council has agreed to leave the grass in the old part of the cemetery uncut until August, with meandering footpaths mown through the uncut areas, with signage explaining why it has been left uncut. Now, with the full support of the church, a similar management scheme for the churchyard will take place this year. Ketton Green Spaces Group, together with the parish council, has cleared the banks of Sinc Stream to encourage more wild flowers. The group also plans to remove some of the elder, bramble and ivy from the tombstones, create a wood pile, and install some bat and bird boxes in the churchyard.

Ketton is about to become one of the best connected rural communities in the country following the laying of a fibre cable from the Stamford telephone exchange to KSCC and the Library as part of the Rutland County Council Local Full Fibre Network programme to connect public buildings. One of the most important aspects of this programme is that the annual cost is likely to be less than households are paying currently. Please note two aspects of village life that may be of interest. The closing date for the receipt of the next round of grant applications for the White Bread Trust is 3 May. Application forms are available from the parish office. The police will undertake a morning session to mark property on Saturday 5 June from 10.00 to 12 noon at KSCC. More information will be given nearer the time, but cycles and other cherished equipment will be marked if you bring it along on the day. All members of the parish council and I send you our best wishes,

Sinclair Rogers, kettonpc@btinternet.com

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Easter Cupcakes

Get the kids involved making these simple cupcakes and decorate them with as many Easter chocolate treats as you like!

Makes 16 cupcakes.

You will need:

- 140g golden castor sugar
- 140g soft butter
- 100g self-raising flour
- 3 medium eggs
- 25g cocoa (sifted)

For the frosting:

- 140g icing sugar (sifted)
- 85g milk chocolate
- 85g soft butter
- 235g (approx.) a mixture of Maltesers rabbits, mini cream eggs, decorative chocolate mini eggs.

Method:

- Heat the oven to 180c/gas 5 and put 16 cup cases into a fairy-cake tin.
- Put all the ingredients for the cake into a mixing bowl and beat it together with an electric hand blender for at least 2 minutes.
- Divide the mixture into the cases, making sure that they are only 2/3 filled (allowing space for the sponge to rise) and then bake for 15 minutes.
- Take out of the oven and let them cool on a wire rack.
- Whilst the cakes cool, break up the chocolate into pieces and put in a microwavable bowl and microwave on high for 1 minute to start with. If it has not melted enough, continue to microwave it for 30 seconds intervals until melted.

- Cream the butter and sugar together in a bowl with a wooden spoon and then beat in the melted chocolate.
- Spread the frosting on the cakes and decorate with your chocolate eggs etc. to your hearts content!

Adele





A quiet word with Henry Winter

Henry is a journalist, currently the Chief Football Writer for the *Times* and the *Sunday Times* and an established author having written two books.

How long have you lived in Ketton, what brought you to the area and what do you like most about living here?

Henry, We moved to Geeston in 1999, because it's in beautiful countryside yet well-placed for travelling around. There are so many joys of living here. It's the Welland at the bottom of our garden, occasionally quite a way up the garden, and the occasional otters and kingfishers there. It's the great neighbours. It's the magnificent church steeple lit up at night. It's the Railway pub where Jamie and Louby are the friendliest hosts, and the queue will be very long to get back in when we're allowed. It's the local walks and runs; I did the 2020 London Marathon from Geeston to Empingham round Rutland Water and finished outside the Railway, sadly closed when I needed refuelling most. It's the village shop and discussing West Ham with Tim. It's the fantastic sports' facilities. It's also the proximity to Stamford which has the wonderful Tobie Norris pub and an even more wonderful Harrison and Dunn hardware store.

How did you get into sports journalism? Were you any good at sports growing up and did you support a particular team?

Henry, I wandered up and down Fleet Street knocking on doors until I could find somebody foolish enough to take me on. I played a lot of football when younger but really I liked the idea of travelling around the world being paid to watch games.



If you could interview a sportsman or woman no longer with us who would that be and what question would you ask them?

Henry, Bobby Moore. What was the key quality that defined England's 1966 World Cup-winning team?

Do you think there have been any benefits of COVID to the sporting world?

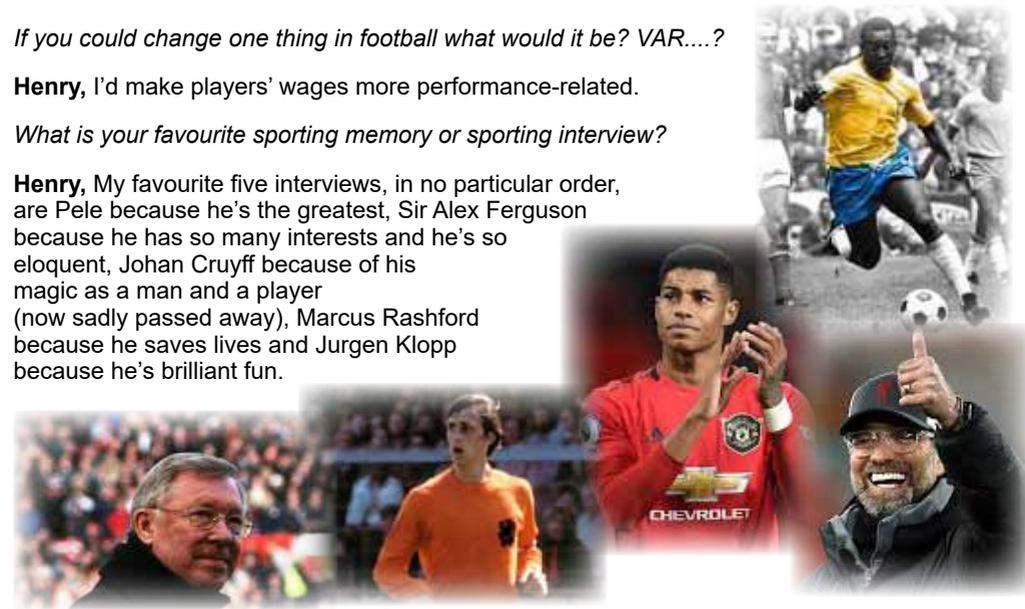
Henry, I've been to 130+ games behind closed doors in the past year and it's reminded everyone of the importance of fans. Games without fans are soulless. Also, we call sports stars "heroes", but we've been reminded that the real heroes are the NHS and the key workers.

If you could change one thing in football what would it be? VAR....?

Henry, I'd make players' wages more performance-related.

What is your favourite sporting memory or sporting interview?

Henry, My favourite five interviews, in no particular order, are Pele because he's the greatest, Sir Alex Ferguson because he has so many interests and he's so eloquent, Johan Cruyff because of his magic as a man and a player (now sadly passed away), Marcus Rashford because he saves lives and Jurgen Klopp because he's brilliant fun.



Once you finish a big article or submit a piece to a tight deadline how do you celebrate?

Henry, I don't celebrate, because I know I'll wake up in the morning realising how I could have done the piece better.

JR

How do you like your news?

Facebook, website, Nextdoor, newsletters or a good old fashioned noticeboard?

We have lots of ways to share news in the village. But we want to make sure that we are letting you know about things that are important to you, in the best way for you.

We have put together a short survey to gather your views, and help us improve the way we share village news.

To complete visit www.ketton.org.uk/survey or call the Parish Office on **01780 722451** to receive a hardcopy questionnaire.

Sustainability, the Reduction of Carbon Dioxide - CO₂



Cement is made by burning a mixture of limestone, clay and minor additives like iron ore to reach a target in chemical composition of the burned material, which is called clinker. This clinker is then milled with gypsum and other additives like limestone to manufacture the cement we use.

In a cement plant the CO₂ arises from two areas during the production of clinker: from the firing of fuels and the calcination of limestone

where calcium carbonate is converted to calcium oxide and CO₂ is released. Proportionally, 30 per cent arises from the firing of fuel and 70 per cent from the calcination of limestone.

With the CO₂ arising from the production of cement clinker, reducing the clinker level in the cement produced would lower the CO₂ per tonne of cement.

There are three potential areas on site for reducing the emissions of CO₂: fuels, calcination and reducing the incorporation of clinker in cement.

Targets

Since 1990, HeidelbergCement has reduced the CO₂ per tonne of cement from 749kg to 590kg and has announced that its 2030 target of 525kg has been bought forward to 2025 with the target of being CO₂ carbon neutral by 2050.

Fuels

At Ketton, we currently fire two alternative fuels:

1. A waste solvent-based fuel (Cemfuel) with no biomass
2. A plastic paper-based waste (Profuel) typically containing 40-45 per cent biomass. The biomass is classified as carbon neutral.

At present these fuels supply almost 70 per cent of the energy required (Cemfuel: 16%; Profuel: 53%) with the remainder being made of the pulverised coal.

The requirement to heat the clinker in the kiln up to 1450°C necessitates a hot flame and currently this is difficult to achieve with a higher alternative fuel substitution rate.



In December 2019, the Mineral Product Association (MPA) won funding of £3.2 million from the UK Government with the aim of demonstrating that it was possible to produce a quality cement clinker using a net zero fuel mix. The work is collaborative and has global potential if found to be effective. The full-scale demonstration has been split into two projects:

- Hanson Cement at Ribblesdale awarded £1.2 million for a trial of hydrogen flame and biomass in the main burner on the kiln.
- Tarmac Cement at Tunstead awarded £1.2 million for a trial of the use of biomass and plasma in a calciner.

Calcination

It is not possible to replace the limestone required for the production of cement for a source that does not release of CO₂ during processing. For the cement industry to reduce its CO₂ emissions this will need to be achieved by carbon capture and storage and there are several projects in Europe that are looking at how this can be achieved.

One of the projects in Belgium, at the Lixhe HeidelbergCement plant, is funded by the EU and a consortium of industrial, technology and research partners. It is called LEILAC (Low Emission Intensity Lime and Cement) and is piloting the separation of the decomposition of limestone from the combustion process in the kiln and calciner. The gas leaving the LEILAC calcination process is almost 100 per cent CO₂, rather than the 20 per cent found in current processes. This means there is much less gas to handle in subsequent processes, such as CO₂ separation and clean up, thus enabling a pure CO₂ gas to be captured with the potential for long term storage.

If carbon capture and storage can be combined with fuel switching, there is potential for zero carbon or below net zero carbon production of cement.

Clinker Incorporation

In the UK, the cement sector is working on amending the concrete standard so that a cement with a lower clinker content can be incorporated into the non-structural concrete standard. At Ketton, work is ongoing looking at the production of a blended cement that, while maintaining the same strength classification, has a lower cement clinker incorporation and hence a lower CO₂ footprint.



A Story of Grave Concern

In 1998 I was approached by Rhoda Dunford of No 19 The Green and she asked me if I would dispose of a grave stone that had lain in her late brothers garden for many years. She'd had two brothers both of whom lived at No 15 (now 16) The Green nearly all of their lives. The brothers were, Cecil Greetham, who died in the mid-eighties and Jack the eldest who died in 1998. They were both bachelors and seldom spoke to each other, they were hoarders and had many artefacts that been lying in their garden for many years. Among these items was a gravestone of JOHN HENRY NOYES whose inscription read. Vicar of Ketton for 30 years died on April 27th 1888; later we found out he had died at the age 65.



How this gravestone came to be in the Greetham brother's garden was a mystery and Rhoda was keen to dispose of it as their house would soon be up for sale. Rhoda's house was next to the brothers, and other than coming through her brothers garden could only be accessed from Empingham Road. So as a temporary solution to her dilemma I moved the heavy gravestone and its plinth into my garden where they have remained for 22 years. Rhoda Dunford was to die 2009, having spent the years in the Oak House care home in Greetham. Her niece Diana still lives in the Ketton.

This year I decided that as I am getting older to get rid of headstone, or my daughter might end being facing the same problem, but first, before I disposed of it, I decided to try and find out more about the Rev John Noyes. On a visit to the Cemetery on the Empingham road I found his grave which had a headstone and the details similar to the ones I had! The only difference being, the one in the graveyard also had his wife's details on it. These read Ellen Mary died Oct. 27th 1912. Intrigued, aided by my wife we did some research and found that John Noyes was born in 1823 so was 64/65 when he died. His wife was also born in 1823, so she had outlived him by 24 years.

The answer to the gravestones now became apparent, the one that I had, had been replaced with the one with Ellen Mary's details on. How the Greetham boys acquired it is a mystery, as they would have been very young children at that time? The grave, like the many around it was in a very poor state and probably not been visited for many years, so I decided to do a minor

restoration of the plot. This entailed removing all the ivy and weeds and levelling the kerbs surrounding it, also the centre of the grave had collapsed and I used 16 bags of hard core to level it.

So does the story end there; no! as on the edging kerbs I found there were five names, so more investigation this time by my wife Pip. Searching the censuses she found out that the five names were the children of John and Ellen Mary Noyes, and there was also a sixth child: There were two names on the left side of the grave, two on the base, and one on the right hand side, plus space for a sixth name!

Starting anti clockwise from the head stone they were:

Emmie	b 1853	died	Nov 9 1875	age 22
Herbert	b 1861	died	May 27 1889	age 28
Charlie	b 1863	died	Jan 9 1929	age 66
Margaret	b 1854	died	Mar 27 1935	age 82
Nellie	b 1851	died	Dec 23 1937	age 86

But we now know there was a 4th daughter.

Bertha	b 1858,	died	1942	age 84
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So what can we deduce from all of the above?

1. Well the plot must have been refurbished after Nellie died in 1937, but before Bertha died in 1942. Perhaps it was Bertha who had organised the refurbishment?
2. I'm guessing that when Bertha died during WWII and was not married, perhaps there were no close family to add her name to those of her siblings! Or perhaps it was too difficult to get it done during the war.

Finally: I decided to place the earlier gravestone which had been in our garden for 27 years at the base of the grave. Who knows, perhaps in the distant future someone will come along and say, why has this grave got two headstones.

If you want to see the grave of the Noyes family, it is located on the left near the end of the tarmac path, just after the large Molesworth burial plot.

R Webster



UPDATE FROM THE KETTON AND TINWELL JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is now working hard to translate the local issues, which residents have told us they would like to see addressed, into policies that will meet the exacting legal requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan process, and be accepted by the Independent Examiner. This process is long and quite complicated, but we hope to be able start discussions with Rutland County Council within the next few months on the procedure for carrying out our next round of consultation with residents and stakeholders, when everyone will be able to comment on the draft Plan.

Meanwhile, the agreed minutes of all public and working meetings held by the Steering Group are available on our website. As ever, get in touch on ket2tin@gmail.co with any comments or queries.

Anne Tomlinson

Walking with Ketton's Trees

I'm often struck by the beauty and variety of Ketton's many trees. We hear a lot about trees at the moment: the drive to plant more to capture carbon and help tackle climate change; the campaigns to protect the ones we've got; their many benefits to wildlife and to us. Imagine what Ketton would look like without these majestic giant plants – unthinkable! With this in mind, Ketton Green Spaces Group had hoped to have organised a guided Tree Walk by now, but the pandemic has got in the way rather. So until we are able to offer you a real one, let me take you on a "virtual" Tree Trail from your sofa! (We also have smart phone Tree Trails on our website on <https://kettongreen.wixsite.com/kett> - they cover far more than I have space to do here. Click on the + by Projects in the Menu. Once you're in, click on the tree symbols, then on the title at the bottom to open the info, and on the photos at the bottom to scroll through them.)

Let's start in Aldgate, heading down Station Road towards the Chater bridge. On either



side we have Priory Field and Stable field – both now managed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, but before that owned by the Burroughes Family. It is to Mr Burroughes, that we owe many of Ketton's surprisingly exotic trees. Those majestic Giant Redwoods – a group of eight in Stable Field and five by Chater Bridge – are said to have been planted by him. So they can't be much more than 100 years old. Mere babies, compared to their Californian counterparts. In their native range in the Sierra Nevada, these giants, also known as Wellingtonia, can reach up to at least 3,200 years old, 34 metres around the trunk and 95 metres high (over twice the height of St Mary's spire!) At the base of their trunk, the fibrous resin-free bark can be up to 60cm thick, making it extremely well adapted to survive the natural forest fires in its habitat. They really are a long way from home here, but they provide a moment of awe as one looks up (and up... and up...) when passing by.

On a different scale, in the park at Hall Close we see the new community orchard. This was planted by Ketton Primary School children and other members of the community in 2018 and 2019, with help from Stamford Community Orchard Group and the Royal Forestry Society's Teaching Trees programme. It will be a source of fruit for everyone to use once the trees are more mature, plus the blossom will be alive with the buzz of bees and hoverflies in the spring. Nearer the river Chater, there are some willow "sets" planted at the same time, also intended for community use (for materials for willow sculpture) once they're bigger. These are literally just sticks of willow put into the ground – they take root, thus growing from a cutting rather than seed. That's not to say that willows don't have flowers and seeds - they do, like all of the broadleaved trees – it's just that they can reproduce this way too. Interestingly, their flowers, called catkins, will also provide pollen and nectar for hungry bees out foraging early in the spring. Hang on a minute, I hear you say. Catkins are wind pollinated! Why would insects be visiting those? Well, it turns out that some willows are actually insect pollinated, and also that the strict divisions into "wind



pollinated" and "insect pollinated" flowers we were taught in school is a little more blurred in reality. Several wind pollinated trees are good pollen sources for insects, including Oak and Alder.

Some of the other trees in Hall Close were planted in the 1990s by the Ketton Tree Group. As the successor to this group, KGSG is keen to continue this legacy of tree planting. This winter we planted a nuttery along the edge of the football ground. Six nut trees in the walnut family were kindly donated by Clive Simms, who until recently ran a tree nursery nearby. In around 15 years or so, these trees will be old enough to harvest nuts from: another community resource. We also added 50 young native trees to Football Copse (between the football field and Pit Lane - originally planted to mark the Millennium) and coppiced some of the trees there. Coppicing is an ancient practice where you cut a tree down close to the ground, then it grows back up again (as long as it's protected from grazing). This is repeated on rotation. It used to be a common way to get timber in Britain, but now it's mostly used to benefit wildlife, as it temporarily opens up the canopy to let more light in. We've now made a gap in the fence round the copse, so feel free to go and explore!

As we move on to the wooded part of

Ketton Quarry Nature Reserve, the tree cover consists more of native trees, and less of the introduced or exotic species. It may feel a bit wilder, but if you look closely you can see signs of human intervention, like in most (if not all) of our "natural" landscapes in Britain. Those beautiful beeches are in surprisingly straight rows, showing that they were planted. If you look around, you'll see lots of dead wood, both on the ground and standing. This is essential to a functioning woodland ecosystem. For a woodland to be truly full of life, it conversely needs lots of dead wood! The rotting branches, tree holes and cracks provide food and homes for countless living things in the food web, from fungi to beetles, woodpeckers to bats. An important lesson in resisting the urge to "tidy" semi-natural landscapes.

Do let us know about the wildlife and scenery you enjoy seeing when walking locally – our new Twitter page is ready and waiting for your photos. Just include @GreenKetton and we can re-tweet. Jemma Cuthbert.

Jemma Cuthbert is secretary of the Ketton Green Spaces Group, and Education Officer for the Royal Forestry Society's Teaching Trees Programme.

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DINGHY SAILING

Ewan McAnally (aged 17) recently competed in a major sailing competition at Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy (WPNSA). Ewan sails the ILCA 6 dinghy (formerly known as the Laser Radial).

Ewan has, in previous years, had some notable successes in competitions at Rutland Water but has always wanted to test his prowess in the bigger setting of national competitions. With the generous support of the Whitebread Trust, he was able to purchase equipment necessary to get him to and take part in this national event on the weekend of 17/18 October.

The competition was a qualifier for the World and European 2021 championships and attracted the most accomplished UK sailors in the class (including some potential Olympians). Having never sailed at this level before, Ewan's expectations were quite modest, hoping to finish around the middle of the fleet. However, his results improved quickly as the regatta progressed and he managed to finish a credible 12th in the last race (finishing 22nd overall out of 60).

"Whilst I was pleased with how well I did I believe I can do so much better. I now know what to work on, and whilst I know I have a long way to go, I am hoping to eventually make the British Youth Sailing Team." (Ewan)

Ewan had hoped to enter 4 national competitions during the Autumn. Sadly, three of these events were cancelled due to storms and Covid 19 restrictions. However, the equipment Ewan bought will last him a long time; he now has his sights set on events scheduled for the Spring.



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YOUR GARDEN 2021



Of all the essential plant nutrients a garden deserves special mention. Though a living soil will continue to recycle and retain most other mineral nutrients, nitrogen is often in short supply, even after years of soil building. Not only does nitrogen feed soil plants, it also feeds soil organisms. Because of this, garden growth and long-term soil health depend on nitrogen.

Before you start to plant this year, ensure there is sufficient nitrogen in the soil to support healthy growth, by adding up all the sources you've put in. Organic fertilizers, such as blood, seed, or feather meal, are good sources of concentrated nitrogen. Likewise legume cover crops will transfer nitrogen from the atmosphere to the soil. Manures or green grass clippings, will provide nitrogen as well. Compost, on the other hand, does not supply enough garden nitrogen. While compost is great for improving overall soil health and condition, additional nitrogen sources are needed to supplement it.

Here are a few early vegetables for planting now.

Snow peas are cold-weather veggies best planted the moment the soil can be worked. They germinate best when soil temperatures are between 50 and 60 degrees F, and the plants will readily shrug off spring frosts. To grow snow peas, sow the seeds directly into the garden four to

bacteria known as pea inoculant to the seed rows when planting helps the plants acquire nitrogen and typically results in improved yields. Seeds are sown a half inch deep and one to two inches apart. Because many snow pea varieties grow tall, erect a fence, trellis, or garden netting for the vines to climb. If shorter plants are desired, select a bush variety of snow peas, such as 'Short N' Sweet'. Most varieties are ready to harvest just 60 days after planting. Snow peas should be picked young, when the pods are still flat and the peas inside have just started to form.



Lettuce is among the easiest early spring vegetable to plant. When the soil is workable, plant seedlings to face full sun, 12 to 24 inches apart and in rows spaced 24 to 32 inches apart. Or sow seeds about four weeks prior to the last average frost date, about 1/2 inch deep; later, thin seedlings to one every 12 inches. Extend your harvest by planting varieties with staggered maturing times.

Rhubarb, a vegetable that functions as an easy-to-grow fruit, delightful! Whether canned, frozen, or baked in pies, cobblers

and breads, rhubarb's pleasantly sharp, tart flavour blends with apples, cherries, and most berries. Grow from crown divisions or nursery plants. When soil is workable, plant crowns in full sun and well-draining soil, with the crown bud top 2 inches below the soil; plant 3 to 4 feet apart. It will take rhubarb a year to become established, so don't harvest until the following spring and only lightly for a week or two. Enjoy a complete harvest for eight to 10 weeks in the third growing season. Snap off each stem at the ground or twist the stem gently, remember the leaves are poisonous.

Broccoli, Start seeds indoors five to seven weeks before last frost. Three weeks before last frost, transplant seedlings 18 inches apart, planted a little deeper than they were indoors. Or sow seeds directly, just before the last frost, 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep and 18 inches apart. Space rows 36 inches apart. Pick the heads after they're firm and fully formed and before they crack open. If you leave outer leaves intact, smaller heads may form for a later harvest.

Radishes, Radishes are easy to grow, full of potassium, vitamin C and fibre. The longer they grow, the spicier they get, so harvest them early for a milder flavour.

When soil is workable, plant seeds 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep; thin seedlings to 1 inch apart (2 to 4 inches for winter radishes). In summer, sow a crop, which will take longer to mature, but will last longer in storage. Spring varieties mature in 22 to 28 days; winter ones in 52 to 70 days. Harvest when roots are less than 1 inch across; larger for winter varieties. Spring radishes don't keep long; winter varieties last for several months if kept cool and moist. **Adam**





THE BEREAVEMENT HELP POINT ONLINE



Many of us are aware of the difficulty people face in coping with bereavement and the loneliness they can feel. Being able to talk to others in a similar situation can help, hence this is why we set up a Bereavement Help Point for the people of Rutland.

The service was initially set up for face-to-face support in Ketton. Due to Covid-19, we have had to rethink how we can continue supporting people, and like so many other services, we will be providing this online from 14th January 2021.

The Bereavement Help Point is an online drop-in service that aims to provide bereaved people with a place where they can access information and support, where they can talk to others and share their emotions with in a safe online environment with other local people. It does not matter when your bereavement was it could have been very recently or several years ago the Help Point is for all.

The Help Point has been set up by local residents, Ketton Parish Council, LOROS, Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall and Dove Cottage, with support from Dying Matters in Rutland, the Whitebread Trust and Community Foundation.

It is run by volunteers who have undergone training and are supported by our local Hospices. If you are bereaved and would like to come along, the virtual Bereavement Help Point's run every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month 10-1130am

If you would like to attend or need further information about the Bereavement Help Point please ring **01572 722630** or rutland@dovecottage.org

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Monty's Walks around Ketton

This walk starts at the footbridge over the River Chater



As we stand and look around we have the Church to the west and in front of us is the stone built bridge. The first bridge was quite an early one as you can

see by the lower arches, it was strengthened by Mr W. Hibbins in 1841. Before the bridge there was a ford which was unpassable in heavy winter floods.

As we set off towards Aldgate, we have a large house on our left formerly called *The Cottage*. (now *Aldgate Lodge*). This was built on the foundations of a small farmhouse or cottage, hence the name, in the mid 19th century by the owner Mr. Thomas Henry Burroughes who was the land agent for Lord Lilford (Northamptonshire). A lot of the trees around came from Lilford Hall, some of the oak trees in the village are called Lilford Oaks. The two London plane trees at the entrance to the house were planted by Mr. C. F. Burroughes to mark his 25th wedding anniversary in 1935, that was Pleasance Burroughes' father, Pleasance sold the house in 1971 and now lives in Aldgate, and she will be 100 years old in April 2021.

We now turn right in to Station Road, which was improved by the Burroughes' as it was a very boggy area and the box hedges were planted. Before the road improvement, the road from the bridge went in front of *The Cottage* entrance and through the white gates on the right hand side of the road and up the hill to Stable Cottage onto higher ground – Mr Burroughes didn't want a lot of traffic past his gates and front drive, hence Station Road was moved to its current position.



Moving up to the sharp bend on the Station Road, you look across a small grass field with a fir tree in the middle. Under this tree are the remains of a Manor House that was in a forlorn condition in the

early 18th Century, this house was robbed for stone to use in other buildings. There is a reference to it on a wooden paddle in the Church.

Further on is the entrance to *Tobago Lodge*, once known as the *Midland Hotel* and also the village youth club in the 1960's. It was also the entrance to the gas works, now demolished. The Church was once lit by gas from these works, as were most of the houses in Aldgate. In the late 19th to early 20th century, they also benefited from piped water and electricity courtesy of the Burroughes family.

The road, past *Tobago Lodge*, also leads to the *Maltings*, a large building now turned into residential accommodation. There was a track, come road, on the high ground, it started just outside the village on the Barrowden Road and went across Station Road, past the then *Midland Hotel*, out across the top of Aldgate, across the fields and finally emerging in Tinwell, past the now closed Crown pub. The road also seemed to go to Tixover, past the church (now some distance from the village of Tixover due to medieval plague) and is a direct route from London to Lincoln. A king once used it and believed to have worshipped at St Mary's - but that is another story!

On this road outside the *Midland Hotel*, once a year, a hiring fair was held where men and women would come to be hired for work for the coming year, ploughmen, horsemen, maidens and house workers all wore a token of their trade, ie a shepherd would wear a tag of wool on his smock, a farmworker would wear an ear of corn and domestic staff would no doubt wear an apron. When they were hired they were given a ribbon, 'hence' but the origin of this word is not known. This hiring fair finished before the beginning of the first World War.

We then move up past the stone building on the roadside, the former offices of the station yard used by local coal merchants. Above one of



Monty's Walks around Ketton

the windows is the name 'Stafford' who was known to all as Mackey, the late Norman Skellett took over this business and his son still trades from the village out of the yard down the lane opposite the *Railway Inn*.

As we come to the entrance to Station Yard, you can still see the buildings of the Maltings, now converted to housing. This was a large goods yard, local barley was used in the maltings, some delivered by horse and cart, early lorries and trains as the wagons could be shunted right into the Maltings buildings. Lorries and horse and carts came up by Tobago Lodge. Many tonnes of sugar beet, were loaded in this yard by hand into the waiting wagons to be transported out by train. Also, much of the material used to build Ketton Cement works plant came into this yard and a large crane stood in the middle. Stone was also loaded out from Ketton (Ketton Freestone for building) to London and other cities. The yard effectively closed in the 1960's although it carried on as a coal yard and a haulage yard, but this too closed by the 1980's. It is now a very nice development of fine houses.

Now let's turn our attention to the railway. The station building and platform have now all gone and were contractually removed by the Andrew family; some of the stone can be found in houses on Park view. But go back some 180 years and imagine the back breaking work it took to dig out this cutting, look across the road at the original height of the hill leading up to the station and the large cutting. (A good view point is also from Sooty bridge over the line, accessed from Edmonds Drive or Geeston). Mr Walter Stimpson, one time signalman, had researched the work done in the 1840's, he found that the first steam digger Navyy worked on the cutting as many tonnes of soil were moved to make up the line to Stamford, it took 25 years from the conception to the completion of the line

and station. The station closed in the 1960's, a casualty of Dr. Beeching's axe.

The signal is a Midland Lower Quadrant 1886 and is an unusual signal. Up to stop and down to go, only one of a few in the country. As we cross over the line, we see the extent of the cutting by the size of the banks on the entrance to Barrowden Road. Look back towards the station yard and you can see the height of the houses on Edmonds Drive beyond.

I remember my sister and Grannie crossing this line

in 1945, I was walking by the side of the pushchair my sister was in and Grannie was pushing, we saw all the staff lying prostrate on the platform. When we got home and said that we had seen the men and women lying down, it was because a German aeroplane had strafed the station, although it was a lone raider, it would seem that we had come under enemy fire! The plane was shot down the other side of Stamford. They also tried to bomb the station, but missed with the bomb hitting a big elm tree on the corner of the footpath leading down from the railway crossing, further up Barrowden Road.

As we go further up the road to Geeston on the left is a large Victorian house called Rock Villa built by Iresons of Stamford. Archie Ireson lived to a great age. It originally had a large copper dome on top. The man with a timber drug big enough to carry this large

piece of timber to support the roof was R. H. Andrew of Ketton. He also carted much of the larger material from Ketton station to build the new cement plant at Ketco. The house was a Doctors surgery for many years, Dr Erica Hutton practised from here and brought a good many of Ketton's children into the world. She was also a very great friend.

Moving up the hill on your left is Holmes Drive, a site of new housing located on the old lime kilns. This site was owned by the Burroughes' and when it closed they sold it to Mr George Jesson for the sum of £90. He

was also a fine wood merchant. I spent many happy days with him and one of his many sons, Geoff Jesson was a great friend in the early days and still is. The Parish Council worked very hard to get houses that befitted the village. Full marks to the then planning chairman, Paul Johnstone and the planning committee who worked tirelessly on the project, the stone houses built on the site are a testimony to their work. On the other side of the road is Kelthorpe Close, this was an arable field sold by Mr H. O. Andrew for development in 1971, this has turned into an excellent development. Let's hope that the three current developments on the High Street turn out as well.

Going further along we turn the corner left into Geeston Main Street. The first house on the corner was the Doctor's surgery, for many years used by Dr. John Woodings. Some years after he retired, the surgery was moved to the Hub / Library on the High Street; the last surgery Ketton was to have.

As we move along Geeston the large house on the right is Geeston House, once the main house in Geeston, also the farmhouse to the farmland to the north-east and farmed by the Close family who lived in Geeston until recent years.

As we go along the road, on our left is a large house of well fashioned stone, this is the old Geeston Tap, one of many pubs of Ketton, it closed in 1972. Next to this building is a brick house which sits on the site of the old Brewery

of Geeston, long since demolished, for this along with many of the cottages formed part of the Geeston estate. Past these houses we turn left to go along the footpath (towards Sooty Bridge). On our left is the Whitebread Copse, which sits at the far end of the Holmes Drive development mentioned earlier. This parcel of land was purchased from the builder when he had finished the development. In World War II, a pole was located in this area used to mount ran a

refuse depot and kept pigs here, he a Lewis gun and Mr Close of Geeston was in charge of the Lewis gun when the Home Guard carried out exercises. I do not think it was ever fired in anger.

As we pass along the path, we go through the old lime kiln workings.

To the right the pits have been filled in and houses have been built on them. To the left is the back of Holmes Drive. We then come to the railway bridge, affectionately known as Sooty Bridge from

the time of steam trains. Looking down you will now see how the cutting runs back to Ketton station to the left, and to Stamford to the right, see how the material from the cutting was used to build up the embankment; a formidable construction. We

go down the footpath into Edmonds Drive and cross directly over, taking the footpath down the hill past the Vicarage. If we pause here at the gate in the corner, we are now standing on the aforementioned road that used to run in front of Tobago Lodge and across the top of Aldgate, before Station Road as we now know it was built, this road is now lost to gardens. Through the gate on your right is Stable Cottage, where Mr. Burroughes kept his horse and trap, its now a private house. As you go along the path, look to the left, there is a large pepper tree in the dip, but standing among these bushes is a yellow flowering horse chestnut which is very rare, but you will need to come back in June to see it in flower. Then down through the gate and to where we started in Aldgate. Hope you enjoyed it!

Monty Andrew



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WELCOME BACK to BOWLS at KETTON

The news that the government plans to ease Covid-19 restrictions at the end of March to allow some outdoor sports the freedom to re-start, has lifted the spirits of Ketton Bowls Club members who are getting ready to dust off their bowls, bend their knees and swing their bowling arms again.

“The opportunity to socialise with and compete against our bowling friends again is what has helped sustain us through the pandemic,” says club chairman Bob Warters, a former national senior singles champion and ex-President of the Northants Bowling Federation, to which Ketton BC is affiliated.

“We had a new clubhouse installed last year which we haven't yet been able to use properly because of the Covid restrictions. A newly-refurbished mower and a team of volunteers to help us emerge from the inactivity and we are planning to get our members and any others who wish join us, bowling again as soon as we can.”

The club, based at the Ketton Sports and Community Centre complex in Pit Lane, fields as many as six mixed teams of nine players every week during a regular May September season. It aims to start its Stamford and District Bowls League programme on Friday, June 4th with a team in both the first (Kingfishers) and second (Kites) divisions, playing on both a Monday and Friday evenings.

It also has two over 55's teams playing in the same divisions on Tuesday afternoons (Chater & Welland) in the Peterborough League and one on Saturday afternoon (Hanson). Ketton also hosts friendlies and fund-raising galas. For those fresh to the game, Ketton welcomes new members and will supply equipment and organise regular roll-ups and coaching.

The club has been unable to raise funds through the normal channels of car boots, quizzes, dances and galas because of pandemic restrictions, nor has it qualified for 2020 grant aid despite several attempts at sourcing. So with funds dwindling, club volunteers are now handling their own greens maintenance, cutting the 40-metre square, seven-rink green, up to three times weekly themselves and applying appropriate treatments. The club is now accepting annual subscriptions (£50) for 2021. For further information or a subscription/registration form, call **Bob Warters on 01780 721411**.

As soon as the easing of Covid restrictions is confirmed, the club will advise everyone when it is open for casual play - initially with social distancing and sanitizing of jacks and mats - so it can introduce a series of pre-season gatherings and a potential programme of bowling and social events.



Bob Warters

Bob Warters - Chairman



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NOTES FROM A FRESHER

I am very grateful for my award from the Whitebread Trust, it has made starting a new life away from home and at university much easier. Thank you.

When I moved to Newcastle in September 2020, I did think it would be hard at first. Despite all the pandemic chaos, I actually had an amazing first term at Northumbria University, I was able to meet a lot of people and make a number of new friends. The flat I live in is home to 7 people so there is never a dull moment. I did travel to my home a few times during the first term, this was for my nineteenth birthday as well as my youngest sister's eleventh and I wanted to celebrate both with my family. Newcastle is an amazing city there is so much to see and do, I would definitely recommend coming to either Northumbria or Newcastle to anyone who is contemplating attending university.

As well as the angel of the north and the Tyne bridge, Newcastle has many beautiful landscapes that can be seen from a lot of the student accommodation. The night life in Newcastle since the start of term has still kept up to its highest standards, even with the social distancing freshers' events. An events company called Loosedays have held 103 socially distanced events so that first year students like myself, despite the pandemic, have been able to enjoy their first few months of university life, just as previous first years have always been able to.

Northumbria dived straight in with course teaching, especially for my course which is Fashion Marketing and Design. We are now 8 weeks in and I have half a sketch book full of work. Due to Covid-19 cases within the university, Northumbria closed from the end of September 2020 and opened again on the 16th November, but only for required practical courses such as chemistry. Due to the university closing, I haven't been able to meet very many people from my course yet, but I can't wait to do so in the future. As my course is practical the university have hand delivered packages with resources inside so that we have been able to complete the requirements for our course, despite not using an industrial sewing machine they have gifted us with a lot of resources to hand sew, pattern cut and carry on with work that previously was only possible within a workshop.

My overall experience so far, is that university life is a massive jump from Secondary School and you become extremely independent and mature within the first few days. I have loved every moment of it, from making new friends, exploring a new city that I am truly fond of. As well as starting a course that I hope to take into my future career and for the rest of my life. I can see myself being really happy here and I'm glad I chose Newcastle.

Holly Smith.

Ketton

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