

News from Ketton Parish Council February 2024

Here we are in the shortest month of the year, and especially short as 2024 is a leap year, but, as we know, February has a hearty chocolate centre! Despite the current cold, damp and darkness we can look back on a jolly time in the village before Christmas – just 6 weeks ago! Almost 50 village seniors enjoyed an excellent Christmas party, with cakes made by volunteers, and gift boxes generously donated by local business, Delicious Ideas. The Hub Christmas party was hosted in the home of one of the volunteers, and funded by the Hub's own funds. The Hub happens every Thursday in the library, 10am to 12 midday; all are welcome to enjoy a hot drink and biscuits (for £1.50), and chat (for free!).

We hope that you enjoyed your Christmas edition of Chatterbox, our free village magazine. A huge thank you to all those who edit, print, sort and deliver. If your copy got 'cleared away, with the Christmas decorations', you can still read it, and previous issues, online at www.ketton.org.uk And if you want to be kept up to date with what's going on in the village, then subscribe to our free update service (via the home page of our website). The deadline copy date for the spring edition of Chatterbox is March 15th and if you have something to contribute – news item, poem, story.....please send it to editor John Collier 7blackdog7@gmail.com

Ketton Talks restarts this month, and will continue throughout the year. Ketton Talks has donated £200 towards a recycled plastic 4-seater bench that will form part of King Charles' coronation area in Hall Close.

The play equipment in Hall Close recently had its quarterly inspection; there were no issues that could not be fixed by our village maintenance operatives, Dave and Trisha. They have repainted the train in the infant play area, and will be replacing the second entrance gate to the area, which is required for safeguarding. This will also help to secure the area from dogs, which, although they are supposed to be on a lead across the whole play area, and not at all in the infant area, are often not. Many children are cautious or frightened of dogs off leads, and dogs can defaecate, unseen by their owners, within the area. And a plea about bags of dog poo – they can be put in any public bin, or taken home – a bush, tree or hedge does not count as being disposed of!

The duty for councils to consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, announced by Government last year, will include Parish Councils. This duty will be self-monitored and there will be no regulatory or enforcement body. It is suggested that a Parish Council considers what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the parish, starting with having the topic on committee and full council meeting agendas. The Planning Committee considered this at its first meeting of the year, and has voted to include Biodiversity Duty statements relating to planning in its Terms of Reference.

Your Parish Councillors have had a busy start to the year attending meetings across Rutland to represent Ketton Parish Council, including the Appeal Hearing for land off Manor Green, the Parish Council Forum, Rutland CPRE Renewable Energy Event, the Engagement Campaign event at Leicestershire Police HQ and RCC's Special Meeting allowing Councillors to publicly discuss the recent flooding caused by Storm Henk.

Finally, we extend our very best wishes to our Rutland South Beat Officer, Pete Icke, who will be leaving us to pursue a new career path, with the Artemis team at force headquarters. And we look forward to meeting Pete's replacement, PC 2157 Edward Mckinnon, in Ketton very soon.

Additional Dates for your Diary

Mondays 1pm to 2pm, 2pm to 3pm in the Parish Office, IT help sessions with Berni (contact the clerk to book a session)

Thursdays 10am to 12 midday the Hub at Ketton Library, for hot drink, biscuits and chat

Thurs Feb 1st 7.30pm Congregational Hall, Ketton Talks - David Lewis and Rob Persani 'Rutland And Stamford Sound'

Sat Feb 3rd 9am to 10am County Councillors' Surgery in Ketton Library.

Mon Feb 5th 7.30pm KSCC, Film Club (Belfast). £3 entry, bar available.

Wed Feb 21st 12 to 1.30pm, Methodist Hall, soup lunch (for donations).

Thurs Mar 7th 7.30pm Congregational Hall, Ketton talks - Andrew Brown, Chairman of RCC

Fri March 15th Chatterbox copy date

Thurs June 6th 80th Anniversary of D Day

*The Parish Office in Stocks Hill (Tel 01780722451, email kettonpc@btinternet.com) is open
Tuesday and **Thursday** 9.30am to 3.30pm, **Wednesday** 9.30am to 5.30pm (or 1.30pm to 9.30pm
when there is an evening meeting) Facebook: **Ketton News**. Website: www.ketton.org.uk*