

KPC News May 2024

It's no mow May! So now is the time to leave off mowing some of your lawn until August, and see what wildflowers appear, and what pollinators they attract. Some areas of our churchyard, the cemetery and Hall Close are also to be left uncut as part of their management plans, to improve biodiversity.

You may have noticed the two new trees that have been planted at the Redmiles Lane end of Hall Close. These are the King's Coronation Trees – one is the King's Tree donated to the County of Rutland, planted by Dr Sarah Furness Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, and the second, donated and planted by fruit tree enthusiast Sinan Urhan, manager of Heidelberg Ketton. They are both black mulberry trees, as Year 4 from Ketton School, with their teachers Mrs Kelly and Mr Aust, who attended the planting ceremony, found out from Dr Sarah Furness. She gave them an impromptu history lesson about King James 1st who wanted white mulberries to feed silk worms to produce English silk, but introduced and planted black mulberries by mistake! The Parish Council is very grateful to Jonathan Smith who made and donated the stand for the King's plaque, and to Dave, Tricia and Adam for preparing the area and fencing the new trees. The blossom in the village over the last month has been stunning; the apple tree that has been 'Wassailed' for the last couple of years, was, for the first time, a mass of blossom!

Ketton Climate Action organised its spring Community Litter Pick along the Stamford Road and Steadfold Lane, at which 9 volunteers collected 20 bags of litter (including, the now regular, 15 or so empty vodka bottles!). Ketton Climate Action also organised a talk "Water, Woods and Wildlife" by Bruce Durham from Harborough Woodland, in Heidelberg Ketton's excellent Visitor Centre, with over 30 attendees from the village and beyond. There followed Fair Trade tea, coffee and snacks and much discussion about flooding and climate change. Rutland County Council are still keen to get more responses about flooding incidents in order to understand better the wider impact of the weather during the first 3 months of this year. And don't forget to make a date for Ketton's Green Festival on June 16th, from 2pm in Hall Close, with stalls and activities for all the family.

The Public Relations & Magazine Committee is working on a new village Welcome Pack (online, in the form of a tab via the village website, as well as physical pack), and is contacting all village groups to provide, or update, their details. The village website is also where you will find a link to Ketton Village History www.kettonvillagehistory.co.uk which is well worth exploring.

Ketton library is to receive new investment to upgrade its services to provide adult learning opportunities and childrens' services to a wider community. Since the 3 new housing developments in Ketton have contributed to the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money being used, it is fitting that the Parish Council is being involved in the discussions on the upgrade. We are fortunate to have such an excellent library with something for everyone including graphic novels, which are proving popular with primary school children, jigsaw puzzles (including large sight and dementia friendly), and new in, a free Discover Rutland guide with maps showing facilities (EV charging, cash machines, filling stations etc) important buildings and places to visit and eat. And of course, there are always helpful recommendations from the librarians.

Our March Full Council Meeting was attended by Andy Gray who gave an update on football at KSCC. The arrival at KSCC of Blackstone's Juniors (soon to rebrand as Ketton Sports Junior

Football) has boosted membership, and has meant that a groundsman can be employed to look after the shared football and cricket areas. Football, cricket and triathlon clubs are to work more closely together and long term plans include an artificial pitch. The Parish Council provides two KSCC Trustees. Councillor Jenny Rogers has recently resigned as a trustee, due to ill health, and we thank her for her dedication and hard work over the last 8 years. The Parish Council is now looking for another representative trustee, alongside Councillor Nigel Roberts.

Sadly we have to report the recent passing of 2 wonderful Ketton women. Rosemary Desforges, a former nurse, was the driving force behind the creation of the hugely successful Ketton Community Choir. Christine Sharman was a former Ketton Parish Councillor, although perhaps better known for her cheery greetings to villagers shopping in Waitrose, where she worked. Our condolences to both their families.

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 May 2nd 7.30pm Congregational Hall, Ketton Talks, Chris Banks “The NHS: The Past, The Present and Future”

Sat May 4th 9am to 10am County Councillors’ Surgery in Ketton Library.

Mon May 6th Car Boot Sale at KSCC, from 7am.

Mon May 13th 7.30pm, KSCC, Film Club, ‘Where the Crawdads Sing’

Thurs May 16th 2pm to 5pm Cream Tea Party at Burghley for Ketton Seniors (book with Debbie)

Sat May 18th 10am to midday, Hanson (Heidelberg) Visitor Centre, KHS Plant sale/swap

Thurs June 6th 80th Anniversary of D Day

Sun June 9th 5pm Ketton Showtime, String Quartet

Sun June 16th 2pm Hall Close, Ketton Green Festival

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*