

## KPC News October 2024

Its pumpkin time and many of you will be planning to have fun 'picking your own' at our local pumpkin patch – Holmes Farm. In mid September some 30 residents got together on Hall Close for an 'Apple Day' organised by Ketton Green Spaces Group, with apple pressing (to make juice), and other apple-based activities. Not quite as grand as Stamford's Apple Day (usually early October), which had to be cancelled this year due to lack of volunteers to run it. Volunteers are an essential in our everyday lives, and we had news of a group of volunteers, with Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (LRWT), who have helped to make one of our favourite walking areas, Ketton Old Quarry, more accessible, creating a new set of steps in a previously precarious area of the nature reserve and re-establishing a second set of steps that had become a quagmire. LRWT have a small flock of sheep that graze this nature reserve to help maintain the limestone grassland, and with it all its wonderful flowers, such as the bee orchids, and insects, such as the Marbled White Butterfly. Unfortunately a dog got into the sheep enclosure, chased the sheep about for about 20 minutes and attacked one of the flock, injuring it and badly frightening the rest. So we, and LRWT, would like to remind you of the threat that dogs pose to livestock, and ask you to keep dogs on a lead at all times in the reserve, and monitor their behaviour closely. Free running dogs also disturb native wildlife, and their uncollected waste is both a hazard and an unwanted enrichment to this biologically sensitive, protected nature reserve.

The big talking point, and source of frustration, in Ketton last month was the theft of phone cabling along the Luffenham Road which resulted in landline phones (and Medicare devices) being down for 3 weeks or more. Post Office services were affected, and the Post Office phone and Lottery, and the library phone were out of action for 3 weeks. It was only after the intervention of our County Councillor Karen Payne, and our MP, Alicia Kearn's office, that any information on the progress of reconnection, and who to contact with persistent issues, was obtained. A big thank you to them, and to Ravi at the shop, and our Ketton librarians who helped to identify residents still without connection.

Planning issues, locally, county wide and nationally still loom large. Towards the end of August, Parish Council Chair, Nigel Roberts, was interviewed for TV (East Midlands News), about Heidelberg Ketton's proposed quarry extension. At our recent liaison meeting with Heidelberg their Land and Mineral Resources Manager explained that although the plans were submitted in January a decision is not expected until 2025 at the earliest. Rutland County Council is still accepting responses, and Heidelberg have agreed that it will review all the objections and prepare a response document. The response document will also contain data on noise monitoring on the A606, more technical information with regard to the Anglian Water tunnel on the northern boundary and the wider effects of their application on carbon emissions.

In mid August more than 30 residents, plus Parish Councillors, met with Vistry, developers for the Land off Park Road for 75 homes. Although residents accepted that the development will go ahead, there remained considerable concerns with respect to flooding on, and access via Bartles Hollow, construction traffic access, lack of bungalows and the effects of extra traffic along Empingham Road and through the village.

Rutland County Council will launch the final 6 week consultation (Regulation 19) on the new Local Plan, after presentation to Full Council on Thursday 26 September. The Local Plan sets out important planning policies for the Rutland area, as well as listing sites for additional housing, employment and other development, up to the year 2041. Regulation 19 will give people the opportunity to comment on whether the Local Plan meets all necessary legal and procedural

requirements, as well as being positively prepared, effective and justified by evidence. For more information about the Local Plan please visit: [www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan).

Government has also issued a consultation on its proposals for updating the National Planning Policy Framework, which includes a major change to the methodology for calculating Local Housing Need. If this change is implemented, Rutland will be required to deliver a minimum of 264 dwellings per year, instead of the current 123 dwellings per year, meaning they would need to identify many more sites for future development.

If you walked through the old orchard area of Hall Close last month you might have been forgiven for thinking that you were in another century, with a flock of 5 white geese grazing happily under the apple-laden trees. Will they replace the grass cutting machines? Is it a cost-cutting ploy?

### **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

**Thursday Oct 3rd** Ketton Talks, 7.30pm, Congregational Hall 'Planning Issues'

**Saturday Oct 5th** 9am to 10am County Councillors' Surgery in Ketton Library.

**Monday Oct 7th** 7.30pm Ketton Film Club at KSCC. 'The Great Escaper'

**Wednesday Oct 16<sup>th</sup>** midday to 1.30pm Community Soup Lunch, Methodist Hall

**Thursday Oct 17<sup>th</sup>** 7.30pm, Ketton Horticultural Society, Congregational Hall, 'Death in the Garden'

**2025**

**Saturday Jan 18<sup>th</sup>** 4.15pm Hall Close, Ketton Wassail

*The Parish Office in Stocks Hill (Tel 01780722451, email [kettonpc@btinternet.com](mailto: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](http://www.ketton.org.uk)*