Annual Report

The Local Development Framework has progressed and confirmation was received this year that no development had been allocated to either of our villages.

The ownership of the restored quarry site is getting closer and it is hoped that it will be possible to open the site for residents to enjoy during the course of this year.

You may have noticed that passing places have been created on Hethersett Road, the entrance to the site has been improved and widened and recently the gate has been moved further down the access road to enable a car park to be created which will be completed in July.

The quarry committee meets every two months and all meetings are open to members of the public. Why not come along and share your views? The next meeting takes place on 15th May 2013 at Ketteringham village hall and commences at 7.30pm.

Money matters

The precept for the year 2012/13 was frozen for the second year at £4100.00, The opening bank balance was £8200.84 and the closing balance was £8793.83, this increase is due to money remaining in the parish council’s account that is earmarked for phase 2 of the icehouse restoration.

The main items of expenditure through the year were:

- **Staff costs** £1900
- **Insurance & admin costs** £615
- **Telephone/broadband** £356
- **Cantley lane streetlight** £223
- **Legal expenses for the quarry** £958
- **Ketteringham village hall room hire** £165
- **Donations to the 2 churches for the churchyards** £760
- **Subscriptions** £128
- **Icehouse restoration** £5647
- **Audit** £50

Costs for the icehouse restoration has been funded by grants from the South Norfolk Buildings Preservation Trust and Norfolk County Council buildings at risk fund.

The accounts are reviewed at each Parish Council meeting and full details are available from the clerk.
East Carleton and Ketteringham Parish Council is being given 54 acres of parkland under the terms of the quarry agreement which hopefully will be open to the public after the car park has been constructed in July. The icehouse, situated in the Breathing Place area of the parkland on the south side of the lower lake, is a Grade 2 listed building which is currently on the Buildings-at-risk Register. A gem of social history, we are lucky to have, as part of our architectural heritage, one of the 3,000 icehouses recorded in Britain. No longer used for storing ice, it is now the winter hibernation site for a colony of Daubenton’s bats that normally overwinter in cellars and caves.

In 2007, the South Norfolk Council’s Buildings’ Preservation Trust agreed to help fund and support the parish council in restoring the icehouse. Further funding was obtained with a £3,000 grant from Norfolk County Council’s ‘Buildings-at-risk’ fund, and £2,000 from South Norfolk Council’s Neighbourhood fund to enable bat enhancements. To support these applications, we held a community icehouse event in July 2010 raising £750 towards restoration costs.

On 14th April, the local History Group hosted an event in Ketteringham village hall displaying photos and artefacts of Phase 1 of the restoration, which took place between August, and October last year. The restoration included clearing overhanging tree branches, cutting down swathes of nettles and replacing the soil on top of the dome to protect the brickwork from frost damage. The rubble in the ice chamber was removed, the frost-damaged bricks of the front and towers were replaced and other areas of external brickwork were repointed where necessary. Reclaimed floor bricks were laid in the entrance tunnel where ice from the lake would have been crushed with mallets before being packed down into the chamber. The excellent condition and beauty of the inner
brickwork of the enormous ice chamber and dome are a remarkable tribute to the skill of Victorian bricklayers, and the ingenious arrangement of the drainage system for the melt water appears to be unique to this icehouse.

During the landscaping and clearance by local builder Gary Martin, and Graham Higlett of Anglia Micro Plant, artefacts including rusty hinges, latches and a pull ring were found giving important clues to the construction and appearance of the missing inner and outer doors. Remarkably, due to the skilful manoeuvring of the micro digger, all but one of the missing major components of the stones pinnacles were unearthed, or pulled from within the ice chamber into which they had been rolled. Some of the lighter pinnacle stones and door furniture were on display at the recent event. Rackham’s Engineering have installed a stunning hand-crafted galvanised inner gate to a design which not only allows bats access to the ice house for their winter hibernation, but also enables future visitors to look right inside in safety when the ice house is open to the public. Also at the recent event, our licensed bat worker Jane Harris gave visitors the fascinating opportunity of seeing live bats close at hand, as well as displaying information about Daubenton’s bats. By monitoring conditions within the icehouse chamber over the winter, she has found that the temperature only fluctuated between 0-5°C even during the coldest spells in January. Also on display were examples of the specialised Norfolk bat bricks, which will be installed in Phase 2 to provide additional hibernation niches.

Following a break of work since October to allow the bats to hibernate undisturbed, Phase 2 will resume in May this year the pinnacles will be restored and replaced and their decorative crockets (identical to those on the front porch of Ketteringham Hall) will be carved and inserted. The brickwork and coping stones between the towers will be replaced, and a suitable outer door will be installed to replace the present temporary one. The restored quarry parkland will recreate some of the original tree planting schemes of Sir John Peter Boileau, who purchased the Ketteringham Estate, which included most of Ketteringham village and some of East Carleton, in 1837.

Many of the large estates in Norfolk would have had an icehouse to store winter ice for domestic use the following summer. They were expensive to build and a fashionable status symbol, and of course not every winter was cold enough to produce the huge amount of ice required to fill them. It must have been a hard and cold task for the estate gardeners to collect the ice from a nearby lake using a horse and cart. The blocks of ice would have been crushed and the fragments packed into the icehouse chamber which had first been lined with barley straw on a brushwood base to ensure good insulation and drainage. In the entrance tunnel to the Ketteringham Hall icehouse, tally marks have been scratched into the brickwork, and these probably recorded the number of loads required to fill the chamber - over 70 in one row alone.

The icehouse was not listed in the sale catalogue of the Ketteringham Estate in 1837, and on the accompanying maps its location is marked as a plantation. In Sir John Boileau’s diaries in the Norfolk Records Office, it was first mentioned in 1842 in the entry ‘Mr Fisher (Sir John’s builder) came about the ice house’, and Sir John and his visitors went to watch the icehouse being filled over a period of several days in December 1844. The design of our icehouse is unusual in that it is decorative as well as functional, and follows another Victorian trend of creating romantic picturesque follies in a parkland setting. Sir John was soon referring to the surrounding land as Icehouse Park or Piece. We do not know when it was last used, but even as early as 1846, Sir John notes in his diary that Wenhamp ice (clear, clean ice imported from North America) was available at 10/- a cwt, sent via the newly-opened railway with ‘nothing charged for packaging if returned’. Perhaps this, quickly followed by the arrival of imported ice from Scandinavia and the invention of refrigeration, eventually made icehouses redundant.

The icehouse holds much charm nestled at the side of the Victorian wooded dell overlooking our Breathing Place area. In March, the quarry steering committee held a conservation workday to clear bramble and scrub and to coppice trees in an area around and in front of the icehouse to create a more extensive vista towards the lake.

After extensive research we have not yet been able to find an original photo of the icehouse. If anyone has one, or any recollections of the icehouse, the History Group would love to hear from you.

Ingrid Fairman
Emergency Planning

At any time our villages could be struck by a sudden emergency such as flooding from extreme weather conditions where we could lose power and drinking water for extended periods of time. Suppliers and the emergency services could be stretched offering little if any immediate help.

To survive and recover it would be useful if we could have an emergency plan that would identify resources available within our community such as equipment or even willing hands. We would also be able to identify those among us who may need the most help. A questionnaire will be sent at a later date to find this information.

We need 2 volunteers from Ketteringham and another from East Carleton to help develop the plan.

Please contact Sue Burt at subu@btinternet.com or telephone 01508 578333 if you would like to be involved.

South Norfolk Handy Person Scheme

Do you need help with general repairs or small jobs around your home or garden?

The Handy person Scheme provides vulnerable people living in South Norfolk with up to two hours labour from reliable local contractors - in many cases for FREE or at heavily discounted prices.

Supported by South Norfolk Council’s Care and Repair Team, the Handy person scheme offers a safe, affordable service and complete peace of mind for those most in need.

Your Handy person Scheme can cover:-

- Gardening - one off clearance, including weeding, general mow and tidy up.
- Home Safety - Smoke detectors, key safes, grab rails, removing trip hazards.
- Home security - Security Locks, door chains, door viewers, window locks.
- Minor electrical work- wiring plugs, replacing fuses.
- Minor plumbing - Replacing tap washers, fitting new taps.
- Home energy efficiency - draught proofing, fitting low energy light bulbs, pipe insulation, loan of energy monitor.
- De-cluttering service.
- General repairs & minor jobs - installing telephone cables, shifting furniture, small carpentry jobs, easing sticking doors, fixing curtain rails, lowering shelves, cleaning gutters, repairs to fences and gates.

Who is it for?
The service is available for owner-occupiers, tenants or tenants of a housing association. Works that are the legal responsibility of landlords are not covered.

How do I request this service?
Contact South Norfolk Council on 01508 533705 or email hstandards@s-norfolk.gov.uk or visit the council’s website www.south-norfolk.gov.uk

How much does it cost?
If you are means tested and either: aged 65 and over; registered disabled; or suffering from long-term ill health, you are entitled to two hours labour and the installation of grab rails, smoke alarms, key safes, door chains and window locks for FREE.

For those registered disabled or suffering long-term ill health but not in receipt of means tested benefits), the service costs £10 per hour (plus materials). A non-discounted service costs £25.00 per hour (plus materials and VAT if applicable).

How do I get a job done?
Contact the Handyperson Co-ordinator, Katrina on 01508 533705 and she will arrange for a suitable handyperson to make an appointment with you. We are aiming for most jobs to be completed within four weeks of the initial request, however most are completed before.

Visit Our Parish Council Website

http://east-carlton-and-ketteringham-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/

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