

Hi everyone and a Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and is looking forward to the New Year. As quite a few of you may know Lydia and Andy Walton left the village after many years here, Lydia approached me and asked if she could do a write up for the Newsletter to inform everyone new and old of how much they had loved the village life. I hope you enjoy the read as much as I did. Over to you Lydia....

The Laurels, North Kelsey 1988 - 2025 with the Waltons

Over the past few years, I have appreciated and enjoyed reading the village newsletter, particularly the historical insights, and would like to add a piece to North Kelsey's timeline, for the record: a piece about my family and our lives at The Laurels.

It was a move home to Lincolnshire from London where Andy and I had met, studied and worked and where Robyn had been born. We had stayed for 6 months in Binbrook while looking for a family home. Poppy was born during that time. I remember driving over from Binbrook with both girls in the car, the excitement as we crossed the Wolds, dropped down through Caistor and straight on into the village. What would our lives in this village become? The day-to-day joy of having the countryside on our doorstep to walk, run and explore would quickly reveal itself.

The welcome was warm and the friendships formed in those early days remain strong and important to us. A marvellous community, filled with talent, imagination, drive, loyalty, parties, reassurance and humour. Fuelled by shared hospitality: the first fundraiser for the Church. It was on that night that I realised that a life in North Kelsey would never be boring!

Community groups supported us from day one. Robyn was able to start the next week at playgroup, which she loved. We also went to the toddler group on Tuesday afternoons. Initially, we were in the old school canteen building. Here, the next performance took place when we put on our version of 'Prince Cinders' - mostly improvised. It was a sad day for Robyn when the building was demolished but we became part of the community association using the new village hall that had been the old school. A building I would make good use of over the next 35 years.

I fondly remember the Titanic Table Tennis Tournament we held each year for a few seasons. It was a full day of friendly competition where all ages and abilities took part, with some fiercely contested matches and much hilarity. The tournament gave us the confidence to enter an inter-village sporting competition organised by West Lindsey, a multi-sport event hosted by Caistor or Cherry Willingham. Despite being one of the smaller villages, North Kelsey rose to the challenge and even claimed victory one year. So wonderful to see how our village hall has continued to evolve. Even more so in the last year before we left. My thanks to those of you whose hard work made this happen.





Jasmine was born in 1990 and from then on, time started to fly for all of us! She followed Robyn and Poppy through toddlers, playgroup and schools. She also spent many Monday and Friday evenings in the Youth Club. Poppy and Jasmine enjoyed attending the methodist chapel Sunday school. This gave me time to study flamenco dancing which had been a dream of mine and I did in fact attempt a few performances in the village - one being at the "Old Time Music Hall" event in the chapel school room which featured some of the local hidden talent. I remember the rendition of 'There is a hole in my bucket dear Liza' with great mirth!

We were so lucky to have the primary school on our doorstep; to be able to walk there, to have such wonderful teachers. A school offering a wide-ranging curriculum with a strong emphasis on art, music, sport and nature. Poppy's love of netball started there and must have contributed to her stature! The primary school also hosted another of our many performances. A group of us had a wild idea to stage the opera Hansel and Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck. And we did it, after a fashion. My contribution being the choreography for the evening prayer. Costumes courtesy of my mum Sylvia who became a regular at the primary school when additional pianists were needed for assemblies.

Robyn and Jasmine followed their Grannie Sylvia's athletic honours and played hockey for Brigg Colts and Ladies' teams, Lincoln Ladies, Lincolnshire squads, East of England and their Uni teams. Andy was also able to live his sporting dream by playing for the South Kelsey village cricket team where he captained the second team for several years. Although he never made his desired hundred, a top score of 97 not out was the closest he achieved, he was most proud of the match where Robyn was brought in to make up numbers. Consequently, the records show bowled Walton, caught Walton. I pity the opposing batsman who thought that a ball out to the boundary covered by a small girl was a good idea.

I am reminded of the West African saying, 'it takes a village to raise a child' . We have been so lucky to have done that three times over in this village with the support of an entire community.

We now live in Bedford where my mum trained to be a P.E teacher which feels like a perfect end to this story. We are closer to our girls and now granddaughters.

North Kelsey, you will always remain in our hearts and memories. I have not mentioned names, but you know who you are and you have our gratitude. We do hope to come back to see you from time to time. Meanwhile, you can always find us via social media.

Lydia Walton

Little London



When you mention 'Little London', there is usually a definite reaction to the name.

Little London has been known in the village for many years with Little London Cottage, Little London Farmhouse, a bungalow and in the past a caravan. Interest and curiosity as the origin of the name have so far had to be thwarted, but villages and hamlets named "Little London" across the UK generally acquired the name for one of several historical reasons, most linked to trade routes, Londoners fleeing a plague, a place's local character or some also think the name may stem from the arrival of seasonal workers from the capital to work in the fields.

Glancing at an Ordnance Survey there another Little London near Spalding, one in Leeds, two in Hants and one in East Sussex, as well as our own here in North Kelsey.

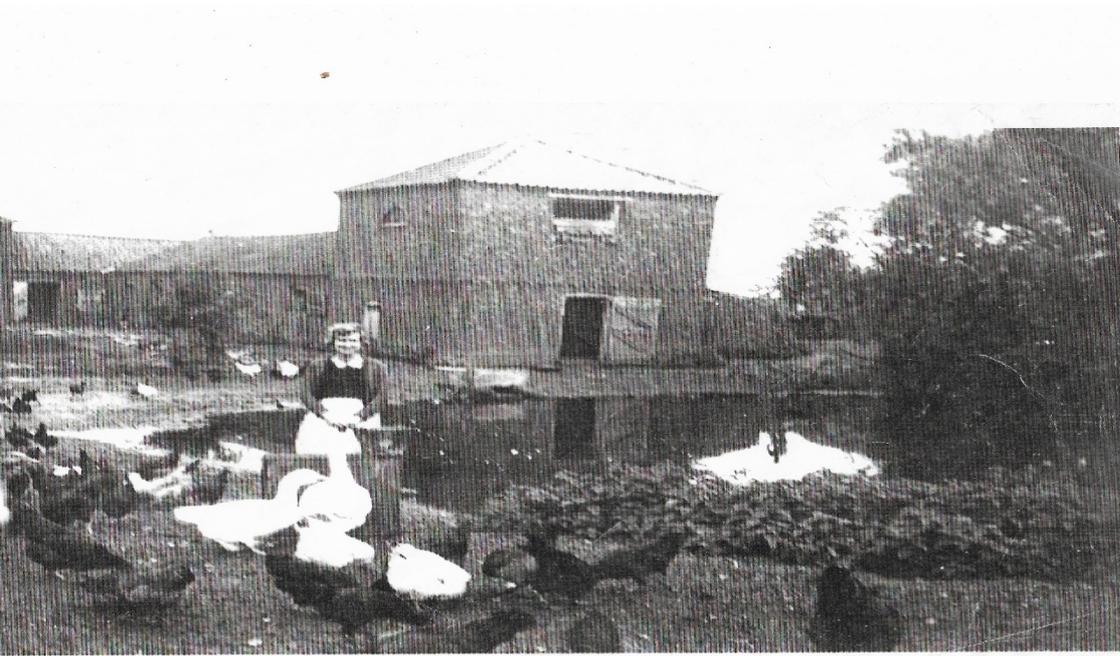


The original part of Little London Cottage was built in 1780 in the reign of King George III for a man and his wife called Thomas and Ann Addison. The old parchment deeds see how Thomas laboured over his signature, whilst Ann could only mark her cross.

The house has been occupied and owned by numerous people, but the one that is most interesting was a person called Mary Bedford. Mary was a widow and appears to have lived in Nagasaki in Japan. This fact begs the question, “What was she

doing here?” Was she a Missionary?” It had been the impression that Europeans were not welcome in Japan at the turn of this Century. Mary appears to have died on 14th August 1907, but where, Japan? North Kelsey? Or elsewhere?

More to come about Little London in future Newsletters, watch this space!



Frances Mary Morton (nee Hooton) (Aunt Polly) – Little London Farmyard.

[North Kelsey Cemetery](#)

North Kelsey Parish Council's ongoing safety programme involves the inspection of memorials in the Parish Cemetery for stability and safety. All memorials placed on graves remain the responsibility of the registered holder of the Exclusive Right of Burial to keep in good safe order.

Please email Mandy Coote clerk@northkelseyparishcouncil.gov.uk to ensure we hold the correct details for the registered holder, include details of the grave/plot and your contact details.

We are instructing works of inspection early 2026. Any memorials requiring action will be marked for the owner's attention, if found to be an immediate health and safety risk they may be laid flat.

We appreciate your assistance and co-operation in ensuring the Cemetery is a safe place for everyone to visit.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a memorial, please do not hesitate to contact Mandy Coote clerk@northkelseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

What's On – Community Events

Women's Institute

Meet at 7.15pm in the Village Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Visitors & new members are always welcome. For more details call Joyce on 01652 678549

Kelsey Knits & Natters

Every Tuesday afternoon 4 – 6pm at The Butchers Arms Pub.

Everyone is welcome even if they don't knit. They can bring other crafts along.

North Kelsey Youth Club

The North Kelsey Youth Club is held every Friday night in the North Kelsey Village Hall from 7.00pm to 8.30pm for ages 9 years and above. Entry 50p.

Methodist Church

Second Monday of the Month Tea & Cake from 2.30 – 4.00pm in the Methodist Chapel

They also hold the North Kelsey History Meeting at the same time. Come along, have a chat and reminisce.

Village Hall [Contact details from Joyce 07716942012](#)

Mondays: 9-15 to 10-15 am, FitSteps. 10-20 to 11-20 am, Pilates

Tuesdays: 6 to 7 pm, Pilates Wednesdays: 2-3pm Tai Chi

1st Saturday of every month: Bingo

2nd Thursday of every month: Lunch Club @ 12 noon

3rd Thursday of every month: Breakfast Club 9-30 to 11-30 am.

Wednesdays in school term time, Kelsey Stay & Play Toddler group £2 per family to include refreshments.

Fridays: Early Years Alliance "Get Active"

Kelsey Primary PTA

Swish, Shop & Sip Event - Friday 23rd January 3.30pm-5.30pm in the school hall (sale of preloved items, if anyone has items to donate please contact the PTA via email nkpta@outlook.com or Facebook.

Easter Bingo - Thursday 26th March 5.30pm start in the school hall - everyone welcome - details to be confirmed - All information and updated can be found on our website www.nkpta.com

North Kelsey Bowls Club

Meet every Saturday at 2pm – During Summer Months

1st Grasby Scouts

Tuesday Evenings from 7.30 – 9.00pm Are you aged 10 – 13 and looking for adventure?

Do you want to learn how to light fires, cook on them and other #skillsforlife?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, then email 1stgrasbygsl@gmail.com for more information.

All Hallows Church

Services at All Hallows - The first Sunday of the month 10.30am. Morning prayer, reflection and hymns.

Coffee Mornings - 2nd Saturday of the month, 10am to noon.

October to March at the village hall. April to September in the church.

Contact Revd Marian if you want more details. marian.toyne63@gmail.com or 01652 679057

Your Ward Councillors

Lincolnshire County Council Cllr J. Bean

cllrj.bean@lincolnshire.gov.uk

West Lindsey District Council Cllr P. Morris

Cllrp.morris@west-lindsey.gov.uk 07946 322048

Newsletter Editor

The place to share what matters to your community. What's On, Sport, Groups, History. Anyone wishing to contact the Editor with their own news, please email me on cllr.p.bryan@northkelseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact Us

Email is our preferred method of communication where you'll expect a prompt response. Please note the Clerk is employed for 8 hours per week, so there may be a delay in returning calls. clerk@northkelseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillors 1 x Vacancy

Cllr David Waite – Chairman

Cllr Susan March – Vice Chair

Cllr Pamela Bryan, Cllr John Cundill,

Cllr Emma Horstwood, Cllr John Slater,

Cllr Jan Waite, Cllr Mary Williams

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.15pm in the Village Hall.
You can email us or come along to the meeting; we have a Public Session every month.