

Hi everyone!

I trust everyone is enjoying the sunshine after a very wet winter.

Unfortunately, it is with great sadness that our Newsletter starts with the ongoing issue of vandalism in the Playing Field. Throughout April, vandalism incidents were particularly high. Vandalism is a crime and can have a major effect on our quality of life and costs YOU money for the repairs through taxes.

If you notice that Council property has been vandalised, you should report it to the Parish Council Clerk (details below). If you see someone vandalising property, you should contact the Caistor Neighbourhood Policing Team by calling 101 for non-emergency enquiries.



As everyone should know by now, we have a new speed camera down North Kelsey Moor. The data has been collected, NKM Camera (for information only, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership Use Police data) The speeds recorded between December 2025 and March 2026 has shown that;

- 73% incoming and 64% outgoing vehicles were within 40mph speed limit.
 - 900 vehicles were recorded as travelling at a speed of more than 60 mph.
- The highest recorded speed was 94mph.

History - Agriculture Changes in the 18th and 19th centuries

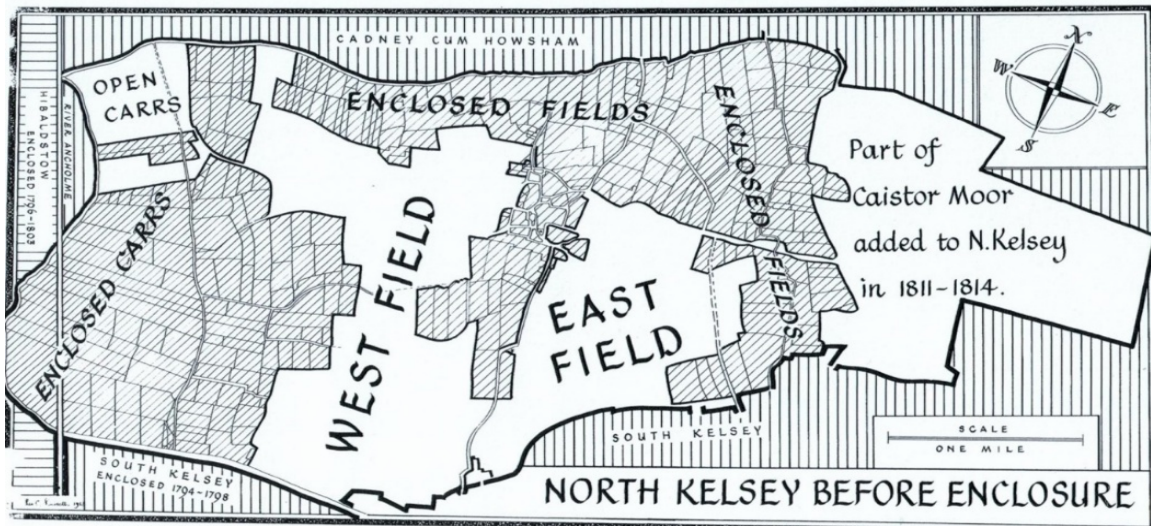
The pattern of agricultural life may have altered very little for the people of North Kelsey over the previous few centuries, despite political upheavals and wars, but on the horizon was something new which would re-shape not only the lives of villagers, but also transform the agricultural landscape into what is considered the quintessential English countryside still largely in evidence today.

Firstly, farming methods were changing with selective breeding of crops and livestock, improved crop rotations, the introduction of new plants to farms, particularly the turnip, the use of artificial fertilisers, improved drainage methods and the invention of new farm implements, including, eventually, the introduction of the steam engine.

Secondly, the demand for food was growing with an increasing population in towns and cities, driven by industrialisation. The Napoleonic Wars had also led to high corn prices. The movement of farm produce became much easier with the use of at first canals and later the railways. Landowners were now seeking to improve the productivity of their lands which demanded a complete reorganisation of their farms, much to the detriment of the smallholder – the peasant class.

Up until the end of the 18th century North Kelsey retained two open fields, the West Field (circa 600 acres) which existed between the village and the enclosed Carrs, and the smaller East Field (circa 400 acres) which existed between the road

to South Kelsey and an area of enclosed fields on the edge of Caistor Moor. Both these open fields were contiguous with 3,281 acres of open field, open Carrs and commons in South Kelsey, an open space of more than 4,000 acres of land uninterrupted by hedges or ditches.



Farmers and smallholders would have had a series of strips to cultivate in each of the open fields, as well as access rights to 2,132 acres of common land, known as Caistor Moor (shared with Caistor, Clixby, Grasby and Searby-cum-Owmbly) to graze their animals and collect firewood.

The two fields were cropped and fallowed alternately. In the crop year the grain sowed was an equal quantity of wheat, barley and beans. A tithe was levied on each acre, originally in kind and then later more often as a “corn tax”, to support the established church (the benefice) and vicar’s living. The original tithes were literally one tenth of the harvest (great tithes) and anything else derived from the soil i.e. livestock, fruits etc. (small tithes). Generally, the rector claimed the former whilst the vicar’s income came from the latter. In time the benefice came to be seen as property and was frequently obtained by impropiators or lay rectors (either as a gift or purchase), who collected the tithes. In return, they were obliged to maintain the chancel in good repair. Vicars received “vicarial” tithes (the exact make-up of these tithes can be seen in documents called “glebe terriers”, many copies of which, including for North Kelsey, are held in the county archives). The whole system was extremely unpopular, hated by most farmers and smallholders.

This ancient landscape, along with the tithes, was swept away by a series of Acts of Parliament at the beginning of the 19th century which divided up and awarded land in both the open fields and common land to landowners, which was then enclosed by fences and hedges to create the countryside we know today. New roads were laid out and old field roads abolished; new drains were cut. The new road and field pattern was first planned on paper with a set-square and ruler and then the lines of the new roads and hedges were staked out producing rectangular fields and straight roads (often taken today, mistakenly, to be Roman roads). The 2,132 acres of Caistor Moor were also divided up between the six villages with ancient access rights and North Kelsey was awarded by far the largest share, hence the extent of its parish today i.e. North Kelsey and North Kelsey Moor combined, some 6, 227 acres.

Although smallholders were awarded small areas of land, if they submitted claims, often they could ill afford the costs of fences, hedges and drainage and so had no choice but to sell their awards to larger landowners. The only compensation they received for losing their grazing rights on the common land may have been a small piece of land on allotments which were created near the villages (there were two sets of allotments in North Kelsey in the 19th century). It’s generally recognised that this was a process of “property theft” from the peasant class by the larger landowners, who were able to consolidate their lands into more compact units in the centre of which they often built a new farmstead – this is why so many large isolated farms existing today date from the 19th century. Before this, nearly everyone lived cheek by jowl within the village and travelled out to work the fields.

The first attempt made to enclose the lands of North Kelsey was made in 1795, but no progress was made until 1802. Even then, it took until 1813 before Royal Assent was received for an Enclosure Bill. Perhaps the enclosure of Caistor Moor, achieved in just three years from 1811-1814, prompted action. It didn’t last, however, as it took 27 years, until 1840, for the enclosure to be completed. During that time the Commissioners appointed by the Act oversaw all farming operations (up until then the community had determined the use of the open fields).

The 1813 Act identifies John Nelthorpe Esq as the lord of the manor and the Reverend Jacob Henry Brooke Mountain (1788-1876) as the appropriator of the rectory (the receiver of the great tithes including, in this case, hay, wool and lamb). The Reverend Robert Bingham was the vicar (the receiver of small tithes – pigs, geese, chickens, and produce

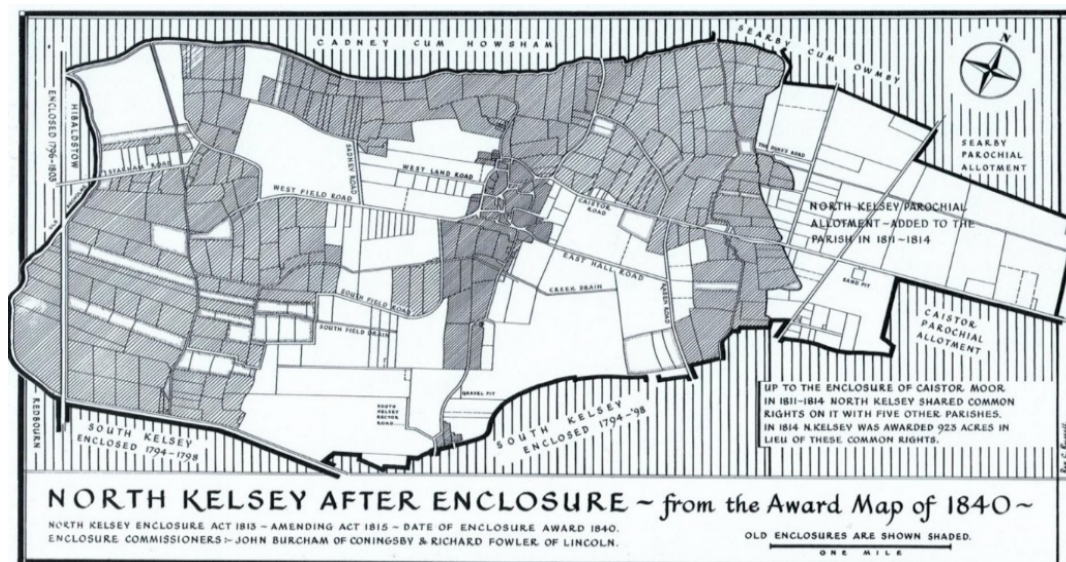
from gardens). The Rev. Mountain's father (1749-1825), born at Thwaite Hall, Norfolk, became the first Anglican Bishop of Quebec. The connection between the Mountain family and North Kelsey is unknown (Jacob Henry lived in Bedfordshire), but the link would have been between the family and Lincoln Diocese.

Enclosure Acts included exoneration from tithes. Land was awarded *in lieu* of tithes (1,144 acres in North Kelsey, of which 871 acres were awarded to the impropiator) or, in the case of land already enclosed, by one-off payments e.g. John Cox paid £176.1s.0d to exonerate his enclosed fields from tithes. It is interesting to note that the Commutation Act 1836 abolished the system of tithes four years before the enclosure of North Kelsey was completed. The Rev. W.F. Chambers appears to have been the last appropriator of rectoral tithes in the Prebendary of North Kelsey, before 976 acres were sold to Edward Wright Esq by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1852 (a fact recorded in *White's Directory*). The family had been in North Kelsey since at least 1762 when they held the Prebend of North Kelsey on lease and were stewards to the Ayscough's of South Kelsey. There is a memorial tablet and coat of arms of the Wright family which can be seen to the right of the vestry door in North Kelsey Church behind the chancel screen. Members of the family appear to have lived at Church Farm at some point (*Rev Kerswill, 1982*), but there is a memorial to Edward Wright in Brattleby Church.

Edward Wright's family home was Brattleby Hall, five miles north of Lincoln – hence the memorial in the church. According to *White's Directory*, John Wright Esq was lord of the manor of North Kelsey in 1885, as was Major Philip Chetwood Wright in 1909 (*Kelly's Directory*), although neither lived in the village. In October 1910, *The Globe* printed advance warning of the forthcoming sale of five farms belonging to Mr Philip Chetwood Wright, totalling 1,020 acres. These included Church Farm, Easthall Farm, Sadney Farm and Highfield. *Kelly's Directory* in 1919 names Mr John Atkinson and Mr Frank Hirst as the principal landowners in North Kelsey, but there is no longer any mention of a lord of the manor. Although the title of lord of the manor still exists today (and can be sometimes bought), manor courts were phased out in the 19th century and copyhold tenure (whereby a lord of the manor could still demand, unlike with a freehold tenancy, additional dues from a tenant) was abolished in 1922. It's taken until the 21st century, however, to remove (almost entirely) the last vestiges of this feudal system.

The Rev. Bingham contested his award *in lieu* of tithes from the debtors' prison at Lincoln Castle, from where he wrote pleading letters in 1815 to the Commissioners. These were resolved by 1816 (and he did receive over £200 to settle his claim and, hopefully, release him from prison), but he died in 1819, 21 years before the enclosure was complete. Lincolnshire directories recorded the net value of the church living for the incumbent from 1856 to 1919 as varying from £200 to £300 to £240, including 242 acres of glebe land and a house (presumably Glebe Farm on East Hall Road).

The North Kelsey Award was finally signed at the New Inn in Great Limber on Tuesday 26th May 1840. A good deal of land had changed hands during the 27 years between the first Act and the final Award - out of a total of 61 general proprietors originally awarded land, 36 are listed as "deceased". A total of 2,824 acres were enclosed; the largest single award of 871 acres 1 rood 19 perches' acres was made to the Impropiator *in lieu* of tithes, the smallest of just 16 perches to Thomas Cole.



As well as the enclosures, two new drains were cut – Creek Drain and South Field Drain, the former in the West Field, the latter in the East Field, both draining to the Ancholme. Four new roads were also commissioned. The total cost of the enclosure was £12,494. 4s.1d. (A comprehensive account of the entire process can be found within the extraordinary body of work published on the

Parliamentary Enclosures of Lincolnshire in the 1840s.

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.

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 £1.00.

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 Shirley on 07563 085518](#)

Tuesdays: 6 to 7 pm, Pilates

1st Saturday of every month: Bingo

2nd Thursday of every month: Lunch Club @ 12 noon (booking essential).

3rd Thursday of every month: Breakfast Club 9-30 to 11-30 am. (No booking required).

Fridays: Early Years Alliance "Get Active"

Kelsey Primary PTA

North Kelsey Village Fair Friday 26th – Sunday 28th June.

Stalls can now be booked at £10 plus a raffle donation for details contact nkpta@outlook.com

Companies can sponsor a stall from £20, £50, £75 or £100 at the fair, with your Company Name and be advertised on social media, more details contact nkpta@outlook.com

Pet Show Online now open, send your entries to nkpta@outlook.com or message on Facebook.

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 1stgrasbygs@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.

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 3 x Vacancy

Cllr David Waite – Chairman

Cllr Susan March – Vice Chair

Cllr Pamela Bryan, Cllr Emma Horstwood,

Cllr John Slater, Cllr Jan Waite