The Kettering Borough Council Coat of Arms

The **five red diamonds** (or lozenges) refer to the five former local authorities, which joined in 1974 to form the Borough of Kettering. The diamonds come from the Arms of the Montagus of Boughton.

The crest also depicts the **Geddington Cross** which is a historical monument in the Borough. It’s one of the three remaining Crosses erected by King Edward I at each place where the body of his wife, Queen Eleanor of Castile rested overnight on its journey from Lincolnshire to Westminster Abbey in 1294.

The **black birds** shown without their feet (martlets) in the **circles** are taken from the Arms of the Watsons of Rockingham. The **black shield** a **gold hide** (animal skin) represents the shoe industry. **A sheaf of wheat** represents agriculture and food production. **Two silver cogwheels** represent engineering. These combine to record the marriage of the urban and rural areas and show the three main historical activities in the Borough.

The motto ‘**Progressio Et Concordia**’ translates as ‘Progress and Concord’

The **blue and white waved lines** within the circles at both sides of the base of the Cross are heraldic fountains which mark the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society at the Mission House in Lower Street, Kettering, in 1792.

The **supporters** consist of:
1. a **female figure** taken from the Arms of the Dukes of Buccleuch and Queensberry, who descend from the Montagu family.
2. A **male figure** with a broken chain symbolising the triumphant work of William Knibb in the freedom of slaves. Knibb was born in Market Street, Kettering in 1803.

Above the shield are the **helmet** and **mantling** incorporated in all Arms granted to the Boroughs.

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