

# ELSHAM LEADER

November 2010

## Battle of Britain Flight Fly-by

This is photograph of a Lancaster bomber that flew over Elsham on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010. The photograph was taken by Graham Evison.

The Elsham Wold RAF Association Memorial Service takes place at Elsham Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 10.00am.



## Telephone and internet problems

Parts of the village have suffered three interruptions in recent weeks to telephone and internet services. This has been caused by thieves repeatedly removing over 2000 metres of copper cabling from underground conduits on Middlegate Lane, above the village. Apparently, the police are now doing something to attempt to prevent a recurrence, but we can only hope that their efforts are successful in preventing future thefts.

The problem is that copper (and other metal) prices have increased significantly in the last few months, making the removal of cabling an attractive and profitable operation. The government is endeavouring to make life more difficult for the thieves by insisting the metal merchants purchasing scrap maintain a proper record of the vendor, but such requirements are not always effective. One may ask how someone removes 2000 meters of cabling, which clearly is very heavy and could take a long time to drag from underground. The method used could be to draw a lorry close to a manhole, cut the cable at both ends and then use the lorry to drag it all out in a few minutes. At night, up there, the thieves are relatively secure. Padlocking the manhole covers is not a satisfactory option; hopefully a more effective deterrent will now be found.

*Note: Middlegate Lane has essentially retained its name and route since Roman times, when it was an important link between South Ferriby, Caistor and Horncastle.*

## Future Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month in the village hall, at 6.45pm. We do not meet in December, April or August.

The next two meetings will be Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Your Parish Councillors are:-

Lorraine Guest (Chairman) (680679)  
Bob Andrews (Deputy Chairman)  
Sophie Dunn (680676)  
Siobhan Hollows  
David Dent (688766)  
John Taylor (680438)  
Paul Richardson (688467)

Parish Clerk – Deb Hotson (0784 2201877) (available weekdays 10am – 2pm)

## Further Extracts from previous Minute Books

### 16<sup>th</sup> October 1945

Proposed that Mr Arthur James be asked to undertake preliminary work in trimming the banks widening the path of Doll Lane to a width of 3ft and that Mr Dunn and Mr J Whitehead be asked to trim their hedges which overhang the path. (The present Parish Council are dealing with similar concerns.)

Proposed that Kings College be approached to provide dustbins for their tenants.

### 28<sup>th</sup> December 1945

Accounts

Slag for Doll Lane

5 tons 4 cwt 3qts @ 16/6d per ton £4 5s 10d

¾ tons ( Mr Elson) 12s 0d

Mr A James ( 80 hrs work ) £5 12s 0d

W. B. Robinson ( printing ) 8s 6d

Proposed that Mssrs Burd and Evans be approached on behalf of the tenants of Col. Elwes property to provide dustbins for their use and also to ask Kings College to provide dustbins for “tied houses” in Elsham.

Election of School Managers – Proposed by Mr Tomlinson and seconded by Mr Elsom that the following be elected; Mrs Bletcher, Mr Dodds, Mr

Easton, Mr Etty to represent the county Council with Mrs Stainton and Mr Scott to represent the Parish.

(Hurrah! The ladies get a look in at last!)

### 26<sup>th</sup> March 1947

Proposed that the precept be provisionally £10.00. ( This year,2010, it is £5000.00)

### 15<sup>th</sup> April 1947

Water and Electricity Supply – proposed that a letter be sent to the RDC pointing out the village’s lack of these supplies. (This is 1947 – and if you remember from an earlier extract not too many years previously, the Parish Council refused these services)

### 27<sup>th</sup> June 1947

After much discussion Mr Elsom proposed that a piped supply of water for the whole village be provided as soon as possible. This was seconded by Mr Easton and carried unanimously.

The clerk was instructed to offer July 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> for representatives of the North Lincolnshire and Howden Electricity Co. Ltd to meet the council to discuss the matter.

### Special Meeting held on July 9<sup>th</sup> 1947

A representative of the Electricity Co. Explained the position regarding a supply for the village . No progress could be made until materials are in better supply.

( Presumably this was the result of shortages still being felt after the war. )

### 16<sup>th</sup> April 1947

Proposed that the precept be confirmed at £20.00 (Doubled in a year!)

## Parish Council Web Site

Elsham Parish Council uses the following web site to display council minutes, agenda and other useful information.

[www.e-voice.org.uk/elshamparishcouncil](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/elshamparishcouncil)

(The “e-voice” web site is available for use by charities & Parish Councils, and saves the council money and a lot of effort because it is free and uses a standard template.)

Take a look at the web site and let us have your comments.

If you have any additional items than can be usefully added please contact a Parish Councillor, in the first instance.

The history of Elsham from the earliest beginnings (as written by present villagers).

Read on.....

*Do you have imagination? Can you think how Elsham may have been, back in the days before any written records of the village existed? If you can continue, augment or preface the foundation as written here, then send your contribution to any parish councillor. Each edition of the Leader will include one further aspect of the history of Elsham and the writer will be credited with his or her efforts and receive a prize for his or her contribution.*

In the late summer of the year we now know as AD 399, a small fleet of roman trading ships crossed the Germanic Ocean (North Sea) carrying a loosely organised group of about 180 persons. The previous three years had all been difficult; harsh winters and poor summers had meant that the small vineyards of the Moselle valley had not been able to produce good wine. The families had lived on the reserves built up over the good years preceding the present, but now were faced with poverty. Vinder had heard of employment available across the sea and had organised the people who now filled the boats.

Severus was a Romano-British trader who had been asked by the communities of Flavia Caesariensis (Greater Lincolnshire) to do what he could to help strengthen their defences. Economic migrants and piratical raiders were causing great distress to the population settled near to the Abus Fluvius

(Humber) and the Roman legions were being gradually withdrawn from Britain. Severus had met with Vinder, who promised that he would raise a defence force numbering upwards of 500 men to help protect British shores. This fleet carried the first elements of that force. Most of the group were men of fighting age, but the leaders had also brought their families. They planned to stay for a while.

The fleet docked at Petvaria on the north bank of the river and the ferry carried them to the small settlement of Brodericam (now Winteringham) on the southern side. Vinder, his men and their families set up a camp close to Ermine Street, about a mile above the river. Patroculus was the owner of a large villa near Brodericam and he set about organising the newcomers. The ferry across Abus Fluvius was an important part of the local trading structure and it needed to be kept safe. Patroculus and his near neighbour Cominius from Horkstow sent most of their grain and vegetable surplus to Lindum (Lincoln) or Eburacum (York) and they were prepared to pay to ensure the survival of their families, their properties and their trade.

Amongst the younger men forming part of Vinder's group was the son of a Moselle winemaker, called Eller. Eller was blond, strong and tall, but he was not wanted at home. His family was impoverished by the succession of poor harvests and as the third son he had to find his way in life elsewhere. Along with a small team of men, Eller was

sent by boat down the Abus Fluvius to where the track from Horkstow met the river. Cominius had sent a slave to guide the team to Horkstow Villa, where they lived in the grounds.

For several years there was not a lot of action. The men were able to farm part of the estate up on the Wolds that was not maintained by Cominius. They became competent farmers and some married local girls. Occasionally they were called to arms when raiders were spotted sailing up the Abus Fluvius and they had a small battle with about thirty pirates near Berricam (Barton). The pirates were driven off, but three of Eller's team were killed and Eller had a broken wrist. He returned to his camp in pain.

Cominius had a slave girl from Dacia called Danella who was well versed in healing. She was able to bind up Eller's wound and she attended him each day to reset the dressing and to give him herbs to ease the initial pain. By this time, Eller had learnt the Celtic-British language used by most people in Flavia Caesariensis and he was able to converse with Danella. She helped him a little with his fields (although she did not have much free time) and he began to recover.

In AD 410 news came that the last roman legion had left Britain. Cominius was severely worried about the future and decided that he and his family would move south, leaving his estate in the hands of his

manager. No funds were available other than those from the produce of the farms. Cominius required a large part of that to be sent to him, which sent the estate into sharp decline. In the summer of AD 412, the manager caught a fever and died. Cominius did not return and he did not send another manager. Eller, his team and the estate slaves were bereft of any direction.

Eller and Danella decided to leave. They collected such meagre possessions as they had and made their way south along Middlegate Lane, a track ending at Caistor and following the spring line along the edge of the Wolds. They arrived on the evening of the first day at a pleasant clearing near the track, where a small stream ran gurgling down from the low hills around and they made camp. In the morning the sun shone, the birds sang and the world seemed so peaceful. No other farmers or families appeared to live in the immediate vicinity and Eller asked Danella whether she liked the location. She did and rather than move on, they decided to try to establish a farm at that spot. We now call it Elsham and the site of their first home was adjacent to the ponds.

*What happened next?*

*What happened before?*

***Did anyone actually live there?***

***See next issue***

## Information about the village and events

Apart from this newsletter, information can be found on the new notice board situated at the end of the Village Hall car park and also on the website.

Events which take place in the Village Hall are :-

Monday	No regular events
Tuesday	New Age Kurling 10 – 12am Low Villages Flower Club 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6.30 – 8.00pm (except January and August) Parish Council 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 6.45 – 8.00pm (except April, August and December) Wine Club - fortnightly on a Tuesday 8.00 – 10.00 pm.
Wednesday	Astley Corner Residents' Association, every 6 weeks (next meeting –Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December at 10.30am) Bowls Club 7.00 – 9.00pm
Thursday	No regular events
Friday	Country Night – monthly next meetings –Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> November – Cole Jack; 3 <sup>rd</sup> December – Gary Strike)
Sunday	Bowls Club 7.00 – 9.00pm

## Elsham Wine Club

Elsham Wine Club meets over the Autumn and Spring on a fortnightly basis. There are six Tuesday evening sessions, from 8.00 – 10.00 pm, and an end of term dinner on a Saturday. It is an opportunity to meet other residents and taste a range of different white and red wines. If you want further information or are interested in joining us please contact Alister Ramsay on 688019 or Roland Guest on 680679.

## Contact details re Keys / Booking etc. for Elsham Village Hall

**Jim Reid** Kantara, 4 Chapel Lane, 688753

**John Tomlinson** 2 Church Street, Elsham, 688221

**Roland Guest** 5 Church Street, 680679

**John Taylor** Little Bolingbroke, 5 Hall Lane 680438

## New Councillor Needed

You may know that Bob Andrews has left Elsham and moved to Barton. He still intends to continue with his sterling work of maintaining the church and village hall grounds for which we are grateful and we thank him for

his service to the Parish Council. Bob is allowed to remain on the Parish Council until his term of office expires in May 2011, when we will need to replace him.

This is an opportunity to become involved in the community and keep our village functioning.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

## Best Kept Village Competition

This year we came third in the Past Winners group, which as I have pointed out before, is pretty commendable when we are up against the likes of Brigg and Scawby with their much greater financial resources. Many thanks to all the helpers, especially Sandra Rawlin, who was responsible for the beautiful planters around the village hall. Also thanks to Jason of Hall Lane and Jane, Helen and Katie of New Street, who made sure other planters around the village were kept watered.

Next year we will be back in the small villages' category. In some ways this increases our chance of winning. However, Worlaby has the "Green Team" which without doubt helped them win this year and I would very much like to set up something similar in Elsham.

## Community Companions, Elsham Elves or The Clean Team?

The name can be sorted out later, but what we need is a group of people who meet regularly, say once a fortnight for a couple of hours to do jobs around the village such as :-

Quarry Park – checking the rabbit fencing, the seats, litter picking etc.

Church Lane and Doll Lane snickets – clear debris, litter pick, maintain width of path.

Village Hall grounds – tidying, sweeping, weeding.

Phone Box – tidying area until box is removed.

Street and traffic signs – cleaning.

Planted areas – maintenance

Benches – repair and maintenance.

It would be an excellent opportunity for a bit of fresh air and exercise and also an opportunity to get to know new people. You aren't expected to come every time, just when you can and the idea is to meet at the village hall, decide what needs doing, then people volunteer according to their strengths and interests. It doesn't have to be the same job every time. When we tried this earlier in the year, much was achieved in a couple of hours by six people. Much more could be achieved by a regular group. Please consider doing your bit for the village and contact me, Lorraine Guest on 680679.

Worlaby can't be allowed to have the monopoly on community spirit and the alternative is for the Parish Council to employ someone with all the red tape and paper work that involves and a rise in the precept which goes on the rates !

### Parish Maps

I recently attended a meeting organised by the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) who are keen for parishes to create parish maps. Something similar was done a few years ago and Hibaldstow, for instance, had a very active group. If we had sufficient interest, Mrs Pat Horton would come and speak to us and give us the benefit of their experience.

These are not conventional maps and can take whatever form reflects individual or local interest. For instance, they could show local field names and footpaths or how the village grew and the age of houses. The maps could be drawn, painted or embroidered or there could be a series produced. Scunthorpe Museum will exhibit the results.

With the festive season almost upon us I expect everyone is busy, but if anyone is interested, please let me know and we can organise something for the spring.

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### Countryside and Wildlife Crime

At a recent Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting, Sgt Liz Staff reported that 40% of all reported offences of poaching nationally, according to the National Wildlife Crime Unit, were in Humberside. In Brigg and District between 2008 and 2009 there were 28 reported incidents, between 2009 and 2010 there were 64.

These crimes are committed by hardened gangs of criminals who are coming into our area to see what they can steal. Deer poaching is a problem and in relation to hare coursing and badger baiting, thousands of pounds change hands from betting on which dog will kill the animal and how long it will take.

Besides these cruel and barbaric acts, farmers, landowners and their wives and children are threatened with firearms. Thousands of pounds worth of damage is caused to crops from vehicles driving over fields.

#### What can you do to help?

- 1) Encourage the community to report suspicious activity.
- 2) Encourage farmers and landowners to report incidents at the time they are occurring.
- 3) Help to promote the merits of a farm watch scheme.
- 4) Let the community know that the police are interested and are trying to improve intelligence gathering but need your help.

Contact details :-

Sgt. Liz Staff

[elisabeth.staff@humberside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:elisabeth.staff@humberside.pnn.police.uk)

0845 60 60 22 ext 4455

Caroline Boff, Safer Neighbourhoods

[caroline.boff@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.boff@northlincs.gov.uk)

01724 272299

## The Speed Sign

For the six week period between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October, the following results were recorded:-

Average speed 24mph

85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed 32mph

Highest speed 57mph

Average vehicles per day 800

Roy Hindmarsh, who is the Road Safety Audit and partnership Officer, tells us that these are good results for a 30mph restriction and that these signs have a significant effect on speeding with optimum results from leaving the sign in place for three months, which costs £419.00 for the rental.. The sign records times when offending occurs so that the police can attend and catch offenders.

Lorraine Guest

## All Saints' Church

Open Gardens - 19th August. 346 visitors from far and wide enjoyed not only the lovely gardens but also delicious home-made teas. The event raised the magnificent sum of £2,148 for our Church. A big, big thank you to all those people who helped and contributed in so many ways.

Work has now commenced on certain repairs considered necessary to our Village Church. The total amount quoted for all repairs is quite beyond Church funds at present but it was decided that rather than wait and see costs increasing, repairs would be carried out according to funds available. Work is being carried out on the Church Tower, two stained-glass windows have been removed and the stonework frames made good.

Our Harvest Festival was a very enjoyable occasion and thanks are expressed to everyone who helped decorate the Church and donated produce.

The new Notice Board is now in position and times of Services, etc. are quite visible from the road.

The Christingle Service - the offertory from this is always sent to the Children's Society - will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 12th December.

A Carol Service with Holy Communion will be held on Christmas Eve at 11.15 p.m.

R.A.F. Memorial - A request by the R.A.F. Wolds Association is to be made to the Diocese for the erection of a Memorial to be situated near the Altar in memory of the 1,200 airmen who did not return from operations from Elsham Airfield during the Second World War

Do come and join in the Services - everyone is welcome.

Barbara Phipps

## In lieu of Christmas Cards


Reading the above set me thinking that instead of sending Christmas cards round the village to people we see on a regular basis, we would give a donation to the church for their repairs fund. The PCC have agreed to put a card on the church notice board from those who participate. Please consider doing the same and help preserve our ancient church. Cheques payable to Elsham PCC.

Lorraine Guest

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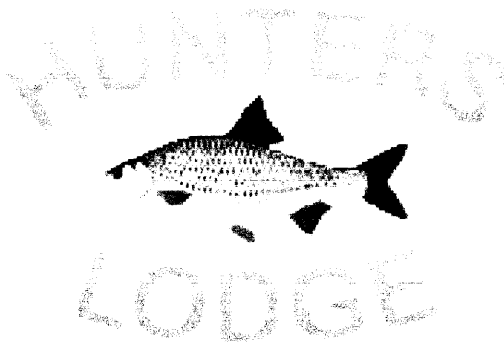
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