

ELSHAM LEADER

March 2011



As I write this on the last day of January, the snowdrops in the churchyard are just coming into flower. What a contrast to January 2008 when the daffodils were out on the 17th! I have a beautifully illustrated book entitled "God's Acre" by Francesca Greenoak and illustrated by Clare Roberts. It's about how churchyards have become an unofficial nature reserve for endangered flora and fauna. Our churchyard is a similar beautiful sanctuary. It is managed and maintained thanks to the efforts of Bob Andrews.

Your Village Needs You

But what about the rest of the village? That needs managing and maintaining too, so the Elsham Elves/ Community Companions will meet outside the village hall on the 4th Wednesday and 4th Saturday of each month at 10.30am for a couple of hours to do maintenance 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 last 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.

This month we meet at 10.30am on Wednesday 23rd March and Saturday 26th March

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 15th March and Tuesday 17th May.

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)

New Councillor Needed

The above neatly leads me to remind you that, as I mentioned last time, we need a replacement for Cllr Bob Andrews. The Parish Council is vital to keep the village functioning in terms of highways, road safety, street lighting, planning etc, etc.

The work is not arduous, we have 9 meetings a year, but we do need people to be the voice of residents.

If you are interested or just want to know more, please contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor.

Lorraine Guest

Chair of Parish Council

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

(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.



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中国 2010 - China 2010 – By Phillip Hollows

Last year, my school, Caistor Grammar School, announced an opportunity of a lifetime. The opportunity for 18 students in the school to visit one of the world's most diverse cultures: China.

As expected, there was a high demand for places on the trip, and after a successful application, I was asked to be part of the International Ambassadors; the name given to the group of students going to China. In the exciting build up to the trip, many people had told me that this was indeed an opportunity of a lifetime, and one I would never forget. They were proven to be correct.

The first thing I noticed when arriving at my host family's apartment, in Tangshan, China, was their warmth and hospitality. On arrival, I was hastily presented with my first exposure to Chinese cuisine – I can assure you, it is nothing like a Chinese takeaway!

One of the most prominent memories of China is the morning exercises. At 9am every school day, the vast majority of schools in China have morning exercises. 4000 students simultaneously performing martial arts. Undeniably, one of the most obscure, fascinating and slightly daunting things I have ever seen.

Whilst in China, I was visited by May Rong, a friend who lives in Beijing, and a person who a few people in Elsham may know. My host family welcomed her into their house as if they were quite literally old friends. Astonishing to see. China has a reputation of a hard, unforgiving country; particularly in the Human Rights region. I saw another side. I saw the strong friendship, undying willing to care for others in the community, and strong family orientated nature of Chinese families. Even between complete strangers such as between May and my host family, the interest and generosity the Chinese show to each other is absolutely amazing. It certainly put me at a lot of ease staying in the family's house for over a week. This was very refreshing, and slightly surprising to see.

In the second week, we left Tangshan and went to stay in Beijing. We were lucky enough to visit a number of China's tourist attractions. Such places included the Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square and of course, the 2008 Olympic venues, places I had only previously seen in newspapers and on television. In my eyes, they certainly lived up to their reputation.

Whilst living in China, I was subjected to feelings I had never felt before. These feelings culminated into providing a surreal, absorbing and fantastic experience, and most definitely one I shall never forget. I made friends which will last a lifetime, witnessed one of the most captivating cultures on the planet, and overall, had indisputably, one of the best times of my life.

Phillip Hollows



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 nd Tuesday 6.30 – 8.00pm except January and August Next meetings :- Tues 8 th March, Tues 12 th April Parish Council 3 rd Tuesday 6.45 – 8.00pm (except April, August and December) Wine Club - fortnightly on a Tuesday 8.00 – 10.00 pm. Next meetings Tuesday 15 th March, Tuesday 29 th March
Wednesday	Bowls Club 7.00 – 9.00pm
Thursday	No regular events
Friday	Country night, monthly on 2 nd Friday Next meeting –Friday 11 th March at 7pm with Darren Busby
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.

Roland Guest, Treasurer

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

Found

After the thaw in the tobogganing field – one man's metallic watch.

Contact – Dodds 01652 688396

Stevenson and Julian Trust

Way back in 1663, retired Elsham Vicar, John Julian, left the sum of 52 shillings per annum to purchase six 2 penny loaves of bread to be given to needy residents every Lord's day and 52 shillings per annum for young apprentices.

Two hundred years later, George Stevenson left in his will of 1803, £100.00 per annum to be distributed annually on December 21st to all needy residents for fuel, food and other vital needs.

Throughout the entire history of this Trust, the objective of the trustees has been the relief, either generally or individually for residents suffering hardship or distress – making grants of money or providing or paying for items required for education or apprenticeship.

Over the last century young persons have been helped with examination fees, ballet shoes etc. Senior citizens have benefitted from shop vouchers and financial support for the Annual Christmas Party.

The Fund is held in Charity Bonds at the Charity Commission UK.

Should any Elsham resident like to request support at anytime, please do not hesitate. A request will be treated in absolute confidence by the trustees.

Present Trustees are :- Ex – Officio Rev. Batty, Mr John Tomlinson, representatives of the Parish Council and Anne Dodds (Secretary) 26 Front Street, Elsham. 688396

The Elsham Indoor Bowls Club

The club are midway through the season playing in the Bishop Norton League and hold a mid – table position. With the bad weather and problems in the Village Hall, many fixtures have had to be re – arranged, but our captain, Martin Robinson, has coped well with all the problems in this, his first season, in the office. Members meet on Wednesday and Sunday evenings in the village hall at 7pm. Anyone interested are welcome to attend. We have a charge of £1.50 per evening which includes tea and biscuits. The club dinner was held at the Golf Club on Thursday 20th January. It was well attended and everyone enjoyed the social get together.

John Tomlinson, Secretary.

The Royal British Legion

The Legion would like to thank the residents of Elsham for raising the sum of £174.83 during the Poppy Appeal. Thanks go to Roger Frankish who did the house to house collection. Without this help the British Legion would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work.

Roger and Elizabeth Frankish have now carried out the appeal collection in this area for over 27 years and now feel it is time to hand over to someone else. If anyone feels they can continue where Roger and Elizabeth (Betty to her many friends) have left off due to illness and age, please give me a ring.

John Tomlinson

Tel – 688221

Thank you

During the very bad weather, many neighbours and friends came to offer me help with my shopping, snow clearing etc. I would like to thank them all. It is good to know that the spirit of friendship is well and truly alive in our village.

Kindness is a friendly face

When one is growing old.

Kindness is a glowing warmth

When all the world is cold.

Kindness is a "something"

We never really see.

But how immense the difference

It makes to you and me.

John Tomlinson
2 Church Street

Parish Maps

Also in the last edition of "The Leader" I mentioned that the CPRE (Council for the Preservation of Rural England) are keen for parishes to create parish maps.

These can take whatever form reflects individual or local interest.

I have begun a series of maps showing the age of buildings and how the village has grown and am beginning the research for a map of buildings which used to exist. For instance, we know there used to be a reading room and a cobbler's shop.

Someone may like to take on the project of making a model of the village or embroider a map. If you have an interest in the Second World War, you might like to do something about recording the old airfield.

If you are interested or have information or ideas, please meet in the village hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 10th March.

Lorraine Guest

All Saints' Church

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the decoration of our Village Church for Christmas Festival.

Thank you also to everyone who sent donations to Church in lieu of Christmas cards. With ever-rising costs the money will be put to good use.

Mrs. Leona Hesketh. We were sad to hear of the death of Leona.

Prior to leaving Elsham to live in Norwich near her daughter, Leona was an enthusiastic worker for both Village and Church events. Leona's culinary skills were always a valuable contribution.

The church service on 13th March at 10.00am will be dedicated to Leona Hesketh. After the service her ashes will be interred in the churchyard. Leona and her husband Bill, lived in Elsham for many years and were both very active in the community

Easter Sunday. As our vicar is unable to conduct our Easter Day Service this year being involved with Services at other Churches in the Parish, it seemed sad that after many centuries of celebrating this great Festival our Village Church would be closed. However we are very fortunate that the Reverend John Cole has accepted our invitation to conduct the Service on that day at 10.a.m. An invitation is extended to everyone so that a large congregation is present. If you are not a regular attendee do come along – bring a friend. It would do good to have a Village Get-together on this day.

Barbara Phipps

Youth Meetings - An opportunity for young people of all ages to come together to share fun and worship. Dates and evenings will be advertised, on Elsham Church Notice Board.

It may be possible to provide transport.

The Great Poppy Weekend

10th June to 12th June 2011



The Parish Council are hoping to support this, the 90th anniversary of The British Legion.

So far a barbeque at the village hall has been suggested.

We would like to involve all age groups in a variety of events, so if you have an idea for an activity or are willing to help, please let me know on 01652 680679 or email r8alg@tiscali.co.uk

Concert - Saturday, 18th June at 7.p.m.

The Sine Nominee Choir conducted by Sue Hollingworth will be performing in Church. The members of the Choir will travel from many parts of the Country and their performance is always of a very high professional standard. Sue Hollingworth is a very well-known Conductor.

Tickets price £10 include a supper which will be served in the Village Hall. Please contact Barbara Phipps, Tel 01652 688708 or members of Parochial Church Council.

Advertising

For commercial advertising

The Elsham Leader charges £32.00 for four inserts (4 issues per year)
No more than ¼ page in size.

Parish Council Notice Board

50p per week (minimum 4 weeks) When space is available.
Advertising for fund raising/charitable events – free

Snow and Frost

At the beginning of December, Elsham experienced one of its heaviest snowfalls for decades. The freezing temperatures and further accumulations of snow meant that travel and looking after limb and property was extremely difficult for many residents. The roads remained snow covered for most of December and it was not until early February that the last mounds of snow and ice finally melted.

Many homes had frozen and burst pipes and suffered accordingly. Those who were affected were often helped enormously by friends and neighbours, to whom thanks are due. It seemed that an ability to help anyone and everyone was apparent at the time and it would be good to see this attitude continue.

The village hall sadly suffered its first major catastrophe since it was rebuilt. During the very cold temperatures just before Christmas, water pipes in the roof void burst and water flooded out for perhaps a couple of days before the next visit. Repairs, covered mainly by insurance, Are ongoing and residents will forgive the relatively minor disruption whilst things are returned to normal.



The road was treacherous, but the scenery was very attractive.



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For further information contact me on

Elsham :- 01652 689279

Mobile :- 07519 691165

Email :- tracyaj@btinternet.com