

# *Elsham Leader* – February 2015

Well! Here we are again.....

Only half a dozen people replied to my request for comments as to whether we continue the "Leader" as it is or join with the other Low Villages in a larger newspaper.

Do I take it that the rest are happy with things as they are? Do they not care either way or is this newsletter simply not read?

Only one person voted to join with other villages, so the Parish Council has decided we should continue as before for the time being and just borrow some of the announcements from the Low Villages paper. (See on a later page)



## Signs of Spring

I like to keep a note of the date the first wild daffodils in the churchyard come into bloom. The earliest I have seen them in previous years has been 17<sup>th</sup> January. This year it was the 12<sup>th</sup>. The very first ones are in a little patch facing south and close to Front Street. As I write the churchyard is white with snowdrops and that will soon change to blue when the anemone blandas come into bloom. Up towards the quarry there are plenty of yellow winter aconites to be seen. I regret not keeping a record of the succession of plants that colonised the quarry once a layer of soil had been laid on top of the bare chalk. There are plenty of wild flowers to be seen in there now throughout the year.

As the weather warms and people begin to enjoy time in their gardens again, I have been asked that people consider their neighbours and keep the noise of machinery, music and dogs to a minimum especially on Sundays.

### A note for your diary!

By popular request the PCC of All Saints Church Elsham have organised another **QUIZ NIGHT**. It is to take place on **Friday 27th of February** in the village hall. Bob Hassel has kindly agreed to once again be our quiz master. There will be the usual supper of steak pie, chips, mushy peas and gravy with a raffle and bar serving wine etc.

To reserve your tickets telephone Anne and Innes on 680705. Tickets priced at £10 per head. There will also be a raffle and raffle prizes would be gratefully received and can be given to any PCC member.

ALL PROCEEDS TO ALL SAINTS CHURCH ELSHAM

## Extracts from “The Low Villages” newsletter.

### The Low Villages Cinema

Last summer, Saxby All Saints Village Hall Committee embarked on an ambitious project to create a local high quality community cinema facility.

In December the committee learned that the grant application to help fund the purchase of the “state of the art” equipment had been generously approved by WREN.

While the contract has yet to be placed and the complex installation carefully project managed, it is hoped that the cinema could launch as early as April 2015.

The cinema will screen both modern and classic films in order to meet the wide ranging demands of the Low Villages demographics.

Families from all the Low Villages will benefit from the “lower than standard” theatre prices which should prove popular with children and parents alike.

The major grant, around £10,000 will go toward the purchase and installation of the advanced equipment. The screen itself is likely to be around 12 ft wide and the grant application includes provision for a high quality audio system, specifically designed to compensate for the natural echo often associated with large open halls.

Alongside this, Saxby Village hall will be upgrading its seating provision and making general improvements to the kitchen with a view to offering a fuller theatre experience.

A spokesman for the Village Hall said, “The generosity of WREN has given us a fantastic opportunity to improve the Hall facilities but more importantly, it gives families in our rural villages access to cinema, something that most people in towns take for granted.”

### The History of the Ancholme Valley

Well, we all live in the Ancholme Valley – the villages perched on the spring line on the chalk escarpment, looking west across the marshland and enjoying the view to the limestone ridge where lies the Roman Ermine Street.

Living and enjoying is one thing – but, what do we know of the history of the Ancholme?

Three remarkable Bronze Age boats and a trackway have been found in the Ancholme and from Appleby, we have a ritual hoard of bronze weapons. Mosaic pavements show the Horkstow Roman Villa to have been magnificent and finds from South Ferriby suggest that it was a place of great importance. Tantalising evidence of Anglo- Saxon cemeteries and settlements show activity in the vale after the end of the Roman period.

So – to learn and enjoy do come to Horkstow Church of St. Maurice on **Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** from 7.00pm. for an illustrated talk on The History of the Ancholme Valley to be given by Dr. Kevin Leahy FSA. MCif A

Dr. Leahy was the archaeologist at the N. Lincolnshire Museum for 29 years.

Tickets £7.50 pre-booked (£10.00 nor reserved)

01652 618329 or 01652 618029

Children FOC - Includes refreshments

### North Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire Woodcarvers Association

This group is planning an open weekend at Easter in Saxby village hall. There will be talks, demonstrations and workshops. For further details contact Howard Boyd on 01652 618071 ohboyd@ icloud.com

## Elsham Indoor Bowls Club

The club are doing well in the Bishop Norton League. In the Knock out Cup we have reached the semi finals. This is quite an achievement, being in the best last four in the area.

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January, we were entertained by three members (and a dog) from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The money from our charity event was donated by the winner Annette Robinson to this worthy cause. It was a very entertaining and informative evening. We were surprised how intelligent the dog had become after many years of training. It had saved the owner's life on a few occasions and was helpful in so many other ways.

In the club's Open Triples competition, the winners were Christine Brewer and Kenneth Simpkin and Jim Reid. This was a daytime event followed by an excellent buffet meal provided by the members.

John Tomlinson

### 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.

## Elsham Parish Council

### Did you know that you can attend Parish Council meetings?

### Public participation time, when you can air your views, is between 6.45 and 7.00pm

The dates of meetings are given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Your Parish Councillors are:-

Graham Evison (Chairman)  
(680980)  
Siobhan Hollows (Deputy Chairman)  
(07766 770056)

Sophie Dunn (680676)  
Lorraine Guest (680679)  
David Dent (688766)  
John Taylor (680438)  
Paul Richardson (688467)

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

### From the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015

Resolved – set the precept for 2015/16 at £8,000.

The Parish council discussed the budgetary requirements for the next financial year in great depth and decided that due to two projects that the Parish Council is pursuing and their anticipated cost implications an increase was necessary. The two projects are the new children's play area and the purchase of the quarry. Funding is required to assist in grant aid and future maintenance. Cllr. Richardson voted against the rise in the precept and asked for this to be minuted.

## Sprucing up the Village

The gardening/growing season will soon be upon us and we may well again enter for the Best Kept Village Competition.

We need a little band of volunteers who meet on a regular basis, say for a morning once a fortnight, April to October, to tend the flowers around the village and do other jobs such as cleaning the street signs and the notice board, clearing debris from footpaths etc.

Meeting together would be good for community spirit and cohesion.

If you are interested, please phone or email Lorraine Guest on 1652 680679 or [lguest@talktalk.net](mailto:lguest@talktalk.net)

## Elections

With all the publicity in the media, it is difficult not to be aware that national elections take place in early May. Local and Parish elections take place at the same time. There will not be another "Leader" before then so look on the website, village notice board and the local press for information.

## Thefts from Sheds and Garages

There have been two recent incidents of thefts from sheds in the village and I have received this message :-

There were 13 incidents on Mon/Tues night, 9/10<sup>th</sup> February of attempts, and actual, non- dwelling burglaries. These have happened throughout North Lincs using different approaches. The majority of incidents were against unsecured outbuildings including garages and sheds. Please secure any outbuildings and be vigilant. Please report any suspicious activity.

Tracey Coyne  
Safer Neighbourhoods Officer  
Tel 01724 244634 / 07557 566214

## Update Re Melton Ross Bridge

North Lincolnshire LA has been informed, following extensive investigations, that a new bridge is needed which will cost in the region of £5.8 million. Work cannot begin for 3-4 years because of the large proportion of this country's imports through this route.

Shoring up the old bridge will cost £300,000. This should be completed by August which will guarantee the bridge for the next five years and allow HGVs to use it. The traffic lights will remain in place until then.

*Meanwhile, the construction of the roundabout at the airport has begun, and a start on the Hilton Hotel is imminent. The AirSea rescue helicopter base should be completed this Spring and the roundabout above Barnetby village on the Brigg/Melton Ross road is due to begin in June*

## Brigg Singers

Brigg Singers are a mixed choir who meet every Monday evening at Brigg Methodist Church at 7.30pm.

The choir undertakes a number of concerts and private bookings over the course of the year performing a wide repertoire of songs. They are always looking for new members, especially men. The ability to read music is helpful, but not essential.

If you are interested in joining this active group, then go along any Monday evening, or call the Acting Secretary on 01724 842485.

Also, if you would like the choir to perform a concert for your organization; residential home; group etc. then please call the same number.

David Carrick  
Publicity Officer  
Brigg Singers

## My Childhood on a Farm by Joan Barker

I found this in a copy of "The Lincolnshire Poacher" Spring 2004

I wonder if anyone remembers the author or any places or incidents mentioned in the piece.

It could be that "Barker" is her married name.

" I often read of days long gone in the town and how hard life was, but life was tough in the country too in different ways. Maybe we had more and better food but it had to be worked for and there was no running to the corner shop. My childhood was spent on **Elsham Top Farm** and I'm still scraping the mud from my boots.

It was two miles to school in all weathers and nothing but open country all the way. The first and only house we passed on the hill down to school was Elsham vicarage. Miss Watson was the Headmistress and the only teacher in the top class of about forty children in five classes running concurrently. If teachers today find their life hard, I wonder how they would have managed that. Winnie Watson's assistant, Dolly Beeston took charge of infants in the little room. She had a long stick with a knob at one end and a pointer at the other. This doubled as a knuckle rapper but I never saw her use the knob. Miss Beeston also taught me piano at her home in the village after which there was still the two miles uphill trudge home.

At the beginning of the Second World War, Elsham aerodrome was built and this brought improvements to the road and a little spice to the lonely journey. Wellington bombers and then Lancasters were parked along the roadside and young RAF lads often gave me a cheery wave as they swarmed like ants over the huge machines. It may have added a little zest but also brought us into the path of danger when the Luftwaffe were trying to knock out airfields near the east coast. Our farm was

a sitting duck between the aerodrome and a battery of nearby searchlights and came in for one or two damaging raids.

One of the hardest things of my childhood was the isolation from peers. These were lonely days; nobody was going to walk two miles for the privilege of playing with me on a Saturday. The best times were when cousins came to stay for holidays or a weekend. The wonder of having someone to share bedtimes with is a treasured memory; someone to confide in and giggle with. It's a terrifying experience to have to get out of bed on a dark night when you're convinced there is someone under it.

Food rationing didn't affect us much because Dad foraged in the fields with the dog and came home with a rabbit, pheasant or some partridge eggs. He worked a vegetable garden and we had hens, fresh milk and a pig every year so never had to queue for these as they did in town. The milk may have been untreated from unvaccinated cows and the pig and hens fed on household scraps, but we survived these trivialities. It sounds luxurious but letters for the Post Office had to be taken the two and a half miles to the village and other supplies hauled uphill home, sometimes on a sledge. A Barnetby grocer, W & H Smith delivered the bulkiest provisions fortnightly in his van but anything between visits and forgotten items, meant a hike or later a bike ride, and in deep snow of long-ago winters often on foot.

The farm had no electricity and of course, no heating other than a coal range in the kitchen and on special occasions a fire in the sitting room. Paraffin lamps supplied lighting and a candle lit the way to bed which was warmed with a hot water bottle. Anybody remember chilblains? There was no bathroom at the farm and no running water inside. Fresh water was carried into the house from an outside tap at the corner of the buildings and dirty water collected in

a bucket and thrown outside. Personal hygiene was taken care of over a bowl in the pantry among the milk, salted pig meat and other foodstuffs. The pantry window looked out onto the crew yard, with perforated zinc to keep out the flies. It didn't stop the smell of cows drifting in to mingle with the lifebuoy toilet soap. One of my jobs was to cut newspaper squares for the outside toilet, housed in a honeysuckle covered shed across the garden - only one hole in ours. I learned a lot about life from the News of the World.

Another of my "sometimes" jobs was to turn the butter. Mum collected the cream from the twice- daily milking and poured this into a large glass churn with a handle at the top to rotate the paddles inside.. Sometimes agitating the cream took ages to coagulate into rich yellow butter, at other times it came after ten or twenty minutes. However long, it seemed weeks when your arm ached fit to drop off. The butter was washed several times, salted, then turned onto a board and shaped into pound slabs with wooden "hands".

If an excursion was being made into Grimsby, the mud could only be avoided by using wellies and carrying shoes in hand to change at the roadside. Then came the one and a half mile trudge to Barnetby crossroads to catch the old Primrose bus to Brighowgate, via the villages of Croxton and Kirmington, a journey of one hour. A train accomplished the journey faster but that was a further half mile to Barnetby station and uphill home.

Alighting at Docks station if we went to town by train, Mum and I delivered farm "goodies" to Grandad Wallace, who was an old fisherman lodging in Orwell Street. After that we walked over the bridge into Central market where we caught a number 5 bus to Gilbey Road to visit my Great Aunt Anne Calthorpe at No.97 and my Aunt Alice Swain at No 101 who was only a

relative by marriage.. This was my favourite spot in the entire world. There were cousins Connie and Peg and of course their brother Jim who spoiled all our games and was the biggest tease ever. Young Alice was older and a Land Army girl in the war years. Her twin brother Billy was lost in a torpedoed ship in Canada. In later years these visits would include a jaunt to the Rex or Globe and Saturday dance night at the Tin Mission and the wonder of bright lights, dance music and being taught to dance by the wonderful new invention, boys, brought a lonely childhood into teens and growing up.



**All Saints' Church, Elsham Services**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February      11am  
Rev. John Cole

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March      11am  
Rev. Sid Andrew  
(a previous vicar of our church)

Barbara Phipps

## Information about the village and events

Apart from this newsletter, information can be found on the 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

Tuesday **New Age Kurling**

10.00 - 12.00

**Parish Council**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 6.45 – 8.00pm (except April, Aug & Dec).

*Next meetings: -*                      Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
   Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February  
   Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March

**Wine Club**

Fortnightly on a Tuesday 8.00 – 10.00 pm. (started again 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015)

*New members welcome – telephone Roland Guest (680679) for further details.*

Wednesday **Bowls Club**

7.00 – 9.00pm

Thursday **Line Dancing**                      – social evening 7- 10 pm

Friday **Country Night**                      Monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 7.00pm

Sunday **Bowls Club**

7.00 – 9.00pm

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

**Sandra Rawlin**

3 Doll Lane, Elsham

Tel:- 01652 681899

**John Tomlinson**

2 Church Street, Elsham

Tel:- 01652 688221

**Roland Guest**

5 Church Street, Elsham

Tel:- 01652 680679

**John Taylor**

Little Bolingbroke

5 Hall Lane, Elsham

Tel:- 01652 680438

# KEVIN BILTON

## LANDSCAPE GARDENER

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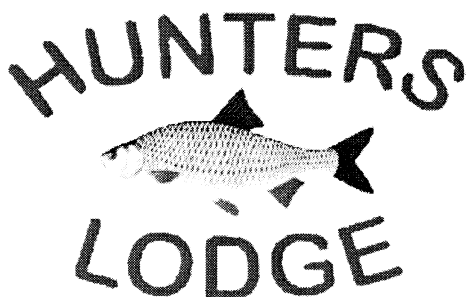
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