

# Elsham Leader Autumn 2022



**Best Kept Village awards 2022**



It was with some trepidation that we embarked on our first year of planning and organising the village planting – hoping to fill the gap left by the retirement of Lorraine Guest, who did it so well for many years. We soon realised what a complicated and time-consuming job it is, planning the arrangements and colour schemes, then buying plants and finally planting up the many tubs, planters and flower beds in the village. Anyway, we got it all done by the end of May and as mentioned in the last Leader, we recruited a team of volunteers to water the various areas. Little did we know then how exceptionally hot and dry this summer would be. Watering became a daily task, and it is only thanks to the efforts of our team of waterers (and the people who allowed us to use their taps) that our flowers did so well despite the heat and drought.

Judging for the Best Kept Village competition was at the end of July when the weather was at its hottest and the grass was at its brownest and everyone’s efforts paid off when Elsham was declared joint first with Low Burnham (last year’s winners) in the Best Kept Small Village class. Elsham also won the Best Churchyard class. We will be updating the Elsham street signs at each end of the village to mark our victory!

The judges praised our “very attractive” playground, commenting on the well-trimmed hedge and grass. The churchyard was described as “most attractive in a lovely setting with well cut grass and well-maintained paths”. They particularly liked the floral displays in the pots by the west door. The village community planting was described as “excellent, with high quality floral displays at various locations”. The planting at the Village Hall was particularly praised as were the “excellent, colourful displays throughout the village”.

None of this could not have happened without the hard work and commitment of the volunteers who helped with planting, watering, sweeping and tidying. Thank you to you all. We hope to have another go next year and are always looking for more helpers so please contact me if you are able to assist.

On the previous page are a few pictures of the village highlights.

Andrew Horner

Andrew and Di were also awarded an Environmental Award for recognition of their hard work litter picking, planting and caring for the village displays. Here they are receiving the award.



**Elsham Parish Council forthcoming dates are:**

18<sup>th</sup> October 2022

15<sup>th</sup> November 2022

17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**From 6.30pm until 8pm.**

### **Your Parish Councillors are:**

Sandra van Oosterhout (**Chair**) – 681899, [cllr.svanoosterhout@elshamparish.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.svanoosterhout@elshamparish.gov.uk)

Andrew Horner (**Vice Chair**) – 680471, [cllr.ahorner@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ahorner@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Jane Ousby – 680827, [cllr.jousby@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.jousby@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Mark Wood – 07471 997323, [cllr.mwood@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.mwood@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Steve Moir – 680568, [cllr.moir@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.moir@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Sarah Burton – [cllr.sburton@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.sburton@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Parish Clerk – Holly Hanson**

Tel: 07393 21 30 30 Email: [clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Correspondence Address: Appledore, 26 Main Street, Horkstow, Barton-upon-Humber, DN18 6BG

Website: [www.elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **Andrew Percy MP**

Our MP (Brigg and Goole constituency) is Andrew Percy.

His constituency office contact details, should you wish to contact him about anything, are:

2 Morley's Yard, Brigg, DN20 8JD

Tel 01652 650094

[www.andrewpercy.org](http://www.andrewpercy.org)

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### **Tesco Bags of Help**

From the first week of October until mid-January 2023, if you go into the Brigg Tesco's you will be able to use your token to vote for a project in Elsham. It is a Wildlife Education & Conservation project put forward by the parish council, focusing on hedgehogs and making Elsham a hedgehog-friendly village. Some of you may already know that a former Elsham resident, Vee Harness, has set up a hedgehog village at Elsham Hall, where she takes in hedgehogs that have been rescued and are ready for release, and when they have spent some time there in semi-wild conditions, she releases them locally. The money from the grant will pay for some hedgehog houses to be distributed throughout the village in interested residents' gardens, and some may be asked to give supplementary food to a hedgehog being released. Vee will give a talk about how we can support hedgehogs in our gardens, and there will be opportunities for Elsham families to go to Elsham Hall on free nature trails with Vee in the summer. We are excited about this opportunity to do something positive to help our hedgehogs, and if we received a lot of support from residents, we would love to list Elsham as a hedgehog-friendly village. More details will follow next year when voting ends at Tesco's.

Sandra van Oosterhout

## **New Handyman**

Earlier this year we recruited an enthusiastic new handyman who had not yet moved into the village. John Clayforth and his wife will be moving into their house on Maltkiln Lane any week now, and we very much look forward to working with him. One of his first major jobs is building us some tawny owl and other owl boxes, which we will put in the quarry. Below is an introduction to John – if you see him around, do stop and say hello!



Hello everyone. My name is John. Having retired from a long and highly frenetic career in the Police Force I have, only this summer, relocated to Elsham together with my wife, two sons and pet cat (the 'boss'). In the short space of time that I've lived in Elsham I have really come to appreciate our unique and naturalised setting and to value the calm aspects of village life. I feel fortunate to live in a picturesque, unspoilt and well-tended village, one that is worth cherishing in all its aspects. To this end I look forward to working in partnership with the local community in assuming the role of handyperson to Elsham PC.

Alongside my professional role, for many years I have redesigned and renovated a succession of properties from characterful cottages through to town houses and more. Through always pursuing this enjoyable 'second job' I have gained numerous property, landscape and garden improvement skills. I'm anticipating that there will be similar scope to indulge this 'hobby' in Elsham, both in my new home and beyond. Whether this involves repairing something that needs fixing, crafting new assets or supporting the abundance of nature around us, I shall be available. I would like to think of myself as a reliable person, a helping pair of hands to keep our village safe, secure and scenic.

## **Speed Signs**

The observant among you will have noticed two metal posts appearing, one near the new housing on Barnetby Lane, and one near the playpark. These are to house flashing speed signs. Rather than hiring them from the council, all of the low villages have come together to purchase two signs, which will be moved around the villages on a rotation basis. They will first be in each village for a short period so that we can check the set-up, and then they will be spending four weeks in each one, rotating round so we will have them several times a year. You will be familiar with these as they are now a common sight, and they are a useful and effective reminder to drivers that they should not be exceeding 30 mph through the village. There will always be a few drivers who still go over the speed limit, but with these and the Speed Watch teams regularly visiting the village, we are doing all we can to keep these to a minimum.

### **Please be considerate towards others – dog poo and bonfires**

We are constantly seeing complaints about dog poo that has not been picked up. Please think about others and make sure that you (and any visitors) have dog bags when they set out for a walk with a dog, and use them. If you are spotted not picking up after your dog, there is a minimum fine of £80 rising to £1000 for repeat offenders. And people are on the lookout for the culprits!

As autumn approaches and there is a lot of trimming to be done in the garden, some people start to think about having bonfires. While it is not against the law to light a bonfire, there are certain guidelines to stop it being a nuisance to others, as nuisance bonfires can result in action from Environmental Health. Please be courteous and light any fires when it is least likely to cause a nuisance, and consider the direction of the wind so as to avoid smoke blowing towards neighbours' properties. Alert neighbours if possible so that they know not to put the washing out! Do not leave a fire unattended, it is a good idea to have a bucket of water ready should the fire suddenly flare and spread, and of course if the waste has been left for several days before being lit, do check for hedgehogs and other wildlife before lighting the fire.



### **Can you help with a litter pick? Saturday 22/10 at 10am**



Now that the grass verges have been cut on Barnetby Lane, the litter is again revealed! Last time we did a litter pick there, several people mentioned that they would like to help, so we are getting extra equipment in ready to tackle it again. We have set the date for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 10am. One group will cover from Newland Hill junction to half-way up Barnetby Lane and the other will start at the garage end and work down towards the village. To organise groups and equipment please contact:

Sandra on 681899 or email [cldr.svanoosterhout@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.svanoosterhout@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
or Andrew on 680471 or email [cldr.ahorner@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.ahorner@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk)

### **YOUR HELP MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!**

## **AUTUMN IS NOW WELL AND TRULY HERE.**

Well, that is what I am officially advised by Google. Apparently, the autumn equinox marks the start of the season, so it took place on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Equinoxes mark the start of spring and autumn, while solstices mark the start of summer and winter (and I did not know this fact, even after being on this planet for over 70 years).

This time of the year marks more of a planning time for the Church Calendar, as the RAF Remembrance Sunday is in the first week of November (November the 6<sup>th</sup> to be precise [10.30 am]), the usual Remembrance Service follows on the 13<sup>th</sup> November [10.45 am], and then Christmas time is in the near future – Midnight mass is at Elsham, 11:45pm, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

This year has been a lot better than the past few years, with many of us venturing back out into the world, and events re-opening slowly. People are re-grouping back into their weekly clubs and events, and a little more normality is happening. Many of the clubs and events are picking

up in the Village Hall, but I do know that the numbers of people attending have been down. It has been very difficult for a lot of people, especially those whose health is not as good as it should be. That fear of getting back out into the world still exists in a great deal of people.

The events that took place over the last few months have been good. Our Open Gardens and Flower Festival raised over £1,500 for the funds to help with the ongoing and needed repairs to the Church, and our Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £45, which was very good and was gratefully received by Macmillan. We also had the Street Sale and Queen's Platinum Jubilee, for which we thank everyone who arranged and helped with these events. Thank you also to everyone who attended all these events – it really does make a difference.

I would like to name one or two people who have contributed a great deal to supporting our Church. Mrs. Lorraine Guest for her sale of plants; Mr. Mel Welton for his floral displays outside the Church; Mr. Martyn Clark for his gardening and maintenance of the Churchyard; and Mrs. Hazel Gray and Mr. Terry Faulkner for clearing huge amounts of ivy from trees. Also, we are so grateful to so many people – too many to name personally who have contributed so much of their time and effort to helping raise funds in an attempt to save our Church. The monies raised not only help with maintenance, they also help to pay the fees we have to pay to the Diocese to keep our Church open.

When my husband and myself came to Elsham nearly eight years ago, we had no idea how much the village, its people and the Church would come to mean to us. We gained new friends, a place which is now our permanent home, and, most of all, a new family in the people of Elsham and All Saints Church.

I have learned that Family does not just consist of those people we are related to, but when you know you always have people in a village, and those in an Old Medieval Church, who are always there when you need support and help – that is a very special kind of Family.

God only asks us to Love, be kind, not to judge and to offer friendship. Thank you Elsham people for being that kind of people.

#### **DAWN ENSER**

**Lay Minister, Churchwarden, Treasurer & Safeguarding Officer  
All Saints Church PCC, Elsham**

**Our Services start at 11.00am 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Sundays.**

*The second service of the month is a Holy Communion Service, led by Revd. Lee Gabel, and the other one is a lay-led service led by Dawn Enser (Lay Minister)*

**Tea and coffee are served at the end of each service, and EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

**Church coffee mornings are at the Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month – please come for a chat and a cup of tea!**



## Elsham Village Golf competition

Thank you to everyone who played in gorgeous weather this year.

Listening to everyone over a pint I think we all had an enjoyable afternoon.

Congratulations to the top three, particularly to Ross McFarlane (pictured right), who played an absolute stunning round of golf with a score of gross 2 over par, which was a pleasure to watch.



The results were as follows:

1st. -	Ross McFarlane.	42 points
2nd -	Jez Walters.	40 points
3rd. -	Graham Evison.	36 points

Thanks again and I hope to see you all again next year on the 50th anniversary of this competition.

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SAVE THE DATE!!!

### **ELSHAM CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT SWITCH ON!**

Friday 2nd December 2022 at the Village Hall from 6:00pm.

Everyone is welcome.

Come along for a sing song and get into the Christmas spirit or just enjoy a warm mulled wine and mince pie or a hot chocolate and a biscuit.

Donations made on the night will all go to Elsham Church fund.

Looking forward to seeing you all there – let's celebrate together.

Sarah Burton

## EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL

<b>Monday</b>	Yoga	4.30 – 5.30 p.m.
	Bowls Club	6.30 – 8.30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday</b>	New Age Kurling	10.00am – 12.00 p.m.
	Parish Council	Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, 6.30 – 8.00 p.m. (except August and December).
	Wine Club	Fortnightly on a Tuesday 8.00 – 10.00 p.m. (Roland Guest's contact details below).
<b>Wednesday</b>	Bowls Club	7.00 – 9.00 p.m. (except May – August)
<b>Thursday</b>	Upholstery	10am – 4 p.m.
	Line Dancing	7.00 – 9.00 p.m.

### Contact details re keys/booking etc. for Elsham Village Hall

**Sandra van Oosterhout**  
3 Doll Lane, Elsham  
**Tel:- 01652 681899**

**Roland Guest**  
5 Church Street, Elsham  
**Tel:- 01652 680679**