

Elsham Leader Autumn 2021



New Quarry Entrance Gate

A new gate has been installed at the Front Street entrance to the nature reserve, so that there is now a wide opening to allow vehicular and disabled access, and a kissing gate at the side for pedestrians. If any resident wishes to enter the quarry with a wheelchair or mobility scooter, please contact a member of the parish council for the code for the padlock and advice on which paths to take.

Your Village Needs YOU!

You may have wondered who plants up and looks after the tubs, troughs and flower beds around the village? Who cleans the street signs and keeps the village free of litter? It's not the council, it's a small group of volunteers who call themselves the Elsham Elves. Thanks to their efforts we have a lovely looking village and this year we came joint third in the Best Kept Village competition.

Unfortunately, however, due to recent retirements our numbers have dwindled to such an extent that unless we recruit some new members, we will no longer be able to keep the village looking as colourful as it does now. It's not just a question of whether we enter the Best Kept Village competition next year – it's much more than that. It's a question of whether we can have any flowers at the Village Hall, the phone box, in the centre of the village, or in the troughs under the street signs.

So, we are appealing to you for your help. You can choose how much time (and when) you want to spend helping, and you don't need to be an expert gardener – we just need some more volunteers. Anything you can do will help us to keep the village looking good. It could be as little as watering and dead heading a tub or planter near your own home or it could be getting involved in planting up the public areas of the village.

If you fancy some fresh air, gentle exercise and company, not to mention the satisfaction of seeing the village looking its best then please contact either:

Andrew Horner on 680471 or Sandra van Oosterhout on 681899

Best Kept Village Competition 2021

The Elsham Elves team were hoping to improve on our last year's placing of joint second in the small villages category. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts we only made third equal. In an effort to be environmentally friendly, peat free compost was used in all the planters around the village. This proved to be challenging because the plants needed more watering and feeding than previously and some of the chosen plants didn't take kindly to the weather we had this "summer". However, many residents were complimentary.

Some areas looked better than others. The planting in the old phone box did well, possibly because it is mostly in the shade. The troughs on the village hall balcony are still in full bloom as I write this. It is rather a hidden garden, but the bank to the far side of the village hall by the kitchen, has been developed this year as a cottage garden and is flourishing. It is worth a look. Debris from the old village hall was dumped here and so rubble and weeds were a problem. A layer of "Strulch" has proved helpful. The area is now a little more visible since the old hawthorn tree by the seat collapsed and has been removed.

The judges commented that "many residents play their part in making Elsham a very attractive and well cared for village." A dozen homes were mentioned specifically and "special mention must be made of the very colourful planting outside many properties at Astley Corner and the excellent display at Jubilee Corner". See the full marking sheet in the notice board at the end of the village hall car park.

Only Sandra van Oosterhout and Andrew and Di Horner are continuing as full time Elves, so new recruits will be needed if the village is to continue to enter the competition.

Lorraine Guest

Reminiscences of a (now Ex) Parish Councillor by Lorraine Guest

I joined the parish council in 1999. We had already been living in the village for eleven years by then and I was interested in how it was developing. John Tomlinson was still chair and I was the only woman councillor at the time, which would have been a little daunting were it not for the fact that Anne Dodds was the clerk. How things have changed! Until my recent resignation, women outnumbered the men.

There have been many changes in the last two decades, but some issues come up again and again. At just my second meeting, it was the purchase of additional dog bins, the cost of which the council decided was beyond their current budget. The council have bought several more dog waste bins over the years, but dog fouling remains a problem. Also, that year, there was concern over drivers exiting the garage ignoring oncoming traffic from Barnetby Lane. Still a concern. As is the Barnetby Lane triangle being repeatedly run over, usually by trucks who were heading for the industrial estate, missing their way and trying to turn around in that dangerous and confined location.

Another serious on-going problem is the amount of water around the village. In March 2003 we asked Anglian water to investigate the water running in Church Street adjacent to the church. That has just got worse and worse, despite the parish council's continued efforts to find a solution. Similarly with water on Front Street where the village pump used to be. Optimistically, in July 2006 the parish council minutes reported that "this has at long last been stopped". Who were we kidding!

Over the years I have been fortunate to have been involved in many positive developments in the village. John Tomlinson told the council of his plans in early 2001 to recommence publication of "The Leader". My husband, Roland and I did that job for quite a few years.

The demolition of the phone box was requested in 2007. Fortunately, that never happened. The council bought it for one penny and it now forms a lovely focus for plants and it is planned to use the inside to house a seed swap.

August 2001 was the start of the great "onion odour" saga that went on until the company processing them and emptying the effluent into the village drains eventually left the industrial estate ten years later. Homes in Front Street, Hall Lane and the top end of Church Street were particularly affected. Things got so bad at one point that families were on the point of being evacuated. Tempers and fumes were equally high!

September 2003 saw the first proposal to create a country park in the quarry and the following January there was a public meeting about it. The Quarry Project, as it was known then, became the responsibility of the parish council in December 2005. The following year the parish council were getting complaints about the stench from the quarry as a form of sewage was spread to create a medium in which to begin planting trees. The Elsham Nature Reserve and Quarry Park has developed to become a valuable amenity used by residents of surrounding villages as well as our own. Now non-native trees are being thinned out and areas of the underlying chalk exposed again to allow the regeneration of natural chalk grassland plants. It has been transformed from the arid, bare chalk quarry into a beautiful area with interest in all seasons.

The first mention of a wind turbine above the village came in January 2004. Who knew then what a furore this would cause? There were some very heated public participation sessions in council meetings and public meetings in which accusations were made and insults hurled. The matter went to a public enquiry and in January 2007 the appealed application was rejected, mainly on the grounds of evidence from the airport, but not before thirty-year-old friendships in the village had been broken, and the then chairman resigned and left the village. This was the lowest point in the history of the parish council and it was then that I became chair!

There have been lighter moments as when the minutes were distributed for approval and it was reported that, "The hardy annual that is located near to the 30 mph on the bend of Barnetby Lane needs pruning". We were all at a loss to know what plant was causing problems until it was recalled that we had been talking about drains (again) and someone had remarked "Oh! That hardy annual".

In February 2008, I suggested that we could spend the interest from the Quarry Project account on new street signs. They were in a parlous state. Some concrete ones were broken, some streets didn't have a sign at all which was of concern had the emergency services been needed. Mrs. Sophie Dunn took on the job of researching designs and obtaining grants. The signs have made such a difference and are much admired, especially by the Elsham Wolds Association whose 576 and 103 roundels are at either end of the signs.

My chairman's report of 2007 said, "No progress has been made on the provision of a children's play area." We just couldn't find a suitable site until in 2013 the Elwes estate offered us land to lease and we could finally get started.

A highlight of my time on the council was when I represented the village at an elaborate ceremony in France to commemorate the airmen from the region who lost their lives in the Second World War. We visited the graves of airmen from Elsham Wolds who had been shot down. It was a moving trip.

Since 1999, I have seen about a dozen new houses built in the village with five more pending and many more extensions, some of considerable size, being completed. The industrial estate has grown with the services and factories there providing employment. The village itself has a valuable asset in the quarry nature reserve, a prize-winning playground and looks attractive with smart street signs and flower beds.

My twenty-two years on the parish council have been both fascinating and frustrating. The wheels of democracy turn slowly, but I believe that everyone has an obligation to contribute something to the community they live in and being on the parish council has been my way of doing so.

All Saints Church by Dawn Enser

Dear Village Resident,

As some of you will know, I am a lay minister, church warden (a duty I share with my friend and colleague Hazel Gray), treasurer & safeguarding officer for our Church of All Saints in Elsham. I am writing on behalf of all the church council, including Revd. Lee Gabel, to ask for help for our church.

Although you may be thinking "Oh the church is after money again", this letter is not just about the money, but the way forward for our church – and for most of the churches in this country. The assumption tends to be made that the Church has lots of money, but this is far from the truth. At the present time, most of the dioceses across the country are many millions of pounds in debt, and this will mean that if something does not happen in the near future, quite a few churches may have to close. We do not receive subsidies from our dioceses; quite the opposite. Each year we pay a parish share to our diocese, to pay for our clergy. The church also has to pay on its own for repairs, bills etc. For Elsham the parish share is currently just short of £4,000, but this will increase over the next few years. I am sure that anyone can work out that if (as we do) we have only 8/10 people coming to services each month, this is a large amount to generate, despite those people who make generous contributions via standing orders through their bank.

To be blunt, IF there is a shortfall in payment towards the parish share for 3 successive years, then the opening of that church will become the subject of a review – they could possibly shut that individual church. At the present time we have thousands of pounds worth of repairs that are needed to the church in Elsham – a medieval church does not maintain itself, regrettably.

I would like to ask you directly a few things to ponder:

- What does your church in Elsham mean to you, not just personally, but for the community?
- Do you need a church for weddings, baptisms, memorials, funerals?
- What would you like to see for the future of the church?
- Do you need the church to do anything for you?

At the present time, IF we do not receive any contributions each month, whether through our church family or any fund-raising efforts, then we would have sufficient funds to pay our Parish Share for possibly the next few years. No repair works could be carried out and the Church may fall into greater disrepair, and at the end of that time we would possibly have no viable capital to pay for even everyday bills. When I started this letter, I mentioned that most people would think this was a call for money, well in its way, it is, but also a cry for help for our Church:

A handful of people cannot maintain the church on their own, but a village of people can.

If anyone is able to make a regular donation each month, however small, this would go a long way to enabling the church to pay its parish share and stay open for the use of the village. I do not usually quote phrases from the Bible, but in a reading from Corinthians, we read that "Each of us must give as we have made up our mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Could I please ask you to consider this – and also the alternative – that the Church closes.

If you are able to help in any way – could you contact me and let me know.

Best Wishes and Blessings.

DAWN ENSER Tel: 01243 688785

ELSHAM PARK NEWS



We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the group who takes the time to open and close the park and keep an eye on it. You really play a vital role in keeping it safe and accessible for the children, and your actions are much appreciated.

We are looking to maybe install a new piece of equipment and would like to make sure that it is something that the children really want to play on, so please let Jane Ousby or any parish councillor know if there is anything you would like to see added.

Considerate Neighbours

Again we have received complaints about dog fouling in the village – please keep an eye on your dog and pick up any mess. It is unacceptable to leave dog mess on the streets and there are plenty of dog bins around the village. ANYONE WITNESSING DOG FOULING OR FINDING DOG MESS ON THE STREET, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO REPORT. Search online for report dog fouling North Lincolnshire or ring North Lincs Council. The last time we spoke to the dog warden about this, he said that they had no reports of dog fouling in Elsham so to them it didn't appear to be an issue. If we don't report it, they don't know that it is a problem.

Please also be considerate to others when lighting bonfires and using noisy power tools.

Please check bonfires before lighting for hedgehogs, which may be sheltering there.

Thank you 😊

RAF ELSHAM WOLDS ASSOCIATION

The Association's reunion did not take place this year due to the COVID risk, but the Lancaster crew were still meant to do a flypast over Anglian Water as they wished to pay tribute to all the men who served in Elsham Unfortunately, the Lancaster was undergoing maintenance and unable to make the flight.

The Association will hold their 2021 Remembrance Service on the 7th November at All Saint's Church Elsham and all are welcome. After the service, a brief act of remembrance and wreath laying will be held in the Memorial Garden in the grounds of the Anglian Water Treatment Works on Middlegate Lane.

Elsham Wine Club

The Wine Club runs fortnightly and we taste red and white wines from a country or region, enabling you to sample different wines. Covid has restricted our meetings over the past 18 months, as with other groups and societies. But I am pleased to announce that the Wine Club will be starting up again.

The dates for this autumn are:

Tuesday 5th October 2021
Tuesday 19th October
Tuesday 2nd November
Tuesday 16th November
Tuesday 30th November
Tuesday 7th December

The meetings commence at 8.00 pm in Elsham Village Hall and are usually over before 10.00 pm.

New members are always welcome.

If you require any more details, please contact Roland Guest on (01652) 680679 or email r8alg1@gmail.com

KCOM

Some of you may have heard and seen about KCOM coming to North Lincolnshire with a full-fibre broadband service. The Parish Council are just passing on this information from KCOM. It is up to individuals to register an interest.

Having access to a quality broadband connection has never been more important. As more of us than ever before are working from home, streaming TV services such as Netflix and staying connected to family and friends online, it's vital that our broadband connections are fast and, above all, reliable. KCOM's full fibre Lightstream broadband is capable of gigafast speeds and, because it's delivered straight to your front door on fibre optic cable, it won't drop out or leave you frustrated with constant buffering. KCOM is connecting communities like Elsham across North Lincolnshire and, where there is demand, we will come! So if you're interested in experiencing the UK's best full fibre network and bringing ultrafast broadband to your community then register your interest now at <https://www.kcom.com/home/connect-my-community/>*

KCOM winner of the UK's Best Telecom Project at the National Technology Awards 2021.

Cucumbers for Charity!

Catherine and Ian Bowmer would like to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone who bought cucumbers from their front on Barnetby Lane. So far they have raised £22 for the RNLI in Cleethorpes and they still have cucumbers for sale.



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE

Sophie and Phil Dunn are kindly donating a Christmas tree for outside the Village Hall. Nearer the time, we will give details of a date for switching on the lights and hopefully joining together in the Village Hall afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies, something we missed very much last year.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

Elsham will be having midnight mass in All Saints Church on **Friday 24th December commencing at 11.30 pm.**

The Village Golf Competition

This year the Elsham Village Golf Competition was held on Saturday 4th September. Congratulations to the winners with a count back on the back nine deciding the winner and a new name on the trophy.

Result:

1st Phil Johnson	- 37 points
2nd Roland Guest	- 37 points
3rd Jon Cook	- 36 points

Next year's competition will be on Saturday 3 September and this will be the 50th playing of the village competition so hopefully with enough numbers we can do something special to commemorate such a milestone.

Graham Evison

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, www.elshamparishcouncil.org.uk. Events taking place in the Village Hall:

Monday	Pilates	4.30 - 5.30pm
Tuesday	New Age Kurling	10.00am - 12.00pm (beginning 19 th October)
	Parish Council	
	Monthly on the 3 rd Tuesday	6.30 - 8.00pm (except April, August and Dec).
	<i>Next meetings:</i>	Tuesday 19 th October 2021 Tuesday 16 th November 2021 Tuesday 18 th January 2022
	Wine Club	Fortnightly on a Tuesday 8.00 -10.00pm.
	Church Coffee Morning	2 nd Wednesday in the month 10.30am -12.00pm (20 th October this month, then 10 th November and 8 th December)
	Bowls Club	7.00 - 9.00pm (except May - August)
Thursday	Upholstery	10am - 4pm
	Pilates	4.30 - 5.30pm
	Line Dancing	7.00 - 9.00pm
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	Bowls Club	5.00 – 7.00pm

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

Chairman
Tony Steeper c/o Holme Farm Residential Home
Tel: 01652 688755

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS AN ELSHAM HEDGEHOG VILLAGE?



Three years ago an ex-resident of Elsham, Vee Harness, used her own funds to set up a hedgehog village at Elsham Hall and in that time over 30 healthy hedgehogs have been released in and around Elsham. So it is not surprising that many of us are having the pleasure of seeing them in our gardens! The idea behind the project is to give hedgehogs a 'soft release' back into the natural environment by providing a stepping stone between being cared for in a sanctuary and living back in the wild. We are lucky to have several hedgehog sanctuaries in the area and the Elsham hedgehog village is closely linked to Caistor Hedgehog Care. Underweight and/or sick hedgehogs are taken to Caistor for expert medical care and feeding up if they are too small to hibernate – autumn is a busy time there! Some can be released back into the gardens and environments they were found in, but others may need to be put back into the wild somewhere else. This is where Elsham hedgehog village comes in. As Vee says, "Just like us when we have been ill or in hospital for a long time, hedgehogs become institutionalised. They need to learn to live in the wild again". Each hedgehog is put into an individual run where it has a shelter but also an area where it can rummage for food, build up muscles and learn again how to search for its own food. Typically, hedgehogs stay there for six weeks and then they are released in our area.

Now is an important time for adult hedgehogs that are going into hibernation. If you are building a shelter for them or putting out a hedgehog box, please do not put newspaper in there as it just absorbs water and makes the shelter damp. Straw or hay is a much better starter material for them. Put in a quiet part of the garden. Last year the hedgehog was put on to the Red List for British Mammals and officially classified as vulnerable to extinction so they really need our help! If you see a hedgehog out during the day this is often an indication that something is not quite right. You can pick a hedgehog up and put it in a box and contact any local sanctuary for advice. They will gladly take in any hog that needs help and you could have the pleasure of later releasing it into your garden. Small hedgehogs need to weigh around 750g to successfully hibernate – so if you find a small one, best find a centre that can feed it through the winter.

Very important now is to CHECK BONFIRES BEFORE YOU LIGHT THEM. Hedgehogs may be sheltering there or going into hibernation. If you find one and it looks healthy, find a sheltered place to move it to.

You will find the hedgehog village in the walled garden at Elsham Hall, and next to the stud and mud cottage there is also a trail centre. This has also been set up by Vee and its purpose is to educate children and adults about the animals we share our countryside with. Hopefully next year, groups will be able to book a session there full of information and activities where adults and children can learn together.