

# Elsham Leader Spring 2021



## **Watch this space!**

By the time you read this, this space should have changed considerably. On the “Elsham” signs at either end of the village, it says “Best Kept Small Village 2017”. The Elsham Elves are going all out for it to be updated to say “2021”. To that end we are developing this area by the phone box, the bank behind the village hall and having several more troughs of summer bedding under street signs around the village. The latter will need regular watering, so if one appears adjacent to your house and you are willing to look after it, please let me know.

We are also beginning to develop wildflower areas around the village. This process takes some time, nevertheless, look out for those green shoots.

There has been stiff competition in our “small village” category in recent years so we need to be on our toes. Apart from the work done by the Elves and the handyman employed by the parish council, everyone can play their part by, for instance, picking up litter, keeping hedges tidy and not letting them encroach on pathways and tidying the front of their properties. We really also need new ‘elves’ for helping with gardening jobs around the village, if you can spare a little time.

**Lorraine Guest**

## Parish Council News

First of all, in February we were very pleased to welcome two new members to the council, Rosie Hill and Steve Moir, following the resignation of Christine Busby, who will be missed. This now means that for the first time in a while we have a full quota of councillors. Several new families have also volunteered to help with locking and unlocking of the play park, so thank you to them and to all the regulars who are continuing to give their time to do this.

As spring approaches, the parish council are busy looking at ways to increase the attractiveness of the village even more. In the village, work is being done by the Elsham Elves to increase the planting around the phone box, and we have very kindly been offered an old plough by Sophie and Phil Dunn, which we are hoping to refurbish and make a feature of in this area. Work is also being done to refresh some beds at the village hall – see Lorraine's 'Watch this space!'.

In the quarry, spring started with snowdrops, followed by fantastic primulas and violas – soon to be followed by forget-me-nots and bluebells. N. Lincs. Council cut back a wider area than before in the basin at the bottom, so we hope that over the next few years the wildflowers will spread over a larger area. The new viewpoint that has been cleared from the path parallel to Middlegate Lane should provide a lovely view of the flowers in summer, and when the slope is fully cleared we will install a bench there so that you can sit and relax while enjoying the view. We also wait with interest to see how the newly cleared area in front of the Middlegate Lane gate develops. The parish council have contracted work on the safety aspect of this gate, so that as workers come in they can secure them open, making sure there is no danger of them swinging back on them. The green plastic tubes that were used to protect young trees can now be removed and taken away for recycling – if you would like to join in with this endeavour (and there are hundreds of them so help appreciated!) they can be left near the Middlegate Lane gate, where you will see a pile already accumulating. Thank you Andrea Thompson for doing a sterling job of collecting hundreds already.

There should also soon be an information board installed inside the Front Street entrance of the quarry, showing how it has developed over the years, which I am sure you will find interesting – a heritage board detailing some history of the village and points of interest will also be installed at the village hall.

Not forgetting more practical matters, we have requested a site visit from NLC Highways to look at ways to drain away the spring emerging at the top of Church St. The street is scheduled to be re-surfaced later in the year, and this has to be resolved before then. There are also concerns about the leak re-emerging on Front St., which we will be monitoring and drawing to NLC's attention.

The low villages are all clubbing together to purchase a mobile speed sign, which we will all take in turns to use. This worked out cheaper than renting one from NLC, which we have done previously.

Finally, a big thank you to Steve Moir and Lorraine Guest, who are producing the Leader after the resignation of Christine Busby.

I am sure that, like me, you appreciate the efforts made by the Elsham Elves, litter pickers and park keepers, in conjunction with the parish council, to keep Elsham looking in such good shape. We would also like to wish Martyn Clark, who voluntarily does some grass cutting for us, a speedy recovery from his operation and we wish everyone in Elsham a better 2021 and enjoyable spring and summer!

**Sandra van Oosterhout**

## Litter

We've all seen the media coverage since the first lockdown, showing the growing problem of litter and sadly our own area hasn't escaped. Thanks to the efforts of our regular litter pickers the village and the lanes around the quarry and the airfield are kept tidy but the litter had got so bad on the main approach roads to the village that some residents decided to organise litter picks on Barnetby Lane and Barton Road. On Good Friday, 12 bin bags of rubbish were collected on Barnetby Lane between the village and the petrol station. The following weekend, 13 bags were collected on Barton Road between the top of Elsham Hill and Washdyke Lane. All of this was rubbish thrown from vehicles – cans, bottles, plastic, and fast-food packaging. The area around the village now looks so much better, but unfortunately it won't last so watch out for future announcements on Elsham Past & Present about more litter picking events and join in if you can.

**Andrew Horner**

### ELSHAM WINE CLUB

The wine club has not met since early 2020 due to the pandemic, however, there is every likelihood it will resume this September for the usual 6 sessions before Christmas. The club meetings are usually held on a Tuesday evening.

If you require any further details, please contact **Roland Guest (tel. 01652 680679)** or [r8alg1@gmail.com](mailto:r8alg1@gmail.com)

## VILLAGE PLAY AND EXERCISE PARK



### **Play Park and Exercise Area**

Firstly, thank you very much to our play park volunteers – both to those who have been on the rota previously and our new volunteers. As ever, if you can help, please let me know on 680827 – it would be good to lessen the load for the others, especially those who have been on the rota since the park opened – they deserve a medal by now!

I'm pleased to say that following the recent change to COVID restrictions, the exercise area is now open. Please remember when using the park that all government guidelines on social distancing and sanitising must be followed.

We are continuing the long running battle with the moles and think there are not quite so many hills as there used to be!

The rota is as follows:

27 Mar Mandy Liggett	03 Apr Julz & Rick
10 Apr Julz & Rick	17 Apr Lucy
24 Apr Lucy	01 May Mandy Liggett
08 May Lorraine	15 May Christine B
22 May Christine B	29 May Tony Forbes
05 Jun Ange Austin	12 Jun Ange Austin
19 Jun Lorraine Guest	26 Jun Jane Ousby
03 Jul Katie Wilson	10 Jul Katie Wilson
17 Jul Dave	24 Jul Helen & Steve
31 Jul Jane Ousby	07 Aug Dave
14 Aug Helen & Steve	21 Aug Helen Machin
28 Aug Jane Ousby	04 Sep Tony Forbes
11 Sep Charlie & Tim	18 Sep Charlie & Tim
25 Sep Helen Machin	02 Oct Jo Leaning
09 Oct Jo Leaning	16 Oct Rosie Hill
23 Oct Rosie Hill	

**Jane Ousby**

## **A Message from All Saints Church**

First of all, as this magazine is going to print, we are hopefully making some inroads towards getting back to a small bit of normality – although it is no doubt a little way off before we can all get back to the way we were. But at least we are able to see one or two people, and be able to chat.

In our churches locally, we are opening up for church services on Sundays (although still with government restrictions on social distancing, masks etc.), and we are also able to have small groups for weddings and baptisms.

We would like to offer our congratulations to our vicar, Reverend Lee Gabel, who has been appointed our new Associate Agricultural Chaplain one day a week for our area of Stow and Lindsey, alongside continuing his ministry within our benefice.

Lee comments:

Having grown up in an agricultural community working on a duck farm the Revd Lee Gabel feels that the outdoor life is part of who he is and where he feels at home. "As Agricultural Chaplains, primarily we're here to help people, particularly those in the farming and food producing contexts. There's a significant need for pastoral support around mental health issues and it will be a huge privilege to assist with this. Wearing a clerical collar, a beacon of hope and light, people know that the care being offered stems from within the love of Christ."

Also, we have been asked to send those who were not able to attend the funeral for John Tomlinson (due to the restrictions imposed on us by the government) a note of the eulogy which was read in church. We enclose an abridged copy for your information:

### **John Henry Tomlinson**

John was the son of Henry (Harry) and Mary Jane (Jenny) Tomlinson. He went to the village school, and when not in attendance there he would play in the hills and woods surrounding the village.

John's parents were very kind people, and perhaps that's where John got his kindness from, John certainly got his sense of humour from his dad.

The Second World War saw John's dad Harry working up at the airfield, which had 1 Lancaster squadron and 1 Halifax and Wellington squadron. John was too young to go in the forces, so he was an apprentice electrician on the airfield. John would tell many tales of pilots and aircrew coming down into the village, and his mum Jenny would very often make a meal for them.

John did his basic training at the barracks in Lincoln, then because of his electrical background was posted to the Royal Signals, and did his training for that in Whitby. He was then billeted at the Royal Hotel overlooking the Harbour. John was then posted to India, and served with the Indian Army, which was later the 14<sup>th</sup> Army.

John was in the second Burma campaign, which saw some of the hardest fighting of the war. John would tell of the close fighting against the Japanese army which led to the Allies re-taking Burma. John once recounted a terrible time when he witnessed his friend being shot but missed the same fate because of a grenade attack. John would speak about the horrible conditions and the lack of food, and supplies. He was awarded the Burma star for his part in that campaign.

After the war, John came back to Elsham and got a job in electrical wholesale, working for Beadles in Grimsby. He lodged in Grimsby during the week and came home at the weekends using his bike to cycle to Elsham station and catching the train to Grimsby. Later in the 1950s he transferred to the Scunthorpe branch and became one of their travelling salesmen. This took John to several electrical retailers in Doncaster and surrounding areas.

John taught Richard to drive, on the airfield. and John often used to accompany Richard and his mum and dad on family holidays. They would often go to Southport Flower Show as John's great passion was horticulture. He was one of the country's leading experts in the cultivation of dahlias, and many years ago he was the Chairman of the National Dahlia Society. Many of today's gardening experts consulted John about gardening techniques, including Monty Don the presenter of Gardeners World on the BBC.

When John retired, he became very involved with the parish council here in Elsham, and he eventually became the chairman. John was on the council for 50 years; this was a great achievement and demonstrated John's love for the village. John also started a few activity groups, including the short mat bowls club.

John was a quiet gentleman, with many talents. He was a very kind and thoughtful person with a great sense of humour who always looked at life in a positive way.

Richard Judd (abridged by Rev Lee Gabel)

**Dawn Enser  
Kat Minister, Churchwarden, Treasurer &  
Safeguarding Officer  
All Saints Church, Elsham.**

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Would also like to add these recollections given to me by John Tomlinson:

First were his childhood memories of going to the church on Saturday mornings to top up all the oil lamps in the church. It was about a 100 years ago that electricity was introduced into Elsham and this would have been a daily activity.

Secondly, John was quite musical and explained his trip to a Vera Lyn concert in Burma during the war in 1944. This involved a 5-mile trek through jungle, which must have taken many hours there and back, but probably not so daunting for an 18yr old.

Lastly, his return voyage in a hospital ship after he was released from prison of war camp. Due

to his low weight (less than 5 stones), the authorities would not let him fly back from Singapore. The same when he got to Bombay, likewise at Aden in the UAE, also Cairo in Egypt, same at Greece and Marseille in France. Even when he arrived in Southampton he was refused permission to be let off the ship. In the end he had to travel down from Glasgow, although I expect that was early 1946.

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Next an obituary for **Ralph Bellamy**, who like John above had lived in Elsham all his life, written by his daughter:

Ralph Bellamy was born in Elsham at no. 35 New Street in 1944. He was one of eight children, my grandparents lived in that house as did my great grandparents, so I'm the fourth generation to live in the village. He was a farm hand from about 5 years old and worked hard throughout his life. He married my mother, Pearl, in 1975, and took on her other children from her previous marriages, Wendy, Linda, Steven, Gary and Thelma, but sadly after I was born in 1976 my mum got cancer and died in 1981 aged only 43, so he raised us all on his own. Thelma died 10 years ago to cancer as well. Ralph loved playing dominos and enjoyed country music. He loved 'Dad's Army', 'Last of the Summer Wine', and 'Allo Allo' on the television. He always helped out in the house whenever he could, however, he also loved going shooting and was a gamekeeper for many years and in summary, loved the outdoor life.

Tina Bellamy

## **New Businesses in the Village**

We welcome two new enterprises in Elsham that residents can take advantage of – the owners introduce themselves and their businesses below:

### **Lily & Moss**

Hi my name is Cassie and I am the proud owner of Lily & Moss, Church Street. I am a

passionate lover of flowers, candles, cake, gardening, country living and pretty interiors. Lily & Moss started with the dream of setting up a business to offer locally that something a little bit different for flower lovers like myself; fresh, seasonal flowers delivered locally every week. I offer free local delivery within 10 miles of Elsham and further for a small delivery fee. I create wild and romantic floral arrangements for local delivery or collection every Friday with my "Friday Flowers" selection, which are all created using my pick of the best seasonal flowers and foliage available each week. Where possible I like to use British grown flowers, my current favourites being Lincolnshire grown tulips. My arrangements are available to order weekly and will soon be available as a subscription too!

Each Friday I also have available individual bunches of seasonal flowers for order and collection or from my contactless honesty stand at 4 Church Street.

As we ease out of these uncertain times, I hope to be able to offer floral and wreath workshops in the coming months as well as expanding my floral offerings for small events such as garden parties and christenings.

I also wanted to combine floristry with some of my other passions: interiors and gardening. Which is why you will soon be able to shop my carefully selected collection of home and garden accessories and gifts with local and nationwide delivery on my website. My online shop will be filled with items that I have hand-picked because I love them. When you place an order, it is processed by me, right from me receiving it to dispatching it. Everything at Lily & Moss is done with so much love and I hope that this provides you with a positive shopping experience that you'll want to return to.

This isn't my first online shop; I previously had a successful online gifts and interiors shop called "Clarissa & Co." I started Clarissa & Co. in 2013 and it was born from my love of all things interiors and spending time in my vintage caravan "Clarissa",

whose name was borrowed to represent my business. I started with £100 I received for my 18th birthday whilst I was studying for the International Baccalaureate at school. My ethics for my small business have been very much the same since the beginning. Lily & Moss is still small and family run, mainly by myself but occasionally with a little help from my partner Dom, my parents, oh and not forgetting my border terrier Lily, who is the namesake behind Lily & Moss. In December 2016 Clarissa & Co. was featured in Glamour Magazine which was a huge business highlight.

Thank you for reading, Cassie.

Facebook: Lily & Moss  
Instagram:

@lilyandmossfloral

Website:

[www.lilyandmoss.co.uk](http://www.lilyandmoss.co.uk)

COMING SOON

Phone: 07876 487392

Email:

[lilyandmossfloral@gmail.com](mailto:lilyandmossfloral@gmail.com)



### **NJ Fitness, Hall Lane**

Hi my name is Nic and I'm a fully qualified, highly experienced (20 years) Personal Trainer and Sports Therapist newly working from Elsham Village. Only recently moved into the village, I'm based on Hall Lane and have a fully fitted, modern private studio gym covering all types of personal exercise packages depending on your goals and aspirations. The gym has numerous pieces of equipment from weights, a rowing machine and spin bikes and there is plenty of room for HIIT classes! Sessions can be adapted for any ability or age or if you're a newbie to the gym.

I also have a separate Treatment Room and offer a variety of treatments from sports massage (not just for sports people), injury rehabilitation, hot stone massage, reflexology,



Indian Head massage and more.  
Please contact me directly  
for prices. Thank you,  
Nic  
Facebook - N J Fitness,  
Email -  
[njfitness@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:njfitness@hotmail.co.uk)  
Mob - 07880887611

## **COVID-19**

Although we are all hoping that the situation will improve in the next few months, we realise that sometimes people are still going to need help. If you have lost the slip with the details of a volunteer and you need help with something because you are self-isolating or shielding, please just contact a member of the parish council and we will do our best to help.

## **Elsham Village Golf Competition**

The Elsham village golf competition will be held on **Saturday 4 September 2021 from 1pm**  
Contact Graham Evison for further information.  
01652 680980 or  
[graham.evison@btinternet.com](mailto:graham.evison@btinternet.com)

## **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.gov.uk](http://www.elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk). Some events are hoping to recommence w/c 17 May but you will need to check nearer the time with the class leader.

There is an indoor bowls club run by Ernest Ferrier. He is urgently asking for new bowlers who can join the club in the new season due to be restarting in September.

Monday	<b>Pilates</b>	9.00 – 10.00am (Helen)
	<b>Pilates</b>	4.30 – 5.30pm (Susan)
Tuesday	<b>New Age Kurling</b>	10.00am – 12pm start date TBC
Thursday	<b>Upholstery</b>	10am – 4pm
	<b>Pilates</b>	4.30 – 5.30pm
	<b>Line Dancing</b>	7.00 – 9.00pm start date TBC
Friday	<b>Fish and Chip van</b>	6.45 – 7.30pm

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

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

**Tony Steeper**  
c/o Holme Farm Residential  
Home, Church Street, Elsham  
**Tel:- 01652 688755**

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



**ELSHAM GOLF CLUB**  
**BEGINNERS TASTER SESSIONS**

**First Timers Welcome**

**Try driving, chipping and putting with our friendly professional team**

**Refreshments and equipment provided**

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 3-4pm**

**To book call 01652 680291**

**or email [office@elshamgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:office@elshamgolfclub.co.uk)**

**[www.elshamgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.elshamgolfclub.co.uk)**

**Elsham Garage Services Ltd**

Barton Road Elsham | North Lincolnshire | DN20 0LR

**01652 653 266**

[www.elshamgarage.co.uk](http://www.elshamgarage.co.uk)

[enquiries@elshamgarage.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@elshamgarage.co.uk)



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Monday-Friday 8am - 6pm

Saturday 8am – 1pm

Sunday Closed