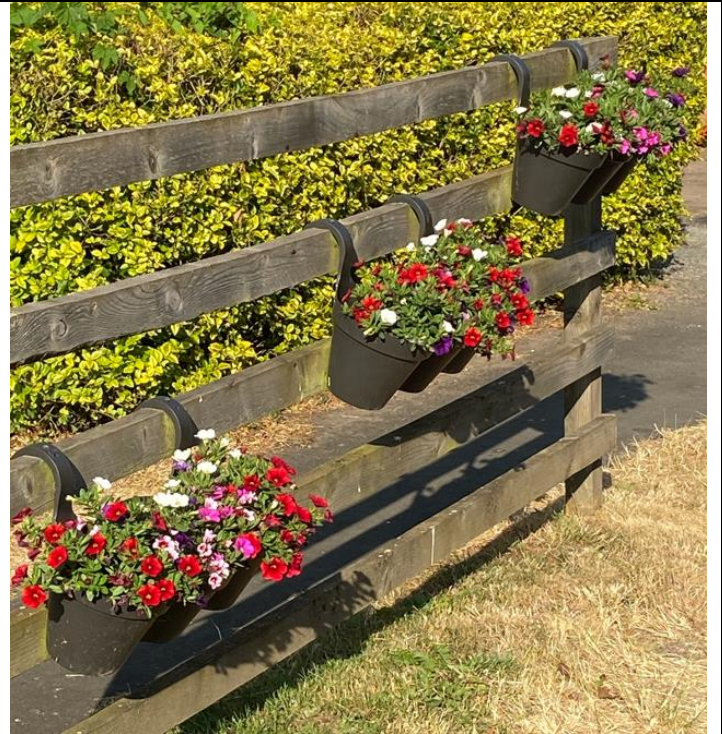


Elsham Leader Summer 2023



Best Kept Village Competition 2023

It's nice to see that our success in the 2022 Best Kept Village competition is now officially displayed on the Elsham signs on New Street and Barnetby Lane – see above. The Parish Council has decided to enter the 2023 competition; planning and planting is already underway.

Village Planting

As mentioned, Elsham has entered the Best Kept Village competition again this year and we are hoping to repeat our 2022 success. The summer planting has recently been completed and as in previous years, the plants and compost were provided by the Parish Council. Sandra Van Oosterhout has planted up the tubs and planters at the Village Hall, helped by Amanda Hall. Jane Ewan planted up the Doll Lane snicket planters at the New Street End. Sandra did the Maltkiln Lane end. Di and I planted up the phone box area, the play park planters, the Elsham sign beds at either end of the village, the circle and the triangle and all of the planters under the street signs except where mentioned below.

As mentioned last year, without additional volunteers who are prepared to water and tend an area there would be no point in planting anything, so I'd like to say a huge thank you to the following people who have agreed to look after the planted areas near where they live, making this a real village effort:

- Martyn Clark – is mowing the grass at the Hall Lane Circle and the Barnetby Lane Triangle. He also looks after the lovely churchyard.
- Ian Bowmer – will water the plants at the Barnetby Lane triangle.
- Clare Tully - will water the Hall Lane circle.
- Terry Howard – will water the phone box area, the Elsham sign bed on New Street, the play park planters and the New Street sign planter near Woodland Drive.
- Christine Busby and Sandra – will water the Lancaster bed, the Village Hall bank and the tubs and planters at the Village Hall.
- Linda & Ron Baxter – will water the planter under the Astley Corner sign.
- Lorraine Guest – has planted up and will water the Church Street sign planter near Hunters Lodge
- Paul Richardson – will water the Front Street sign planter near the triangle.
- Joan & Colin Mee – will water the planters on Maltkiln Lane near Dunns Paddock and at the Maltkiln Lane/Front Street corner.
- Lucy Gilchrist– will water the Doll Lane snicket planters at the Maltkiln Lane end.
- Trevor Hudson – will water the Doll Lane snicket planters at the New Street end.
- Colin & Agnes Marris – have planted up and will water the planter under the Chapel Lane sign at the New Street junction.
- Jordan Finney – will water the planter under the Woodland Drive sign.
- Sai Vishwanath – will water the planter under the New Street sign at the crossroads and the tub under the plough.

Last year, the Best Kept Village judges were very impressed by several of the front gardens they saw as they walked around the village, so please try to keep your own property looking good and let's hope for more compliments this year. Judging will be at the end of July.

Andrew Horner

Elsham Parish Council Annual Chairman's Report April 2023

The past 12 months have been busy ones for the parish council, with many things achieved. The team of six councillors work hard and are active throughout the village, as well as reporting issues to NLC and pushing for improvements to be made. I thank all of them for volunteering their time and being so proactive. I also thank our three ward councillors for advocating for Elsham, and the residents who have volunteered throughout the year, helping to organise events, litter pick, and maintain the planted areas. I am sure that the next 12 months will provide new challenges and that we will continue to meet them.

Year Highlights

Nature Reserve

The weather last year was very hot and dry in the summer months, so flowers were perhaps shorter lived than usual, but it was still a lovely place to walk, especially early mornings and evenings. A new bench was installed on the path adjacent to Middlegate Lane, where a view can be enjoyed across the whole basin. Open areas were cut down at the end of the year to encourage wildflowers to grow, with teasels being left until spring for the goldfinches to enjoy. New signs have been erected at each gate with rules for use, donated by MD Signs. There were a few sightings of the Giant Rabbit that is known to live that end of the village, but we are still searching for that elusive close-up photo of it! Deer were seen often, with two adults and a young one spotted in April. New bat boxes and owl boxes were installed, thank you to Cllr Steve Moir, Chris Hotchin and John Clayforth. Nelipak have spent a day volunteering in the Nature Reserve, collecting up the old plastic tree tubes so that they can be recycled.

Play Park

Pleased to report that the mole deterrent is keeping away most moles, but it has had to be replaced after being broken. The many volunteers who open and close the park daily deserve a big thanks, as does Cllr Jane Ewen for carrying out inspections of the equipment and organising the rota. The toddler cradle swing seats have been replaced, and equipment cleaned and repainted where necessary. The park continues to be well used by both villagers and visitors.

Highways

Drainage and pot holes were the main highways issues we faced, as we do every year. Work was done on drains on Church Street near the churchyard, and this has drastically improved the lower part of the street, but there is still a spring running higher up Church Street that we are waiting for NLC to assess and determine any work to be done before resurfacing. NLC carried out extensive work on the first few metres of the public footpath alongside the church, so that the path now drains well and is useable.

New Street, Barnetby Lane up to the building site, Hall Lane, Front Street and Doll Lane have all been fully resurfaced.

Drainage continues to be a serious issue coming down into the village from Barnetby, as there is now a mini verge built up of washed down soil that blocks the drain every time we have heavy rain, along with the drains down at the crossroads. We are still insisting that this be looked at, and NLC have acknowledged that it is an issue. A new bench was installed on Front Street after the original was hit by a car - thank you Cllr Mark Wood.

Planning

The main planning applications in the village considered since last April have been a rear extension at 10 Mount Park Barnetby Lane (approved); an application still under consideration for 3 dwellings on the Orchard, Front Street; a rear and side extension at 21 Maltkiln Road (approved); a rear extension at Sycamore House, 4 Maltkiln Road (approved); installation of

vintage plough on New Street (approved); re-application for dwelling at The Old Cottage, Church Street (refused); and an Appeal for the refusal of five wooden camping pods and wooden toilet block at the rear of Hunters Lodge (refused).

Crime and Neighbourhood Watch

There have been no serious incidents in the village but still concerns about the number of empty wine and other alcohol bottles on Middlegate and Barnetby Lane. Flashing speed signs have been bought between all the low villages and these provide very useful data. Regular litter picking has been carried out on Barnetby Hill, where anti-litter signs have been erected by councillors. We have also liaised with MFG garage and they are carrying out litter picks in the hedge bottom opposite their site every two weeks.

Free Library

A cabinet has been put up outside the Village Hall to serve as a free library and it is being well used.

Tesco Bags of Help

Elsham Parish Council was awarded £500 for its hedgehog and environment project, which will be carried out over the summer and into autumn.

Low Villages Newsletter

The parish council started subscribing to this newsletter in December 2022 and they contribute articles for the Elsham page every month.

New Website

The parish council have just launched a new fully accessible website that is easier to update so that we can quickly communicate news and events to residents and make it easier to report issues to us and to NLC.

Best Kept Village

To our delight, Elsham won Best Kept Village in 2022, which given the drought and hot weather we had was a real achievement, and due to the hard work of many, not least Andrew and Di Horner, who also received an Environmental Award from CPRE for their large role in the community planting and litter picking. We really appreciate everyone who comes forward to help with tasks around the village, and to all of those who have volunteered again this year to water a container near them. The year 2022 has been added to our 'Best Kept Village' signs at either end of the village.

Stevenson and Julian Charity Trust Fund

The parish council resolved to contribute £500 a year to this fund and to help promote its use to Elsham residents.

Royal Celebrations and Events

In June 2022 we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and it was very well attended and appreciated, not least because it was the first village get together for several years due to the COVID restrictions. Tables were laid out on Chapel Lane in traditional street party style, raffle, tombola and other traditional stalls were laid out, with a bouncy castle for the children, and the treat of seeing Chris Hotchin's owls. Common Faults did us proud in the evening, and there was a great atmosphere in the village hall that evening. Little did we know that a few months later we would mourn the death of Elizabeth II. A condolence book was made available in the village hall and signed by many.

In May 2023 we repeated the celebration, this time with a BBQ and all the traditional stalls again, for the Coronation of Charles III. The sun shone down on us for a glorious day and yet again we came together and had a great time, and Common Faults were just as good as they

had been the first time. The success of these events was due to the many hours of work put in by Cllr Sarah Burton and the many volunteers on the days - thanks to all.

Current Projects

We are at the time of year when new projects are being proposed, and among consideration are:

- nature trails and an additional nature board in the Nature Reserve. New bird boxes are also required.
- LIVES to deliver defibrillator training for villagers.
- A youth section in our own Leader newsletter.

If you have an idea for something that you would like to see added in the village, please email the clerk or come to a PC meeting to talk to us. We are open to new projects!

Council members

There has been no change in councillors since last May, but we still have room for one more councillor so if you are interested in finding out more about the role, please talk to one of us or contact the clerk on clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Yet again, all of this was accomplished with no increase in the precept.

Sandra van Oosterhout
Elsham Parish Council Chairman
May 2023

The Stevenson and Julian Charity – an Elsham Parish Charity Could you benefit?

Many people who are relatively new to the village may not be aware of the Stevenson and Julian Charity originally set up in 1663 by John Julian and later joined by George Stevenson in 1803, to “help the most needy in Elsham, for food fuel and other vital needs.”

The objective of the charity was “to help relieve, either generally or individually, persons resident in the Parish of Elsham who in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.”

As times have changed the charity has over the last few years given small grants to senior citizens of Elsham, including a social gathering at Christmas and financial support for young people for a range of purposes, such as travel costs for study trips and educational materials, such as books.

The Parish Council have this year pledged to put £500 a year into the Stevenson and Julian Charity, as long as it has the funds to do so, and the Charity hopes that more people will come forward to ask for help. Is there an activity or club that you would like to join in with, and are not doing so because of the cost? Maybe sports equipment or travel to an exercise class? We are all aware of rising costs and the effect this can have on mental health, so if there is something that you would like financial help with, please do get in touch with the Charity Trustees, and they will let you know if it is eligible for a grant and how to apply.

The current trustees are:

Sophie Dunn: 07775 574396

Lorraine Guest: 01652 680679

Speedwatch Volunteers

The Speedwatch initiative was launched a couple of years ago and is run throughout the low villages thanks to volunteers. Volunteers attend a one-hour training event with the police, then join a team on one occasion to see it all in action. After that they are free to sign up to do Speedwatch sessions and choose how many times they volunteer, so it is very flexible. A group of three volunteers set up in a village for one hour. One person records the speed of approaching cars with a speed gun, and if it is over 30mph, one of the others records the number plate and the other notes colour and make of the car. This number is passed onto the police and the car owner will receive a letter from the police warning them that they were recorded driving over the speed limit. If they are caught a second time by any Speedwatch camera in the Humberside Police area, they are sent a second letter. This time the vehicle details are registered on the ANPR system, and if that car is flagged up passing a police vehicle, they may follow them and monitor their speed. Insurance, MOT etc. are then also checked out. A third letter leads to a visit from the police.

This is a great initiative but it needs volunteers for it to be effective. We need more volunteers to be able to have more regular Speedwatch sessions so if you think you can help, please contact the parish clerk Holly on clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07393 213 030.

Speed Limits

You might have seen the change of speed limit advance warning at the bottom of the hill on Front Street. This has been several years in the offing. The speed limit sign is being moved from outside the churchyard to just above the junction with Vicarage Lane, and past the vicarage on Vicarage Lane. This will be a welcome move at least for the many walkers who visit the nature reserve daily.

There was a discussion at the last PC meeting about speeding on Church Street. As a first step, we would like to know if residents feel that it is an issue and would like us to investigate a 20mph speed limit there – obviously no promises but we can start the process of looking at it if there seems to be a need. Please send us your comments through our website contact page.

A delegation from the council will be meeting with parish councillors in the near future to discuss the drainage problems affecting the village and any outstanding highways issues. This will be a village walkabout, so if you know of any issues that you have not yet reported, please use our website to get in touch.

Broadband

The company internetTY are working to install a faster broadband in some of the low villages. As far as we know, they currently have no plans to come to Elsham, but you may wish to contact them and discuss this with them. You obviously need to look into their plans and prices yourselves, this is not an endorsement of their service, just notification.

Best Kept Village

As we head into summer, the parish council will be planting up the community areas and preparing for the Best Kept Village competition. Thank you very much to those who have volunteered to water a container near them. Everyone can also help by keeping hedges trimmed and path frontages clear of nettles, large weeds etc. One or two hedges are getting overgrown and starting to narrow paths, so please check yours and give it a trim if necessary, once you have checked for bird nests.

Coronation Celebrations

What a gorgeous day we had for our Coronation Big Lunch - fortunately it was perfect for a barbeque, and the band Common Faults was again fantastic. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered before and on the day, and everyone who came and participated by buying tickets. The village event raised a fantastic £650 in total, which was split between Help for Heroes and the church.

Consideration for neighbours

We have been requested to ask that people show consideration for neighbours when using high-powered, noisy tools.

Nature Reserve

Summer is here and the wildflowers are out in force in the nature reserve – we have lots of daisies and common spotted orchids, together with wild roses, milkwort, teasels, field scabious, bird's foot trefoil and many more. See next page.

NLC cut the paths about a month ago, but the warm and now wet weather has meant the nettles and brambles are growing at speed across the paths in some places so please take care. We are making arrangements to do some more path cutting as soon as possible.

The deer are frequent visitors, sometimes stopping to graze and sometimes passing through. The giant rabbit continues to put in the occasional appearance! The buzzards are also frequent visitors, usually just overhead but sometimes flying low through the basin.

With the kind help of several volunteers from Nelipak (based on the Elsham industrial estate) over two days, we have managed to collect and bag many of the protective tubes that were around the trees when they were planted originally. They are being returned to the manufacturers Tubex, who will recycle them into new tubes. There are still a few tubes in the woods but we will tackle those next spring before the nettles grow. Many thanks to the staff at Nelipak for their support.

If anyone would like access to the nature reserve with a wheelchair or mobility scooter, please contact any member of the Parish Council for the gate code.



EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	Pilates	4.30 – 5.30 p.m.
	Bowls Club	6.30 – 8.30 p.m.
Tuesday	New Age Kurling	10.00am – 12.00 p.m.
Parish Council	Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, (except August and December).	6.30 – 8.00 p.m.
Wine Club	Fortnightly on a Tuesday (Roland Guest's contact details below).	8.00 – 10.00 p.m. Last meeting 21 st March.
Wednesday	Bowls Club	7.00 – 9.00 p.m. (except May – August)
Thursday	Upholstery	10am – 4 p.m.
	Line Dancing	7.00 – 9.00 p.m.
Friday	Bowls Club	2.00 – 4 p.m. (starting 31 st March)

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

Play Park and Exercise Area

Thank you very much as always to our play park volunteers.

The park is open from approximately 9am to 7pm (or dusk if earlier) every day.

The exercise equipment is all available for that pre-holiday exercise campaign!

If you'd like to help with the opening and closing of the park, please give me a call on 680827. We need two more volunteers as we have had two retirees – thanks to them both for their service! If we keep to the current numbers, everyone only has to do two weeks a year (which can be done as two separate weeks if preferred).

Thank you.

Jane Ewen

Youth Leader

We requested contributions from young residents in the village, and we are delighted to share with you several pieces written by Amartya. I hope this gives other people the incentive to send us something – you can send us contributions at any time of the year and we will print them in the next edition of the Leader. Tell us about your hobbies, an interesting trip you have made, maybe a local club you belong to, or write a story or poem. Send us a photo or picture you have drawn ... really anything you think other people would like to see! We value your ideas and contributions.

What is a worm?

A rope with a wriggle,
a ribbon with a face,
something you'd never put in a pie!
A pink little squiggle,
a miniature snake,
the gleam in a blackbird's eye!

Amartya, age 9

Rock-a-Bye Wormy (to the tune of Rock-a-Bye Baby)

Rock-a-bye wormy, safe underground,
when the dog digs, no worm will be found.
When the dog hides a big juicy bone,
Wormy keeps sleeping under a stone!

Amartya, age 9

Racing worms

Humble worm and Slightly Soiled worm began a squirmy race, they're heading for the compost heap for each to fill their face.

"Last one there's a centipede!" cries Humble with a grin.

"I'm the fastest worm there is," says Slightly Soiled, "I'll win!"

Humble worm gets tangled in a labyrinth of roots, Slightly Soiled surfaces and off the young worm shoots. But as the worm saying goes, 'Think about your actions before your pride.' A blackbird grabs poor Slightly Soiled and takes him to the skies. But Slightly Soiled knows stories of what flattery brings, he keeps his cool and tells the blackbird how beautifully she sings.

"Of course, I do sing wonderfully," the foolish blackbird caws. The plan succeeds, an open beak means Slightly Soiled falls!

This time he wriggles underleaf, quite safe but not too deep. And in no time at all he's reached the compost heap. A second later who comes but Humble and he says, "I reckoned I could beat you Slightly Soiled but now I see I'm second."

The worms shake tails and wriggle in the compost for a feed.

"The race was close," says Slightly Soiled, "and I must concede that you squirmed pretty quickly for 'ahem' a centipede!"

Amartya, age 9

All Saints Church, Elsham

Probably, like a few people I know, each morning I get up it seems like Groundhog Day – I do the same things, in the same order, and it feels like I was doing these things only a few hours previously. In a couple of weeks we are into July, when hopefully we will then have a glorious summer. Time to enjoy relaxing in the garden with family, children, or friends.

This year so far has been eventful in the Village. Some things have been very pleasant and have cheered us all up, but one or two have not – but we are starting to get back to some form of normality from the “shutting down” period in the last couple of years.

Events that have taken place over the last few months have been absolutely brilliant. On behalf of the Church I would like to thank once again, Sarah Burton, Jane Ewen, all the Helpers and Organisers who volunteered to lend a hand, all members of the Parish Council for their support and help, Lorraine Guest for her sale of plants, and all the Villagers (not enough paper to acknowledge all their names) who went along and supported not only the Coronation Celebrations, but all the other events that these wonderful people arranged.

Funds from the village events were passed to our Church in Elsham, which have helped support the Church, for which we could not be more grateful.

I would mention that one of the benches in the Churchyard had regrettably reached it's “sell by date” and therefore, there has been a replacement seat placed in the Church so that if you are walking through you can sit and take a breather, and take a little time for yourself – the plaque thanks not only the donation made by John Thomlinson, but also from the Parish Council and all the Villagers of Elsham.

The residents of Elsham have so much to offer, and always show this when support and help is needed. Thank you.

My Father used to say Respect is not just given – it is earned. All I can say is that I have so much Respect for everyone in Elsham for all they give.

Please continue to give Love and kindness as God would wish – it is acknowledged.

DAWN ENSER

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

Our Services start at 11.00am 2nd 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

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the Elsham Village Golf competition. The shield has all the names of previous winners on it, where there is plenty of room on the reverse for yours as well!

The big event is taking place on 2nd September starting at 12 noon. Anyone interested please contact Graham Evison at graham.evison@btinternet.com

Graham Evison

Elsham Parish Council forthcoming dates are:

20th July 2023 **From 7pm onwards.**

Your Parish Councillors are:

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

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

Jane Ewen – 680827, cllr.ewen@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mark Wood – 07471 997323, cllr.mwood@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Steve Moir – 680568, cllr.moir@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sarah Burton – cllr.sburton@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk – Holly Hanson

Tel: 07393 21 30 30 Email: clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Website: 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