

Elsham Leader Spring 2024



SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

We are starting to feel warmth in the sun, the spring flowers are in bloom and the birds are singing – it has been a long, wet three months but hopefully spring is well underway. Mark and Andrew have planted a Hawthorn Crataegus Paul's Scarlet on the triangle at the top of Church Street to replace the wonky conifer there and we look forward to seeing its magenta flowers and golden autumn foliage.

There is a focus on plants and wildlife in this edition of the Leader, with details of our hedgehog project and news about a new competition we are entering this year – the East Midlands in Bloom. We will need plenty of volunteers to get everything in shape and maintain beds and tubs, so please read on to see how you can help.

Welcome to all our residents and we hope that you will be able to join in and meet us with some of the activities we are organising for this year.

Elsham in Bloom

As in previous years, we will be entering the Best Kept Village competition, which is a competition between villages and judged on one 'surprise' visit by judges in late July or early August. One village is declared the winner and second and third places are also awarded, with separate categories for play parks, cemeteries etc. As the name of the competition suggests, points are awarded for tidiness and lack of litter and then for the quality of the flower displays and gardens throughout the village.

This year, we will be entering for the first time the East Midlands in Bloom competition. This is different because it is not just about the flower displays, and the towns and villages that enter are not competing against each other for first place. Communities are judged in the three areas of Horticultural Achievement, Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation. The number of points a town or village is awarded then determines the type of certificate they receive, a bit like the Chelsea Flower Show. The top award is gold, which is outstanding, followed by silver gilt, silver, bronze and lastly a certificate of achievement. There is no limit on how many gold, silver gilt etc, can be awarded. Each place is judged on its own merits and awarded a certificate accordingly. We will be notified of the day when judging will take place and are asked to give the judges a short presentation on the year's work and then take them around the village on a route we have chosen to show off our village and the wonderful environment we have here. We hope that some of our volunteers will be willing to meet the judges on this tour of the village and explain how they contribute to the success of our displays and clean environment.

We certainly could not even think about entering these competitions without the help of the volunteers who help us to plant, water and maintain the plants, and those who carry out litter picks around the village. We can never have too many volunteers, so if you have not joined in before or are new to the village, please watch out for dates when we will be needing help with planting or litter picks, and please get in touch if you would have even just a little time to help with watering, weeding, deadheading, etc.

If anyone is willing to help with any of the things mentioned above, please contact either Andrew & Di Horner on 680471 or Sandra Van Oosterhout on 681899

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

Many people in 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 in recent years given small grants to senior citizens of Elsham, including for a social gathering at Christmas, and to young people for a range of purposes, such as helping with costs for study trips and educational materials.

The Parish Council give £500 a year to the Stevenson and Julian Charity, as long as it has the funds to do so. Anyone can apply for a grant, and it is completely confidential. 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 how to apply.

The current trustees are:

Sophie Dunn: 07775 574396

Lorraine Guest: 01652 680679

Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall

There will be two coffee mornings run by church volunteers this spring, **one on April 24th and one on May 22nd, 10 am to 12 pm**. These are open to everyone and the idea is to give residents a chance to chat to neighbours and friends in the village, or even to make new friends. These have been popular in the past but towards the end of last year numbers were very low so there have been a few months without them. Hopefully with the better weather more people will feel like coming out and these will be well supported. If there are insufficient numbers then the volunteers will not be able to continue and the coffee mornings will cease, so please make the effort and then these can continue.

D-Day 80th Anniversary 6th June 2024



The Normandy landings, often referred to as D-Day, were the landing operations and associated airborne operations on Tuesday, 6 June 1944 of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during World War II. Codenamed Operation Neptune, it is still the largest seaborne invasion in history. The operation began the liberation of France and the rest of Western Europe and laid the foundations of the Allied victory on the Western Front. This year marks the 80th anniversary of this historic operation and people across the UK are being encouraged to mark the occasion. The residents of Elsham have given great support to these community events before, so we have organised a celebratory event to bring everyone together and have some fun.

On Thursday 6th June we will light a beacon at 9.15pm at the village hall as part of a national lighting of beacons in tribute to all those involved in the D-Day operations. There is also a national “Ringing out for Peace” and we are delighted that the bell ringers will be here to ring a quarter peal at 7.30pm on the 6th June.

Continuing the commemoration/celebration, on Saturday 8th June we will be holding a ceilidh in the village hall, starting at 7.30pm. There will be a local ceilidh band playing and it is bound to be a lot of fun whether you are participating or observing! We will need to limit the number of tickets to 60 to allow room for people to dance, and they will be subsidised by the parish council and partly funded by a grant from North Lincs Council. Tickets are £5 each, and this includes a fish and chip supper. As usual, we will ask people to bring their own drinks.

Please contact a parish councillor or call in to see Sarah at 17 Church Street to reserve your tickets! All parish councillors’ contact details are at the end of this newsletter.



BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS AND LET'S CELEBRATE!

D-DAY

80TH ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATIONS



8TH
JUNE 2024

 **ELSHAM VILLAGE HALL**  **7:30PM**

Join us for an evening of lively **ceilidh dancing**. Indulge in traditional **fish and chips** with your choice of side (peas, gravy or curry) – all for **£5 per ticket**. Don't miss out on this family fun-filled event, as only 60 tickets are available. Secure yours today and be part of this special occasion!



Please purchase tickets from 17 Church Street, Elsham, or any other parish Councillor.

Elsham's hedgehog project

Last year, we were awarded £500 from the Tesco Bags of Help fund to help us make Elsham a better place for hedgehogs. In the autumn we gave out hedgehog houses and food to those who initially showed an interest, and we now have a least ten of these positioned around the village, alongside those that some residents already had in their gardens.



We were very happy to receive reports of hedgehogs being seen in the month of March as they came out of hibernation. The picture above was sent to me from one very excited household that had captured two on their camera. It is very likely that these are a couple and that there will be a small family of hedgehogs very soon! As you can imagine, they are emerging hungry so we would encourage anyone to put out some food if you can. Small chicken-flavoured cat biscuits are ideal and much cheaper than the branded hedgehog food. It needs to go in a shallow dish as hedgehogs do not have much of a neck, and a small saucer of water is also much appreciated. You can make a hedgehog feeding station very cheaply and easily – there is an example below using a plastic storage box, or you can put an old plastic storage box lid on top of bricks as long as there are two five inch openings for hedgehogs to get in and out – males can fight quite viciously so there always needs to be two exits.



If you see hedgehogs anywhere in the village, please let one of us know as we are trying to put together a map showing sightings. The contact details for all councillors can be found at the end of this newsletter.



A Hedgehogs R Us Hedgehog Highway Surround

Free Hedgehog Highway Surround

One very easy way that we can help hedgehogs to move around the village safely is by creating hedgehog highways. A five-inch gap in a fence or wall will allow hedgehogs to pass between gardens without having to use the roads. The parish council have bought 20 metal hedgehog surrounds to give out free to villagers so that you can create the right size hole and highlight the fact that you are helping hedgehogs. Please contact us on our website or call Sandra on 681899 – first come first served! If you would like to install one but would need help doing so, that is no problem just please let us know.

Below is a reminder of easy ways to make your garden hedgehog friendly. Hedgehogs can swim, but if you have a pond, it is important to ensure that there is a shallow area with a ledge built up of pebbles or something similar or a plank of wood at a shallow angle that the hedgehogs could use to climb out of the pond if they happened to fall in. Otherwise they will get exhausted swimming round and round and that is when they can drown.

Offer meaty pet food or cat biscuits

Leave out dishes of water

Build a log pile

Ditch pesticides

Make ponds safe for wildlife

Create a wild corner

Make a hedgehog highway in fences

Do an organised (or impromptu!) litter pick

Supply a hedgehog house

Helping Hedgehogs

BHPS

[britishhedgehogs.org.uk](https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

thefutureisnow.com

With the Tesco grant money, we have also put ten new bird boxes up around the quarry and we will be monitoring them and reporting back in the autumn on how many were used.

Sandra van Oosterhout

WHERE DID THIS YEAR GO?

Spring is almost upon us, and I think after the few years we have had, it is so good to see the spring bulbs coming out all around the village. It is always wonderful to see how a little colour and some pretty flowers can bring us out of the winter gloom, and our spirits seem to lift.

In the Church, Springtime is a busy time. We launched first of all into Mothering Sunday, near to the end of the Lenten period. Then of course, came Holy week, which pushes us forward towards summer.

Weather permitting this year, we will now, no doubt, all be pulling out the lawn mowers, trowels, garden bins, and secateurs from the sheds – trying to put the garden back into order after a very wet and soggy autumn and winter. This last year has not been kind to our gardens, especially some of the trees and plants. Many have weakened, and some have died, but some are just beginning to gain strength and fight back.

It sounds like a lot of people really – we have been weakened by what is happening everywhere in this country, and also around the world, but we will rally, and we will gain strength, and we will fight back. It is, after all, the British way.

On behalf of our Church, I would like to thank all those people who support our Church in Elsham. The small things people do are, in many ways, just as great as the large ones. We are so grateful to so many people in our village who contribute in many different ways to save our Church.

We all know life has not been easy for so many people over the last couple of years, but Elsham people are always there to offer help and support, and this shows what a great bunch of people live here in this village.

God asks us to Love one another, and this is something which is always here in Elsham.

DAWN ENSER

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

CLUBS AND EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	Bowls Club	6.30 – 8.30pm
Tuesday	New Age Kurling	10.00am – 12.00pm
Parish Council	Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, (except August and December).	7.00 – 8.30pm
Wine Club	Fortnightly on a Tuesday	Will resume in September
(Roland Guest's contact details below).		
Wednesday	Bowls Club	7.00 – 9.00 pm (except May – August)
Thursday	Upholstery	10am – 4pm
	Line Dancing	7.00 – 9.00pm
Friday	Bowls Club	2.00 – 4 pm (starting 26 th April)

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

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

There are several local groups seeking new volunteers at the moment, including several opportunities in Elsham, so please read on to see how giving a small amount of time can make a large difference.

Play Park and Exercise Area

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Thank you very much as always to our play park volunteers. **We are currently seeking two more people to help with the opening and closing of the park**, which is open from approximately 9am to 7pm (or dusk if earlier) every day. With two more volunteers, each person has to do only two weeks a year, which can be two consecutive weeks or two separate weeks.

If you'd like to help with the opening and closing of the park, please give me a call on 680827. Your help would be very much appreciated as it helps to ensure the safe and secure running of this valuable resource, which in case you haven't visited, contains adult gym equipment as well as the children's play equipment.

Thank you,

Jane Ewen

Speeding Deterrents

Speedwatch is a local speed monitoring scheme manned totally by volunteers. Groups of three go out to designated spots in all of the low villages with a speed camera as part of our efforts to deter speeding. **The group are seeking new volunteers**, who will receive full training and can choose where and when they wish to volunteer. If you would like to find out more, please contact a parish councillor for more information.

In a separate initiative, the low villages have bought flashing speed signs that warn motorists if they are exceeding the speed limit within the village and also collect useful data on how many vehicles pass through the village and how many are or are not speeding. You will see that one of these is currently situated outside the new houses on Barnetby Lane and we will publish the data at the end of its session.



Nature Reserve

Spring is bursting through in the quarry. We have had the snowdrops and now the violets, cowslips and primroses are shining – soon it will be the bluebells and forget-me-nots. We have just installed ten more bird boxes and look forward to seeing who takes up residence.

We will be seeking volunteers to help collect up the last of the plastic tree tubes for recycling – so keep an eye out for a date.

We encourage everyone to take time to have a walk around the nature reserve at different times of year as it has so much to offer all year round. If anyone would like access with a wheelchair or mobility scooter, please contact any member of the Parish Council for the gate code.

Litter Pick

It may be just too late when you receive this newsletter, but if not, as advertised we are **meeting at 10:00 am at the village hall on Sunday 7th April for a community litter pick.** We really appreciate the people who volunteer to help us with this as many hands make light work.

Parish Council Vacancy

We currently have one vacancy on the parish council that we would love to fill.

Do you want to do something positive, and like all the current councillors, make a difference by contributing to decisions that affect our community?

Do you have ideas for village projects that you would like to implement?

Why not join the parish council? Being part of the parish council is a very rewarding volunteer opportunity where you get the chance to help your community, vote on how funding should be spent, and make suggestions for projects and see them through to the end. Although we are a small group of people, we are very proactive and take pride in maintaining the village and the assets of the play park and nature reserve to a high level.

Recent and ongoing parish council projects include:

- Best Kept Village competition
- East Midlands in Bloom
- Christmas tree switch-on
- Installation of bat, bird and owl boxes
- New quarry entrance gate giving disabled access
- Free village library/book exchange
- Caring for hedgehogs project
- Defibrillator training
- Litter picking
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- King Charles's Coronation event
- Installation of vintage plough

We are now looking beyond these to see what else we can do in the village. If you would like to play a part in future projects and local democracy, please contact our clerk Holly for details of how to apply, tel: 07393 21 30 30, or email: clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk
We need people from all walks of life and all ages over 18 to represent our village.

Elsham Parish Council

Elsham Parish Council forthcoming meeting dates are:

16th April 2024

21st May 2024

From 7 pm until 8.30 pm.

Your Parish Councillors are:

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

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

Jane Ewen – 680827, cldr.jewen@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Steve Moir – 07733 198858, cldr.moir@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sarah Burton – cldr.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