

Elsham Leader Autumn 2025



Clockwise – Agnes Marris with her silver gilt certificate for her front garden; Sandra van Oosterhout collecting the village's silver gilt certificate on behalf of the PC; Andrew Horner collecting the Second Place award in Best Kept Village; and Jack Dawson with his Judges Award certificate



ELSHAM IMPRESSES JUDGES AGAIN!

Best Kept Village

	2024	2025	Church yard	Cem etery	Play ground	War Mem	C Plant	Pub
Small Village Group (pop. below 500)								
Appleby		195	47		48	48	47	
East Lound		197					49	
Elsham	197	198	48		48		49	
Low Burnham	198	199					50	
North Killingholme		191	49	n/a	45	47	45	47
Redbourne	195	195	48		48		48	
Worlaby	191	190	47		n/a /46	48	44	

In this year's Best Kept Village competition, the marks were very close, as you can see from the above, with just one mark between Elsham (198) and Low Burnham (199). Here are the judges' general comments about Elsham:

Community planting is a real strength in this most attractive and well-cared for village. There is an impressive range of planting at the Village Hall, including some colourful window baskets, large containers, a decorated bicycle and chair as well as a herb garden. The grass triangle at the junction of Front Street and Barnetby Lane also has some good planting in flower beds and an old wheelbarrow. The old telephone kiosk on New Street has excellent planting, with well-filled baskets and two planted beds on either side. Further very good planting can be found at Doll Lane, on the fence at the public footpath at Astley Corner and at the junction of Front Street and Hall Lane.

There are many very impressive gardens throughout the village and some good examples of colourful floral displays were found at 9, 16, 18, 21, 28 New Street, Bay Tree House Chapel Lane and 11 and 24 Church Street. Special mention must also be made of the lovely displays outside the bungalows at Astley Corner, especially number 7. The street signs are very smart and attractive and the hedges and verges were well cut. There was no litter found in the village.

We also entered the individual categories for the churchyard, playground and community planting. The marks and comments are in the following table:

✓	Category	Max	Mark	Comments
✓	Churchyard All Saints, Front Street/Church Street	50	48	Shaded by mature trees, this is a most attractive site. There is very effective, colourful planters by the west door and some further good planting by the war memorial opposite. The paths through the site are good and the graves well-maintained. The hedge at the east edge of the churchyard was very well-trimmed.
✓	Playground On entrance to village	50	48	There are three very attractive planters on the fence at the entrance to this very impressive playground. The high-quality wooden play equipment is well-maintained. The grass was reasonably tidy and the site benefited from adult exercise equipment. There was no litter on the site.
✓	Community planting scheme Village Hall, phone box, other locations	50	49	The community planting was consistently good across the village, despite the hot weather and lack of rain. A particularly attractive feature is the planting beneath the street signs. The planters were well-filled, very colourful and created real impact. The most impressive planting is at the Village Hall, where there are splendid floral displays around the Hall and on the bank behind.

East Midlands in Bloom

This is our second year of entering East Midlands in Bloom (EMiB). We were delighted to be awarded a silver gilt this year, an advancement on our silver award from last year. Colin and Agnes Marris entered their garden into the Best Front Garden category and were awarded a silver gilt, Holme Farm entered the Best Commercial Premises and were awarded silver, and the Judges' Award went to Jack Dawson for his reliability and willingness and the impact his efforts have had, particularly at the village hall, which he has kept watered and fed throughout this dry summer. The work of Andrew and Di was also recognised as they plant, maintain and donate plants to all the main displays on New Street. We would not have achieved this result without their hard work, or the commitment of those who kept tubs round the village watered for us – thank you to you all.

We also wish to recognise the cleaning of our village signs and bush shelter voluntarily again by JB Window Cleaning. They did a great job – their details are below and they are in the village regularly. Tower Nurseries at Hemswell Cliff are also due thanks as they gave us discounts on plants for our displays. You can visit them and the antiques centre at the same time, see their poster below for details.



Below is a summary of the judges' comments and some photos of the beautiful flower displays in the village this year.

Sustainable, perennial planting features throughout, with colourful annuals adding seasonal brightness. The herbaceous bed behind the Village Hall continues to flourish, complemented by elegant tub displays and creative touches like the blue-painted wheelbarrow and chair in the gravel area. The village entrance bed, maintained by Andrew and Di, showcases a beautiful mix of shrubs and perennials, while the refurbished telephone box boasts new brackets and well-tended baskets. At the crossroads, colourful planting and a donated plough highlight the area's agricultural roots.

Environmental efforts remain strong, with freshly painted railings and new self-watering planters opposite Astley Corner, bug hotels at the Village Hall, and water butts supporting sustainable watering. Wildlife is thriving—particularly the local

toads, celebrated with new 'Toad Crossing' signs. The quarry nature reserve also continues to develop as a flourishing wildflower haven.

Community spirit is at the heart of every success. Volunteers of all ages, including teams from local businesses and organisations, have supported planting, litter picks, and maintenance. The "help yourself" herb bed encourages sharing, while competitions for Best Commercial and Best Front Garden have boosted local pride. Altogether, the village shows high levels of teamwork, creativity, and care for both people and the environment.



Autumn Litter Pick



On Sunday 7th September we held our latest village litter pick. Volunteers met at the Village Hall on a beautiful, sunny morning. Bags, hoops, litter picking sticks and jackets were provided by the Parish Council. In less than two hours we cleared Barnettby Lane from the village to Barnettby Top and the hedge and verge opposite the petrol station, collecting 24 bin bags of assorted rubbish plus a number of abandoned road signs. The litter consisted mainly of fast-food packaging, energy drink cans, cigarette packets and vapes. We left the rubbish on the path near the garage and North Lincs Council collected it.

Fly tipping is a problem on the country lanes around the village. Since the last litter pick, we have had a chest freezer and about 15 full bin bags dumped on Newland Hill, a bag of cement and a shovel dumped on Middlegate Lane and we are currently investigating reports of tyres being dumped on Washdyke Lane. All of these were reported to North Lincs Council, who came out to collect them. If you see large items that you can't easily pick up, please report them. There is a quick link to the reporting form on the Elsham Parish Council website.

Sadly, rubbish will continue to be dropped by thoughtless individuals, and we will be holding another litter pick in the spring. Please come along and help to make a difference to your surroundings. The more volunteers we have, the more we can clear.

Andrew Horner

Photo of the volunteers L-R; Mick Percy, Tony Baghurst, Tony Forbes, Andrew Horner, Di Horner, Lorraine Guest, Jane Ewen, Jack Dawson, and Roland Guest (plus Sandra van Oosterhout and Bendi Iuel)



Village Golf Competition

Thank you to everyone for taking part in the Elsham golf competition and for your continued support. From all accounts everyone had an enjoyable day and we didn't get wet, thankfully. Although there was some reasonable scoring there was an absolute clear winner by a nine-point margin.

1st Place - Brian Eaton - 44 points,

2nd Place - Jez Waters - 35 points - on back nine count back

3rd Place - Pete Burke - 35 points

Congratulations to all the winners but particularly to Brian on a great score, well done. Thank you all once again and see you all next year.

Kind regards,

Graham

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Jack Dawson held a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan on Saturday 27th October, with a raffle and tombola as well as coffee and cake. Jack would like to thank everyone who helped him to organise it and took part, and he raised a total of £133.32. Well done Jack!

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday 2nd December at 6pm, Elsham Village Hall



Our traditional Christmas tree light switch on event is free to everyone. So come along to celebrate and chat with friends and neighbours over a glass of mulled wine, tea, coffee or hot chocolate, and mince pies.



Summer has disappeared, and now autumn and winter come in fast

Autumn, the season when nature prepares for winter and surrounds us with a wonderful display. The leaves on trees and hedges turn a magnificent autumnal colour: from gold, orange, red, yellows and all shades in-between. Even the berries on the trees and hedges seem to be a brighter colour, red, yellow orange and of course the black of blackberries. Perhaps this brightness allows birds to see them more clearly as they need to store fat before winter sets in.

The fruits and nuts from the trees fall to the ground allowing squirrels and other animals to feed on them or store them for winter. When the leaves fall we can hear the excited laughter of children as they spend time kicking and shuffling through them. Hedgehogs and other small creatures can use these fallen leaves to provide shelter and warmth during the winter months. It would seem that left to its own resources little in nature is wasted and it is completely free for us to wonder at and enjoy. We may need an extra layer of clothing to spend time outside but it is well worth the small effort to wrap up and take a quiet stroll observing the beauty around us.

To walk along the beach or cliff top, perhaps sitting in one of the cliff top shelters or finding a sheltered spot in the sand dunes to just observe the wonders of nature around us. For those unable to get outside, to sit beside a window just for a short while to clear our minds of the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Just to be aware of our footsteps and the noise they make as we walk, or to be aware of our breathing as we sit. Maybe to fix our gaze on a particular flower, tree or leaf. To give thought as to how it has got to the point where it is now, the journey that it has gone through.

How did the seed from which it grew get into the ground, what did it need to grow and get to its present state. What will its next stage be. Are there new seeds or buds waiting to begin life? Will it provide food, nutrients or shelter for other life. Are there ways which we can help that cycle of life, maybe by not clearing away dead leaves but leaving them in a pile in a corner. Not throwing away dead twigs or small fallen branches, but leaving them in a pile for insects to live in. Setting aside just a short time each day if possible, or each week, to contemplate on nature can really help our mental wellbeing. In turn this will help us in our daily busy lives.

Jesus knew the importance of spending time away from the crowds, finding time and space for himself. With the wonders of nature in autumn this is the perfect time for us also to begin to find space for ourselves.

With love and prayers.

DAWN ENSER

Focal Minister, Lay Minister, Churchwarden, Treasurer & Safeguarding Officer,
All Saints Church, Elisham

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 (Roland Guest's contact details below).	8.00 – 9.30pm
Wednesday August)	Bowls Club	6.30 – 8.30pm (except May –
Thursday	Upholstery	10am – 4pm
	Line Dancing	7.00 – 9.00pm
Friday	Bowls Club	2.00 – 4pm

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

Sandra van Oosterhout
17 Church Street, Elsham
Tel:- 01652 327012

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

Stephenson and Julian Charity

This charity was established in 1663 by John Julian and later joined by George Stevenson in 1803, aiming to “help the most needy in Elsham, for food, fuel and other vital needs.” The fund is still in place and anyone who is a resident in the parish of Elsham can apply. All applications are completely confidential.

The remit of the charity is to essentially help villagers with a particular need with one-off payments. Grants can be given to help with the cost of many things: travelling to medical appointments, sanitary products, school uniform, urgent repairs, travel to a sports activity, equipment for a club, etc. 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.

Simply contact a charity trustee, and they will let you know how to apply – it is simple and quick to do.

The current trustees are:

Sophie Dunn: 07775 574396

Lorraine Guest: 01652 680679

Sandra van Oosterhout 07817 530705

Rev. Lee Gabel: leebbgabel@gmail.com

Elsham Parish Council

Elsham Parish Council forthcoming meeting dates are:

21st October 2025

18th November 2025

From 7 pm until 9 pm.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Sandra van Oosterhout (**Chair**) – 327012,
cldr.svanoosterhout@elshamparish.gov.uk

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

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

Mick Percy – cldr.michaelpercy@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mark Lilly – 07836 544899, cldr.marklilley@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk – Louise Price

Tel: 07830 427169 Email: clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Correspondence Address: 106 Appleby Lane, Broughton DN20 0BE

Website: www.elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Martin Vickers MP

Our MP (Immingham and Brigg constituency) is Martin Vickers.

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

2 Morley's Yard, Brigg, DN20 8JD

Tel 01469 572777

<https://www.martinvickers.org.uk/>



ELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Elsham Parish Council have casual vacancies. If there is no call for an election we will be looking for two new Parish Councillors – keep an eye out for the notices, which will be posted on Facebook and on the village noticeboard.

What is involved? The council meets once a month for 10 months of the year, and you can give whatever time you can on activities between meetings, to suit your own circumstances.

Why be a parish councillor? If you look at our current councillors on our website, the main reasons for joining are wanting to become more involved in the community and to 'give something back'. As a councillor you have your say on how the funds we are given are spent, contribute ideas for projects, comment on planning applications, draw attention to Highways issues, and help to ensure that the environment around us is well kept and maintained. Moreover, the more people are on the parish council, the better it can reflect the people in its community. Being at the 'grass roots' level of Local Government means you can be involved in making things happen and getting things sorted!

If you would like to come and watch a meeting so you know what is involved, Elsham Parish Council will next meet on Tuesday 21st October at 7pm at Elsham Village Hall. Meetings usually last around 2 hours.

To be a Parish Councillor, you need to be:

- a British Subject or a Citizen of the Commonwealth/European Union
 - be over 18 years of age
- And additionally
- be either a registered elector for Elsham or
 - have during the whole 12 months preceding occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises in the parish or
 - have during the whole 12 months preceding had your principal or only place of work in the Parish

For more information, please contact the Clerk to the Council, Louise Price on 07830 427169 or clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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