

# **Elsham Leader**

**June 2009**

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## **Parish Council News**

### **Valentine's Evening**

Belated thanks to Jane and Stuart for organising this very successful and enjoyable social event. Funds raised will go towards the senior citizens' and children's Christmas parties.

### **The Library Bus**

To inform new residents and remind "old" ones - the library bus visits on alternate Wednesdays from 11.35 to 12.10 on the Village Hall car park.

If borrowing from the bus, you can have up to 6 books which can be kept for up to six weeks and returned either to the bus or to any local library. If you do not already have a local library card, take along proof of your name and address.

Next visits :- Wednesday, 27th May, 10th June, 24th June, 8th July, 22nd July

### **Key Found**

A Yale key was found some time ago outside the Village Hall. To retrieve it, phone 680679

### **Dog Fouling Again!**

Sadly, there have again been complaints about a few inconsiderate dog owners allowing their pets to foul grass and curbs around the village. We have three dog bins purchased at great expense. One is situated at the bottom of Barnetby Lane, another on New Street, and the third at the top of Church Street.

People have complained of dog mess in the quarry., Please clean up there too. We cannot have a bin in there as the local authority would not empty it. Use the bin at the top of Church Street.

We know the names of some transgressors. Might your name be published here?

### **Best Kept Village Competition 2009**

A new sponsor has been found and we are again entered for the competition. Newcomers may not know that we were first in the Past Winners group so we are competing against much larger communities with similarly larger resources.

We have a small band of stalwarts who plant around the village hall and at the entrances to the village but everyone can help because the village is judged on :-

1. general tidiness - whether there is litter, vandalism, graffiti or dog fouling.
2. general appearance - whether hedges, verges and benches etc. are neat and tidy.
3. community facilities - which would include the village hall.
4. the churchyard
5. business premises
6. signs - direction signs, notice boards, advertisements and signposts.

Among other things!

### **Speaking of Signs.....**

Several people have been kind enough to comment favourably on the new village street signs. Particular thanks go to Cllr. Sophie Dunn for all her research into prices and grants. Thanks also to Mondegreen who administer the finances of the Quarry Park on behalf of Singleton Birch and Anglian Water.

They loaned us the money to match fund the grant when there was insufficient time for the Parish Council to fund raise before the deadline. N.L. Cllr. John Berry facilitated the installation of the signs at no cost to the village.

All signs are now of a uniform style and they all show the emblems of the two squadrons which flew from Elsham airfield during the war.

## **The Elsham Website**

The Elsham Website, set up and managed by the Parish Council, is now up and running and can be accessed at :-

HYPERLINK

“<http://www.e-voice.org.uk/elshamparishcouncil/>” (e-voice is a government funded body that provides the structure and facilities for public bodies, like Elsham Parish Council, to set up and run a Web-site.)

The site contains brief historical and geographical details, the names and telephone numbers of the Elsham Parish and North Lincolnshire Councillors, the Parish Council agenda and minutes and a copy of the latest “Leader”.

There is also a calendar of events, a “Useful links” page with details about planning applications and where to find information on waste collection dates.

A link is provided to “Traveline East Midlands” where you can get information about bus and train timetables together with a link to “National Rail “. Please have a look at the web site.

The Website aims to provide information about the village for residents and other interested parties. If you have ideas about other information that could be included, please contact Lorraine Guest on 680679.

## **Councillors**

The Elsham Parish Councillors are

Lorraine Guest	Chairman (680679)
Bob Andrews.	Deputy Chairman (688720)
Sophie Dunn	(680676)
Siobhan Hollows	(681967)
David Dent	(688766)
John Taylor	(680438)
Paul Richardson	(688467)
Parish Clerk Deb Hotson	(0784 220 1877)

---available weekdays 10 am. - 2 pm.

The North Lincolnshire Councillors are  
Cllr.. John Berry

Cllr.. Colin Sherwood

Cllr.. Nigel Sherwood

The above councillors hold a surgery every Thursday at Hewson House Brigg 10a.m.– Noon.

**Lorraine Guest**

**Chairman**

**Elsham Parish Council**

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## **All Saints’ Church, Elsham**

The annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council was held on Monday, 20th April in Church.

Mrs. Sutherland and Mrs. Taylor were re-elected as Church Wardens, Mrs. Mee was re-elected as Treasurer and Mrs. Phipps re-elected as Secretary. Thanks are expressed to everyone who helps to keep our Village Church functioning. Mr. Andrews for maintaining our Churchyard, Mr. Moir for playing the organ, Mr. Hollows our Clock-winder, sidepersons. cleaners, readers, Bell-ringers etc.

Concern was expressed by the Treasurer regarding the amount of money involved in maintaining our Church. The Deanery share this year will be £5100 in addition to gas and electricity, plus other expenses. With small Church attendance resulting in less income, this creates difficulties.

At present, only two Services per month are held in church due to the extra responsibilities of our Vicar. A notice of the times of Services is displayed outside Church.

We thank everyone who helped decorate the Church for its Easter Festival. Do remember to remove arrangements as soon as possible after the occasion. The Youth Group of our Church made our Easter Service most enjoyable with their contribution and we do thank all those concerned for their effort.

Our Church Council meets 4 times per year and the meetings are of short duration to discuss maintenance problems relating to the Church. We would welcome anyone who would be willing to join us.

Do you have accountancy experience or have retired from work involving this. if so we would appreciate any assistance you may be able to give. Again we do extend a very warm welcome to everyone to attend our Services. After many

centuries it would be great pity to see our Church close due to lack of support during our tenure. A few people work very hard and would always be pleased to welcome extra assistance.

If you are able to donate a short time to help clean the church, it would be much appreciated. This is required only occasionally. , light as we try to have a 'grand cleaning session' once per year. The Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 27th September at 6 p.m. This is also 'Back to Church Sunday. Come and join us!

**Barbara Phipps**

**Secretary**

**Elsham Parochial Church Council**

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### **New Age Kurling**

On Saturday 16th. May, the New Age Kurling team from Elsham,"The Elsham Bombers" took part in the Lincolnshire Championships. The team captained by Kate White, included Audrey Birkinshaw, Gill and Terry Leaning. This was the first involvement of the team in any organised competition, so there was much elation and celebration when the team emerged victorious. Congratulations to the team and many thanks to the other members for their support.

Anyone wishing to join the Club should come along on Tues.. mornings from 10-00am until 12-00 Noon. The cost is £1.50 including Tea/ Coffee and biscuits.

**Ernie Ferrier**

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### **Elsham Indoor Bowls Club**

The Club has completed their season in the Bishop Norton League in a mid-table position. We are hoping for a higher position next season as our new Captain Ernie Ferrier settles in and some of the newer members gain more experience.

Our Presentation Evening and Dinner was held at the Golf Club on May 21st. and was enjoyed by all.

The A.G.M. will be held in the Village hall on the 3rd. June 09.

Our new season starts with a home game against Waddingham on Oct. 7th.

Members meet on Wednesday and Sunday evenings in the Village Hall at 7-00 p.m.

Anyone interested are welcome to attend although, as our numbers are limited to 25, we have a waiting list at present. ~ We have a charge of £1.50 per evening, which also includes tea and biscuits. **John Tomlinson Tel. 688221**

### **Wildlife Journal**

The very beginning of the year, those walking and driving through Elsham have been treated to a wonderful display of naturalised flowering plants. In January and February, vast drifts of delicate green and white Snowdrops, encouraged by cold conditions earlier in the winter, could be found scattered generously throughout the village. Yellow starry Aconites closely followed and then pretty carpets of Celandine. Mild temperatures and sunshine in February lead to a long and cheerful succession of Narcissi and other bulb species. Hosts of creamy yellow Daffodils and pretty Chionodoxa and Scilla in the churchyard cheered visitors and the winter flowering cherry trees that I planted in the churchyard a few years ago put on a particularly pretty display this winter, from October into April. Wild violets- Common Dog Violet and Sweet Violet- were prolific this year and could be seen and scented out in the dry hedge bottoms of the quarry and surrounding lanes. Magnificent Horse-Chestnut candles adorned the branches of the majestic trees in the churchyard and snowy white hawthorn flowers smothered the hedgerows this year. The very last of the Cowslips are in flower after several weeks and the fairly uncommon pretty white Meadow Saxifrage is happily spreading further this year. The incredible tiny shimmering spikelets of Quaking Grass will soon be visible naturalised in old grassland amongst the frothy deep blue and white Germander Speedwell and delicate creamy white Pignut. The azure blue flowers of Green Alkanet and the deep crimson Red Champion can now be found in shadier hedge bottoms in Vicarage Lane and Front Street. To the discerning eye, wonderful natural plant combinations, in colour, form, height and texture, of delicate white and green Cow Parsley and the tall blue-purple flowering Comfrey interspersed with a diversity of other broad-leaved and grass species plant have created a striking natural herbaceous border in Front Street the wonder of which is rarely found in a cultivated garden! Any gardeners aspiring to create an herbaceous border should take a look. This particular grass verge, along with one or two more on the outskirts of the village, is 'managed' with the co-operation of the local council for its wildlife value. The natural vegetation is cut at carefully timed intervals throughout the year in order to encourage a diversity of wild species. In general, one cut should be made in early spring

and then, throughout the summer, the wildflower and grass species should be allowed to flower and drop seed before a cut in late summer/autumn. A common mistake, is for wildflower meadows to be cut too early, before the important later-flowering species have flowered. Chalk grassland is an important natural habitat, particularly rare in north Lincolnshire and the thin chalky soils underlying the grass verges bordering some of our village lanes support an attractive and important diversity of chalk grassland plant species. Suburban-style 'tidy' closely mown verges and grass is an unfortunate by-product of the creeping urbanisation of the countryside including rural villages. However, the fast growing awareness of the importance of supporting and maintaining our wildlife habitats - whether they be wildflower meadows or roadside verges - is, thankfully, rendering such practices old-hat and ignorant. The roadside verge of upper Vicarage Lane is particularly attractive from June into October with species such as the luminous white Ox-eye Daisy, powdery blue/lilac Field Scabious, purple thistly Common Knapweed and also the larger spikier-flowered Greater Knapweed. Do take a look for yourself. It's amazing what plant species you will find if you really look - it's possible to find something of interest on every visit!

### **Late Spring - Early Summer in your Garden**

Our gardens have burst into growth over the last few weeks with impressive alacrity! Nature waits for no man! It seems like only last week when I was admiring the fresh spring beauty of the apple blossom and already those flowers have developed into plump young fruit, some trees are already bearing fruit up to two centimetres in diameter.

Soft vigorous young leaves and plump fresh flower buds are competing for space in every garden border - invited and non-invited species alike! It looks as though we are going to have a wonderful year for roses. Branches are laden with ripe young buds and many species have started flowering already including the large deeply-scented shrub rose, Rosa 'Roseaie de l'Hay'. Hopefully, the weather will stay fine with no heavy rain to dampen down the delicate petals. Clematis such as the deep blue/purple Cl. Jackmanii also appear to have produced lots of

full buds - the montana were laden with heavily scented flowers throughout May. Lavender have also benefitted from a mild spring and French Lavender, Lavandula stoechas, that were lightly trimmed in autumn have produced a multitude of new growth and have been encouraged into flower by the recent warm sunshine.

In addition to ornamental plant species, our vegetable and salad crops have got off to good early start and at the moment all is looking well for a bumper crop. Vegetable plots are a feature of even the smallest garden this year and vary in shape and size from elaborate raised beds to small plant pots. Exotic looking and tasty salad leaves, spinach beet, carrots, shallots, bush cherry tomatoes and even potatoes can be grown in containers close to the kitchen door. When creating planting plans, I often include herbs such as chives, marjoram, large leaf and common parsley, fennel and thyme in garden borders. They work particularly well as under-planting for roses alongside lavender and beneath clematis, being aesthetically attractive, wonderfully scented and equally attractive to wildlife - particularly the insects that will eat the aphids attracted to your roses!

**Jane Leach**

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### **Elsham Village Golf Competition**

The Annual Village Golf Competition is being held on Saturday 13th. June 2009. This involves a game of golf and is followed by a Social Evening in the Golf Club with a 3 course meal. Last years entrants will have already received an application form. The competition and meal is open to all Elsham residents, and past residents, and if anyone wishes further information, please contact Bob Andrews on 07967 211257. I hope for a full attendance and an enjoyable day.

**Bob Andrews**

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