

Elsham Leader Summer 2019

Best Kept Village Competition 2019

Judging for this year's competition will take place between **July 20th and August 2nd**.

As it says under the Elsham sign as you enter the village, we last won this competition in the small village category in 2017. We came joint third with Appleby last year. It was very close - out of a total of 150 points, Amcotts, the winners, gained 148 points, Redbourne, second, with 147 points, then Elsham and Appleby with 146.

We did win the category for best Churchyard, and scored top marks for Community Facilities (Village Hall, Churchyard and Village noticeboard) and other Community Features – notably our distinctive street signs. A big effort was made to clean the street signs, so please, if you have one near you, could you give it a good clean before July 20th.

Previously we have been particularly commended for lack of rubbish – largely thanks to Di and Andrew Horner – unfortunately a small amount of litter was found on Church Street, so please keep a look out, and here's hoping no dog fouling will be in evidence.

A couple of other points received comment – e.g. a few hedges overgrowing footpaths, although they were generally tidy around the village. It is difficult when birds may still be nesting, but again, if hedges could be neatened, that may gain a couple of points. The old telephone box was mentioned - this has been undergoing renovation and cleaning and there should be plants and flowers on display before the judges arrive.

In summary, the judges thought that Elsham is **'a lovely well-cared for village that is a delight to visit'**.

John Dodds plants a tree to commemorate his late wife Anne's many years of service to Elsham as volunteer parish clerk. The "Elsham Elves" with John Dodds outside the village hall.



ELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2019

This report marks the end of another Parish Council year. My sincere thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk, Deb Hotson, for their continued dedication, hard work and support in serving the residents of Elsham. My thanks also to NLC Leader, Rob Waltham, and Ward Councillors Nigel and Carl Sherwood for all their help and continued guidance throughout the year.

Year in Brief:

The fantastic model Lancaster with poppies falling from the bomb bay was installed at the village hall, as mentioned in last year's report.

In mid July residents enjoyed a BBQ at the village hall, which raised £80 for the Church, a big thank you to Cllr Sandra Van Oosterhout for organizing.

A new bench was installed on Astley Corner.

The Beacon lighting on the evening of the 11 November to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War went well and was attended by 70/80 residents who also enjoyed fish and chips at the village hall beforehand.

Thank you once again to Mr. & Mrs. Philip Dunn for donating the Christmas tree, the reverend Lee Gabel blessed the tree and switched on the lights. I think all those who attended enjoyed the mince pies and mulled wine.

March this year finally saw the installation of the long awaited Bus Shelter on New Street.

Elsham Play Park

The drainage was installed in October last year and appears to be working well.

Thank you once again to all the volunteers for unlocking and locking the park throughout the year, despite the mindless act of some moron who stole the lock, which then had to be replaced.

Planning

There were sixteen applications and approvals during the year, eleven were a mix of industrial and farming and five residential as follows:

The Old Smithy Barnetby Lane – Outline planning approved for nine dwellings.

Land off Woodland Drive for eight dwellings – Refused.

Land next to Play Park for ten dwellings – Outline planning and full planning refused.

Application for tree pruning on Maltkiln Lane.

Roof extension, Front Street – Approved.

Highways

We continue to press NLC Highways to repair potholes and maintain our roads to a proper standard, in particular we have asked for the resurfacing of Barnetby Lane and New Street to be brought forward from the current schedule of 2020/2021.

White lines at junctions and on entering the village have been repainted and we have requested Highways to improve speed awareness. They are looking at introducing new speed signs and moving at our request the 30 mph sign on Front Street further up the hill.

On a negative note, parking on pavements is becoming a problem causing a dangerous hazard to pedestrians, wheelchairs and parents with pushchairs. This is an offence and the PC will report offenders to the Police and NLC Enforcement team for appropriate action.

Crime and Neighbourhood Watch

You will have read in the Elsham Leader of a new Neighbourhood Watch initiative and requests for a Co-ordinator, this is a vital service encouraging all residents to be vigilant and report anything suspicious.

Once set up I would encourage all residents to join the scheme to hopefully prevent the kind of incidents reported this year. Vandalism at the Kiosk and Post Box, theft of the gate at the 'Quarry' entrance on Middlegate Lane and an audacious burglary at a property on Church Street just after Christmas.

Reporting numbers:

Police using the non-emergency number **101**.
Fly tipping should be reported to NLC on 01724 297000.

Elsham Nature Reserve (The Old Quarry)

During the year improvements have been made to some of the pathways by laying tonnes of stone, a number of bat and bird boxes have been placed around the area.

Thank you to Chris Busby for replacing the stolen gate mentioned above.

I'm afraid that there are still some irresponsible individuals that continue to ignore and have also removed the 'No Cycles' signs. They are not only a danger to themselves but more importantly to all the regular walkers. Please report any incidents to the Parish Council and we will take action.

Best Kept Small Village 2018 Competition

As you all may know we did not quite reach the dizzy heights of 2017 but we still managed a very credible third place in what was a very tight competition. Thank you once again to Cllr Lorraine Guest and the 'Elsham Elves' for all their hard work, best of luck for this year's competition.

A big thank you to Cllr Christine Busby and Cllr Andrew Horner and his wife Di, who do a fantastic job all year litter picking, and everyone who took part in the litter pick on the 28 April. The rubbish collected amounted to 20 bags, 12 tyres and a metal cover from a boiler all dumped by inconsiderate members of the public.

Dog Fouling

Unfortunately, this continues to be a problem, it is a pity that a minority of pet owners cannot clean up after their pets.

To combat the problem we have asked for the NLC Dog Warden to make spot visits, in addition you will have seen some new very colourful posters designed by our younger residents encouraging owners to clean up after their pets, I hope owners will take notice.

BT Kiosk

Following adoption of the kiosk has been cleaned and the ground cleared around it, we are hopeful that one resident will take on the maintenance of the kiosk, however any other volunteers would be more than welcome along with suggestions for future use.

Current projects and future events

The creation of a Heritage Trail has been mentioned in the Leader and will hopefully be in place later this year.

We are monitoring progress of the Community Speed Watch Project, which is designed to curb speeding through rural villages, further updates will be published in PC minutes and through the Leader.

We would also welcome any suggestions for any improvements, new amenities or social events that you may like to see in the village.

Parish Council Personnel

We have again seen changes to the Council personnel this year. In September Sophie Dunn left the Council and December saw David Harness leave to take up residence in Broughton. Thank you to both Sophie and David for being valued and supportive members of the Parish Council.

At the January meeting we welcomed Andrew Horner onto the Parish Council, congratulations Andrew. We still have one vacancy on the Parish Council, so if any resident is interested in joining then please contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor, we look forward to seeing you.

Past and Present Residents

Sadly, Mr. Bob Andrews one of our past residents passed away suddenly last year. Before moving to Barton Bob had been a supportive member and past Vice Chair of the Parish Council for several years and a regular participant in the Village Golf competition.

Thank you

Graham Evison, Chairman, Elsham Parish Council

What do Parish Councils Do?

An article in "The Times" with that title aroused my interest. It was about a resident who had an issue with his local PC and "didn't doubt" that local councillors "take on the role with the best intentions of serving their local community.....but my experience is that they are poorly qualified and ill equipped for the task. They are free to make arbitrary decisions and, when challenged, answer to no one."

I was already seeing red and had only read that much! Elsham Parish Councillors have a wealth of expertise to draw on from the law, policing, education etc, plus there are many courses available to attend on specific subjects such as "How to be a Good Councillor", "Good Chairmanship", planning and so on. The author then went on to say that parish councils are funded mainly by the electorate by way of the parish council precept. He is quite right in that. The amount is decided upon annually to cover the cost of, in the case of Elsham, such things as the Play Area rent and maintenance, the entry fee for the Best kept Village Competition and the cost of the plants, membership fees for LVF – Low Villages Forum and ERNLLCA (East Riding and North Lincolnshire Local Councils' Association.) They provide us with legal advice. The precept pays for insurance for such items as the seats around the village, street signage, dog bins and costs associated with the Quarry Nature Reserve.

The precept is raised by adding a sum to your council tax. This year Elsham's precept is £8000, which accounts for £59.58 of your bill if you are band E. Good value for money? The accounts are available to view on the parish council website.

The article went on to say that no one gets paid except the clerk, who commands a modest salary. All Elsham councillors value our clerk highly. She is well trained, very professional and a font of knowledge. We would struggle without her. No, the councillors don't get paid. We attend meetings and take decisions seriously with due regard to all the varied interests of residents. Sometimes those decisions are not easy, but they are never taken lightly. We are only interested in serving and giving something back to the community and we do answer to someone – all of the residents of Elsham. If you feel you could serve your community, there is currently, a vacancy on the parish council.

One of the reasons why the author of the article was so annoyed with his local parish council was that it had precepted for a larger amount of money than it needed and "were hoarding rather than spending" and "I'm not saying anyone is dishonest. They're volunteers – generally speaking retired people who have never been in business or managed budgets." It did sound as if the parish council involved was less than efficient, and I have since read that the particular issue has since been resolved. For the record, a third of Elsham's current parish council are still working and all have had experience in their working lives of managing people and budgets.

Your Parish Councillors are:

Graham Evison (**Chair**) - 680679, cllr.gevison@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Lorraine Guest - 680679, cllr.lquest@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

John Taylor - 680438, cllr.jtaylor@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Christine Busby - 688770, cllr.cbushby@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Andrew Horner - 680471, cllr.ahorner@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk - Deb Hotson - 07842 201877, available weekdays 10am – 2pm
clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

We are an active and well regulated parish council, the minutes of which are posted on the village notice board and also on the Elsham Parish Council Web Site <http://www.elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>. In addition, public participation is welcomed at the beginning of all meetings.

Cllr. Lorraine Guest

THE RAF ELSHAM WOLDS ASSOCIATION

The above are holding their Annual Reunion on Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th August. This year it will be based in the Village Hall, all weekend.

After several years of empty skies over Elsham, for this weekend we have had news that our request for a fly-past by the LANCASTER on Sunday 25th August has been granted, so we are hoping the aircraft stays serviceable and the weather is kind. We do not know the timing yet, but it is likely to be in the afternoon when the 'LANC' is returning to RAF Coningsby from the Rhyl Air Show.

Following the dinner at the Village Hall on the Saturday evening, there will be entertainment with an appearance of Miss Marion May. Singing from the age of 10, she was part of the Scunthorpe Coop Junior Choir that won the BBC Radio 3 Choir of the year competition. Now she attends many wartime events and is known as the Modern Day Forces Sweetheart. The precise time of the Memorial Service to be held at the Anglian water Plant on Middlegate Lane on the Sunday afternoon is subject to confirmation (hopefully) associated with the fly-past.

John Tomlinson
688221

ELSHAM WINE CLUB

The wine club recommences on Tuesday 24th September 2019 and runs fortnightly until we break for Christmas on 3rd December.

Meetings are held in Village Hall commencing at 8.00 pm and finish by 10.00 pm. We taste white and red wines from a country or region enabling you sample different wines.

New members are welcome. For more details contact Roland Guest (680679)

ELSHAM PARK NEWS



The Park is open for everyone's enjoyment from 9am until dusk, but will remain closed in inclement weather.

We are very grateful to our rota of volunteer keyholders. If you would like to join our team of volunteer Elsham householders then please let anyone of us know.

The keyholders' rota for the coming weeks/months is as follows:

Summer Park Rota - weeks commencing Saturdays:

15 June - Helen Richardson
22 June & 29 June - Lucy Gillchrest
6 July & 13 July - Jane Ousby
20 July & 27 July - JulzMiddleton
3 August & 10 August - Jane Evison

17 August & 24 August - ??

31 August & 7 Sept - Helen Machin
14 Sept & 21 Sept - Jo Leaning
28 Sept & 5 Oct - IanandCharlie Yeo
12 Oct & 19 Oct - Helen Mann & Michelle Fazakerley
26 Oct & 2 Nov - Helen Richardson

Should any adults wish to use the fitness equipment before 9am, just let us know as this can be facilitated after 7am.

If you would like to join our little group of village volunteers then please let me know and I can add you, particularly for weeks commencing **17th and 24th August**.

As always, many thanks to everyone for opening and locking up the park, helping to keep it trouble-free.

Pleased to say that following the heavy rain last week the new drainage system has definitely made a big difference, the land is no longer waterlogged.

Jane & Graham Evison (680980)

ELSHAM INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

The club reopens on Wednesday 11th September in the Village Hall, 7 pm start. The Committee remains the same with the exception of Treasurer. Unfortunately Dave Pinnell is leaving the area and we thank him for his many years of service. Our new Treasurer is Mrs. Patsy Davies and we wish her well.

We urgently want new members. You would be made most welcome and tuition will be given if required. The club meets at the Village Hall on Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 7pm to 9 pm, with tea / coffee & biscuits at half time.

John Tomlinson
688221

The Village Golf Competition

This year the Elsham Village Golf competition will be held on Saturday 27 July 2019, tee off time 2pm. The competition is open to all Elsham residents past and present and immediate relatives, i.e. sons & daughters.

The competition is an 18-hole Stableford with full handicap allowance, gentlemen playing off the blue tees and ladies from the red.

The winner will receive the village trophy and there are further prizes for the three top scores.

I would be grateful if you could let me know if you are available and if you would like to play.

Further details will follow once I have an idea of numbers.

If you know of anyone else who might like to play then do please let me know or alternatively pass on the details to them.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Graham Evison
Tel 01652 680980

VE Day 75

The 8th May 1945 was the day peace in Europe was declared, so the 8th May 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of this important event. VE 75 celebrations are being planned for the weekend of 8th -10th May 2020, with a change in Bank Holiday – the early May holiday would usually have been on Monday 4th May, but this has been changed to Friday 8th to mark the start of celebrations. Celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee were a great success – might something similar be appropriate? What suggestions/ideas might residents have? Any volunteers to set up a working group? Please contact any of the Parish Councillors to get started – more information at www.veday75.org

Village Handyperson required.

The Parish Council would like to know if there is a handy person in the village who could, for a small remuneration, take on some of the 'maintenance' jobs around the village. Jobs that need doing include, for example, varnishing benches, leaf clearance, painting the white posts at the top of Hall Lane/bottom of Front Street, painting the supports of the street signs etc. If interested, please contact the Parish Council – contact details found on page 4 of the Leader.

Elsham Parish Council are having problems with regard to the mis-use of the Elsham Nature Reserve, (formerly the quarry) as a mountain bike track.

The Police and North Lincolnshire Council Safer Neighbourhoods Team have been informed and are monitoring the area. The culprits are damaging the woodland and paths and there have been quite a few near misses of hitting walkers and dogs. Signage has been ripped down on several occasions, advising that no cycles are permitted.

Not only are youths and adults riding into the site but parents/adults dropping the youths off and unloading their cycles.

Please contact the police on 101 if you see this happening – particularly if you note any vehicle registration numbers. Action will be taken if anyone is caught.

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.org.uk. Events taking place in the Village Hall:

Monday	Pilates	4.30 - 5.30pm
Tuesday	New Age Kurling	10.00am - 12.00pm
	Yoga	4.30 - 5.30pm
	Parish Council	
	Monthly on the 3 rd Tuesday	6.30 - 8.00pm (except April, August and Dec).
	<i>Next meetings: -</i>	Tuesday 16 th July 2019 Tuesday 17 th September 2019
	Wine Club	Fortnightly on a Tuesday 8.00 -10.00pm. Details given earlier (there are no meetings in the summer)
Wednesday	Village Coffee Morning	10.30am -12.00pm (2 nd & 4 th Wednesday in the month)
	Bowls Club	7.00 - 9.00pm (except May - August)
Thursday	Upholstery	10am - 4pm
	Pilates	4.30 - 5.30pm
	Line Dancing	7.00 - 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates	10.30 - 11.30am (Phone Helen, 01652 680568)
Saturday		
Sunday	Bowls Club	7.00 – 9.00pm

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

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

Dawn Enser
21 Church Street, Elsham
Tel:- 01652 688486

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

Chairman
Tony Steeper
c/o Holme Farm Residential Home
Tel:- 01652 688755



Elsham Golf Club

Great membership deals for 2019

Full membership £15.28/week
Joint membership £27.40/week
Intermediate 18-25yrs £7.69/week

Under 13's Free
Junior 13-17yrs £2.78/week
Currently no joining fee

Special deals for Academy/Beginner/Trial memberships.
For details of all membership offers visit www.elshamgolfclub.co.uk
Ring and speak to the manager at 01652 680291 email: office@elshamgolfclub.co.uk
All membership based on a pro rata basis and calculated on a year's subscription

Elsham Garage Services Ltd

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01652 653 266

www.elshamgarage.co.uk
enquiries@elshamgarage.co.uk



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