

Elsham Leader

October 2009



The Village Hall was recently hired for a Wedding Reception. It was decorated and set out by the Bride's sisters to an exceptional standard, and was admired by all the Villagers who were fortunate enough to see it.

The Hall can provide an excellent setting for all types of celebrations and can be hired by contacting **Jim Reid on 688753 or John Tomlinson on 688221**

October Village Do – Saturday, 17th October, 2009

Come and meet the neighbours.

Everyone should have had a form delivered several weeks ago now giving details of the Dinner Dance to be held at the Golf Club on Saturday 17th October. The spring event was very enjoyable, hence the requests to repeat it.

However, we do need people to indicate as soon as possible if they would like to attend.

If you are a newcomer, please get in touch with either Siobhan Hollows on 681967 or Roland Guest on 680679 and they will put you on an appropriate table.

We would like as many residents as possible to attend as it's an ideal opportunity to get to know people. Please note that the restaurant and bars were undamaged following the recent fire at the Golf Club – the changing rooms were the areas damaged.

Parish Council News

Best Kept Village Competition

Can you believe it, we didn't win. Saxby-All-Saints won the Best Small Village award. We were marked down severely because "some careless litter was seen" and "the telephone kiosk looked sadly neglected". We had decided not to plant around the latter because it is due to be removed. We were also severely marked down on the gardens and community area sections and on the churchyard. The final general comment from the judges was "The village is in a beautiful setting, but we felt that more could be done to take full advantage of this, for example by more community and residential displays." I think we have won too often and it is such a pity because well before the results were announced, Audrey felt it was time someone else took over. (Full results on the website)

Audrey Resigns!

The mainstay of our Best Kept Village efforts, Audrey Burkenshaw, has decided to hang up her gardening gloves and mothball her wellies. Without her we would not have won the competition so many times and we cannot thank her enough for her dedication, persistence and public spirit.

Very many heartfelt thanks, Audrey, on behalf of all the village residents.

That leaves a big problem. Who is going to take her place? We need people willing to help with the autumn and spring planting and then be responsible for watering and dead heading a single flower bed; perhaps one situated close to their home. No previous experience is required and all age groups are welcome to volunteer. Have you got a budding horticulturist in your house? If so your village flower beds need you! Please phone 680679 if you are willing to help or if you have any ideas.

New Barnetby Le Wold Scout Group

I recently received a letter from District Commissioner Harry Mortimer saying that the aim is to open a new Cub Pack (8-10year olds) in September followed by a Scout Troop (10-14 year olds) and eventually a Beaver Colony (6-8 year olds) within twelve to eighteen months.

Scouting rules and procedures require them to set up an executive committee to support the new group. He asks that if you feel able to assist this process by becoming a member or recommending

someone else, please contact him on 01652-656986.

I know we have several young residents who would be eligible to join, so, parents why not give them a hand to set things in motion.

By the way, I believe a Brownie group already exists.

Message from Down Under

Don Charlwood, who is now 93, flew from Elsham Wold during the Second World War, now lives in Australia and has written several books about his experiences including "No Moon Tonight". He heard about our new street signs and wrote to say how pleased he was to hear that the two squadrons had been honoured in this way.

Moans and Reminders

Sometime ago we included in the "Leader" a "Twenty is Plenty" poster. Whilst this is only a recommendation, may I ask people to observe it. Our village streets are narrow, winding and, in many cases, without pavements. We have many young children around now and one or two of the more mobile people from the residential home take an airing on Church Street. Please slow down and take care. I'm sure no one would want to be responsible for an accident.

Grass Verges

Dare I say it! Recently we haven't had so many incidents of lost lorries churning up the triangle at the bottom of Barnetby Lane and despite all the building that is going on, little damage has been caused. The worst incident, so I am informed, was the result of an ambulance squeezing past another vehicle. However, please take care not to run over or park on grass verges.

Dishing the Dirt Again!

I wish I had a pound for every time I have been asked to include this. -- Would dog owners PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE clean up after their pets. The Parish Council does and has taken action against people falling foul(!) of this law.

End of Moans!

Village Notice Board

The Parish Council is aware that the notice board is in need of replacement by a larger model, probably to be situated outside the Village Hall. We are currently collecting quotes but it will be a few months before a new one is in place. In the meantime, if you have items for display, please give them to a Parish Councillor or drop it in at Oakdale, 5, Church Street and I will endeavour to

shuffle things around and squeeze it in.

Lorraine Guest

Chairman

Elsham Parish Council

Elsham Wine Club

The Wine Club has now started for the autumn term. New members are welcome – come along to a meeting and try some lovely wines in pleasant company. The next meeting will take place at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 13th October in the Village Hall – please make a note of it in your diary.

Roland Guest

All Saints' Church Elsham

After lengthy negotiations, a Faculty has now been obtained from the Diocese to carry out repairs to our Village Church at an estimated cost of £67,000; a daunting sum for a small Parish, and fund-raising efforts and possible applications for grants will have to be made. Part of the Church dates back to the Norman period -- the west tower and the Norman arched doorway supported by the receding pillars with the ornamental capitals. The Frieze on either side of the doorway possibly dates from the 13th. century. In 1166, a certain Lady Beatrice of French origin, together with her sons, founded a hospital for the poor of Elsham near the present Elsham Hall. This was later given to the Augustian Canons and this would be the first Elsham Priory and the Church appears to have lasted until 1535. At the dissolution of religious houses, the Priory was given, in the year 1538, by Henry VIII to his brother-in-law Charles Branden, Duke of Suffolk. The first Prior of Elsham was William Clement, 1208, and the first Vicar in 1227.

From this very brief history, it would be a great pity if our Church was allowed to decay. Any assistance with the fund raising efforts will be very welcome. A very warm welcome is extended to everyone attending our Services.

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'. As usual the produce will be donated to our local Residential Home to remind our elderly and sick residents that we remember them.

On Friday the 16th. October, the popular Quiz Night, with Pie and Peas supper, will be held at

the Village Hall - make a note of this date.

Between July 1941 and April 1945, over 1000 young men were to die on operations from Elsham Wold airfield. We have an opportunity to show our appreciation of their bravery by giving their lives so that we may enjoy our present freedom by attending the annual Memorial Service in our Church on Sunday, 1st November at 10-15 a.m. Discussions are continuing on a suitable memorial to be erected in the Church.

Remembrance Sunday - This will take place on Sunday 8th. November at 10-30 a.m.

Christingle Service - 13th December at 10 a.m. Offertory donated to the Childrens' Society.

Midnight Mass - This will be a Carol Service with Holy Communion at 11-15 p.m.

The Family Services continue to be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10 a.m. it is proposed that the Evening Service will be changed to the third Sunday of the month at 9 a.m.

Barbara Phipps

Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch

The previously well supported and attended Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch has been organised for Sunday 20th. December in the Village hall at 1-30 p.m. for 2.00 p.m. If you are eligible and would like to attend this very festive occasion, please let Jane of Stuart know on 688422 or 07951106887 by the 12th. December.

Lorraine Guest

WILDLIFE JOURNAL

Bold, bright shades of autumn are now gracing our trees, hedgerows and gardens. Crimson, gold and orange-red hues follow on naturally from a warm, sunny and dry September.

In the east counties this summer, we have been fortunate in experiencing less rain than many other parts of the country but have had just enough for our native oaks, beech and hazel to produce a bumper yield of nuts to sustain our squirrels and small mammals through the winter. Throughout the summer buzzards have been visible, gracefully gliding and mewing in the skies above Elsham and until frightened by a man shooting rabbits, started to nest in woodland in the village. Sparrowhawks have been hunting in the village too. If birdfeeders are hung from the lower branches of trees and shrubs that have a broad overhanging canopy, birds will be given some protection from predatory sparrowhawks when

feeding. Birds feeding from feeders situated in open spaces are highly vulnerable.

The swallows that could be seen wheeling and singing in our skies throughout the summer gathered and left for warmer climes in mid-September. Bats have also had a busy summer hunting for abundant airborne insects at dusk. Hedgehogs are more seldom seen in the village than they were even 10 years ago. Their habitat has been lost as a result of development and 'tidying' of previously uncultivated natural grassland and wild areas and by the trend for 'intensive' gardening. Hedgehogs need wild bramble patches, leaf piles and overgrown hedge-bottoms and dry ditches for cover and in which to hibernate during winter. Whatever the size of your garden, you can encourage and sustain wildlife if you provide food and safe shelter all year round. During winter, please think before tidying that wild corner of your garden and do not disturb places where hedgehogs might be hibernating.

On winter walks around the village, look out for birds feeding on deep red hawthorn berries and glossy scarlet rose hips and flocks of fieldfares on overwintering stubble. From the comfort of your warm kitchen, take time to observe the wide variety of birds attracted to your seed and nut feeders and feel pleased that you're helping them to survive the winter!

LATE SUMMER-EARLY WINTER IN YOUR GARDEN

Each season in the garden brings new delights to those lucky enough to spend time there.

Following early weather forecasts of a hot, dry summer our gardens thrived on regular rainfall and warm temperatures. What a good reminder of the nourishing effects of a timely and regular water supply combined with consistent warmth and sunshine. Gardeners have had a busy summer tying in and staking large plants, constantly hoeing out weeds and trying to keep grass in the lawn under control! Herbaceous borders enjoyed the summer and provided lots of colour and leafy growth.

In the vegetable garden, we've had bumper yields of peas and beans but lettuce and spinach bolted away. Some sunshine-lovers generally had a hard time. Soft fruit such as loganberries and raspberries had a good year and apples, pears and plums were in abundant supply.

Soils have dried out quickly in the rain-free heat

of September and made cultivations difficult on all but the kindest of soils. We are fortunate in Elsham to have such workable soil!

Now is the time to divide and separate overgrown perennials and to put in new plants before temperatures fall over winter. After planting, water regularly for the first few weeks to ensure plants establish well and you will find that those planted now will soon push out their roots and have a head-start on spring planting.

Dead foliage and seed heads are often cut back at this time of year as gardeners tidy up the spent summer growth. If you can bear to, please leave some seed-heads and leaves over winter until late March-April to provide homes for overwintering insects such as ladybirds and lacewings. These garden-friendly creatures will reappear in spring and early summer and eat up the aphids attacking your new rosebuds. In addition, vegetation left at the base of plants will provide natural protection to delicate roots from frosts and low temperatures. As the old growth rots down and becomes incorporated into the soil in spring, it will provide valuable nutrients to boost the new growth - just as nature intended.

Jane Leach

P.F. Rose (Plantech)

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