

Elsham Leader Summer 2020

ELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2020

At the beginning of this Parish year no one could have envisaged that we would all be experiencing the difficult, worrying, distressing and quite frankly strange situation we all find ourselves in due to Covid-19. So may I firstly say I hope you are all well and coping during this difficult time.

We are all fortunate where we live in that we have gardens and open spaces to ease the effects of lockdown, others are not so lucky. I know from the village Facebook page that the community spirit is alive and well with all sorts of offers of help to people, which is fantastic. Let us hope that it is not too long before this virus is beaten, in the meantime please stay safe and well.

At last year's Parish Council AGM I announced that this would be my last year as Chairman and as a member of Elsham Parish Council. After nearly ten years on the Council I felt it was time to move on and let someone with new ideas and a fresh pair of eyes takeover and move the village forward and I know that Sandra van Oosterhout as Chairman will do just that.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you all. I have enjoyed working to improve and enhance the village and its amenities for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone. All of which would not have been possible without the support of my colleagues on the Parish Council and our Parish Clerk, Deb Hotson. My very grateful thanks go to them all, together with my very best wishes for the future. My thanks also must go to our three Ward Councillors, North Lincs Council leader Rob Waltham and Councillors Nigel and Carl Sherwood for their help, support and guidance in achieving our goals. Lastly, my thanks to my wife Jane who has supported me throughout and together with her team of volunteers successfully ran the village play park since its opening, a task which I'm sure with everyone's support will now continue under the stewardship of Jane Ousby.

As this is my last report, it is only up to January when Sandra took over as Chairman I do not intend to follow the usual format but to summarise what has been a relatively quiet year, as follows:

We finally got our Bus Shelter.

We were awarded 2nd place in the Best Kept Small Villages competition and the Best Playground award; fantastic results and well done to all involved.

The Nature Reserve Management Agreement with NLC was finally signed, which will enable the Parish Council to enlist the resources of NLC in the maintenance and running of the Nature Reserve (The Quarry).

NLC improved the village road signage.

Regarding planning, residential applications were mostly for amendments or extensions with one refusal for a development off Woodland Drive. There were also a number of industrial applications on farmland and the Industrial Estate.

This was the third year of having a Christmas tree outside the Village Hall, with thanks to Simon and Suzanne Halmshaw for their generous donation of the tree.

With my very best wishes to you all.

Graham Evison

This part of the report covers February to May 2020, following on from Graham Evison's report above. As the Parish Council year ends, we are indeed facing very strange circumstances amid the COVID-19 lockdown. Council meetings are being held virtually via a conference call and residents can join meetings by contacting the clerk for details.

News in Brief

In mid-March, the UK entered lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The Parish Council sent letters to every resident in the parish with the contact details of a person who could help with shopping or other tasks that self-isolating residents required. This has been a success and there has been a great community spirit during this trying time. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help others.

The lockdown has undoubtedly caused delays and there are several matters waiting for more normal working conditions to be restored. A Heritage Trail board and an Information Board for the Nature Reserve have been manufactured and are waiting to be installed. Volunteers for the Speedwatch initiative have come forward and are awaiting training. The VE Day celebration we had planned had to be cancelled and rescheduled for later in the year. We have installed water butts and compost bins at the Village Hall.

Elsham Play Park

The play park had to be closed due to the lockdown. Jane Evison stood down from her duties regarding the play park and Jane Ousby took over the organising of the rota for locking the park, although at the moment it is not required. We thank Jane Evison for her many years of organising the opening of the park and generally keeping an eye on it.

Planning

The Old Smithy Barnetby Lane – Counsellors and residents put a lot of effort into objecting to the demolition of the Old Smithy without the biodiversity plan and other requirements on the outline planning permission being adhered to. North Lincs Council listened to the objections and stipulated that the biodiversity plan had to be done before demolition could commence.

Other planning applications:

Plot 12a The Flarepath – installation of a sulphur dioxide storage tank. Approved

Plot 11b The Flarepath – installation of a sulphur dioxide storage tank. Approved

Highways

Surface water has been a problem this winter on Church Street and at the bottom of Front Street, despite investigations and work by Anglian Water and North Lincs Council. The leak on Front Street is still being investigated and some roads in the village are due to be resurfaced this year.

We are still waiting for the 30 mph sign on Front Street to be moved further up the hill.

Work will also be done to prevent water running off from the field at the bottom of New Street at the junction with the B1206.

North Lincs Council provided materials to refurbish the finger post on the junction of Hall lane and Barnetby Lane and this has now been done by Ian Bowmer, the new village handyman.

Crime and Neighbourhood Watch

Diana Connolly, our neighbourhood watch coordinator, has circulated reports of any suspicious activities in the area, which has been much appreciated. Apart from a break-in at the Old Smithy there have been no incidents in the past few months. Crime numbers in general in the area are down from last year.

Elsham Nature Reserve (The Old Quarry)

During the lockdown the nature reserve has been kept open for local residents to exercise whilst social distancing. The information board that has been created by the Parish Council is ready to install inside the Nature Reserve and this will be done when circumstances allow. We may also be asking for a working party to help collect up the old plastic sleeves as the manufacturer has agreed to collect them for recycling. This will have to be done when restrictions on working together are lifted. We thank Ian Bowmer for refurbishing the two wooden seats in the quarry in his new role as the village handyman.

BT Kiosk

Some of the glass panes in the kiosk were removed last year to allow window boxes to be installed on the phone box and this resulted in a stunning summer display. Thank you to the Elsham Elves for all the planting and maintenance around the village and to Helen Machin for watering the plants at the kiosk. Ian has repainted the kiosk this spring and we are trying our best to source plants for this year's summer display, which is proving a little difficult! We still plan to enter the 2020 best kept village competition.

Village Verges/Public Right of Ways

The Parish Council have taken over responsibility of cutting village verges and public rights of way. North Lincs Council have forwarded the funds for this. This way we can ensure more regular cuts to keep verges looking neat and tidy, and decide if we would like some to be more natural to benefit wildlife.

Parish Council Personnel

Graham Evison resigned as chairman in February and at February's meeting Sandra van Oosterhout was voted in as Chair and Andrew Horner as Vice Chair. Jane Ousby also joined the council in February. 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.

Thank you

Graham Evison and Sandra van Oosterhout

Chairman, Elsham Parish Council, May 2020

Wildlife in an Elsham Garden

At 5.30 in the morning in the last week of May, I was woken by loud frenzied twittering right outside the bedroom window. It was house martins trying to build a nest under the eaves at the apex of the gable end. They couldn't have chosen a worse place. I'm not fond of being woken at that time, it's directly above the outside tap and on the flight path over my washing line. Have you ever tried to get bird poo out of clothes?

At 2.30 the following morning, I was again woken. This time by a scratching noise. Even though we have never had them before, I was convinced it was mice and was just about to wake the comatose form beside me, when I realised what it was. We had wedged a large piece of tinfoil into the top of the window to deter the birds. It was moving against the window pane!

A couple of evenings previously I had had a wander down the garden in the dark to see which solar lights were working and came within a hair's breadth of treading on a large hedgehog.

I've had to put slate chippings on the planter in the pond to stop the blackbird digging out the plants to get to a feast of tasty morsels he was finding in there. Moles undermine precious plants and I'm just waiting for the one who regularly burrows right across the back lawn in direct sight of the conservatory.

We were having breakfast there a few days ago when I spotted what I thought was the hedgehog. I wasn't. It was a squirrel digging a hole in the lawn. When I went to chase it off, I found multiple holes and the remains of several nut shells.

The dry weather is putting our lawns under stress and we will probably have the chafer grubs back to finish them off.

The trials and tribulation of a gardener in a rural setting!

However, there are compensations. We do have a garden which has been a boon in these lockdown times and the animals and birds, including the occasional visit from the woodpecker, are fascinating and a joy to watch. I'll put up with the inconveniences.

Lorraine Guest

Your Parish Councillors are:

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

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

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

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

Christine Busby - 688770, cldr.cbushy@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jane Ousby – 680827, cldr.jousby@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

Best Kept Village Competition

As usual, Elsham is entered in the Best Kept Village competition and we are told that judging will still go ahead towards the end of July.

The Elsham Elves team have been busy planting up areas around the village. Thanks to our newly appointed handyman, Ian Bowmer, all street and road signs have been cleaned, the finger post at the top of hall Lane refurbished, white posts painted, Doll Lane snicket tidied and benches in the quarry mended and re-stained.

We hope all residents will support the efforts by using the litter and dog bins provided and keeping the outside of their premises tidy. The judges take into account general maintenance of hedges, trees, verges, fences, walls paths and seats. Also gardens, window boxes, hanging baskets, tubs and planters. Whilst we are in lockdown, it's the ideal time to tidy up the front of your premises, the areas you have been meaning to do for some time. Particularly attractive features get a mention in the critique and although there are no prizes for individual householders, the village gets garden vouchers if we are in the winning categories which we spend on enhancing the village for everyone's benefit.

If you would like to join the team, please contact myself Lorraine Guest or Andrew and Di Horner, Karry and Dawn Enser, Sandra van Oosterhout, Christine Busby or Catherine Bowmer.

ELSHAM WINE CLUB

Elsham Wine Club like many groups had to curtail their meetings. We are due to restart in September, Covid-19 permitting. By September we should be able to meet and will be able to maintain social distancing in the Village Hall. We may have to change the way we operate – slightly, but hope to start again. The proposed date to start is Tuesday 22nd September – as usual at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall
For further information contact Roland Guest on (01652) 680679.

VILLAGE PLAY AND EXERCISE PARK



Sadly, our lovely play park is still closed but we're keeping it tidy ready for when we can reopen. The grass is still being cut and we're clearing molehills as they appear.

The park will reopen once it's allowed under Government guidelines, and I'll be in touch with the park keepers to set up a new rota. If you'd like to help by joining the play park rota – it is usually opened and locked daily – please contact me on 680827.

Thanks, **Jane Ousby**

RAF Elsham Wolds Association

It is with great sadness that I have to report that our President, Lillian Dell, passed away after a short illness. Lillian was born in Dublin on 16 April 1923. After 2 years the family moved to Billericay in Essex. By the age of 19 she was a nurse but joined the WAAF. After various postings, she arrived at Elsham Wolds in 1943. This coincided with the formation of 576 squadron. She drove aircrews to their aircraft in Bedford vans and collected them on their return. An Association member since the early 80's and when the vacancy of President arose in 2018, Lillian had no hesitation in accepting the role.

She was a regular attender at the re-union and other meetings and said how much she enjoyed coming back to Elsham as often as possible.

Unfortunately, the Museum Room at the Anglian Water Works is closed until further notice owing to the Coronavirus restrictions.

John Tomlinson
688221

All Saint's Church Elsham



Dear friends,

As I write this I am thinking towards Sunday and what sermon I will preach. Sunday as from May 31st will be Pentecost. Pentecost brings the season of Easter to a conclusion. It was Lent when I last led a service in the church building. The whole season of Easter has been spent in lockdown. Easter gives us a glimpse of how the disciples began to exist as a church in very new circumstances.

The church has been trying to work out how to exist and minister in lockdown, in these unprecedented times there has been no template to follow. Many of us have been delivering services online. This has involved the learning of new skills and operating outside of comfort zones, but I have been touched by how positive the services have been to some people.

We do not yet know when we will be able to return to the church building, or whether there will be restrictions in place when we do. One thing lockdown has highlighted is that worship and prayer can happen anywhere, and that God is with us always. We are like the Disciples as we try to find out how to 'do church' in new and difficult conditions.

Many of this year's baptisms and marriages have been rescheduled. I look forward to the time when I can minister in church once more. I look forward to baptising and marrying, and to greeting people in church on a Sunday morning once more. I also look forward to seeing people on Zoom on a Sunday morning, our simple service has grown in support and it is a great way of keeping in touch with people as well as a way of coming together in worship. If you would like to be involved in the Sunday Zoom service, please email me and I will send you the necessary link.
With blessings,

Rev Lee
leebbgabel@gmail.com

Elsham Village Golf Competition

The Village golf competition will be held Saturday the 5th September, teeing off at 2pm.

The competition will follow the normal format of a full handicap Stableford and is open to all residents present and past.

Contact Graham Evison for further information. 01652 680980

News in Brief

- Open Gardens:

Opening several Elsham gardens was planned for **Sunday 12th July**.

At the moment we are not sure if it will be allowed to go ahead.

However, if restrictions are relaxed further, it could still do so at short notice.

Keep a look out for information on Facebook, Elsham Past and Present and notices in the press and around the village.

- Brown Bins:

NLC will recommence emptying brown garden waste bins from **Tuesday 9th June**, as per usual schedule.

- Fish and Chip van:

Paul's Fish and Chip van will resume service from **Friday 19th June**, arriving at the Village Hall car park at approximately 6.30-6.45pm having first called at Worlabay.

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.gov.uk. Events taking place in/at the Village Hall, **when things are back to normal**, are:

Monday	Pilates Pilates	10.30 – 11.30am (Phone Helen, 01652 680568) 4.30 – 5.30pm
Tuesday	New Age Kurling	10.00am - 12.00pm
	Parish Council Monthly on the 3 rd Tuesday	6.30 - 8.00pm (except April, August and Dec).
	Next meetings: -	Tuesday 16 th June Tuesday 21 st July Tuesday 15 th September
	Wine Club	Fortnightly on a Tuesday 8.00 -10.00pm. (Details given earlier – not over the summer)
Wednesday	Church 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 Pilates Line Dancing	10am - 4pm 4.30 - 5.30pm 7.00 - 9.00pm
Friday	Fish and Chip van	6.45-7.30pm
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
2 Dunn's Paddock, Elsham
Tel:- 01652 688785

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

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



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