

UTTERBY *Voice*

Your Community Magazine



Living in a Farming Community

We live in a village located within the heart of a rural environment in the midst of a farming community. The farmwork enhances our lives and makes a major contribution towards our village being such a lovely place to live.

Keep your distance - Wear a face covering
Wash and sanitise hands - KEEP SAFE

JANUARY 2022

utterby.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/



Welcome

On behalf of Utterby Parish Council I would like to wish you all a prosperous and a Happy New Year for 2022.

We are almost at the second anniversary of the Covid Pandemic. Nationally it has been a tremendously difficult and stressful time for everyone with normal life almost a thing of the past. With regards to Utterby, personally I feel that things will never be quite the same again. St. Andrew's Church and the Village Hall, which were the heartbeat of the village, have been unable to maintain continuity due to seemingly endless lockdowns and cancellations. It may be extremely difficult to return to what the village had prior to the Covid crisis, but we must hope... Residents have been unable to meet and converse on a regular basis and this important part of village life has almost been lost. The new residents to Utterby (that have moved in during the last two years) have had no experience of our regular village events and therefore have missed out on a part of the village community.

Without a doubt, Utterby is in a period of transition with new houses being built and new arrivals settling in to this lovely part of the world. Hopefully they will enjoy living here and in the future, in more normal times, will be able to contribute just as much to the village as others have done over many, many years.

For 2022/23 the Parish Council resolved that the Precept request to ELDC would be the same as the previous two years £8843.84, but as the Utterby tax base has risen (this relates to the number of number of households within the area less adjustments for exemptions for properties where council tax cannot be collected and discounts such as single occupancy), this will in fact mean a decrease in cost towards the Utterby Precept for each household.

Once again best wishes for the New Year.

Alan Woodward
Chairman
Utterby Parish Council

Letter - The Nuclear Dump

You may have heard on the news about the proposal to build a GDF (a nuclear dump, it stands for geological disposal facility) at Theddlethorpe. GOTEC are a peaceful campaign group made up of ordinary people who are opposed to the plans and are trying to persuade LCC and ELDC to withdraw from the process so that it cannot go ahead in this area.

Why am I contacting you? Because it is possible that your village may be on the transport route for the waste. At the moment RWM (a subsidiary of a government department) are unable to tell us exactly how the waste will be transported. We do know that it will be by rail, road or sea. The option for sea (and obviously by road) will probably include transportation by road from Immingham and is likely to include the A16.

You should know that the waste in question is the most highly radioactive waste and it will remain radioactive for over 100,000 years. At GOTEC we are extremely worried at the legacy this will leave for future generations as well as potential risks now. The waste is to be buried under the seabed. This will make it very difficult, if not impossible, to deal with any issues that may arise and there are already known issues with both the copper and stainless steel canisters it is to be encased in.

We invite you to find out more about this by visiting our facebook page and media centre (search GOTEC) and also our website www.gotec.org.uk. We would also appreciate it if you could spare 5 minutes to complete our questionnaire, type shorturl.at/uFGJR in the browser address bar - we are hoping to use this to persuade LCC and ELDC to pull out now.

GOTEC are running a series of information events around the area where requested and would be happy to offer this to your community if there is interest. You can also attend one of RWM's events - have a look at the Theddlethorpe Working in Partnership website for details.

Please help us by completing our questionnaire if you possibly can, by asking family and friends to do so and maybe even giving it a share for us.

Melanie Gibbons
GOTEC

Businesses In the Village

The Parish Council is aware that there are a number of local small businesses or organisations based in Utterby and we would like to support them by giving them coverage in the Utterby Voice.

If there are any local residents who would like us to include their local business in future publications then please contact the Parish Clerk clerkupc@gmail.com

SWH Electrical

We are a fully registered and insured electrical installation and maintenance company that operate on all domestic, commercial and agricultural premises.

Contact

s.w.h.electrical@outlook.com

07759111299

<https://m.facebook.com/swhelectrical/>

DF Stitching Bridal Wear and Clothing Alterations

Tel: 07834924891

Utterby Primary Academy News

Last year I started our entry for Utterby Voice with the words "With some relief we approached the Christmas holidays, saying goodbye to what will surely be one of the most memorable years of our lives". As I write this in December 2021 a year later, we find ourselves perhaps in not too dissimilar a situation, however having managed some more normal experiences over the Autumn Term.

We started back to school in September with a bang and straight into our exciting and engaging curriculum. Children in Year 5 & 6 started the term with a Viking experience day with Hrothgar the Viking alongside with their friends from North Thoresby Primary Academy. Other classes also managed some visits in and out of school, with visits from a member of the muslim community coming in to teach the children about the Islamic faith, a scientist coming in to talk to the children about hygiene at home and in the workplace and an author who held writing workshops with children in Key Stage 2. All classes also managed a visit out to Donna Nook to see the seals and to bring some of their learning in geography and science to life.



At Donna Nook to see the seals



The end of November saw the school receive an overdue inspection from Ofsted, delayed due to the pandemic. Two inspectors visited for the day and saw lessons, looked in books and spoke with children, parents and staff. At the time of writing our final report has not been published, but we look forward to sharing it with you as soon as it is.

In December we were delighted to be able to do some slightly more normal festive activities, as well as continue to embody our school value of "being big hearted" by contributing to a number of charities and good causes.

In St Andrew's Church we held a Christingle Service to raise money for The Children's Society, whilst in school children filled shoe boxes as part of the Rotary Club annual Shoebox Appeal to support those families in less developed countries at Christmas time. Children organised and ran a "Choose to Reuse" sale in school and raised a massive £172 for Children in Need. Children and staff also took part in "Christmas Jumper Day" raising an impressive £95 for Save The Children.



The Christingle Service and the preparations!



This year's play, How Christmas Came To Be.



We managed to also do two performances of our whole school play "How Christmas Came To Be", again at St Andrew's Church. After all these years I'd consider myself quite the connoisseur of primary school Christmas plays, but this one is certainly amongst the best I have seen. Enthusiastic singing from each and every child and some of the best acting performances both individually and collectively I've witnessed. A tremendous performance all-round. Thanks to the generosity of parents and local solicitors Wilkin Chapman LLP we were pleased to raise over £175 towards the church. We are glad to be able to support in a small way St Andrews which is such an integral part of our school life. Thanks go to Linda Sprotson and Tim Wood for their support of us in return.

The Art Club from school were also delighted to create a Christmas tree to St Mary's Church in Ludborough, as part of their Christmas tree festival. Thanks to Janet Dixon for inviting us to take part.

From everyone at Utterby Primary Academy we wish you a happy and healthy start to 2022. Best wishes,

Tom Hawkins
Executive Headteacher



St Andrew's News *from the Pews!*



2021 saw St Andrew's adjusting to the threat of Covid. Services began again with some restrictions on numbers and socializing, but our loyal congregation turned out, which gladdened our hearts. It was also a joy to be able to welcome Utterby school pupils for their Harvest service, their Christingle and most recently their wonderful Christmas concert which included a nativity scene. Just when we had re-established these and other normal practices; singing hymns, sharing a coffee and a chat, the Omicron variant struck. This caused the postponing of our Christmas social event (new date tba) and scuppered the plan for a Christmas Eve service. For 2022 we shall regroup and have a workable plan for events, taking account of possible limitations. Speaking of limitations, I must report on outline plans for the re-organisation of parishes and services, still under consideration by the Lincoln Diocese. In the face of ever reducing numbers of clergy all parishes were consulted on alternatives for making the Diocese more viable financially and for providing sustainable clergy services to each parish.

In Utterby we have been without our own vicar since 2015. Remember the lovely Rev'd Sue Allison? Our monthly church services have been provided by retired clergy such as Rev'd Jean Wrisdale and licensed readers Dr Jenny Ballantyne and

David Margaron. Visiting priests, Father James Robinson and Archdeacon Gavin Kirk have also helped.

From the five categories of the new proposals, Utterby has nominated itself as a category three church, where monthly church services are offered, similar to above, and with a programme of social /heritage events. The Diocese have yet to approve the nomination and the timescale for approval has been extended.

For the moment it looks like business as usual, but should the categorisation become practice there are likely issues for rural churches like St Andrew's. Services such as weddings and funerals will be allocated a priest. With less clergy there might only be one communion service a month for a group of churches, in a different church each month.

As we have seen throughout the pandemic a church is the mainstay of a village. As life events are celebrated in the church, people have a stake in their church whether or not they attend Sunday services. Will Utterby people really want, or even be able to travel to a church other than their own? Unlikely.

Costs as usual, will be critical. During 2020 and 2021 St Andrew's has only been able to pay approx. 50% (£1150) of its parish share. Parish share contributes to the cost of clergy and some central services. The outlook for 2022 is uncertain and the future proposals, if effected, could be even more challenging. We can all only hope that God will provide and in some way he will. St Andrew's welcomes everyone to church and wishes all Utterby residents, new and old, a very happy 2022.

Linda Sproston: Secretary to Utterby DCC

Footnote: A more detailed description of the categories of churches etc. is available on the notice board in the church.

The White Squirrel

When we first moved into Moat Farm in September 2010 we discovered a white squirrel enjoying life in our garden. These photographs of the white squirrel have been supplied by Mr Rod Must, former Chairman of Utterby Parish Council. Sadly the squirrel disappeared some time after our arrival. However we were fortunate to experience this rare creature, even if it was for a relatively short period time,

One in 100,000 white squirrels have white fur due to lack of melanin. The majority of white squirrels in the UK are thought to be white versions of the eastern grey squirrel. Only a few white squirrels are albinos, recognisable by pink or blue eyes and the absence of pigmentation anywhere on the body.

These squirrels breed normally and may have grey siblings. It is thought that the genes that normally produce a white underbelly in the grey squirrel are active in a wider area of their bodies and is also suggested that the white colouration may even provide some kind of survival advantage in the colonies where they do thrive. *Alan Woodward.*



Photos of the squirrel supplied by Rod Must



Village Hall News

Since our update in July last year some of our regular customers have returned which is good news as it says, at the time of writing, there is maybe some normality returning "fingers crossed".

The Committee has purchased two wooden picnic benches for villagers and visitors to use (especially when the weather improves) these are sited at the back of the Hall.

Inside improvements are continuing with new flooring to the back entrance, men's and women's toilets, with a further toilet and vanity unit being installed. We are also making arrangements to replace the front door.

We also purchased a real Christmas Tree this year which was lit up at dusk, and it brightened up the cold dark evenings. The Village Hall Committee wish you all the best wishes for the New Year.

Ann Van Spall
Treasurer, Utterby Village Hall



PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL
For bookings and enquiries call
Mob: 07394 957 227

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Picking up your dog's mess is an important part of being a responsible dog owner.

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BSL anglianwater.co.uk/bsl

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NUISANCE Bonfires

Smoke from burning can cause a Statutory Nuisance if not conducted responsibly and can ultimately result in court action and fines.

In order to avoid problems and possible legal action, it is recommended that you follow the checklist below:

Only burn dry material. Never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, or anything containing plastic, foam or paint. Never use old engine oil, methylated spirits or petrol to light a bonfire or to 'encourage it'. Avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the evening. Avoid burning if the wind will take any smoke into neighbours gardens / houses and across roads. Avoid burning at weekends and on bank holidays when people want to enjoy their gardens. Never leave a fire unattended or leave it to smolder.

THE VILLAGE *Green*

Since the July edition of the Utterby Voice there has been a considerable amount of change on our Village Green. Some of this has been forced upon the Parish Council, a case in point being the willow tree that has graced the Village Green for many years has been felled. The Tree Officer at East Lindsey District Council confirmed that the tree was diseased and that it should be replaced. It was a sad decision to have to make as several older residents have lived with this tree for most of their lives. However part of the agreed process was to replace the tree with a new substantial willow on or near the same site as the original. This task has now been completed and hopefully over the coming years our new willow will thrive and eventually become an Utterby landmark.

In addition to this tree the Parish Council have planted two substantial Silver Birch trees on the Village Green to replace the lime trees felled some years ago, which hopefully will further enhance the village and compliment the benches that were sited there last year. We hope that the new trees will result in a further increase in the use of our Village Green, which over the last two years, through lockdown, has been a place for residents to walk and chat; it is a very pleasant area to sit, relax and simply enjoy the surroundings and we have been pleased by reports that an increased number of people have been

using the new benches. Long may this trend continue.

Pictured is the Chairman of Utterby Parish Council purchasing the two silver birch trees for the Village Green from the Garden Centre in Waltham earlier in October.



CHURCH LANE / A16 *Junction*

During the past few months the Parish Council has spent a considerable amount of time addressing the issues surrounding the junction of Church Lane and the A16.

Heavy traffic volume and its visible increase in speed are an everyday problem on the A16. Everyone who lives in Utterby is well aware of this issue. Pulling out from any of the side lanes onto the main road A16 is a worry for many of the local residents, and the Church Lane junction has become a serious issue especially when turning right across the carriageway - it is hazardous to say the least. It is indisputable that joining this dangerous road is stressful and requires real care. However, all of this is made even worse when visibility is limited, especially due to overgrown hedges, shrubs and trees.

It should be noted that landowners are responsible not only for the foliage onto their land, but where the bushes and trees cause an obstruction on the public highway and paths. The Highways Department at Lincolnshire County Council have been contacted but will not take any direct action to cut the offending foliage back.

We have obviously recognised all of the problems, and have received many complaints regarding the dangerous junction on Church Lane /A16, but we struggled to make any progress even though we explored every possible means of solving this issue. Our Clerk communicated at length with Lincolnshire County Council who are responsible for the highways as well as local residents, but unfortunately we constantly received setbacks and disappointing responses.

The Parish Council explored the legality of cutting back the offending hedges, shrubs and trees for the benefit of our residents' safety, before a serious accident should happen. Our finances were able to accommodate such actions and so the decision was made that we would pay a contractor to prune back the hedgerow and shrubs to improve visibility for drivers.

David has now cut back the offending vegetation as far as he is permitted. Whilst the result is still not ideal, it is an improvement and hopefully it will help prevent any accidents at that junction.

Alan Woodward - Utterby Parish Chairman

Utterby Halt

Utterby Halt was a railway halt on the East Lincolnshire Railway which served the village of Utterby in Lincolnshire between 1905 and 1961. The station, which opened as part of a new motor train service between Grimsby Town and Louth, is reputed to be haunted by the ghost of a ganger killed on the level crossing in 1953. The line through Utterby remained open for freight until December 1980.

The station was opened on 11 December 1905 to coincide with the introduction of a motor train service by the Great Northern Railway. It consisted of two low parallel halt platforms to the south of the level crossing over Pear Tree Lane; lamps were provided on both platforms, but only the down platform had a waiting shelter for passengers: a small wooden hut equipped with a heating stove. A crossing keeper's cottage lay to the north of the crossing on the down side which was of standard East Lincolnshire Railway design similar to that seen at Fotherby Halt and Grainsby Halt. Passenger services called at the station upon request only. The station closed on 11 September 1961, the same day as Fotherby Halt to the south which had also opened on the same day as part of the rail motor service.

The halt is reputed to be haunted by the ghost of John Edward Lancaster, a length ganger, who was hit on the level crossing in dense fog by an oncoming Grimsby-Louth freight working in January 1953.

The halt was demolished by British Rail long before final closure of the line in December 1980 and little remains of it today. The crossing keeper's cottage survives in good condition as a private residence. On 28 September 1991, the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway obtained a Light Railway Order authorising the reinstatement of the East Lincolnshire Railway between Waltham and the former Keddington Road level crossing near Louth, which would include the line through Utterby.

The Lincolnshire Wolds Railway is currently hoping to extend towards Utterby Halt. The extension will be opened as soon as time and money permit. However it will be some time before the level crossing will be re-instated. It is also very unlikely that a Halt will be built here, as in British Rail days, it never justified its own existence.

More Council News

Planters - Volunteers needed!

We have maintained the planters during the past six months, although at times, due to the weather, they have looked a little sad. We have also sited a further planter under the Main Road sign on the A16. Although quite small, these planters have enhanced Utterby and have been appreciated by residents. If anyone would like to volunteer to maintain one, once planted up, then please make contact with one of your Parish Councillors. This help would be really appreciated. They will be replanted in the next month with suitable plants to brighten up our highways and byways once again.

Jacob's Close Development

Building commenced on this development last summer. Now that construction work has begun it is hoped that all the rules and regulations concerning the site are being adhered to, the potential disruption and inconvenience to neighbouring properties and residents could otherwise be considerable. Once planning permission has been granted for any project it is only the beginning. Those responsible for the work must follow the planning permission guidelines to ensure that as little disruption as possible is achieved throughout the whole period of the build. It is an issue that the Parish Council is aware of and we report any infringement we are made aware of to the Enforcement Officers at East Lindsey District Council.

Christmas Lights

As an experiment it was decided by the Parish Council to decorate the tree adjacent to the wooden Village Sign with lights for advent and Christmas. They were timed to operate between 4:30pm and 10:30pm. We would appreciate any feedback on this initiative.

Grass Verges

As usual at this time of year the grass verges throughout the village are beginning to look extremely poor as a result of vehicles driving over and parking on them. The wear and tear caused is considerable. There is virtually nothing that the Parish Council can do to prevent this happening, we can only request that everyone does their best to lessen the problem and keep our lanes looking their best.

Village Hall Improvements

On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to congratulate those responsible for the improvements and refurbishments carried out in the Village Hall in recent months. As a result of the pandemic the Hall has benefited from some generous financial grants from Central Government and ELDC. These were extremely timely and the money has been put to excellent use. At the time of writing further improvements are still taking place. Utterby now has an impressive Village Hall which is ready and waiting for regular bookings both old and new, once everything hopefully gets back to normal.

Utterby Parish Council

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Moat Farm, Church Lane, Utterby LN11 0TH
Email: alanutterbypc@gmail.com
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Councillor Matthew Wright,
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Email: matthewutterbypc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk
Maria Vincent, 3 Church Walk, South
Cockerington, Lincolnshire LN11 7EE
Tel: 01507 328149
Mob: 07932 000341
Email: clerkupc@gmail.com

Useful Contacts

Abandoned Vehicles	ELDC	01507 601111
Blue Badge Scheme	LCC	01522 782232
Bus Pass	LCC	01522 873700
Call Connect		0345 2343344
Citizens Advice Louth		0808 278 7904
Crime Stoppers		0800 555111
Dog Wardens	ELDC	01507 601111
Floodline	Env. Agency	0345 9881188
Fly tipping	ELDC	01507 601111
Highways	LCC	01522 782070
Lifelong Learning	LCC	01522 782011
Missed bins	ELDC	01507 601111
Mobile Libraries	LCC	01522 782010
Parish Clerk	Parish Council	01507 328149
Pest Investigation Advice	ELDC	01507 601111
Police Non-emergency Number		101
Streetlights	LCC	01522 782070
Trading Standards	Citizens Advice	0808 223 1133

East Lindsey District Council

Councillor Edward Mossop
New Farm, Coalshore Lane, Grainthorpe, Louth
LN11 7JF
Mob: 07502 111030
Email: Edward.Mossop@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Lincolnshire County Council

Councillor Alex Hall,
Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland,
Lincoln LN1 1YL
Mob: 07868 639417
Email: cllra.hall@lincolnshire.gov.uk

How the Parish Council Works

The Parish Clerk works for and with the Council to action its decisions. The main role of a Parish Councillor is to represent the views of all residents within the Parish, to listen to and understand the views and needs of residents and different groups in the community. The precept is the parish council's share of the council tax. The precept demand goes to the billing authority, East Lindsey District Council, which collects the tax for the Parish Council. The Parish Council may only undertake actions if it has a statutory power to do so and it must also fulfil certain obligations.

Have you ever wondered what your council tax pays for in Utterby?

We try very hard to use the precept wisely and with best value always a priority.

Your Parish Council owns/maintains the following.

- 4 Bus Shelters and benches
- Kissing gates (x 2)
- Decorative village sign
- Parish notice board
- Planters at the end of four lanes and on Main Road
- Village Green, hedge and trees on the green
- Two park benches on Village Green
- Millennium oak tree and bench
- Lockable cabinet, located in Utterby Village Hall for the safe keeping of Parish Council records
- Laptop computer and jet printer

The Council facilitate contracts related to:

- Cleaning of Bus Shelters
- Cutting of Village Green grass and hedges
- Cutting of A16 grass verges (in the main village)
- All tree work required to Parish Council trees
- Pest control to village green and verges when required

Utterby Parish Council organise/administer

- Parish Clerk's salary
- The Utterby Voice
- The Parish Council website and Facebook page
- The Annual Parish Meeting

Utterby Parish Council check on behalf of other agencies

- Telephone Box (Open Reach)
- Packhorse Bridge (LCC)

