



Utterby Voice June 2020 News

A Message From The Parish Council

As Parish Councillors we send everyone in Utterby our very best wishes. Hopefully you are in good spirits, keeping well and have managed to adjust to these unique times? Obviously Covid19 has impacted on Council affairs with all normal meetings cancelled and business certainly not as usual.



However, even in rural Lincolnshire, the miracle of modern 21st century technology has streamed through our broadband, smart hubs and fibres to enable us to hold a meeting via the miracle of “Zoom”. This meeting tested the ICT skills, knowledge and understanding of some of your appointed Councillors to the absolute limit of their capabilities. Nevertheless, thanks to the resourcefulness and perseverance of our Clerk Maria, a meeting did take place on Wednesday 6th May

2020. Our allotted time slot provided us with only 40 minutes. The meeting progressed at a speed hitherto unknown in the entire history of Utterby Parish Council. Agenda items were dispatched in record time with proposers and seconders hands going up and down furiously. Although there was no time for discussion we did manage to complete the meeting and keep the business of Utterby Village up to date. Well done Maria!

An agenda item that we did vote through was to agree to subscribe to “Zoom” and this means that our meetings in the future will not have to be completed within a 40 minute time slot. We may now be able to return to our more normal, slightly slower pace meetings!

In spite of the crisis there has been some activity within Utterby in the past few weeks, as follows...



New road markings have been painted on the A16 as it passes through Utterby. Hopefully they will have some effect on our constant speeding traffic issues through the village.

A dwelling in Church Lane has been demolished

A new build of a dwelling next to the Manor in Church Lane has begun construction.

Cleaning of the village bus shelters has begun again.

Grass cutting of the verges either side of the A16 has also restarted as well as the Village Green. The grass of Benson Court has also recently been cut.



Hopefully once “lockdown” is relaxed the Parish Council will endeavour to bring the Village back to its best as soon as possible. The much admired planters at the end of our lanes are a priority as they look rather forlorn at this moment in time. I’m sure that in the near future they will be a feature once more.

One issue that was the victim of Covid19 was the Annual Village Meeting. It may be that his important annual event might take place sometime in the future.

The present Council has now served Utterby for one year. I am pleased to report that it is a united Council, with everyone working together for the benefit of the village. We rely on residents to “flag up” any issues that you may have and we will always do our utmost to carry out concerns raised. Do not hesitate to contact your elected councillors. We are here for you!

Utterby during “lockdown”

On reflection the past few weeks of “lockdown” appear to have made relatively little difference to my life. However, to many of you it may have come as a completely life-changing experience with implications for work, visiting family and your children's education. Shopping habits and travelling have also become very different, with reliance on family and friends becoming extremely important. You may have used on-line shopping and delivery services for the first time. Certainly, on a personal level at Moat Farm we have wasted far less of everything during these past weeks, and that is something that I hope will continue when things return to normal.

One advantage of life in Utterby is that most of us have the benefit of our own gardens and lovely rural spaces. We have been able to meet social distancing guidelines in relative comfort. People have taken advantage of our village lanes to walk, cycle and converse with each other. I’m sure that the better weather has made these activities even more enjoyable for those involved.

It is evident that there are numerous examples of good practice in our village. Some of our more elderly, less mobile residents have been wonderfully supported by their friends and neighbours with regard to shopping, gardening and general help. For those of you who have given of your time and provided assistance, may I say a huge thank you.

One sadness has been the closing down of St Andrew’s Church. A surprising number of local people, as well as visitors to Utterby, find comfort by spending a few minutes sitting in the calm environment that our beautiful church provides. Because of Covid19 this has been no longer possible.

In contrast the weekly ringing of the church bells has brought joy to our community. By coming together for a few minutes at 8:00pm every Thursday evening residents of Utterby have been able to recognise the wonderful work being done by hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country in the struggle to combat Covid19.



Utterby Voice

The Parish Council have decided to reduce the number of issues of the Utterby Voice to two per year. These will be produced and delivered in June and December. The reasoning behind this is twofold:- Firstly we felt that having to produce four issues a year was resulting in a rather repetitive, routine publication. Each very similar to the previous one. Secondly the A5 format meant a small print size and limited space for photographs. As a result the December edition of The Utterby Voice will hopefully look quite different and provide the reader with a more interesting, user friendly and attractive format. If this experiment proves unpopular or impractical then we will not hesitate to return to our tried and tested format.

Edward Mossop ELDC Councillor

As Chairman of Utterby Parish Council I wish to acknowledge the contribution made by Edward Mossop (ELDC) during the past year. His interest, generosity and willingness to act on our behalf is to be applauded. He attends every monthly meeting, and because of his experience, he is able to make informed contributions and advice on a wide number of issues. No request is too much for him and he obviously wants to help Utterby in any way that he possibly can. Many thanks Edward.

Sending You Greetings From St Andrews Church

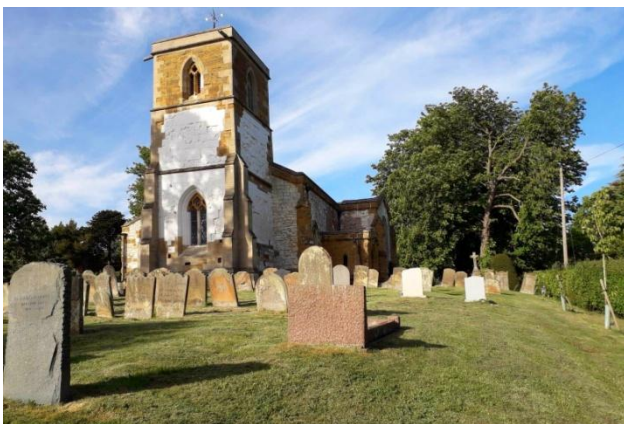
Hoping you are keeping safe and well in these pandemic times?



Snowdrop Day : This popular event was held on the 23rd February before the lock down. It was very well supported and raised £846 for the upkeep of the church. As instructed by the Church of England,, St Andrew's is locked for the time being. You can however have a virtual visit to the church. Go to Utterbychurch.co.uk and click on Virtual Tour/ Info or go to <https://infoaktiv.co.uk/virtual-tours-churches-cathedrals-and-chapels/>

Events: We had to cancel the planned Primrose Celebration and the Easter Bistro. Plans can be saved for another time. Presently it is not clear when or if we can carry out other fund raising events such as the Saturday Cafe in the summer. Closure of the Church and restrictions on social gatherings serious affects the ability to raise the funds needed to pay the routine bills. God willing, plans are in hand for autumn and Christmas fund raisers.

We pray for the well being of everyone affected by Covid19 and for a return to safety and normality.



The churchyard: This cherished place is beautifully maintained and gives solace to many visitors. Never more so than in this time of isolation. It is great to hear that visitors on their daily walk have expressed their appreciation of the churchyard, which is there for the whole of the village community.

Rest a while and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of St Andrew's Church.

Utterby Primary Academy

A warm hello from everyone at Utterby Primary Academy. I hope you are keeping well during these extraordinary times. Things have been very different in school over the past 2 months, but we have been continuing to work hard to provide our children with a fantastic education, either physically in school or remotely from home.

Since the lockdown began we have been primarily working out of the North Thoresby Primary Academy site, using the Utterby building for staff only. We hope to be able to reopen the Utterby site in the coming weeks as hopefully the restrictions continue to ease. Unfortunately in these situations there are no perfect solutions and we as a school community must continue to work together to provide the best support possible for our pupils and their families, whether that be in person or over the internet.

Our Trust, AET, have provided some truly ground-breaking virtual learning resources, far surpassing what just about every other trust or local authority in the country is offering; we're very lucky to have it. We are also working closely with other local schools, supporting each other with ideas, resources and guidance. Times like these really help to put into perspective the things we take for granted. Whilst I enjoy my breaks from the children from time to time, I'm looking forward more than ever to them all coming back. Hopefully sooner, rather than later.

Tom Hawkins, Executive Headteacher, Utterby Primary Academy

Utterby Village Hall

Due to the Coronavirus emergency Utterby Village Hall has obviously been closed until further notice. This has meant the cancellation of any bookings made in advance. Regular users of the hall such as Saturday Cafe, Rover Group and Philip Walker's Art Class have all had to be postponed, as well as an election for the Lincolnshire Police Commissioner.

These cancellations have cost the Village Hall a considerable amount of expected revenue. However due to a successful year in 2019/2020 our accounts are in a relatively healthy state. If this is considered alongside a period in which our accounts have been accurately monitored, reviewed and reorganised for the first time in several years then we are in a good position to "Ride out the Storm".

Fortunately, closing down has meant the on-costs for the village Hall are reduced. Electricity and water charges are reduced but monthly insurance costs remain high. The other implication of a closed hall is that no meetings of the committee have been able to take place. I'm sure that when this crisis is resolved our village hall will return back to a level of support that it previously experienced.



The interior of the hall is now in excellent condition and in addition we have recently purchased tables and chairs from Grange Primary School.

Hopefully you will soon be able to see for yourself that these are a great improvement. Also the air conditioning system and fire extinguishers have been fully serviced prior to lockdown. All we need now is permission to re-open and whenever that is given we will be ready for business as usual.

Alan Woodward - Chairman Utterby Village Hall

Many of the usual District and County Council services are not fully operational due to the Coronavirus Crisis, so – if you need assistance please contact the Parish Clerk and she will try to direct your enquiry: 01507 328149 or clerkupc@gmail.com