

# UTTERBY

## *Voice*



**DECEMBER 2019**

*Your community Magazine*

**Website:** <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Utterby>

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**@utterbyparishcouncil**

# Village Hall *Progress Report*

Since the last edition of the Utterby Voice the Village Hall has moved forward on several fronts. The committee has met regularly and overseen a period of stability and progress.

Our first priority was to re-organise and stabilise the hall's financial accounts. This has been a considerable challenge to say the least. The Data Protection Act can be extremely frustrating and time consuming when a different group is attempting to access and set up new bank statements and utility agreements. After numerous communications our new committee has successfully managed to navigate its way through these challenges and we are now fully in control of the accounts of Utterby Village Hall, as follows.

We have reorganised our bank account at the TSB, Louth. Electricity and water meters are checked regularly and the readings sent. This has meant that our monthly outgoings are now predictable, under control and within budget. The hall's insurance policy has been renewed for 2019/2020.

We now know exactly how much per month is needed with regard to bookings to maintain Utterby Village Hall. Finally, after a great amount of difficulty accounts for 2017/18 have eventually been submitted to the Charity Commission. This will preserve our charity status which was in great danger of being lost.

Our second priority has been to maintain the level of bookings, whilst at the same time hoping to attract new clients. This is very much work in progress and at the time of writing the outlook is reasonably optimistic. We are very grateful to all of the regular groups and individuals who use the hall. Their support is really appreciated. However new bookings will be essential in securing the hall's future.

The final priority is to improve and upgrade the fabric of the hall both internally and externally.

Hopefully this will be achieved over a period of time. This is where I must recognise the terrific work already done by Glenda Thorndycroft and Pat Doherty, two of our committee members. Thanks to them a programme of cleaning and painting has begun inside. Wood panelling is to be removed, replastered and repainted and new blinds are to be purchased for the windows. An area of floor is also to be repaired. This work will be completed by the time you receive this edition of the Utterby Voice. Pat has also cleared and tidied the car park area at the rear of the hall as well as the passage at the side. He has also repaired roof tiles and guttering.

We have been extremely fortunate to be in receipt of a Community Grant of £250 awarded to us by Councillor Edward Mossop. This will greatly help towards the cost of these improvements. If the finances can be stabilised and its income maintained then I see no reason why a good future for Utterby Village Hall cannot be secured.

The committee are delighted to announce the appointment of two new Trustees, Mr Keith Todd and Mr Terry Buckley. Both are ideal persons to help secure the well-being of our Village Hall.

***PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL!***

**For bookings and enquiries call**

**Mob: 07394 957 227**

*Alan Woodward*

**Chairman Utterby Village Hall Committee**

**Burglaries in Utterby  
A spate of burglaries  
in the village have taken  
place. KEEP YOUR HOUSE  
AND BELONGINGS SECURE!**

# Geoff Wilson *of Utterby*

Geoff has lived in Utterby for a very long time; so long, in fact, that he can remember grazing the family cow on the grass verges of the A16, only rarely interrupted by a passing car. His parents owned the Post Office and Geoff went to school locally.

He is a man of many parts and many skills. He is a fine painter who has sold his pictures widely. He is a very keen gardener with an amazing knowledge and is accepted as a great authority on both irises and alpins. He is also a great student of language. He enjoys writing and performing and gives one man shows in a totally authentic, and fast disappearing Lincolnshire accent.

It is surprising, with all these interests, that he ever found time to work but he did, and enjoyed successful careers at both British Aerospace and Havelock School, Grimsby. These days he is most likely to be seen walking, but whatever he is doing he has proved to be a true Renaissance man.



## Plant & Veg Stall

A big thank you from Glenda and Pat to all those people who supported the fruit and veg stall through the spring and summer, and especially to Paul Goodhand whose garden was used. Over the months £850 was raised going towards St Andrews Church, the Village Hall, St Mary's in Louth and some towards peat and plants for next year.

## TWO OWD CRAWES

Two owd crows  
Settn on a log,  
One called Magog,  
T'uther named Gog,  
"I'm hungry", wittered Magog,  
"Well I'm not", said Gog,  
"In fact I'm fairish brussen,  
Settn on this log",  
"Then wheeres that deead frog,  
Pheasant heggs n'them h'uther tuts?",  
Got sez, "I've yettn 'em",  
"What yer rotten guts!",  
"Yar said we'd share 'n share alike,  
N' that was my deead frog",  
Yell'd Magog,  
"Wasn't an I niver did, yer b....!",  
Shouted Gog.  
They swore and hargled loud n'long,  
Then got ter feightin, middlin throng,  
An I niver knawed which on' em  
won,  
For the old keeaper crept-up silent,  
An they niver 'eard the gun

*Geoff Wilson*

**Sergeant 66 Lee Willoughby**

07973 844767

**Police Constable Richard Precious**

07973 847303

**PCSO Justin Mekkaoul**

07976 947918

**PCSO 2337 Ian Porter**

07973 843042

[louthrural.npt@lincs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:louthrural.npt@lincs.pnn.police.uk)

**NON EMERGENCY CALL - RING 101**



# Utterby Primary *Academy*

A warm hello from all the staff and students at Utterby Primary Academy. The Autumn Term has been a busy start to the academic year as always. All of our classes have enjoyed their activity weeks which have involved a number of excursions out and activities in school, including from Vikings, trips to the farm and even making mummies (of the Egyptian kind)!

Children in Year 5 & 6 joined their counterparts from our partner school, North Thoresby Primary Academy on a particularly memorable trip to the Lincolnshire Showground to celebrate 'Lincolnshire Day'. They were able to take part in and sample a range of activities associated with Lincolnshire, in particular involving the wonderful food and produce grown and made in our county. We always want our children to be 'globally aware' and know about life outside our immediate vicinity, but we cannot forget to celebrate and cherish what is on our doorstep too!

Our recent Harvest Festival held at St Andrews was a real success. It is always a joy to see the church full and the children able to have the confidence to stand in front of so many people and perform their songs, poems and recitals. There were some lovely hymns from the children also, but even more importantly we were able to collect so much food for which we donated to the Louth Food Bank, based at Trinity Church on Eastgate. They were truly taken aback when the bags

kept coming out of the car. Thank you for everyone's generosity in donating towards it. As always we are keen to be involved in as many aspects of village life as possible, so if you ever think of anything we could be involved in locally as a school please do get touch.

Also a reminder of our Community Library located in the school foyer. The idea is effectively that of a 'book exchange' in that you can come and choose some books to borrow or keep and bring in any books you no longer want for someone else to enjoy. We have a good selection of children and adult books which you are most welcome to come and browse through to take a book of your choice. It is completely free and we welcome members of the wider community. Please come any time the school is open!

See the latest going on in school via our website:  
[www.utterbyprimaryacademy.org](http://www.utterbyprimaryacademy.org)

Or follow us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/utterby](http://www.facebook.com/utterby)

Best wishes to all from Utterby Primary Academy.

*Tom Hawkins*  
**Headteacher**



## St Andrew's Church *News*

This time of year, when the autumn leaves fall, children and their parents collect conkers from under the churchyard horse chestnut trees. It is sometimes a race to collect them before the fallen chestnuts are squashed by cars driving by but there were some for the children of Utterby Academy to pick up when they came for a visit to the church with their teacher Miss Childs.

The Reverend Jean Wrisdale was on hand to tell the children all about the church and the churchwarden rang the bells for them. It was a wonderful to see their enquiring looks and have this opportunity of welcoming them. They made a return visit when it was harvest festival bringing with them the most magnificent collection of food stuff for Harvest table, all of which was taken to the Louth Food Bank.

The school harvest festival was followed in the evening by the traditional village harvest festival led by David Margaron. After the service, wine and canapés were served to the congregation.

The church had been decorated so beautifully with autumn flowers and foliage which remained on display for the Autumn Festival and there was then an opportunity for visitors to see the arrangements, enjoy refreshments and buy from the stalls. Despite the bad weather, there was a good turnout, particularly during the morning and over lunch time and we thank all helpers for the part they played and to Andrew Wrisdale who brought along his magnificent vintage tractors to help set the agricultural theme.

The excitement of the visiting campanologists at the end of September ended in disappointment as the team were unable to ring the bells due to their condition. The team was made up of people from as far away as Gloucestershire, and they travel the country ringing church bells. The visit was not wasted as they recorded the bells for the Register of English Church bells.

We now have the faculty to repair the bells and funding is being sourced through grants.

More visitors came in October when a party of 20 souls from the Ecclesiological Society based in London were touring Lincolnshire Churches and included ours. They arrived by coach, enjoyed coffee and a talk by Linda Sproston, then explored the church and surrounds. They said that they had had a wonderful time and then headed off for a visit to St James in Louth.

We are proud to report that The Society of Lincolnshire history and archaeology presented an Award for Excellence for the Utterby Heritage Collection at their annual general meeting In Grantham. The judges had all been impressed by the project and hoped their recognition of its quality will prompt more people to visit St Andrew's to explore these resources. Linda Sproston received the award on behalf of the church, from Dr Rod Ambler, SLHA President.

We are now entering into a quiet time before the Christmas festivities. This year, on Friday 20th December there is to be a 'Churchwardens Jolly' in the church. The church will be decorated for Christmas making a perfect setting to lead you into Christmas. Refreshments will be served from 7.00pm until late and there will be a donation bar. If you have been to one of our



*Linda Sproston received the award on behalf of the church from Dr Rod Ambler, SLHA President.*

wine society nights, you know what to expect! To apply for tickets, contact a member of the DCC, email [info@utterbychurch.co.uk](mailto:info@utterbychurch.co.uk) or telephone the churchwarden on 01472 840388.

The school are planning to hold a Christingle service and their usual Carol service and the village carol service will be held at 6.00pm on Sunday 22nd December and will be led by David Margaron.

This is always such a special family occasion and the committee serve wine and canapes following the service, so do come along and experience the joy of Christmas at St Andrews. Do join us for Christmas.

*Penny Would*  
**Secretary to the DCC**



*The Autumn Festival*



## A Farmer's *Diary*

Well what a year it's turning out to be for farming in the local area. With all the hot weather in June and July yields were not disappointing, and we had comfortably finished combining by mid September. We had also completed the drilling of the oil seed rape crop for harvest 2020. However with the recent banning of some key pesticides it has been extremely challenging to establish a viable crop for next year.

The weather plays such an integral part in many aspects of farming and as you are aware we have had an above average rainfall since late September. This deluge has made it almost impossible to drill any wheat or barley crops for next year's harvest. With only around 10% drilled the harvest for 2020 is looking like a very bleak prospect. This is a situation never experienced before in my lifetime. With no means of getting on the land, we have turned our attention to other jobs. We received a letter recently requesting all of our cattle to be tested for TB which means it's time to bring them in from the grass fields they have been grazing all summer. Up until a few years ago we were only required to test for TB once every 4 years but with more and more outbreaks close to home this will be the third time we have had to test in the last 18 months. On test day every animal must be presented before a vet who carries out a skin test. The vet then returns 3 days later to check for any reactors, indicated by a small lump.

In addition to this we are soon turning our attention to Christmas poultry. We have been rearing our turkeys, chickens and geese since August in preparation for the festive season. It is a busy two weeks in the run up to Christmas, plucking and preparing the birds to meet the demands of the butchers orders and private customers. Hopefully it will run smoothly and come Christmas day we have lots of satisfied customers.

*Terry Buckley*  
**Local Farmer and Parish Councillor**

# Utterby Parish Council

After a break in August it has been business as usual for your Parish Council. We are fortunate to have the support of Councillor Tony Bridges LCC and Councillor Edward Mossop ELDC. They regularly attend our meetings and their advice, experience and recommendations are very much appreciated.

It is reassuring to work with a united council where everyone is determined to do the very best they can for Utterby. Wherever possible, and obviously depending on cost, we will be aiming to make improvements to our village, however small, whilst at the same time maintaining everything that is already in place. For example the grass cutting of the verges along the A16 this year has been excellent, however on the Village Green we may decide to have the grass cuttings collected each month and removed which will improve the final appearance of the Green, but obviously there will be extra costs involved. I would like to take this opportunity to mention the terrific work done by Glendale, Tudor Grounds Maintenance and David Buckley. These groups regularly work throughout the village and the quality of their efforts is outstanding and really enhances the look of Utterby.

The Public Forum session at the start of council meetings is never well attended, so we can only assume that the vast majority of residents are content with what we are doing. However we do have a few "regulars" who come and make a valuable contribution to our monthly meetings.

## **A16 Traffic**

Without question, the most common complaint is about the traffic on the A16. The speed, volume, size and noise of vehicles on the main road through Utterby at all hours of the day is a real concern. Every person in the village, wherever they live, is aware of this issue and without doubt it is getting worse. The Council feels that there is little more that it can do other than keep the

matter constantly on the agenda. Our cause has not been helped by the fact that for some reason, all the recent accidents that have occurred and have been reported to the police, have not been recorded on the police records. However Mike and Maureen Wills who regularly attend our meetings are prepared to organise a village wide petition in support of our concerns and feelings about traffic on the A16. I am certain that they would greatly appreciate any support, help and encouragement with this idea. If you wish to volunteer to help with this initiative Mike and Maureen can be contacted at 2, Queens Close, Utterby or Tel 01472 841716 Mob 07900423778.

Another possible strategy would involve a group of residents being trained to operate a speed gun on the A16. The Council could help to facilitate and coordinate this "Speedwatch Training", but realistically there is only so much that we can do as a Parish Council. If you really want to attempt to do something about the traffic problem then we need committed volunteers who may attempt a practical solution to our traffic problems. If you are interested in finding out more about this initiative then you will need to contact any of your Parish Councillors as soon as possible.

One disappointment since the last edition of the Utterby Voice was the damage done to the bus shelter at Benson Court. Someone decided to set fire to this shelter and a considerable amount of damage was done. This will need to be repaired in the near future by the Parish Council. I am sure that every resident hopes that this will be an isolated incident.

**Wishing you a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year in 2020.**

*Alan Woodward*

**Chairman Utterby Parish Council**



# Useful *Contacts*

## Utterby Parish Council

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**Councillor Mrs Glenda Thorndycroft**, Old Joiners Shop, Grange Lane, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0TS  
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**Councillor Jacqueline Woodward**, Moat Farm, Church Lane, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0TH  
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## East Lindsey District Council

### Councillor Edward Mossop

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## Lincolnshire County Council

**Councillor Tony Bridges**, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL  
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Abandoned Vehicles	ELDC	01507 601111
Blue Badge Scheme	LCC	01522 782232
Bus Pass	LCC	01522 873700
Call Connect		0345 2343344
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	03454 040506

### Utterby *Voice*

If you request not to receive unsolicited mail to your house, we will not deliver the Utterby Voice, so please call in at the Church or Village Hall for a copy.



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