

# UTTERBY

## *Voice*



**MARCH 2020**

*Your community Magazine*

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

**Email:** [clerkupc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkupc@gmail.com)



**We are now on Facebook**  
**@utterbyparishcouncil**

# Around and About *Our Village*

At the time of writing there are at least ten dwellings for sale in Utterby as well as a number of building plots waiting for buyers. In addition three houses have been sold very recently. We also need to take into account the fact that there are a number of rental properties available or already occupied. We all know just how stressful buying and selling a property or moving home can be. Hopefully everyone involved at the present time in this trying process quickly reaches a successful conclusion.

For several years the Parish Council has delivered a "Welcome Pack" to new residents. We are quite aware that the effectiveness of this pack is limited but its real value is to show newcomers just how much their arrival in Utterby means to everyone. We want them not only to live in the village but to take a part in what it has to offer. A major objective must be to encourage more people to become involved in the day to day activities of Utterby. St Andrew's Church, the Village Hall and the Parish Council all need additional help to maintain and hopefully develop what is already in place. These organisations do not run themselves. They are dependant on the hard work and commitment of volunteers, in many cases over many years. Without the support of these loyal dedicated people these institutions will eventually cease to exist in their present forms. These organisations are the "heartbeat" of our village and need to be maintained. Most people move to rural locations to experience an alternative lifestyle. Most of us made the decision to live in Utterby because of its appeal and as a result we are able to enjoy its green belt location and all of its advantages. However the price of this privilege is the responsibility of making sure that this lifestyle is able to continue for others in the future These village institutions need your support and assistance otherwise they will surely perish and everyone of us will be the poorer when this happens. As the "Welcome Pack" states Utterby is a lovely place to live, long may it continue to be so.

The containers placed at the end of our four lanes have been replanted for the Spring (see front cover) with a yellow display of primulas, tete a tete, yellow primroses and an evergreen shrub. The geraniums have been removed and hopefully saved for another day, later in the year. No-one would claim that these planters produce an amazing or overwhelming display. However they have already been much enjoyed and commented upon by many of our villagers . The planters will hopefully add to the Spring display of daffodils, planted over several years by the Parish Council. These daffodils will soon be visible in many parts of Utterby.

## A16 Survey

It will be interesting to discover the level of public response to the the traffic initiatives of Mike and Maureen Wills. They have put a lot of thought and work into this project and deserve support. We will no doubt receive feedback at our February meeting. Whatever the outcome, I am sure that the A16 will continue to be discussed at most council meetings.

**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**



# Village Hall *News!*

At the time of writing Utterby Village Hall is in a "good place". Due to the hard work of the present committee over the past nine months there has been a great improvement in all aspects of the hall's situation. Financially the bank accounts have been revised and reorganised and this has meant that we are now in a position to make rational decisions about the hall's future. Because we now receive regular and accurate bank statements we can make decisions and plans which will benefit and hopefully secure the future of Utterby Village Hall. Electricity and Water meters are now read consistently every month which in turn produces accurate statements.

Last May bookings were the immediate priority of the newly formed committee. Obviously without bookings the hall would cease to exist. We have been extremely grateful to groups who have consistently used the Village Hall over a long period of time. The Saturday Cafe, which raises funds for St Andrew's Church, The Rover Group and Philip Walker's weekly art sessions are examples of organisations that have been vitally important in their support. However, during recent months the finances have been boosted by wide variety of new users and the good news is that bookings for Utterby Village Hall are "on the up".

Another lucrative source of income has been the use of the hall as a Polling Station. Whilst most people are totally fed up with elections and referenda it is a fact that they do provide excellent income for us. However a once every five years experience is quite enough politics for most people.

A major reason for the healthy state of bookings has been the improvement in the appearance of the building. The toilets, the kitchen and the interior generally are now much improved and maintained to high standard. The main part of the hall has now been completely redecorated by Pat Doherty and Glenda Thorndycroft and looks impressive and is greatly improved. This will only enhance our chances of increased numbers of hirings which in turn will produce increased finances.

There is still a great deal of work to be done. For example the carpark is an area of concern and will require attention in the near future, and at the time of writing we are acquiring quotations for a new rear double door which needs to be replaced. As stated above Utterby Village Hall is in a "good place", however there are still worries to be addressed. The Committee requires more members as soon as possible. It is no longer an onerous task. It is no longer a commitment requiring a great deal of effort from volunteers. The hall is an important part of Utterby village life which needs to be preserved and supported. If you want to join the Committee make yourself known to an existing member. Come on "give it a go" I assure you that your help will be really appreciated and also be of great service to our village at the same time.

*Call the Chairman of the Village Hall to find out about joining the committee or in supporting the Village Hall on (01472) 841472.*

**Sign up for the  
Environment Agency  
Flood Warning Service  
Call 0345 988 1188 [www.gov.uk/flood](http://www.gov.uk/flood)**

# Utterby Parish Council

*Our Council continues to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Once again may I take this opportunity to invite you to attend and contribute to the Public Forum section at the beginning of each meeting. Your comments and opinions would be most welcome especially if they instigate discussions and actions concerning matters previously unknown to us.*

*As the photographs illustrate Utterby has endured a really dreadful period of wet weather. However compared to other places in our area we appear to have got off relatively lightly. Certainly in my nine years of living here I have not witnessed quite so much standing water in most parts of the village. The flood at the junction of Grange Lane and the A16 was dreadful and I felt extremely sorry for the residents who had to keep going in the face of considerable difficulty for many days. Throughout the whole village the sheer volume of water appeared to completely overpower the drainage system. As a Parish Council we can certainly bring this problem to the attention of ELDC through our local representative Councillor Mossop, whom I'm sure will be extremely supportive.*

*Obviously most of the village drains appear to be blocked. I suspect that this has been caused by fallen leaves and soil. Church Lane is a good example of this. Undoubtedly it is one disadvantage of living in a rural environment where wonderful grass verges enhance the roadside. Grass has a wonderful ability to regenerate and hopefully with the approaching better weather they will soon be back to their very best. Also as bulbs begin to appear in all*

*areas of the village it will not be long before daffodils enrich our roadsides and wonderful displays of snowdrops are celebrated, especially in St Andrew's churchyard. The planters at the junction of our village lanes and the A16 are now due to be transformed with evergreen shrubs and daffodils. Your feedback about these planters has been overwhelmingly positive, which is reassuring, and this gives the Parish Council confidence to pursue similar initiatives.*

The vandalised bus shelter, adjacent to Benson Court, should have been repaired by the time you are reading this issue. Hopefully such anti social behaviour will not occur again. It has caused considerable inconvenience, reflects negatively on the village and most important of all it has cost the village approximately £300. This is money that we would much prefer to be spending on other village projects. Hopefully it will be an isolated incident!

*Alan Woodward*  
**Chairman**  
**Utterby Parish Council**



*Flooding this winter on Church Lane*

# Utterby Primary Academy

Following our wonderful Christmas plays and Christingle Service at St Andrews, the Spring term has provided a busy start to 2020 for all the staff and students at Utterby Primary Academy. We always like to kick off a new term with one of our fabulous activity weeks and this new term was no different.

This time around has seen the Year 5s & 6s in Morpurgo Class exploring their coastal themed topic which has included looking at the art of the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai and his famous work 'The Great Wave off Kanagawa'. Children created their own versions in class before creating a giant version on the school playground using mops and buckets in place of paint and paint pots (much to the amusement of our school caretaker...). Going from macro to micro, the children then recreated another of Hokusai's pieces, in which he painted 2 birds on a grain of rice using only a mouse's whisker. Our version involved painting a tiny picture using only a single hair from a paintbrush onto a small pebble.

The Year 3 & 4s in Kipling Class meanwhile were learning all about the ancient Mayan culture of South America. They made their own masks out of papier mache, created a Mayan calendar modelled out of clay and explored the foods of the region, rustling up their own tortillas, bean salads and even a traditional spicy South American hot chocolate drink (which had mixed reviews to say the least...).

Finally, our youngest children in Donaldson Class went off on safari. After reading "Handa's Surprise" the children explored the animals and environment of Kenya, tasted a carnival of different tropical fruits and made masks and art work of their own, this time of

the Masai variety. All in all, a fantastic week of learning.

This term we are also focusing on one of our whole school value of "Being Big-Hearted". To that end we recently held a bring and buy sale to raise money for the animals affected by the Australian bushfires. A fabulous afternoon was had by all and thanks to the generosity of our children and families we raised over £250 – an incredible achievement!

Recently we had a visit from a member of the Hindu community. He spent the day with the children telling them all about his Hindu faith and many of the customs and celebrations a Hindu might be involved in.

We also we pleased to receive a donation of books from the Louth and District Lions, who kindly gave us a selection of books on the themes of plastic pollution in the oceans. A fantastic addition to our library..



*Tom Hawkins*

**Executive Headteacher**



*Books from the Louth and District Lions*

*Visit from a member of the Hindu community*



## St Andrew's Church News

What a fabulous time we had this Christmas at St Andrews. For those of you who didn't join us, you missed a treat. The approach to the church looked stunning as usual with the grave headstones beautifully lit, thanks to Pete and Cheryl Brown, who don't even live in our village but each year at the end of November, they arrive and work in often biting cold weather to light up our churchyard at this festive time.

A great team of people namely Linda, George and Kenny Coxon, Jackie and Alan, Pam Wood, Wendy Frost, Audrey Skeath, the famous trio, Brenda, Wendy and Daphne, Claire Sutton, Geoff Fytche, Roger Staniforth and Tim Wood, all directed by Linda Sproston helped in decorating the church, which looked marvellous and was appreciated by so many. Our sincere thanks to everyone especially as they also helped clear up afterwards!

We had a very busy time with school visits! It was a great pleasure, as always, to welcome the children and staff into church. The children showed great interest during the visits and their behaviour was immaculate. In October we had a visit by Donaldson Class (Reception and Year 1 &



### St Andrew's 'Church Wardens' Jolly' at Christmas

2 pupils) when the children were given a tour of the church by Revd Jean and later that month there was the School Harvest Festival attended by parents. A further visit by Mopurgo Class (Year 5 and 6 pupils) on the 3rd December presented an opportunity for the Revd Jean to explain about baptism. The School celebrated Christmas in the church with a Christingle service and held 2 performances of their Nativity Play for all parents and friends to see.

'The Churchwardens Jolly' was a huge success. The scene was set with background music by Me Three, Michael Wood, saxophonist, singer Gemma and Matt on the electric organ and a good crowd spent the evening together getting into the Christmas spirit enjoying the churchwardens tipples and volunteers nibbles!!! It gave us an opportunity to welcome new comers to the village and introduce them to their neighbours. The Carol service was also a great occasion with a massive congregation of 79 adults, 10 children and 3 dogs, all celebrating Christmas in song.

We spent January quietly but are looking forward to the 10th annual Snowdrop

*continued on next page*



### School Nativity Play

## John Barker Award

Festival on Sunday February 23rd. The church will be open for refreshments between 11.00am and 3.00pm when we will be serving hot soup, the ever popular sausage rolls, cake and pastries. There will be the traditional cake and plant stall so that you can buy something to take home. We repeat this social event on Sunday 15th March when the Primroses are in bloom, so do come along and meet up with your friends. These are two of our regular village events which are also recognised by visitors from outside the village.

Looking ahead, we are making arrangements to hold an Easter Bistro in the village Hall on Saturday 11th April. Have a break from your kitchen and come and enjoy with us, a snack or even lunch. We are serving beef or vegetable 'One pot' with crusty bread as well as the favourite sausage rolls and cakes. This will be from 11.00am until 3.00pm and will take on a real Easter theme with competitions and Easter egg prizes. You will receive a prize for just turning up in your Easter Bonnet! Our regular summer cafe will be held again this year from June until September and a meeting to discuss the arrangements will be held in the church on Saturday 18th April at 10.00am. Any new comers to the village are invited to join the regular band of volunteers who have managed the café for the last 10 years. The cafe is a good way to meet people and catch up on the local chit chat! We are always looking for new ideas to stimulate the event so get your thinking caps on please and come along and inspire us – you will all be welcome. Church services continue on the fourth Sunday in the month at 9.30pm.

*Denny Would*

**Secretary to the DCC**

**Congratulations!** The following commendation was forwarded to Samantha Smith the co-ordinator of Lincolnshire Village Halls Week 2020. As a result Pat and Glenda have been awarded the John Barker Award for their outstanding work in Utterby. The award will be presented on January 23rd 2020 at the Stanhope Hall Horncastle.

*Utterby Village Hall has struggled in recent years as a result of poor and inconsistent management. There were serious concerns that it would close due to a lack of support, even though bookings were quite positive. During this time Pat and Glenda, often in an unofficial role, supported the hall in a number of ways. They were available as key holders and for basic cleaning and maintenance work which helped the hall to always be well presented. However since April 2019, as members of a newly formed committee, they have excelled. Pat has cleared and tidied rubbish from a lengthy passage at the side of the hall. He has also undertaken major work at the back of the hall, clearing this area with the aid of a JCB and Skip and finally reseeded it. Together Pat and Glenda have repainted the kitchen and done other basic redecoration work. Pat has also replaced broken roof tiles and guttering. In the main hall they have removed wooden panelling and damp proofed and replastered the wall. Finally they have painted the hall and fixed new blinds. Almost all of this work has been financed by money raised by Pat and Glenda, every Saturday through the summer, from the sale of vegetables and plants, grown by them in their garden. A truly great effort by both of them for which Utterby should be extremely grateful.*

# Useful *Contacts*

## Utterby Parish Council

**Chairman - Councillor Alan Woodward**, Moat Farm, Church Lane, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0TH  
Email: alanutterbypc@gmail.com

**Councillor Mr Terry Buckley**, Pear Tree Farm, Pear Tree Lane, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0XY  
Email: terry.upc@gmail.com

**Councillor Mrs Glenda Thorndycroft**, Old Joiners Shop, Grange Lane, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0TS  
Mob: 07740596746

**Councillor Ann Van Spall**, The Bungalow, Utterby Close, Church Lane, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0TH  
Email: annutterbypc@gmail.com

**Councillor Jacqueline Woodward**, Moat Farm, Church Lane, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0TH  
Email: jackieutterbypc@gmail.com

**Councillor Nicola Mackin**, 3 Jacob's Close, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0GJ  
Email: nicolautterbypc@gmail.com

**Councillor John Mackin**, 3 Jacob's Close, Utterby, Lincolnshire LN11 0GJ  
Email: johnutterbypc@gmail.com

### Parish Clerk

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

## 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 Tony Bridges**, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL  
Mob: 07710 224466  
Email: cllrt.bridges@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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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