

Humbleton & Flinton Parish Newsletter

June 2016

Community Plan



What choices would you make for your community?

Do you have any opinions or views about any or all of the above topics? If so we would love to hear them. Do you worry what is happening in the villages and our community buildings? Do you have any ideas how our community can plan our future – not just for us but for our future generations.

We are holding several events over the next three months including the Family Fun Day on Sunday 17th July where we will be asking for your views / opinions, so that as a community we can develop a 5 year community plan with clear aims and objectives.

Why do we want a community plan? So that we can influence ERYC to reflect what we as a community want and also to access grants / funding opportunities.

Please let us know what you think during the events we are holding or by completing a questionnaire or by emailing us via the website – if you have any questions, ask them – we all live in this community together and now is your chance to influence the future of our community.

We expect the initial information gathering to take 3 months and then we will collate the information and feedback on the results – then we can pull together the plan itself.

Do you want to more than just give your views and get more involved - then let us know – we would love it if you would get involved – for as little or as much as you want.

The Interesting World of the Ecologist

An interesting thing happened to me in a graveyard once. I was quietly enjoying recording some of our 17 native species of bat at about 0330hrs, when a man and a woman walked up out of the dark with what looked like a bat detector and waving about a necklace of some sort. I immediately assumed they were fellow ecologists or just enthusiastic about nature and started our conversation with a loud "There's a lot out tonight." in order to not startle them if they hadn't already seen me.

"There are." they replied enthusiastically.

"What's with the necklace?" I enquired, thinking that maybe it was a new way to improve the efficiency of the bat detector. I've met a few White Witches in my time and they all seem to go on about how crystals can affect things. Being a former electronics engineer, I have my doubts.

"It helps attract Them." came the reply.

By this time I was starting to get confused. I've been an ecologist for nearly 10 years after deciding on a career change. A fulfilling career dodging bullets and bombs on Her Majesty's service was off the cards after I failed to dodge one or two too many whilst in Baghdad. The General (Penny) poo-pooed any further glory gained through daring-do so I had to find another career which was slightly safer.

I hit upon ecology quite by accident. Being an Army Commando and a Mountain Leader I had been trained in survival skills, what civilians call bushcraft, and had already started a side-line in my reservist career providing instruction to the wider Army community. If Ray Mears could make money from it, then why not I? Had I not been on expeditions to the Arctic, the jungle, the desert? Could I not rub two sticks together and create fire? Admittedly, on my expeditions someone is usually trying to shoot me and the interaction with locals does not involve sitting around a fire happily sharing indigenous skills such as lighting a fire with bamboo or how to field strip a chinchilla, but the lessons learnt were equally valid. I thought that maybe I had enough experience and knowledge to give it a go, but decided that a course of some sort should set me up properly.

I enrolled on a degree in wildlife and countryside conservation in order to fill in any of the blanks that I might have, and got right onto learning about the interaction of animals and the environment; ecology in other words.

Very quickly I got poached by one of my lecturers who decided that I had the right stuff, and I ended up working with her ecological consultancy firm, providing wildlife surveys in support of planning applications. I haven't looked back since those early days of newt trapping and badger watching around Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire, and although I do still run the occasional survival training course for the Army, and I am now almost as fat as Mr Mears himself, I have settled on my role as an ecological consultant.

So what was I doing in the churchyard at half past three in the morning? Simply put, I was helping to establish the location of a bat roost in a church roof which needed replacing. You see, bats are a protected species; a species that is protected by law due; usually due to declining numbers. This can be brought about by changes in their environment such as the felling of old trees or the renovation of barns and old houses; all places where bats are found to roost.

Identifying what species of bat is present, exactly where and why they are using the roof as a roost is key in helping to conserve the building for bat use and allowing the works to proceed. I'm essentially a problem solver, managing the interaction of man and wildlife whilst hoping to find a balance between the two.

Now back to the graveyard. It was whilst mulling over the reference made to using the necklace to attract "Them" that I realised that something might not be as first assumed. In the light of the approaching dawn I began to notice that their clothing wasn't what I would expect another ecologist or wildlife watcher to be wearing. The gentleman was attired as if he'd walked off the set of a vampire-genre B movie from the 70's whilst I could not quite tell what was going on with the woman. Her face was painted up like a skull and her clothing was Victorian in design. At this point I was glad to have not noticed her makeup when I first saw them as I might have lost another pair of M&S' finest if I had.

I now came to the conclusion that it wasn't a bat detector held in his left hand, but some sort of device to enable them to either see or commune with the dead. I have to say that this was one of the more bizarre sights I've come across whilst roaming the streets and countryside of the UK at night, but thankfully not the only one.

I've seen all manner of weird and wonderful things from a fox cub playing happily with a badger cub, to a stoat dancing around in front of the rabbit it was trying to make its meal. But normally it is confined to the animal kingdom and usually did not involve my fellow man, who is rightly tucked up in bed at this ungodly hour.

Once the confusion had passed, we spent an enjoyable half-hour talking about ghosts and how their equipment worked before they finally asked me what I was doing. By now it had become clear to them from my questions that our reasons for being out in the dark were not the same.

I like this part of my job. It gives me a chance to pass on my enthusiasm for the work that I do to others who may not ever have considered the interesting world of bats beyond the odd inclusion of them on a nature programme. It also makes me feel that in some small way I'm giving back to nature rather than just earning money from its existence.

My nocturnal friends eventually departed to whatever crypt they had crept out of, leaving me to enjoy the dawning of a bright and sunny day, as well as the snuffles and grunts of a badger that had decided to walk past whilst turning over the grass and leaf litter for any grubs or worms it could get find.

Always enjoy the little things in life, they make the big things much easier to deal with.

St Peter's Church

Can anyone help with the cleaning in St Peter's Church? Please contact the Church Warden – Brenda Frear on 01964 670788 if you can offer any time.

Planning Applications

The application by the residents of The Old Post Office in Humbleton for a first floor extension has been approved by ERYC.

World War II Memorial Services

Thank you to everyone who attended the service on 29 May for the unveiling of the memorial. The service was well attended with over 80 attendees including local cadets who helped light the candles; local council dignitaries and the British Legion.

It all seemed to go smoothly without any hitches and the cakes quickly disappeared after the service.

I have managed to trace one direct descendent of a crewman who is resident in Australia. She was born in February 1942, her father – Geoffrey Bryde – transferred to the UK in May 1942 and died in Humbleton in May 1943, so she never really knew her father, and had no idea how he died, but had been to the UK to visit his grave at Brandesburton.

If you want to see the photos or read more about the crew or the service – see the website.

Defibrillator

I have applied to Withernwick Wind Farm for funding to install a defibrillator in Humbleton. Watch this space for further news.

If we are successful, then we will consider adopting the Flinton phone box and the installation of a defibrillator.

St John Ambulance - East Riding Collection

St John Ambulance (charity number 1077265/1) has advised the ERYC that they will be carrying out the following campaign throughout the East Riding between 23 May 2016 until December 2016. They have told the Council that they have notified Humberside Police.

The campaign, using a team of professional fundraisers, involves canvassing door to door to talk to residents about the work of St John Ambulance and to encourage their support with a voluntary donation, by Direct Debit only. They DO NOT collect cash and are in fact forbidden to do so. The fundraisers all wear identification badges and t-shirts/jackets bearing the St John Ambulance logo.

Anyone wishing to confirm the identification of a fundraiser should they be approached should ask for their name and identification number and call 0845 222 11 99

Parish Clock

Unfortunately the Diocese of York Advisory Committee has rejected our application for a faculty to repair the World War I memorial – the clock. They are of the belief that we should try and get funding for the whole project – repair of the clock and the bells. This would be huge project with a required funding of in excess of £30,000 which would be very difficult to secure. Our intention was to aim for the repair of the clock and then see what could be achieved.

Without the faculty we are unable to apply for any funding, and therefore it is extremely disappointing but the project would appear dead. I would like to thank the PCC (Parochial Church Council) who did support our application.

Calendar of Events

Sunday 17 July	Family Fun Day and 1 st event for Community Plan
Mid August	2 nd event for Community Plan
Mid September	3 rd event for Community Plan
Friday 16 September	7.30pm Elvis in the Church
Thursday 1 September	Parish Council Meeting at Maple Garage
Sunday 2 October	Harvest Lunch at St Peter's Church

Please check the notice board / website as the Parish Council meetings can change date.

Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's Work at West Newton B

The latest meeting of the West Newton Community Liaison Committee took place at Densholme Farm between 7pm and 9pm on Tuesday 21 June 2016. Your parish council clerk and Lisa Brazier attended the meeting on behalf of local residents. At the meeting, Rathlin gave an overview of the current position at West Newton B. A summary of the meeting can be found below. More comprehensive notes from the meeting can be found at: www.rathlin-energy.co.uk.

- Rathlin was granted planning permission to explore for oil and gas from the West Newton B site on 4 June 2016. The application lasts for five years overall, but expires after two years once work begins
- Environmental permits - Rathlin is working with the Environment Agency to address outstanding issues
- Ground water monitoring and air monitoring will take place before the work begins
- Rathlin will install two ground water monitoring boreholes at West Newton B
- No date has yet been set for work to commence
- The community liaison committee will be advised before work begins so that the information can be communicated across the local community
- Concerns were raised about the lack of engagement specifically with Sproatley School, despite numerous attempts – various suggestions were made including the committee using their contacts in local parents.

The Construction Manager gave an overview on the timeframes for construction including the road from Pasture Lane – it was noted that at certain times the road would be closed. The Transport Plan had been devised and concerns about school impact had been considered and the plan amended accordingly – specifically that trucks would not move during morning or afternoon drop off / pick up times, unless directed by the Police.

Representatives from the company said that anyone who would like independent confirmation of the actions Rathlin are taking should contact the relevant statutory authorities. Rathlin welcome any challenges by any of the official agencies in this respect.

Your community representatives are Lisa Brazier and your Clerk. If you would like to raise any issues on your behalf at a future liaison committee meeting, please contact either Lisa or Vanessa.

Do you have any questions or concerns about their activities – let us know so we can get the answers.

News from St Peter's Church Humbleton

The memorial to the Airmen killed in Humbleton in 1943 was unveiled on Sunday 29th May at a service attended by over 80 people. Many thanks to the Parish Council and Vanessa Nolan for organising the Memorial and the Commemoration service.

The Tea party at St Peter's for the birthday of the Queen on the 11th June was a great success and the Queen's health was toasted at the end of the afternoon. The tea party was also attended by several 'young royals' who showed off their home made crowns.

In the last six months the church has been used for the village Christmas Tree Lighting celebration, Polling, the unveiling of the new war Memorial as well as the Queen's tea party. The church is one of the few public buildings in the area and Parochial Church Council is happy for the church to be used for community events, so do consider it when you need a venue.

Great events that will be taking place over the next few months are the Elvis Concert courtesy of Steve and Barbara Caprice, on the 16th September with wine and canapés. Get your blue suede shoes out now!

The first weekend in October is the Harvest weekend in Elsternwick and Humbleton. The Stony Creek boys will be in concert at Elsternwick on Saturday 1st October and the Harvest lunch will take place at St Peter's Humbleton on Sunday 2nd October.

Friends of Humbleton

The Family Fun Day date has been confirmed as 17 July – talk to Helena, Kathryn, Vicky or Vanessa if you want to get involved – we really could do with your support on the day, and also for raffle and tombola prizes or cakes for the cake stall. Invite the family and friends, we'll hope for good weather on the day. The usual favourites will be included – barbeque, cake stall, teas, coffees, soft drinks and ice creams, plus the races and of course the tug of war.....

Parish Council News

The AGM & Parish Council meeting was held on 26 May at Maple Garage at 7pm, with no residents in attendance.

Francis Caley elected as Chair and Deg Burton as Vice-Chair for next 12 months.

Annual accounts including statements of governance and internal audit report were presented to the Council. No issues raised by internal audit. Clerk to submit to external auditor.

Chairman reviewed highlights of the last 12 months, including the forthcoming Memorial Service.

Clerk's salary review completed and RESOLVED to increase to £250/quarter.

Peter Hirschfeld from HWRCC gave a short presentation about funding opportunities for those residents with an existing health condition living in cold homes. Do you know of someone who could benefit – a leaflet is to be circulated with the newsletter.

Highways / Street Services – no change in MUGA erosion; upgrade of 'trod' unlikely; ivy on bus shelter ERYC cut back; concerns about the trees on west entrance to Humbleton reported to ERYC – awaiting for a response; planter – Harry Jackson to arrange for foundations to be dug and Chris Craven offered to help build the replacement planter.

Parish clock – application for faculty submitted to the Diocese of York initially rejected, revised application submitted.

Police reports – nothing significant to note.

Maintenance – weeds in church now sprayed and to be sprayed again later in the year.

Heron's Trust – no meeting held by the Trustees.

Memorial for the World War 2 accident in the village – event organized for that Sunday at 3pm.

Rathlin – no meeting held since last Parish meeting.

Phone box – BT provided free paint still awaiting a volunteer to paint the box. Missing pane replaced by BT. Clerk had applied for Local Grant funding but rejected – clerk to seek alternative funding.

Flinton land – legal costs considered too high – Chair to contact land agent for cost.

Community plan – little feedback from residents to date – meeting to be arranged.

Clean up for the Queen – litter pickers lent by ERYC, thanks to Chris & Sue Wilkinson for doing a litter pick – RESOLVED to purchase 2 x litter pickers for own use.

Flinton street lighting upgraded however concerns about the level of light which is poor – clerk to raise with ERYC.

The finance report, previously circulated, was discussed and payments approved as follows: Clerk salary and expenses (£188.00); HMRC £35 and ERYC Supplies £4.07 for stationery.

Planning application – first floor extension to Old Post Office, no decision from ERYC yet.

The next meeting is 1 September 2016 at Maple Garage at 7pm.

Herons Trust – Old School



Everyone will have seen the Old School looking sad and dejected, fenced off. The Trustees are of the view that the residents are not bothered about the future of the Old School as no-one (bar one) has written to the Trustees telling them what they think.

Here is your opportunity to make a difference – write to Brenda Fear at Lelley or email mrsclawforth@btinternet.com and let them know.

If we don't act, this piece of history of our parish could well disappear forever. You may be of the view that it would be best if it were demolished or refurbished....either way it costs money....but more importantly now is your chance to let your views be known.

ACT NOW!

The Countryside in Summer by Harry Buck

Choose a sunny day and the countryside looks very well – most field crops are good and even the few fields of oil seed rape, which were poor last Spring, have suddenly improved and will yield a little of the black seed – very little can be done now to improve the yields – it's all down to the weather and Mother Nature.

Black grass continues to be a problem, but given time an answer will be found to control the menace either by chemical intervention or rotation methods.

Just lately I have noticed something missing from the meadow fields – buttercups. These are now only found in the old meadows – they are a plant which do not tolerate sprays or fertilizer. Interestingly just a short while ago travelling alongside the Beverley Westwood there was a dense mass of yellow buttercups.

During the recent wet days the ground nesting birds will have suffered – very small chicks cannot stand to be soaking wet for long. Several farming friends tell me that there seems to be more hares about the fields now that the crops are well developed with the hares hiding amongst the crops.

A few weeks ago I was pleased to attend the unveiling ceremony in Humbleton of the plaque marking the tragic accident in May 1943 – it was a very nice service and well attended.

Keep well, Keep laughing

If anyone has any events or information to add for future issues – let Vanessa know. If anyone has anything to be included please give to Vanessa at Springfields.