

Ellerker NEWS

Issue No. 4
Autumn 1998



A roundup of news from around the parish

It'll be alright ...

It never ceases to amaze me how well village events can turn out to be. It's almost as if planning can sometimes get in the way (but remember that good planning just isn't visible).

A case in point was the recent Sports Day (see Playing Fields), when it seemed that some of the recent stalwarts were not going to be available in the afternoon to help with the races. As it turned out the equipment was provided and all laid out beforehand, others were asked to help in the afternoon and fingers were crossed. Low and behold the sun shone most of the afternoon, despite it having been decidedly cold and grey in the morning. The model boat race down the beck was a resounding success, the races seemed to go without a hitch, thanks to a healthy band of helpers and the incomparable MC. Judging by the enthusiasm of the children, they thought it was cracking afternoon.

Events such as this, will stay in the memory of the children who participated, long after they have left Ellerker and perhaps made their lives far away from here. If we are able through them to transplant some the Ellerker spirit to other places, the village will have achieved something truly worthwhile - *Ed.*

Yorkshire Countrywomen

Ellerker members had an outing to Harrogate in August and were entertained to tea by Markington Branch in their Village Hall.

In September the Annual Show and member's night was held. Mrs Barbara Harper won the trophies for Cookery, Fruit and Flowers. Mrs Gladys Handley and Mrs Joan Scott shared the Handicraft Trophy with equal points and Mrs Scott also won the competition for the best item in the show.

Ellerker branch are catering for a visit from Redcar ladies for tea, following their outing to Lincoln. Later the helpers have their own tea in the Village Hall and count the proceeds, which keeps the annual subscription down to £3.

A donation, according to current finances, is usually sent to County Headquarters to help with office expenses - *MD*

Playing Fields

The big fund raiser for the Village Green and Playing Field is the annual Barn Supper Dance. This Year's event was hugely enjoyed by all who came thanks to the hard work of the few dedicated volunteers who make it possible.

Thanks to the contributions, the Tombola was one of the best ever with really first class prizes so generously given. The food – as ever – was plentiful and good to eat and there was spirited dancing to the ever popular White Horse Ceilidh Band.

Attendance numbers were down this year, largely we believe to the World Cup and England playing that night. Unfortunately also some people ordered tickets which they neglected to collect or pay for. However next year will be the 30th successive Barn Dance – let's make it a record year !

There was no response to our request for a "volunteer Dad" to paint the children's slide which is rather sad. The person who did paint it has neither children or grandchildren !

Right now we await a visit from RoSPA, to determine whether or not the play equipment meets safety standards – keep your fingers crossed !



John May completed the repair of the tractor and it is now back in its place, long may it remain. We are most grateful for his efforts, which has saved us a lot of money. We are also very appreciative of the gift of wheels and tyres from Messrs Moverley of South Cave and Dennis Cooney. Many thanks to Dennis for also helping to clean and paint the Village Green seats and thanks to John Pickles for finishing off the painting of the tractor.

By the time you read this the Sports Day will have

passed, as mentioned in the opening editorial. It was indeed a good day with quite a lot of planning behind it. A full report of the day will feature in the next Ellerker News. However, in the meantime, if you have any views as to whether or not this event should continue in its present form please talk, or preferably write, to your Committee.

Finally the Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, 9th January 1999. If you are new in the village and have children who would like to receive an invitation please contact Jessie Puckering (422761) who maintains the list of eligible children - *AGE*

Millenium Messenger

This quarter's column is an update on the Group's various activities over the last few months. The July Jumble Sale was a great success. After a worrying start about whether we'd have enough jumble to sell, we were overwhelmed with donations - many thanks to all who contributed. A healthy sum was raised and has been paid into our account, and the large quantity of good quality jumble left over is being sent to charity. Altogether a worthwhile event.

This was followed in August by our Cheese and Wine Get Together. Fortunately the weather behaved itself, the wine was mellow, and the cheese delicious. Our host and hostess ensured that a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all

The reinstatement of the Village Pump is progressing nicely, thanks to Mr Harrison who is building locally and who provided the materials and the expertise.

Calling all cooks! Plain and simple, or urbane and sophisticated - we want those recipes! Please jot down your favourite recipe(s) and pop them in to either Green's Garden Centre or Mary Dennis. Help make our Cook Book a valued addition to all Ellerker and Hilldales kitchens and, perhaps, solve your Christmas 99 gift problem too! - *MW*

Bird Records

If you have had Swifts, House Martins or Swallows nesting on or in your House at any time in 1997 and 1998 please tell Tim Pickles at Sebastopol (Tel: 422585) - *Ed*.

The Village Hall

Ellerker Village Institute is almost 70 years old - it was opened in 1929. During that time successive Management Committees have kept it in a good state of repair, using money paid by people who use the Institute and its facilities. There are, on average, 130 "lettings" each year involving a wide range of clubs,

societies and organisations eg the -Womens' Institute, Yorkshire Country Women, Neighbourhood Watch, St Anne's Church, the Parish Council It is also used for children's parties and for polling.

The Institute offers spacious and comfortable accommodation - it was re-decorated a couple of years ago and last year the Committee purchased new tables and chairs. The current Management Committee have applied for a Lottery grant and if they are successful, this will enable them to carry out an ambitious upgrading programme. (Should they be unsuccessful they will nevertheless spend some of their small reserve capital on updating the 30-year old heating system and renewing the front doors.)

The Institute is a real asset to the Village, providing a central meeting place for all sections of the community. However, its survival depends on you and your support The hire cost is very reasonable (charges are kept to a minimum and allow for only a small profit) and booking is easy - simply contact the Booking Officer, Mrs J Puckering, Pidgeon Cote Farm. Please bear the Institute in mind for your family's celebrations!

The next **Annual General Meeting** of the Village Hall Committee will be held on **Wednesday, 28th October 1998 at 8 pm**. This will be followed by light refreshments and then a **Grand Auction** of beechwood chairs which are now surplus to requirements. Have you anything you would like to enter for the auction? For a small commission fee our auctioneer will sell your goods, either for the highest bid or, if you wish, according to a reserve price set by you. Admission to the Auction is **free of charge**. For more details, contact David Green, Green's Garden Centre. - *DC*

Hermit's Poems

Phil Copeland's book which I think I called "Odds and Ends" in the last issue of EN is in fact called **Bits of This and That**. Published by Hermit Press it is available from Phil at Magpie Cottage for £3 - *Ed*

Parish Council

Dog stencils. The Council has been provided by ERYC with a 'Clean it up!' stencil and yellow spray paint. Four signs have been painted on footpaths around the village, so far all the feedback has been favourable, in fact one person has requested that a sign be painted on the footpath outside their house.



Conservation Area Consultation. ERYC are

intending to start consultation on the subject of granting Conservation Area status to Ellerker village. The period of consultation runs for 6 weeks starting from 5th October and it is likely that ERYC officers will be present at the next Parish Council meeting on 10th November to discuss the proposal.

Cave Lane footpath. In the investigative digging carried out by ERYC Technical Services Department, they were unable to find any evidence of the tarmac footpath which used to run along the east side of Cave Lane and have suggested that a compacted stone footpath could be constructed “when funds allow”.

Beck Cleaning. This year several villagers have voluntarily cleared most of the length of the Beck and the wet weather and cool temperatures have helped in keeping it clear. For the cleaning that still needs to be done, the Millenium Group have offered their services in exchange for payment to boost their funds.

Noticeboard. It has been agreed that a new wooden Parish Council noticeboard will be purchased to replace the existing one. It will have a door but will not be locked, so that reasonable use by other village bodies can be facilitated.

Church Lane highway. It seems that this will be maintained by ERYC, which came as a surprise to many people who thought that it had not been “adopted”.

Loose dogs and Dog wardens. There is concern that some dogs are allowed to roam around the village during the day. It was pointed out that ERYC have two dog wardens who could be asked to visit the village to monitor the situation.

The Clerk's salary is to be increased for the current Financial Year, although by mutual agreement it will be by a smaller amount than that recommended by the National Association of Local Councils.

Fireworks. There were a substantial number of complaints about the disturbance caused by the firework display at Ellerker Hall in the early hours of 9th August. It was suggested that had there been warning of the event and if it had been before midnight then the commotion may have been diminished. As it was several residents at Fern Villa were severely upset by the event as were a mare and foal at Nine Gates Farm.

Salt bin on Mill Hill. The Council continues to request that ERYC supply a second salt bin for Mill Hill, it is quite possible that it will be needed for use within the next few weeks

[ERYC – East Riding of Yorkshire Council]

If you want to know more about the work of the Parish Council and its role in the life of the village, why not come along to a meeting and listen to matters being discussed which affect us all – *TJP*

Women's Institute

The September meeting saw a wonderful display for the annual 'Produce Show'. Categories ranged from “The Last Rose of Summer” to “A Tray of Mixed Produce” to “An Item of Cross-Stitch”, with many in between. A tremendous effort was made by all. Congratulations go to Amanda Baggle, Pat Wilkinson and Lilian Cole who were awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. There was also excellent entertainment from a Cottingham amateur dramatic society - a mixture of comedy sketches and songs from popular musicals.

Plans for the next few months are as busy as ever with the October meeting hosting a talk on 'Antique Kitchens' and a competition for the most unusual kitchen utensil. We've got the Annual General Meeting in November and celebrate our 70th Anniversary with a party on the 18th.

Don't forget ladies, we meet in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm - you're more than welcome to come along! - *YM*

Apologies for the sub-heading error in Ellerker News 3 which should have read - **More than Jam and Jerusalem! - Ed.**

Ellerker Migrants

Those magnificent birds, Ellerker's Swifts left during the first week of August this year, which is earlier than normal.

By now all of the village's summer visitors have departed to go and live out our winter in a warmer climate where their insect food is still available. In most cases this means the long trip to Africa.

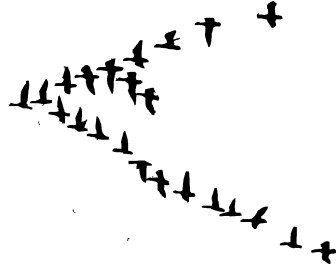
Many birds, particularly those born in the village this year will fail to arrive at their winter destination. Sadly they may be shot or trapped during the journey across Europe, fall into the sea when they become exhausted or simply run out of energy and be too weak to fly strongly enough to catch any more food. It is important however, to remember that birds have been migrating between Europe and Africa since before men were on the planet and they are able recover when natural disasters mean that large numbers of them perish.

More recent changes which threaten their future are

man-made. In order for any bird to produce the next generation they need food and somewhere to build a nest. In most cases food is still available, the main problem arises when their nesting habitat has been destroyed.

For Swifts, House Martins and Swallows this means buildings in and on which to build; for Ellerker's warblers (commonly Whitethroat and Sedge) it means hedgerow or undisturbed scrub and long grass where their nests are built on the ground.

As summer visitors leave the village, so winter ones arrive. The southern edge of Ellerker Parish forms a large part of the northern limit of the Humber Wildfowl Refuge which stretches from the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Trent as far as Brough Haven. The Refuge was set up in 1955 to protect the internationally important roost for the Pink-footed Goose. These birds breed in Iceland and most choose to spend the winter in this country. In the '50s their numbers on the Humber were around 5,000 but now due to changes in farming they commonly over-winter in the Scottish lowlands, numbers now reaching the Humber are measured in tens rather than thousands – *TJP*



Contributions

If you wish to submit a small article to be included in future issues of *Ellerker News* please contact the Editor. Submissions should be (in order of preference)

- 1) On a 3½" PC diskette
- 2) Typed
- 3) Clearly handwritten

- *Ed.*

ELLERKER EVENT DIARY OCTOBER – DECEMBER

October

- 7 WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 YCA, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 28 Village Hall, AGM and Auction, 8pm

November

- 4 WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 5 YCA, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10 Parish Council, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 27 Neighbourhood Watch AGM, 8pm

December

- 2 WI, Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 3 YCA, Village Hall, 7.30pm

AUTUMN

Autumn arrives and a misty dawn shows magical webs on holly and thorn. As life-giving sap goes steadily down, leaves turn gold, and red, and brown. Make a rustling carpet beneath the trees as they lose their grip with every breeze. Conkers are falling, the children's delight, shrieks of joy as they win the next fight. The cuckoos have gone by nature's designs, swallows mass on telephone lines. Fields of stubble their harvest reaped, smouldering leaves on bonfires heaped. Hips and haws on hedgerows borne, like scarlet jewels on crowns of thorn. Balmy evenings in mellow light, skeins of geese in symmetrical flight. Trees and church towers silhouette the sky, as a sunset paints it's canvas high. Cottage chimneys begin to smoke as kitchen fires are lit by the country folk. The fireside beckons like a long-lost friend, as the fruitful year nears a peaceful end.

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