

Happy New year everyone!! We hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. We have a lot of news to cover in this newsletter – some positive news 😊😊 The positive news 😊 is that the pub has re-opened – **YEAH!! Exciting times ahead.** Have we all paid it a visit?

Does anyone have any features/ news they would like in our newsletter? We can only keep the newsletter going if we have contributions! The next print run will be in April 2026 so please do have a think and send any ideas to any of the contacts listed on the back page

West Halton and Coleby Annual Poppy Appeal

The annual poppy collection held in 2025 collected a massive £206.64 towards the work the RBI carry out. Many, many thanks go to Keith and Christine who, once again, took the collection boxes around our villages whilst braving the elements

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

Parish Council Vacancies and Clerk Vacancy

Unfortunately, two more of our Parish Councillors have resigned their positions. The PC would like to thank Cllr Williams and Cllr Van Der Westhuizen for all the work they have put into the PC over the years.

The Clerk to the PC has tendered her resignation and the position is currently being advertised. Please turn to the Parish Council pages of this Newsletter for more information.

The Blue Dog Pub

Our pub has re-opened !! **FABULOUS NEWS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES.**

Craig, Sam and Tracey would like to welcome all customers, new and old to the Blue Dog Pub.

Regular guest cask ales are now available along with the usual favourites and, for the drivers, those up early the next day or anyone choosing to watch their health, many 0% choices such as Guinness and Madri 😊

Regular karaoke nights are already taking place along, with the showing of big sporting events, such as the up and coming 6 nations and major premier league matches.

Work is progressing on the kitchen refurbishments – watch this newsletter for more information – why not follow the pub on their new Facebook Page for all the latest information so that you don't miss out on all the exciting events taking place??



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Happy New Year!

We would like to thank all our supporters over the last year. 2025 was an extremely successful year for us and wouldn't have been able to do it without your help. Most of our events were very well supported and the proceeds from the events helped us do some much needed maintenance to the hall, we repaired the flat roof, replaced the broken shower and updated the shower room, replaced some broken equipment and through a resident's generosity we had the 3 halls repainted.

We would also thank our volunteers who helped behind the scenes in setting up and clearing up after these events, especially Suzanne, Sue, Laura, Kiki, Aurora and Holly who did some sterling work at the Christmas Lunch in December.

November and December are usually our busy periods and last year was no exception with the craft fair, the children's Christmas Party, Santa's Grotto and of course the Christmas Lunch. Hirings over those two months was also very high.

2026 sees the 170th Anniversary of the building being opened as a school, after which it was gifted to become the village hall in the early 1970's. The old school building is still incorporated in the hall and remains as the coffee room, the bar and storage. The blackboard in the bar is one of the originals from the school.

To mark this anniversary, we would like to hold an event during the spring/summer and if anyone has any ideas please let us know. In the meantime, we would love it if you have any old photos from the school or hall that you could share with us along with any memories you may have, either as a school child or from visiting an event. We are looking to create a memory board that we will display in the hall.

Other exciting news we have, is that from early 2026 the village hall will be used to provide alternative schooling provision for key stage 4 children, 3 days a week. You should have already seen more information about EduPaws on the Village Hall Newsletter.

We are hoping to announce our future events in the next edition of the Village Hall Newsletter, but in the meantime here is a taster of what we have planned for later in the year.

- **Easter Sunday - the Annual Easter Egg Hunt**
- **170th Anniversary of the school opening**
- **Summer Family Day, we are keeping everything crossed that we could have family camping again this year.**
- **Scarecrow Festival in the autumn.**
- **MacMillan Coffee Morning**
- **Social evenings**
- **Craft Fairs**
- **Christmas Lunch**
- **Santa's Grotto**

These are all in addition to our weekly bowls, coffee mornings, yoga sessions, line dancing classes and hall hirings.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Don't forget that the hall is available to hire, subject to availability, for children's parties at £40 per day and adult parties at £70 per day. It is also available at an hourly rate of £10 per hour.

Rates

Children's Party/Indoor Overnight Camping Rates

All rooms and kitchen (Parties)	£40.00
All rooms and kitchen (Camping)	£60.00 per night

Adult Parties

All rooms and kitchen	£70.00
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Other hall rates

All rooms and kitchen	£10 per hour
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Regular users

By special arrangement for bookings occurring monthly or more frequently

Equipment hire

Karaoke machine (plus £10.00 returnable deposit)	£20.00
Projector and Screen (plus £10.00 refundable deposit)	£20.00
Chair cover and sash	50p per chair
Tablecloths	Free

Just to remind you that as a Registered Charity the hall run by a small, dedicated team of volunteer We do not receive any public funding and the money raised from our events goes back into the ha to pay for its maintenance, utilities, general upkeep of the hall and of course putting on more even for everyone to enjoy.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Cemetery ownership transfer

This is still an on-going process. The PC is currently making an application to HM Land Registry to claim 'adverse possession' on the land. Once this has been submitted, the PC will liaise with NLC with regards to the transfer of ownership

Coleby Road Surface

Please PLEASE do complain to NLC concerning the state of the road through West Halton. It is in such a dangerous state – someone is going to have a serious accident soon. The PC are pushing the local ward councillors and NLC but the more people that complain the better!

The ward councillors contact information is available on the back page of this newsletter

To complain to NLC go to their home page <https://www.northlincs.gov.uk> and search on 'report a road'

Planning application – Water Lane and Cross Street

An outline planning circulation has been submitted to NLC to replace approximately 230m of existing low voltage open wire overhead electric line (OHL) with aerial bunched conductor (ABC) and replace six damaged/rotten wooden poles with wooden poles of an equivalent height

For more information regarding this application please go to the NLC web page <https://www.northlincs.gov.uk> and search on planning for application number PA/2025/1623

Alkborough Lane Bus Shelter

NLC highways have requested further information from the PC with regards to this proposed bus shelter. The PC are working on this information, so hopefully we will see a shelter erected in the following months.

Parish Council Vacancies; Clerk Vacancy

Two of our Parish councillors have tendered their resignation, so we are now down to 3 councillors. This is the legal minimum requirement under which a PC can operate. If anymore councillors resign, then our PC is in danger of being dissolved and possibly merged with another local PC. This could mean that decisions on our village are made by non-residents which is not ideal. Please do have a think about supporting the PC

The Clerk is a vital role for a council as legally a council cannot operate without a clerk. The clerk is responsible for not just the agendas and minutes but operates as the chief executive and responsible financial officer (RFO) for the council. The clerk ensures that a council operates in a legal manner and is also responsible for all the financial reporting and transactions. As we go to print, we have had one applicant for the vacant position so hopefully the position will be filled very soon.

To catch up on the latest PC news, there is always our web site.

<https://westhaltonandcolebyparishcouncil.gov.uk>

SURVEYS AND NATURE NEWS

HAVE YOUR SAY NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Following the announcement that the Government will not intervene in NHS plans to strip services from Scunthorpe hospital, North Lincolnshire Council has launched a six-week public survey to give residents a strong voice in shaping the future of this critical part of the local healthcare system.

The feedback will help the council build a clear case to lobby for extra investment and help secure the improvements our hospital needs.

Residents are urged to use the consultation as their chance to influence priorities and make sure our community gets the best possible healthcare for years to come.

Go to the following link on the North Lincolnshire Web page.

<https://northlincs.gov.uk/your-council/current-consultations-and-surveys/>

The Wildlife Trusts

The Wildlife Trusts would like to hear your opinions on the biggest questions surrounding nature. The Great Big Nature Survey is all about people and nature.

This survey is the largest four nations survey about our relationship with nature in the UK. Taking part is an opportunity to let wildlife trusts know how much nature matters to you, what kinds of threats you think nature is facing, and how you think nature should be protected. The survey contains 52 questions and should take about 20 minutes to complete. We hope you find it interesting!

Take the survey today. Go to

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org>

RSPB Bird Watch

Every January the RSPB carry out the Big Garden Bird Watch. This is the world's largest 'citizen science' wildlife survey. Perhaps you have taken part this year for the first time or maybe you have been a regular contributor?

We are so lucky to live in a countryside environment and to have a large amount of wildlife on our doorstep. Many of us put up feeders in our gardens containing a variety of seeds, fruit, and worm things! How many species do you have coming to your bird feeder?

One local resident has counted over 14 species of birds visiting on a regular basis – to name a few - Robin, Blackbird, Jackdaw, Wood Pigeon, Ring Dove, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long tailed Tit, Dunnock, Greenfinches, Goldfinch, Wrens, Chaffinch, Greater Spotted Woodpecker, even a snipe and a Red Kite has been spotted!

What species do you see in your garden?

One species that seems to have made a comeback is the Green Woodpecker. He has often been seen and heard around the village calling his distinctive call – which is often referred to as a 'yaffle'. His call sounds like someone laughing out loud. Keep your ears out to listen for him

He has been seen sitting, hunched up, on the village field too hunting for ants – his favourite food.



ST ETHELDREDAS CHURCH

Hello again!

As we move into the new year, it is good to reflect on the celebrations of the Christmas period.

The church welcomed three more groups of villagers and their friends to our annual Wreath-making workshops on December 6th. It was a very busy day with huge amounts of greenery and embellishments available to be used by all who attended. Those on the last workshop never worry about only 'having to use what's left' as every workshop has a fresh set of equipment and decorations to use.

There were some fabulous wreaths made and it was great to walk around the village to see them hanging on front doors. Excellent refreshments of Christmas cake, sausage rolls, stollen and chocolates were enjoyed by all. The event raised a fantastic £820 for the church Restoration and Repair Fund, and the PCC would like to thank all those who attended and those who allowed us to cut greenery from their gardens.

Thanks to Ann, Caroline, Derek and Ian who ran the event again this year.

Looking ahead.....

In Spring 2026 we will be welcoming Dr Kevin Leahy, FSA, MClfA to West Halton. He holds the positions of National Advisor, The Portable Antiquities Scheme, British Museum and Honorary Visiting Fellow, School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester.

Kevin lives locally and has a long association with North Lincolnshire's Museum. His talk will give an insight into how St. Etheldreda who was daughter of a king and married to a king, came to stay in West Halton c.673 and would have expected a certain level of society. He will examine the recent research which has shown the small valley in which West Halton lies to have been a special place for which he will examine the evidence. Date, time and venue to be announced.

We are all awaiting better weather for the start of a new gardening year. As you plan what you will be planting this year please can we ask you to pot up any 'spare' plants and put them aside for next spring/summer as we will be holding a plant sale at church to raise funds. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

ST ETHELDREDAS CHURCH

A lovely Act of Remembrance took place at the Village War Memorial in the churchyard on 9th November. Many thanks to Nigel and his team from Winterton RBL who helped to organise this important annual event



We will remember them



As always, there is a warm welcome to all our regular parishioners and any new people who wish to come along and worship in our lovely church.

The Christmas services were well attended and were very enjoyable. The church looked at its most beautiful with all the windows decorated and lit by candles.

The next service will be Candlemas on Monday February 2nd at 6pm when the Christmas season concludes for another year. Again, the church will be candlelit.

There will be a service on February 22nd at 11:15am and this will be our usual service of Holy Communion.

There will be no service in March, and the PCC have not yet been given the service rota for April, May and June.....watch out for these in the next newsletter.

The snowdrops are out in the churchyard – what a wonderful cheery sight they are during the dark winter months however, the days are starting to lengthen now!

WEST HALTON AND COLEBY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY/FEB 2026 ISSUE 9

Contacts Village Hall Committee

Text: 07835292545

Email: westhaltonvillagehall@gmail.com

Polly Oliver
John McDonald
Catherine Knight
Allan Knight
Vicky Wray
Amanda Evans
Joanne Allen
Andrew Booth
Denise Booth

**Anglian Water- KEEP
COMPLAINING!!!**

If anyone experiences a terrible taste/colour to their drinking water, LOG IT! via their customer service E mail address or phone

Tel: 0345 791 9155

CustService@anglianwater.co.uk

Parish Council

Cllr Charles Dent. Manor Cottage, Church Side,
West Halton charles_r_dent@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Clerk Vacant

clerk@westhaltonandcolebyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Sam Duck; West Halton

sam.duck179@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Trevor Davey 1 Bungalow White House Lane
West Halton trevor.davey@btinternet.com

We would like to express our thanks to our sponsor who is continuing to print our newsletter, in colour 😊, free of charge.

All 4 of our community organisations really do appreciate your kind gesture and your continued support

THANK YOU 😊

Parochial Church Council

Mrs Caroline Robinson; Stonylea, West Street,
West Halton.

Mr Derek Townend; Harvesters Rest. Water Lane West Halton

Mr Ian Robinson; Stonylea, West Street West Halton

NLC Ward Councillors.

Cllr R Ogg; 07800 915584

Cllr E Marper 07776 492330

Cllr Helen Rawson 07768 636568