



## Easingwold Town Council



2017 - 2018

## Annual Newsletter



'Parish Council of the Year' Award



Easingwold stars in the Yorkshire Living Magazine

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EASINGWOLD TOWN COUNCIL  
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### A Message from Council Chairman Peter Nottage

Once again we're proud to say that Easingwold and Easingwold Town Council have had a positive year. It's not just us that say so! Hambleton District Council voted us its 'Parish Council of the Year' for 2018. Although he didn't win, we nominated Councillor Chris Jackson as 'Volunteer of the Year'; it's probably easier to tell you what Chris hasn't done, than what he has! He's been everywhere, supervising the Millfields drainage and the Gents Toilets refurbishment, clearing and relaying footpaths, leading our teams of volunteers, building bridges, picking rubbish, and planting loads and loads of daffodil bulbs. Thanks Chris, and everyone else that has helped us so much in 2017-18.

For our Council this has been a year of consolidating our new structure, which is going well. Our new Committees are all working intensively on their different aspects of our overall role, we report on them within this Newsletter. They are taking away the operational load from the main Council, so that it can concentrate on management and strategic action.

We do hope you've noticed a new vibrancy around the Town Centre this year. We've extended the outdoor seating with our café and hostelry partners to improve the social ambience. We've also invested strongly in our summer and winter flowers and the Christmas lights. All this and our 'Wold-Class' businesses were highlighted in the *Yorkshire Living* magazine article, which we hope that you've seen.

The wild flower border we created in Millfields was a real success in the summer. Similarly delightful, this spring, are the 8,000 daffodils that were planted in the verges of the roads as you enter town.

Other highlights of our year are illustrated within this Newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy it and help us support the town through the coming 2018-19 Council year.



# The Easingwold Life in Pictures



A Red Admiral and Sedge Warbler visit Millfields Ponds (courtesy EGSG)



Even a wintry evening couldn't stop Easingwold "Lighting Up a Life" in conjunction with St. Leonard's Hospice and the Lions for Christmas 2017.

Alongside this, ETC celebrated the installation of our enhanced Easingwold Christmas lights to great public approval.



Our ETC Friendliness Initiative continues to thrive

**Dementia Roadshow**

A chance to find out:

- More about dementia
- What support is available locally
- What you can do to help

Open to all including:

- Local residents
- Local businesses
- Local transport providers
- Anyone interested

What can I get out of this?

- What can I expect?
- What can I talk to?
- What can I ask?
- What can I get to?

**Roadshow venues**

- GALTRES CENTRE (The Lounge)** Tuesday 19 March 9.30am - 3.30pm
- ALPINE VILLAGE HALL** Tuesday 3 April 9.30am - 3.30pm
- STILLINGTON SOCIAL CLUB** Thursday 5 April 9.30am - 3.30pm
- HELPERY VILLAGE HALL** Thursday 17 April 9.30am - 3.30pm
- SESSIONS BY DENNIS DEACON VILLAGE HALL** Tuesday 19 April 9.30am - 1.00pm

To find out more please contact Dementia Forward: 01740 401234 | info@dementiaforward.org.uk | www.dementiaforward.org.uk

Partners: Dementia Forward, The Coopers Centre, Forgive and Forget, Easingwold District, NHS

An Easingwold and Villages Action Against Dementia Alliance (EVADA) has been formed and is already providing broad ranging training and support.

Alongside this, ETC has launched a Dementia Friendly initiative and formally applied for Dementia Friendly status. We know that everyone in Easingwold will provide a warm and friendly welcome and great support to those with dementia and their carers.

**Rockin' All Over THE WOLD**  
Music & Beer Festival  
14th July 2018

Rockin' All Over the Wold was another success in 2017 raising lots of money for Yorkshire Air Ambulance. It's coming again to our Market Place on the 14th July.



Peter Nottage tries out the walker's bridge in Millfields Woods built by Richard Leighton.



## Our 2017-2018 Diary

The Galtres Centre welcomes the Christmas Market 2017



Our canine walkers meet and share their doggy stories at the Millfields park



During the winter of 2016-2017 Easingwold Town Council had been working hard on their vision for Easingwold, which was presented to you all on our website and in our 2016-17 Annual Newsletter. Whilst its sentiments were well received, our vision needed to be made a reality. Change requires action, so no sooner had the 2017-18 Council year begun than we restructured our organisation to help deliver the vision, whilst providing a more effective organisation. The major changes involved the combination of four existing committees into two, so that we could support the social side of Easingwold more strongly alongside our traditional work on the physical side of the town.

Thus, the Town Centre and Finance & General Purposes Committees combined to become the Operations Committee. Its role is to deal with all aspects of the finance, management and operation of the Council, plus a focus on our town centre and conservation area (together with its markets and services). Next, the Open Spaces Committee and Recreation committees were combined to create the new Recreation & Open Spaces Committee; it concentrates on making the best use of the great Easingwold outdoors, its parks and public spaces.

Now we had the capacity for a completely new committee – the Social and Events Committee. It was felt that a growing Easingwold deserved more attention to its social and interactive side. The new committee will liaise with the multiplicity of voluntary facilities and organisations and events that help make Easingwold such a wonderful and supportive community for its people and their needs. At the same time it has been decided to extend the capabilities of each committee by co-opting members with specifically relevant skills. This not only improves the expertise available to the Council, but also gives people interested in the Council an opportunity to be much more closely involved in its work.

During the year we were sorry to receive the resignation of Councillor Phil Grainger, who left Easingwold for a major career opportunity; and so, after a recruitment process, Councillor Panda Gledhill was welcomed to our team. Panda is extremely skilled in youth and voluntary work, so bringing new and much needed skills into our midst.

The Town Council itself has retained the responsibility for the Neighbourhood Plan working group. This has continued its work and its close alignment with the emerging new Local Plan of Hambleton District Council. We all know that Easingwold is growing rapidly and just recently two new building sites have opened – Persimmon at Kell Balk Lane and Keir off Stillington Road. During 2017 we believe that Easingwold's population will have gone over 5,000 for the first time. However, the dwellings growth has been faster than the population growth. This has caused changes in our community balance as we have gained more, smaller households and have had an increase in the average age of our people.

Whilst two of our committees started with existing workloads carried over from previous years, the Social and Events Committee has had to start from scratch and has slowly built its momentum. The Operations Committee has done much work on the vibrancy of the Town Centre and has overseen the refurbishment of the gent's toilet with the ladies to come in 2018. We are always disappointed to see any instances of littering, dog fouling and other unsocial behaviours; often, when they happen, they are focused on the town centre. In response we have created an Anti-Social Behaviour working group with HDC, the Police and other relevant organisations to try and address the issues this creates. We all have a role in helping the community to tackle these issues; please report any problems to the Police on their **101** telephone number.

The Recreation and Open Spaces Committee has built on its previous work with the successful drainage of the Millfields recreation area, clearing public footpaths, creating a wildflower border, maintaining our trees and greens, and planting daffodils at the town entrances. It is now working towards a public consultation on the future of Millfields. The Social and Events Committee has begun by creating policies and programmes for many important aspects of their role (events, donations, inclusion, communications, outreach, youth etc.) They are also working on upgrading the Council website, which is now showing its age after years of trusty service.



## Town Council



The results of the Town Clean-Up. Please clear up after yourselves and use the containers and waste bins provided



The Millfields wild flower border, a real success in 2017



Some of our 8,000 newly planted daffodils glisten in the April showers on York Road

- The Town Council is proud to have been voted, once again, to be Hambleton District Council's 'Parish Council of the Year'. We know that this reflects not only the work of the Council Clerks, Contractors and Councillors; but also the efforts of the whole community. We would like to thank you all for your support and hard work
- The Council has been organisationally restructured in 2017 to improve the way in which it operates and supports the community of Easingwold. It will be continuously assessing whether the new approach is effective and assuring that it continues to provide suitable leadership for the town
- The Neighbourhood Plan working group continues to look at how Easingwold's growth in dwellings and population affects its community and resources. This is so that suitable approaches can be developed (in conjunction with HDC, NYCC and other authorities) to help support the needs of the enlarged town and its people.

## Recreation & Open Spaces Committee

- The expanded committee has continued with its programme of open space and recreation/play park maintenance to keep Easingwold looking good. Please report any issues to the Town Clerks
- Surveys of the Easingwold trees that are the responsibility of the town to maintain have been completed and a four-year maintenance cycle has been established and started to keep them in good order
- The Council's grass cutting programme has been extended and now includes the Uppleby Greens for the 2018 season
- During the year we've invested in many new bins in lots of locations. If we're still missing places that would benefit, please suggest them to the Clerks. We want people to be never far from a bin, and then to use them to keep Easingwold tidy
- Volunteer working groups have been helping cleaning up and working on many practical things to make Easingwold nicer. There will be more, so please join in; or borrow our equipment and hold your own
- We've been refurbishing/replacing some of our public benches. Our new ones are made from recycled materials for a longer service. Sponsorships are available, so please contact the Clerks to do so.

## Operations Committee

- The Town has been investing its reserves in its infrastructure during the year, especially on the successful drainage of the Millfields Recreation Area
- The Council Office has been moved and expanded within the new volunteer-led Town Library
- Our Town Clerks are there to help our citizens; but if you wish to report issues relating to highways, drainage, lighting etc. please do this to NYCC or HDC as needed via their help-lines or websites
- The Market Stalls have all been refurbished and the tarpaulin covers replaced. The range of traders in the Friday market has been extended to give a wider choice to our shoppers
- The atmosphere of the town centre has been improved by extending the outside seating licences of our café's and hostelrys; our objective being a livelier and more welcoming environment
- The Gents Toilet has been refurbished and the Ladies will be completed in 2018.

## Social & Events Committee

- The new Committee has been established, extra meetings are creating policies and building its work programme
- A new ETC policy on Inclusion has been completed and agreed by the whole council
- A policy on Community grants, sponsorships and charitable donations has also been agreed. A small budget is available but is reserved for use with organisations and events that hold clear benefits for Easingwold, its people and visitors
- Work on an approach for outreach to Easingwold's voluntary sector has begun.
- Work is starting on our approach to sponsoring, supporting and highlighting Easingwold events
- Work has begun (with professional help from NYCC & Yorkshire Youth) on the establishment of a Youth Forum in conjunction with our young people
- The ETC website needs refreshing, a renewal brief has been agreed and work has started.