

August 2026

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2026

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LOW BURNHAM CONTINUES TO IMPRESS

Low Burnham excelled themselves this year with wonderful displays of wooden farm animals, used as planters (see below and right).

The overall effect was stunning and a real testament to the community involvement that resulted in another Best Kept Village accolade.



The judges were very complimentary of the choice and variety of plants used in the displays, but it was the work and imagination involved in the creation of the animal planters that really impressed. The whole village can feel very proud of their efforts.

The competition in this category is always strong, as evidenced by the high scores achieved. Second



placed East Lound had a magnificent display in the village Pinfold with a celebration of CPRE's Centenary (see page 6). One of the strengths of East Lound is the obvious involvement of the community and the themed planting schemes.

The high quality of community planting was also a feature highlighted in third placed Elsham (see below). The village was immaculate and the Village Hall had a range of colourful displays in tubs and fence planters, as well as a herb garden.

Only a point behind were Appleby and Redbourne who were both highly commended. One of the common features of all the villages in this category was the almost complete absence of litter; an impressive achievement.



Small village results

1st Low Burnham

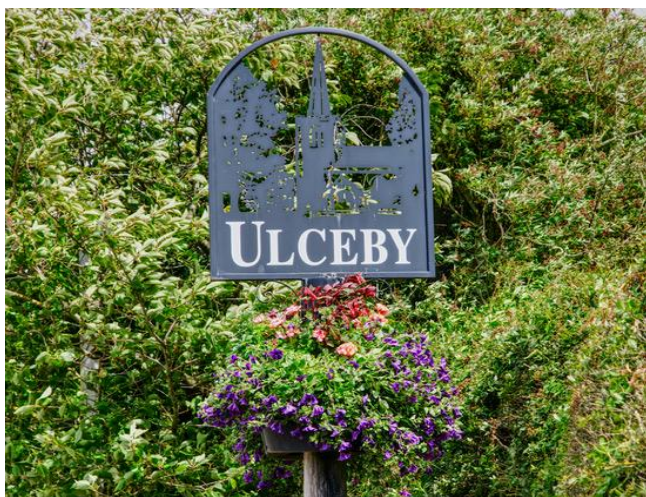
2nd East Lound

3rd Elsham

Highly commended, Appleby, Redbourne



Success for Ulceby



After coming second last year, Ulceby deservedly claimed the top spot, with a very tidy village and high-quality community planting. An interesting feature of the village was the creation of a large community garden, bounded by trees and hedges, with additional tree planting across the site.

Barnetby-le-Wold was a close second after a hat-trick of wins in the past three years. The most impressive part of the village was the CPRE Centenary display on the old village green (see page 6).

The village always has good community planting, supported by many residents, with impressive floral displays outside their properties.

Medium village results

1st Ulceby

2nd Barnetby-le-Wold

3rd Owston Ferry

Highly commended, South Ferriby

West Butterwick



One of the features of third place Owston Ferry was the number of individual displays (see one below), indicative of good community support for the competition. It is always good to see commercial premises supporting the community, with excellent floral displays at Lindum Court in the centre of the village. The White Hart also came second in the Best Kept Pub competition (see page 5).

Both highly commended in this category, were South Ferriby and West Butterwick, who also won the Best Kept Churchyard (see page 7).



BEST KEPT WAR MEMORIAL



Always a strong category, Northern Lincolnshire can feel proud of their war memorials. Haxey (above) were the winners this year, with an immaculate memorial and some splendid planting to enhance the prominent site.

Second place Waltham (who were also runners up in the

Best Kept Cemetery category), boasts many additional features surrounding the memorial; including 11 well-stocked planters around the front, a rose bed and grasses, memorial benches, Tommy figure, seats, flagpole and other decorative features, which all enhance the well-maintained memorial (see below).



Belton are Large Village Winners

Holding off a strong challenge, Belton were worthy winners in this category). Belton Park Pavilion is also a Green Flag Award winner and the judges were particularly appreciative of the quality of the planting there, and elsewhere in this tidy village. There were also a significant number of attractive gardens (see below), and The Crown Inn was again the Best Kept Pub (see page 5).



Large village results

1st Belton

2nd Westwoodside

3rd Haxey

Highly commended, Goxhill, Scawby



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Westwoodside, retained their second place in this group. The village was praised for the lack of litter, the quality of their community planting (including the support of retail premises) and the playground.

Like many villages, Westwoodside and third placed Haxey, had a significant challenge in keeping their planting displays looking at their best during the long hot summer. The judges were very impressed with the amount of watering that must have been necessary.

Haxey's community planting was judged to be the best in this group (see next page) and they also won the Best Kept War Memorial (see page 2).

Only one mark behind were Goxhill and Scawby, who were both highly commended and both won other awards for their cemetery and playground respectively.



BEST COMMUNITY PLANTING



Community Planting is part of the general criteria for all villages and can be entered as an individual category for a special award.

The standard of planting improves each year and was particularly impressive this year, given the weather. Low Burnham continues to lead the way with highly imaginative use of old wooden pallets, that were transformed into a range of animal planters (see above and below).



A number of villages and towns created colourful planting displays to celebrate CPRE's Centenary. One of these was at Barton-Upon-Humber (shown below), which also had a range of splendid planting.



Best Community Planting results

Small Village - Low Burnham

Medium Village – Ulceby

Large Village – Haxey

Small Town – Barton-Upon-Humber



Haxey Pinfold (above) was the location for some excellent planting around the memorial to recognise the crews of Halifax bombers, that crashed in Haxey Parish during the Second World War.

Ulceby, like many places, chose to brighten up their High Street with colourful tiered planters (see below). Northern Lincolnshire was certainly awash with colour this summer.



Waltham Best Kept Small Town



Waltham were delighted to win the top prize in the small town group. The village had many attractive features and some very good community planting (see above). Waltham also won awards for the second best cemetery and second best war memorial.

Small Town results

1st Waltham

2nd Barton-Upon-Humber

3rd Epworth

**Highly commended, Broughton,
Crowle and Ealand**



Second placed Barton-Upon-Humber, also won the Best Community Planting award for this category (see below and page 4), in addition to being placed second for the best kept playground.

Only one mark behind was Epworth, who came third. They had impressive features, including a colourful array of hanging baskets through the centre of the town, and a litter-free environment.

Broughton and Crowle and Ealand were both, deservedly highly commended. The judges praised both towns for excellent facilities and good community planting. What was evident in all the small towns, were the commendable efforts made to create attractive and tidy environments.



HAT-TRICK FOR THE CROWN



The Crown Inn at Belton was the Best Kept Public House for a third year in a row.

It is a very impressive pub, with excellent planting and some high-quality wooden furniture and play equipment, in a delightful area to the rear of the pub. The whole site is very clean and well cared for.

The White Hart at Owston Ferry was runner-up and judges were impressed that every opportunity had been taken to make the outdoor area colourful and attractive.

CPRE CENTENARY AWARD



It was a privilege to see the many ways in which villages and towns across Northern Lincolnshire embraced the challenge of creating a suitable celebration of 100 years of CPRE's work as an environmental charity.

The Special Award for this category was won by Barnetby-le-Wold (see above), in a simple but highly effective way, with a metal figure sitting on the bench, reading about the formation of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England in the Barnetby Times from 1926.

Another much appreciated display was found at the Pinfold in East Lound (see right). This excellent display, promoted the aims and successes of CPRE over the last 100 years. The vegetables in recycled bin boxes and the oak trees growing in yoghurt pots were very imaginative.

Belton cleverly used their very popular traditional



barrow race as the basis for a lovely display of planting, celebrating CPREs 100 years (see below).

Other places provided special planting displays as had Barton-Upon-Humber (see page 4 bottom left),



whilst Waltham provided an information sheet included in each of their colourful planting displays, giving details of CPRE's successes over the past 100 years.



West Butterwick wins Best Kept Churchyard



West Butterwick's churchyard (see above) continues to impress, with another well-deserved win. It is very well-maintained and significantly enhanced by some excellent planting, including a number of very attractive willow wreaths with plants around. Much thought and effort has made this a splendid churchyard.

North Killingholme was a strong runner-up (see below). Enjoying an attractive site, the churchyard is very tidy and well-maintained.

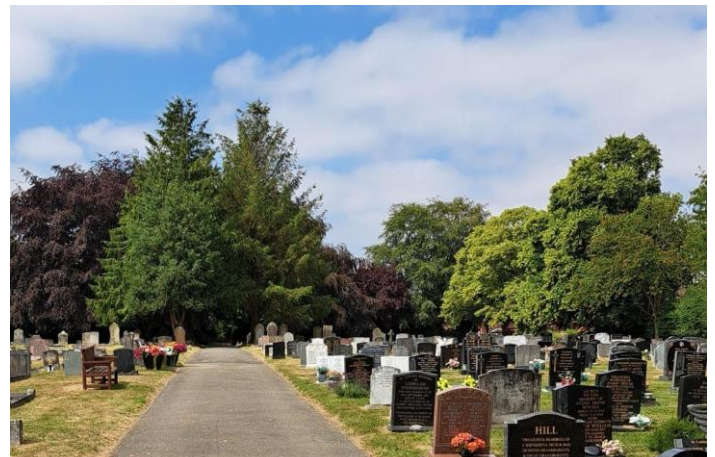
Other churchyards deserving of commendation included, Appleby, Belton, Broughton, Crowle and Ealand, East Halton, Haxey, Redbourne and Waltham.



Best Kept Cemetery Winner is Goxhill

Gaining full marks, Goxhill was a worthy winner of the Best Kept Cemetery category (see right and below). The judges were extremely impressed with this excellent cemetery which is very well-maintained.

The entrance gates are particularly smart and well-painted, and the paths and hedges



are very tidy. The circular memorial gardens are also an attractive feature.

Waltham were runners-up with a very smart cemetery and some impressive planting.

There was a high standard in this category, with many other well-maintained cemeteries, notably Appleby, Belton, Broughton, East Halton and Epworth.

Scawby has Best Kept Playground



with a delightful playground (see below). There is a good range of well-maintained equipment, which is well spaced across the park. There is a very good area for smaller children and with a good provision of benches and small picnic tables, this is a well-used and popular playground.

Northern Lincolnshire has many excellent playgrounds and the following achieved very high scores: Appleby, Barnetby-le-Wold, Belton, Broughton, Crowle, Ealand Elsham, Epworth, Goxhill, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Messingham, Owston Ferry, Redbourne, Ulceby, West Butterwick, Westwoodside and Worlaby.

For a third year, Scawby won the Best Kept Playground award.

Set in a large playing field area, this excellent playground has a very impressive range of good quality equipment.

There were good safety surfaces and a good MUGA and adult exercise equipment. One of the popular features of the playground is the excellent racetrack in the lower section.

Barton-Upon-Humber were close runners-up,



AGM Saturday 21ST October 2026

2.30pm *St John's Hall Brigg*

Tea/coffee from 2.00pm The speaker will be Simon Tomson, local archaeologist and WEA tutor, who will give a talk on Prehistoric Boats in the Humber Region, including the Brigg Craft.

Tickets (at door) £5 - free to CPRE members



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If you would like to learn more about us, our website address is cprenorthernlincs.org.uk

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