

## BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2023

### Isle small villages joint winners

East Lound and Low Burnham shared the honours as joint winners of the small village category. Both villages provided stunning planting, with nearly all residents contributing to delightful and innovative displays.

East Lound chose a planted and decorated wheelbarrow theme, many of which also had gnomes or gnomes somewhere in the display (see below). Low Burnham maintained its consistently excellent standard, with a 'bee' theme this year, with numerous bees, hives and sunflowers throughout the village (see right).

Both villages had to be exceptional, as this category set an extremely high standard, with Elsham, last



years joint winners, claiming a worthy third place. Garthorpe and Fockerby and Redbourne also scored high marks and were highly commended by the judges.

There was much to praise in the small village category. The judges were particularly impressed with the involvement of the village communities in caring for their local environment, and a commendable absence of litter throughout.



### Small Village Results

1<sup>st</sup>= East Lound

1<sup>st</sup>= Low Burnham

3<sup>rd</sup> Elsham

*Highly commended* Garthorpe and Fockerby,  
Redbourne



Shown left is the decorated telephone kiosk on New Street, Elsham. Other villages also provide colourful planting displays in their kiosks, whilst many use them as libraries or for defibrillators.

## Westwoodside wins award as Best Kept Large Village

After two third places in recent years, Westwoodside deservedly won the award as the best kept large village for 2023. The judges were particularly impressed with the quality of the community planting found in many locations around the village (examples below).



### Large village results

1<sup>st</sup> Westwoodside

2<sup>nd</sup> Haxey

3<sup>rd</sup> Belton, Scawby

*Highly commended*, Barrow on Humber, Goxhill, Hibaldstow, Kirton in Lindsey



Haxey came a close second, with some very good planting, supported by residents (see below) and a very well-maintained war memorial.

There was certainly strong competition in this category, with Belton and Scawby sharing third place.

The judges also decided that four villages, Barrow on Humber, Goxhill, Hibaldstow and Kirton in Lindsey, deserved a highly commended designation, indicating that they will be strong contenders for some of the top spots next year.



## Best Community Planting

Good Community planting is an important feature of the Best Kept Village competition, and there were some very imaginative and colourful floral displays this year.

Low Burnham continues to set the standard with more outstanding planting this year.

There were also some splendid planting displays in Barton, Belton, Broughton, Elsham, Garthorpe and Fockerby, Goxhill, Haxey, Redbourne, Scawby and Ulceby

### Best Community Planting Results

Small Village – Low Burnham

Medium Village – Barnetby-le-Wold

Large Village - Westwoodside

Small town – Crowle and Ealand

## Best Kept War memorial

Kirton in Lindsey were worthy winners of the Best Kept War Memorial.

The judges were very complimentary about the memorial and the planting on the site, which included shrubs and flowers around the limestone obelisk, and three attractive rose beds to the west of the site.

Very good memorials were also found at Crowle, Ealand and Haxey.



## Barnetby-le-Wold wins medium village award

After coming second last year, Barnetby-le-Wold took the top slot in the Medium Village category.

The judges were impressed with the continued improvements made in the village, with a variety of innovative community planting (see example below) and an excellent playground.



Wrawby maintained their high standard of recent years, with a well-deserved second place. The church (below) is an attractive area of the village.

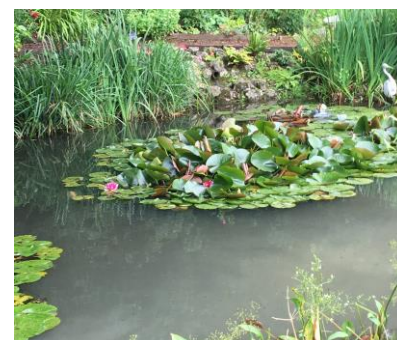


### Medium village results

- 1<sup>st</sup> Barnetby-le-Wold
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wrawby
- 3<sup>rd</sup> South Ferriby
- Highly commended* Worlaby
- Owston Ferry

South Ferriby who were winners last year dropped to third place. They deservedly gained praise for the continued high standard of planting at the Horsepond (below) and the colourful displays of planting along the wall on High Street.

Worlaby was again highly commended and it was good to see Owston Ferry also achieving this standard.



## Crowle and Ealand is Best Small Town

There were fewer entries in the small town category this year, but the standard was as high as ever, with Crowle and Ealand winning top spot.

The town boasts many good facilities and features, including two outstanding war memorials (one shown below), and two excellent playgrounds. To cap a splendid year, Crowle and

Ealand also won the community planting award.

Having won the competition for the past three years, Broughton had to settle for a worthy second place this year. Their community planting (see right) remains an impressive feature of the town, as well as an immaculate cemetery and award-winning playground.

Barton upon Humber again came



third, with a number of most attractive wild flower meadows in various parts of the town (see left).

Congratulations must also go to Epworth, who were highly commended and Winterton, who deservedly won the most improved award.



### Small town results

- 1<sup>st</sup> Crowle and Ealand
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Broughton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Barton-upon Humber
- Highly commended* - Epworth
- Most Improved* - Winterton



## Best Kept Playground

Broughton won the Best Kept Playground Award in this hotly contested category.

Northern Lincolnshire has a large number of very attractive and well-equipped playgrounds and Broughton's is an outstanding example.

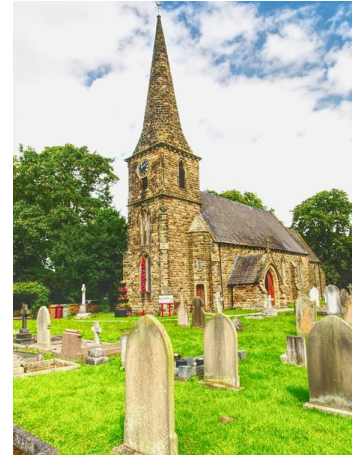
The judges were particularly impressed with the range of equipment in such a compact area, as well as the attractive flower beds incorporated into the site.

One of the best design features was the siting of the benches and picnic tables in the middle of the playground.



There is also an adjacent skatepark with additional seating and planting.

## BEST KEPT CHURCHYARD



Amcotts are proud winners of this year's Best Kept Churchyard competition.

St Marks's in the centre of the village, (see above), has a very well-maintained churchyard with many attractive features.

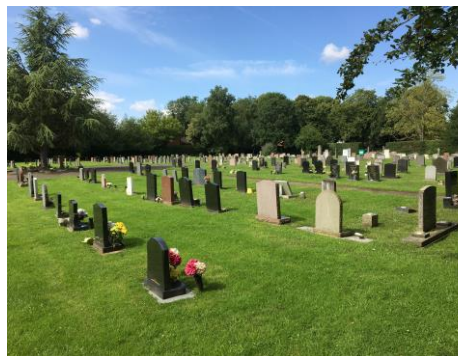
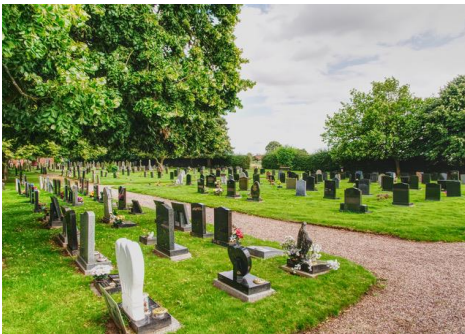
There is a very smart information board at the entrance and the site is enhanced with very good planting, including a lovely tiered planter.

The churchyard also includes a Butterfly Garden and the very attractive war memorial.

## Best Kept Cemetery

Having won the Best Kept Cemetery in 2022, this year Goxhill (right), had to share the award with Epworth (below). Congratulations to both!

The judges agreed that both cemeteries were very attractive



and very well-maintained areas, with well-cut grass and well-tended graves and headstones.

Broughton was a very close third, and many other villages and towns scored very high marks in this category.

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