

September 2025

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2025

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SCAWBY WINS BEST LARGE VILLAGE



After being highly commended in 2024, Scawby gained top spot in winning the Best Kept Large Village for 2025. Scawby also won the Best Playground Award (see page 8).

Community planting was recognised as a strength in the village. Some of the best planting was in large, well-stocked and colourful display beds, with good examples being found on Brigg Road and on Church Street, around the splendid war memorial and village pump (see above).

Westwoodside was placed second, only a point behind the winner. They maintained their high standard of community planting, including outside commercial premises.



Belton and Haxey were joint third and both had attractive features, including well-maintained churchyards and cemeteries (see Belton's below) and good community planting (see Haxey above).

In this strong group, Messingham were highly commended for their efforts, including the outstanding planting around the war memorial, which was recognised as the Best Kept War Memorial (see page 6 for more details).



Large village results

1st Scawby

2nd Westwoodside

3rd= Belton

3rd= Haxey

Highly commended, Messingham



Hatrick for Barnetby!



Barnetby-le-Wold won the Best Kept Medium Village for the third year in a row, with another triumph of community involvement. The judges were particularly impressed with the splendid display of community planting, which was varied and imaginative (see above).

In a close contest Owston Ferry and Ulceby tied for second place. After being highly commended last year, Owston Ferry improved further to gain second place this year. Judges praised the community planting and many attractive gardens with floral displays. The photo right shows just a small part of the colourful displays at 39A North Street, indicative of the commitment of local residents.

Ulceby improved on their third place last year with

Medium village results

1st Barnetby-le-Wold

2nd= Owston Ferry

2nd= Ulceby

Highly commended East Halton

West Butterwick

good community planting, a very attractive and well-maintained war memorial and an excellent playground which won second place in the Best Kept Playground category (see page 8).

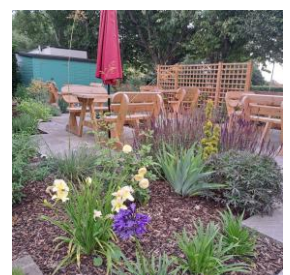
Special mention must also be made of East Halton, who were highly commended and unsurprisingly won the Best New Entrant prize. West Butterwick were also highly commended and were also winners of the Best Kept Churchyard award (further details on page 7).



BEST KEPT PUB – THE CROWN AT BELTON WINS FOR SECOND YEAR



The Crown Inn, Belton was outstanding in this category (see left and below). Excellent planting and floral displays, in addition to high-quality outdoor furniture and attention to detail, made the pub a clear winner for a second year. With many high-scoring entries, the Tilted Barrel at Waltham did well, winning the award as runner-up.



Low Burnham continues their record run of success



Low Burnham's Pinfold (above) was just one of the many floral attractions in this award-winning village. The high-quality planting across the village is further enhanced by the theme of bugs and insects, with most displays incorporating small figures and bug hotels, and there were also numerous flowerpot figures that were quite delightful (see right).

One of the criteria for judging the Best Kept Village is an assessment of the involvement of the community in keeping the village tidy and attractive. The commitment of the whole community of Low Burnham is evident in a fabulous display of planting, with every property adding

Small Village Results

1st Low Burnham

2nd Elsham

3rd East Lound

Highly commended Appleby, Redbourne



to the colourful scene that greets visitors to this special village.

Elsham can take pride in their second place. The village was immaculate, with very impressive floral displays, not least at the attractive Village Hall (see bottom left).

East Lound was third and their theme of hot air balloons, incorporated in their planting, provided some imaginative and colourful displays (see bottom right). The village is to be congratulated for the large number of residents that contributed to the excellent community planting.



The standard of entries in this category was extremely high this year, as was evident in the very high marks achieved by all entrants. Appleby and Redbourne were both, deservedly, highly commended for their efforts. Both villages were very tidy and residents clearly cared about their local environment.



BEST COMMUNITY PLANTING



Congratulations to all the winners of the Community Planting category. Community planting takes many forms and shown here are some good examples.

Low Burnham (above) utilised a small green area in the heart of the village, to create a wonderful display of decorated butterfly shapes, around a large planted bug hotel.

Many towns and villages choose uniform planters made of metal or wood with planting displays, such as the colourful array in Barton-Up-on-Humber (shown right), where there is also a lovely tiered planter to add more impact.

Hanging baskets are used to great effect in Epworth and Crowle, whilst other places chose wall or basket planters, such as those (shown below), in Scawby.



Best Community Planting Results

Small Village – Low Burnham

Medium Village – Barnetby-le-Wold

Large Village - Scawby

Small town – Barton Upon Humber



Barton-Up-on-Humber also had some highly effective and attractive wild flower areas at Pasture Road, (see below) and at Far Ings Road and Butts Road.

The quality of the community planting across the area was particularly impressive, given the amount of watering that must have been necessary to maintain the displays, during the long dry spell of weather this summer.



Barton Upon Humber Best Kept Small Town



Barton-upon-Humber won top spot in this closely contested category. The town's Green Flag award-winning Baysgarth Park, including the Chad Varah Memorial garden, is shown above. The quality of the community planting was a particular feature noted by the judges, as were the attractive war memorial and the absence of litter across the town.

Small town results

1st Barton-Upon-Humber

2nd Epworth

3rd Broughton

Highly commended

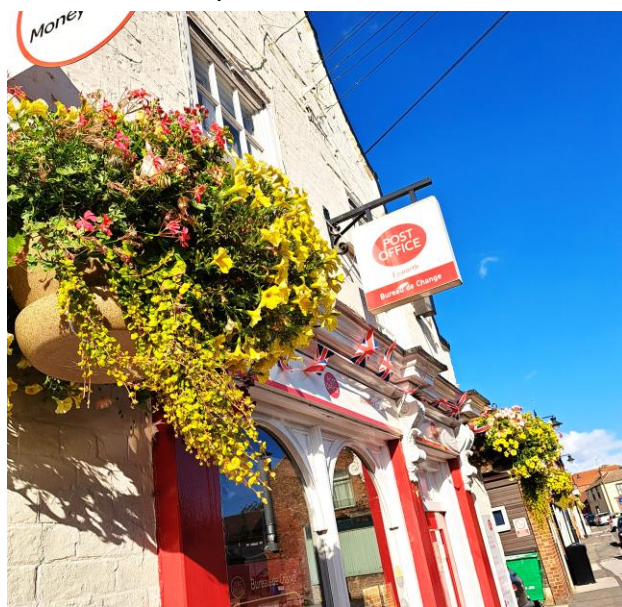
Waltham, Winterton, Crowle and Ealand



The runner-up in the Small Town category was Epworth. Visitors to the town would have been impressed by the colourful array of hanging baskets outside commercial premises in the centre of the town (see below).

Like Barton, Epworth was also praised for the lack of litter in the town, as well as the attractive and well-maintained cemetery.

After winning the competition for four of the past five years, Broughton came a close third this year. Their community planting remains a strength and they also won an award for their cemetery.



Good community planting and an absence of litter was a recurring theme in the small towns that entered this year's competition. This was certainly the case in Waltham, where there was a particularly attractive rockery (see left) and other planting on the green in the centre of the village. Waltham also won an award for its splendid war memorial, and the Tilted Barrel was judged to be the second-best public house.

The standard in this category was so high this year that the three towns not coming in the top three places, Waltham, Crowle and Ealand and Winterton were all highly commended by the judges. Winterton was also the winner of the Best Kept Cemetery award, see page 7 for more details.

MESSINGHAM HAS BEST KEPT WAR MEMORIAL



Messingham's winning war memorial (above), occupies a prominent position in the village. Bounded by a low well-trimmed hedge, with an attractive grassed area behind, the outstanding feature of the memorial is the wonderful planting display of salvias, petunias and gazanias in front. It certainly had a dramatic impact!

Second place Waltham, a former winner of this category, has an equally impressive memorial, with part of the site shown below.

One of the features that was particularly noted by the judges was the high standard of the coordinated planting, in smart black planters. They were also impressed with the black memorial benches, lectern, Tommy figure, rose bed and poppies, all of which makes this such an attractive site,



Most villages entered the war memorial category and many enhance their memorials with additional planting around the site, such as Owston Ferry's below.



The judges were impressed with the high standard of war memorials that entered the competition. Some are found in churchyards, whilst others are found in a prominent position in the village or town, such as Worlaby (below). Other excellent memorials were found at: Appleby, Ulceby, West Butterwick, Belton, Haxey, Scawby and Crowle. They are all potential winners in the future.



Best Kept Churchyard



West Butterwick was the worthy winner for the second year, with an immaculate churchyard (see above), that was even better than last year.

The judges were very impressed with the attention to detail in all parts of the churchyard, especially the grass-cutting and some impressive and colourful planting.

In this closely contested category, North Killingholme was a strong runner-up (see right); a real achievement for a new entrant to the competition. The churchyard was praised for the care and attention, given to the area especially the hedges, paths, noticeboard and the very



attractive planters at the south door.

There was a high standard in this category, with many other well-maintained churchyards, including Belton's (see left). Other strong contenders were: Waltham, Haxey, Redbourne and Elsham.



Best Kept Cemetery

Winterton won the Best Kept Cemetery category. There is a very attractive Peace Garden, with sycamore sculpture at the entrance to the cemetery. On the opposite side there is a Winterton Airfield memorial enhanced by a 4-arm hanging basket display (see right).

There are further colourful planters in front of the mortuary chapels and the tidy area to the rear.



Broughton (left) was a deserving, close second, with their very well-maintained cemetery, in the most delightful setting. With very good planting near the entrance and around the car park, the cemetery sets a very high standard.

Other cemeteries were, as appropriate, well-maintained, with good examples, deserving commendation, found at: East Halton, Barnetby-le-Wold, Hibaldstow, Belton, Haxey and Waltham.

Best Kept Playground

Scawby deservedly won the Best Kept Playground Award again this year.

This popular and well-used playground (seen right and below), is set in a large grassed area, which includes a great range of well-maintained equipment.

There are good safety surfaces and very good provision of benches and picnic tables across the site.

There is also a Multi-Use Games Area and a painted racetrack in the lower area, together with some adult exercise equipment.



Ulceby was the runner-up in the Best Kept Playground category, with an impressive range of good quality wooden equipment in a relatively small space.

A feature of Northern Lincolnshire is the quality of its playgrounds, and this is evidenced by the large number of villages and towns that scored high marks. These included playgrounds at Appleby, Elsham, Redbourne, Barnetby-le-Wold, Owston Ferry, Barrow, Belton, Messingham, Westwoodside, Broughton and Crowle.

2025 AGM Saturday 4th October 2025

2.30pm St John's Hall Brigg

**Tea/coffee from 2.00pm Speaker: Dr Kevin Leahy will give a talk on
'Some of my favourite things' in a life devoted to archaeology**

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



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