

FOSDYKE MAGAZINE

PARISH PRECEPT TO RISE BY £400

At the recent Fosdyke Parish Council meeting on 5 January it was agreed to raise the precept - the money received from council tax - by £400 (see Page 9 for estimate).

Having kept the precept at the same level for five years and with very little contingency in the kitty for unplanned challenges (and plans

are afoot in the future to see parish councils weald more powers and responsibilities) it seemed a reasonable proposal, one which Cllr Aaron Spencer from Boston Borough Council supported wholeheartedly.

Cllr Chris Cropley proposed that as the parish council would be receiving more money then it should be paying more money out but it was eventually agreed that only one additional payment of £50 (to Sutterton Surgery. *Editor: Which doesn't benefit everyone in Fosdyke*) would be made and the whole matter would be looked at again next year.

It's clear that Cllr Jon Tofts is trying to steer the parish council meetings towards a more proactive approach and it was agreed that the bimonthly meetings change to ten meeting a year following Cllr Dennis Glen's supportive proposal.

Cllr Tofts also encouraged the council to make more of the Best Kept Village competition that they have been entering each year.

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT

Right. It's time we started getting our village looking like we all care about it. Which we believe most of us do.

Hopefully those that don't will feel inclined to follow the others that do once they see what can be done to turn the village into an even more attractive place to live.

With the Best Kept Village theme in mind what can we do? Firstly help Malcolm Gwynne, our voluntary street cleaner, keep litter off the roads and paths. See litter, pick it up and bin it when you get home

FOSDYKE PARISH COUNCIL

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Fosdyke/>

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Councillor John Cropley

Councillor Chris Cropley

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Councillor Jon Tofts

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Compost it

Due to pressure on the council's budget, Boston borough's kerbside garden waste collection service will resume in the spring, but only after councillors voted unanimously for it to continue at an annual charge of £30 for the first bin to be emptied and £15 for each additional bin.

Now, if you think this is a bit expensive or if you're a bit peeved at being asked to pay again for a service that you thought you'd already paid for, you may want to do something about it.

If that involves composting your own garden waste, then I shall run over the important points for starting off your own compost bin.

Where to compost and what in?

The first consideration is what are you going to compost in? You can create a pile in the corner of the garden, but the edges will dry out. You can buy plastic compost bins, but unless they are of the rotating variety, then you can't turn them.

It is quite easy to build your own from brick, wire or wood, you won't need to use new material either, as long as it will contain the garden waste and allow you to get to it easily.

What can you compost?

Well, it's a long list, essentially as long as it's organic, it'll rot. So, that includes; fruit and veg scraps, eggshells, leaves, grass, plants, weeds, shrub prunings, straw or hay, seaweed, wood ash, chicken manure, coffee grinds, tea leaves, shredded paper, cardboard corn cobs sawdust and wood chips. You can also add garden soil to your

compost. A layer of soil will help to mask any odours, and microorganisms in the soil will accelerate the composting process.

Do not compost meat, bones or fish scraps (they will attract pests), perennial weeds (they can be spread with the compost) or diseased plants. Do not include pet manures in compost that will be used on food crops. Banana peels, peach peels and orange rinds may contain pesticide residue, and should be kept out of the compost. Black walnut leaves should not be composted. Sawdust may be added to the compost, but should be mixed or scattered thinly to avoid clumping. Be sure sawdust is clean, with no machine oil or chain oil residues from cutting equipment.

My handy hints

1. Start your compost pile on bare soil. This allows worms and other beneficial organisms to aerate the compost and be transported to your garden beds.
2. Lay twigs or straw down first, a few inches deep. This aids drainage and helps aerate the pile.
3. Try to add compost materials in layers, alternating moist and dry. Moist ingredients are grass, food scraps, tea bags, seaweed, etc. Dry materials are straw, leaves, sawdust pellets and wood ashes. If you have wood ashes, sprinkle in thin layers, or they will clump together and be slow to break down.
4. Add manure, green manure (clover, buckwheat, wheat grass, grass clippings) or any nitrogen source. This activates the compost pile and speeds the process along.
5. Keep compost moist. Water occasionally, or let rain do the job.

6. Cover with anything you have - wood, plastic sheeting, carpet scraps. Covering helps retain moisture and heat, two essentials for compost. Covering also prevents the compost from being over-watered by rain. The compost should be moist, but not soaked and sodden.

7. Turn. Every few weeks give the pile a quick turn with a fork or shovel. This aerates the pile. Oxygen is required for the process to work, and turning "adds" oxygen.

Problems

1. Wet, slimy and strong-smelling compost: Too little air and too much water are often to blame. Cover the heap to protect against rain and add more brown waste, such as chopped woody material, shredded woodchip, straw or paper.

2. Dry and fibrous with little rotting: Usually caused by too little moisture and too much brown material. Add more green waste, or try a commercial activator or accelerator such as 'Garotta' or fresh manure.

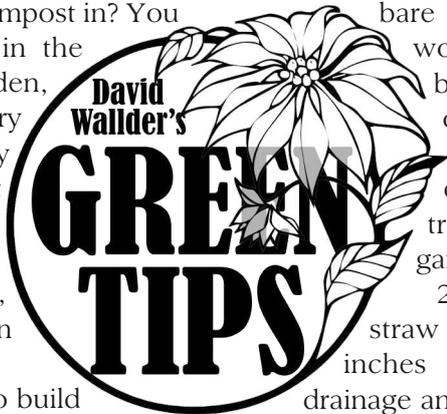
3. Flies: Well-run compost bins don't produce swarms of flies, but if you do see these, then make sure you cover kitchen waste with garden waste after adding it to the heap and check that moisture levels are not too high, causing insufficient air in the heap.

When is the compost ready?

Garden compost can take between six months and two years to reach maturity. Mature compost will be dark brown, with a crumbly soil-like texture and a smell resembling damp woodland.

It is unlikely that all the material in the heap will be like this, but any remaining un-rotted material can be added to the next batch of composting materials.

The amount of compost you can make very much depends on the material you use and the weather. From each bin you should get two binfuls a season, one in the early summer and one in the autumn.



Fosdyke Social Club

Saturday, 6 February

WHIST DRIVE

8 pm



Thursday, 11 February

FREE LIVE MUSIC

@ OPEN MIC NIGHT

Opens 8 pm

Second Thursday of every month



Saturday, 20 February

DARTS DOUBLES

8 pm



Saturday, 27 February

QUIZ NIGHT

8 pm start -Fish, scampi, or chicken and chips supper
£5.50 members £6 non-members



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For inquiries contact Jane Bristow
01205 260455

IT'S OLLY!



The visiting cat that we featured in last month's Fosdyke Newsletter is apparently called Olly and belongs to Liz Ward.

"I am amazed he is living a double life!" said Liz.

His name is Olly.

She also assures Isobel Conroy Olly is a very well cared for and much loved pet.

"I'm guessing he is not quite so attached to us as we are to him though! However he is always back home at meal time!"

ANOTHER PUB CLOSURE



Sad to hear that the last pub in Sutterton, Thatched Cottage, is closing due to repossession. What with The Beridge and The Golden Fleece in Wigtoft both closing last year it leaves The Ship as one of the few surviving pubs in the area.

Thankfully for us The Ship still seems to have a healthy trade, though if we want it to survive perhaps we should frequent it more often...

NEW DUO SING AT FOSDYKE

Due no doubt to the Dinclement weather - freezing winds - on Thursday, 14 January, the turnout was relatively small for the Open Mic at Fosdyke Social Club.

However, a new duo - harmonica and guitar - performed a selection of songs and not only thought the venue was great but said they could listen to the voice of Kiya Brown (although she was suffering from tonsillitis) all night.

Phatt Knappii were once again hosts and performed two sets of their mix of 80s electro pop and original material.

The trio put a lot of time and effort to make the Open Mic nights a success and to encourage artists to perform at Fosdyke for you, the residents of the village, yet most of the audience are from the surrounding districts.

Been there, cleaned that
Small houses and
larger family houses

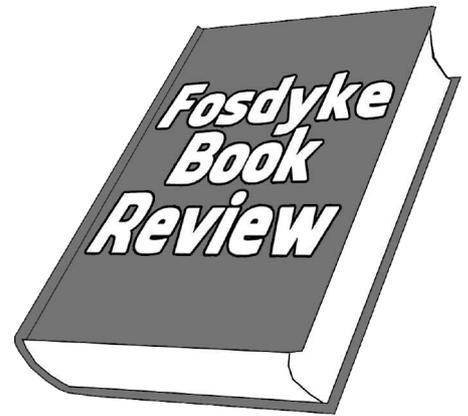


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BEST KEPT VILLAGE? NOT WITH THIS!



We've received a couple of complaints about the state of one of the dykes as you enter the village via Bell Lane.

The above photo doesn't show how bad it is. I am sure it's not the case, but it appears as if people have been throwing rubbish over the hedge giving an appearance of carelessness and irresponsibility - not what you expect from a small community like Fosdyke. If we're going to stand any chance of doing well in the Best Kept Village competition then someone is going to have to get their waders on to clear it, though most of the waste is on the bank directly next to the house.

It's this kind of thing that we

need to stamp out in the village and we're all conscious of the stacked pallets and vegetable crates that is a constant eyesaw. However, for certain situations, like a working farmer's yard, you can ask for this type of area to be excluded from the judging. So while it remains untidy it needn't effect our score.

If there are any areas that you think we could improve - there may be some elderly people who need help in looking after their gardens - then let Fosdyke Newsletter know.

Together we can make the village an even more attractive place to live, somewhere where you can be really proud to say you live.

More about Best Kept Village next month.

Becoming Johnny Vegas

by Johnny Vegas

Yep it's him, the roly-poly man of comedy the one with the squeaky voice ... the one who currently plays Wet Eric Agnew in BBC TV's 'Open all Hours'.

I'm not normally a biography person but this autobiography 'Becoming Johnny Vegas' charts the simple and happy life of Michael Pennington, His childhood through to his time spent in a Seminary at which point life rather goes off the rails and his path to Johnny Vegas begins. The story is quite simply brilliant! Searingly honest, painful at times yet brilliantly funny but if you are the type to be easily shocked or at all squeamish then perhaps it's not for you but it would be a shame to miss the 'laugh out loud moments' scattered throughout the book in particular 'The magazine behind the bath panel' for one .

Whether you're a fan of JV or not I urge you to give it a try you'll be a better person for it.

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HOUNDOGS PLAY CHARITY GIG



The "Have A Heart For The Hounds" Valentines Party featuring fantastic local band The Houndogs will be held on Saturday night, 13 February at the Holbeach Community Centre, to raise funds for Kamas Cave Greyhound Sanctuary.

The Houndogs are a well known professional three piece rockabilly/rock n roll band with a strong following, who have played all over the UK and Europe. Although they cover classics by the likes of Elvis, Buddy Holly etc their shows are not just for rock n roll fans, but are fun, energetic and enjoyed by all ages.

There will also be a Licensed bar and Raffle.

Tickets are just £10 in advance – not available on the door.

For more info or to buy tickets please email:- kamascavegreyhoundsales@gmail.com

Or call Tom on 07973 789790.

Kamas Cave Greyhound Sanctuary – www.kamascave.co.uk

WHIST WINNERS

Nine teams took part in the Whist Drive at Fosdyke Social Club on 2 January.

Eventual winners, after sixteen rounds, were Gary Britchford and Jane Bristow with 118 points.

Fan's of CBBC's Art Ninja will be pleased to know that Ricky Martin will be back with a new series very soon - though no dates have yet been scheduled. Last year's series is currently airing at 9 am on Saturdays.

His dad, played by Fosdyke resident Terry Martin - yes, that's right, it is actually Ricky's dad - appears once again in the new series.

If you'd been at Fosdyke Social Club on Christmas Eve you'd have been able to get the Art Ninja's autograph or he might even have created some art for you! Maybe next time ...



BEETLE BEATERS

Five tables for the Beetle Drive at Fosdyke Social Club on 16 January meant for a brisk and frantic turnaround

Tammie Ryan eventually came first with Liz Martin second.

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FOOTBALL

DOMINATION

Sutterton 1 v Fosdyke 7

A 7-1 victory away at Sutterton gave Fosdyke three points as they ran riot with some festive football fun and frolics!

Fosdyke completely dominated the game right from the start and the home side were struggling to get out of their half. It wasn't long before a fabulous Zac Chapman cross was converted by James Munn and Zac was on hand again to set up Leon Marsh to double the lead within minutes.

The pressure continued to be applied and but for the heroics of the Sutterton keeper, the game could have been over as a contest in the first twenty minutes. By half time Leon had ran in another goal and Danny Beecham had rattled in a cracking header to give Fosdyke a handsome 4-0 lead.

The second half half was more of the same. Total Tangerine dominance though, to their credit, the home side never gave up and continued to compete with honesty throughout. Leon completed his hat trick to make it five, Danny Beecham added a sixth and substitute Matthew Scott smashed home a seventh. Again, the Sutterton keeper was on his toes to make a number of fine saves and the post came to his rescue twice meaning the score remained 7-0 until the very last minute when a Sutterton corner was swung in at the near post and found the roof of the net via a defender's head to give Fosdyke hosts a well deserved consolation goal.

Man of the Match? Danny Beecham's driving runs through the centre of midfield make him the star man today.

AGAIN ...

Fosdyke 1 v Sutterton 6

The Christmas break was bookended by back to back games with Sutterton. At the end of last year Fosdyke ran out 7-1 winners and as this year began they recorded a second big win against the men in claret and blue.

On a filthy Fosdyke field the first half consisted of an unusually sluggish Fosdyke side keeping the ball for long spells of possession but lacking any real dynamic urgency to break down the much improved and stubborn visitors back line.

Ian Jack Smith was the first keeper to be called in to action palming away a speculative long range effort, an incident that acted as wake up call to the Tangerines. From then on Fosdyke continued to dominate and Leon Marsh forced the Sutterton stopper into a great save with a curling shot that was heading for the far post before being clawed to safety.

Finally Fosdyke had been spurred in to action and the deadlock was broken when Leon and Matthew Scott found themselves faced with just one defender and the keeper. Leon rolled the ball forward and Scotty walloped it home to give Fosdyke a half-time lead. Winning at the break but not really the performance they were hoping for and this was reflected in the team talk.

A much more assertive approach was taken in the second half and the Christmas hangover was well and truly blown away with

a veritable goal feast! Within minutes of the start the Sutterton back line were being blitzed and the second goal came when Zac Chapman smashed a low cross in to the six yard box that Leon was on hand to finish off.

Within minutes Matt Bates muscled himself in to a goal side position and all his marker could do was bring the striker down in the box. Picking the ball up, Matt confidently rolled the spot kick beyond the keeper and Fosdyke were three up and cruising. Matt went very close to a second when his thunderous volley was incredibly punched away by the keeper.

Zac Chapman was really enjoying himself and was rewarded for a great performance when he added a fourth with an emphatic strike before substitute Luke Smith, with his first touch of the game, poked home a fifth.

On a rare foray forward Sutterton struck a consolation goal to make it 5-1 but there was more to come ... The best was saved until last when player manager Marv Jolly capped a fine result with a sublime moment of magic on the edge of the box. Latching onto a great through ball from Dynamite Danny Beecham the veteran slipped his marker with an outrageous turn before firing a powerful finish into the top of the net. 6-1 the final score and another three points as Fosdyke steadily look to climb the table.

Positives? Plenty! Luke Smith returned from a niggling injury problem, goals galore which puts our Goal Difference in the positive, our sixth goal was obviously ridiculous and a rampaging Man of The Match performance from Zippy Zac Chapman on the right wing.



Letters

I would like to say a special thank you to the children in the village who have been so nice to me throughout 2015.

They have made me laugh with some of the funny things they say and do - times when I have not felt like laughing - washed my car, cleared my driveway of leaves, and there were some filled my brown bins. Yes they earned some pocket money and they have taken the time to talk to me. It's been a year now since I lost my husband Nodge (Norris), 27 December. He liked the children too. I know children climb trees. As for the bowls club hut they have climbed on that since it's been there; girls as well as boys. Some of them have children of their own now. I bet when they think back they laugh and say I did that. Thank you. Have a good 2016. Just try to be good.

Kay (The Village Grandma)

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MESSAGE

The Kirton & District Branch would like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

I am pleased to report that the TRBL Kirton and District Branch is now on sound footing again thanks to two gentlemen coming forward to take up the post of Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer.

Our new Chairman is Sqd Leader (Retired) Christophe Downes and the Secretary / Treasurer, David Hodgson, is a semi-retired company director at Molton Bulb Co Ltd.

The Branch committee welcomes them aboard and wish them all the best in their new posts. We are also pleased to report that the Ladies Section have a new

standard bearer thanks to Kirton Army Cadets, you may have seen her parading the Standard for the Ladies at the Remembrance Parade, her name is Harley Clough and a student at Boston College. We are very pleased and happy that Harley and the Cadet detachment C.O. Zoe Kearns were able to help us in this vital role, thank you very much.

Now to report on the poppy appeal, again the residents of the district have been very generous with their donations, to date we have forward to head office a total of £3620.89 this is short of last year's total which was £4758.04 but we have only just started and we still have 10 months to go. I will think of fund raising projects as the weather improves and if anyone has any suggestions please email me for instance if you are planning a run (i.e. race for life or marathon) and would like to donate your sponsorship to the Poppy Appeal that would be very much appreciated.

Last year I had to cancel the coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire due to lack of interest and not being able to meet the full cost of the coach, this year I will look at the cost of a smaller coach so look out for more information.

Well that is all for now, I would just like to say thanks to everyone and all.

Roland Reece
Poppy Appeal Organiser

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CHRISTMAS SERVICE

It was a great Joy to see so many folks at our Christmas services – the largest number for several years. Almost eighty people attended All Saints Church during the week before Christmas

CHURCH SPIRE

During the recent poor weather the lightning conductor attached to the church spire has come loose, which obviously increases the risk of it becoming detached. Surveyors have

established a plan of remedial work and the cost. We ask visitors to the garden of rest, and parents of children particularly, to advise youngsters not to play in the churchyard area for their own safety while work is carried out.

Services:-

Sunday, 31 January

Group Communion Service
at Kirton Church

at 10.3 am

Sunday, 7 February

Holy Communion
with Fr Graham

at 09.30 am

Sunday, 21 February
Baptism Service

for Isaac John Cropley

at 2 pm

Jon Tofts reports

All Saints

Fosdyke

Churchwardens:

Jon 01205 260672

Terry 01205 260408

Dear Friends,

This letter comes with my prayers for you and for us all as this month we enter the season of Lent and begin to look towards Easter. This year I can genuinely say that Lent has come very quickly, because Easter 2016 is almost as early as it is possible for it to be.

I hope that in the 2016 rush into Lent we don't overlook the very special time that comes at the end of Epiphany and just before Ash Wednesday. The day in the Church's year that marks this time is the Presentation of Christ, February 2nd. On this day, we remember Jesus' parents taking him to the Temple and being greeted by Simeon and Anna. Old meet young in a holy place and St Luke records what happens in words of great beauty.

I invite you to find this passage and to read it for yourselves: Luke 2.22-40. Truth is spoken and recognised and there is a palpable sense of wonder and of joy. Old peoples' faithfulness is validated, as is the courage of Jesus' parents and his own coming role in the

salvation of the world.

I particularly like the prayer that ends the service in church on the Feast of the Presentation. The minister makes three statements: 'We stand near the place of new birth'; 'We turn from the crib to the cross'; 'We go to carry his light'; to each of which the people reply: 'Let us shine with the light of your love'.

To me, this prayer draws us into the turn that happens as we look away from the Christmas crib and towards the Easter cross. As Christ lived and died for us, so our life is now illuminated by his life – we who follow him radiate the light of his love in the world. We are no longer onlookers but participants with a purpose.

I am very much looking forward to my first Lent and Easter in the Diocese of Lincoln. I have been humbled and moved by peoples' kindness as I have taken up my responsibilities as Bishop of Grantham, and I am savouring the prospect of visiting parishes, schools and other organisations just as quickly as I can.

But in looking forward, I don't want, as it were, simply to get 'caught up in the rush' and forget

what it is that I am doing and why I am doing it. And I very much hope that we might all be able to resist similar pressure whenever it occurs for each of us. We always need to remember that we are people with a purpose, the loved children of God, illuminated with the light of Christ, and not just those who rush from one thing to another, aimlessly.

My particular responsibility in the diocese is for ministry. This is a big and slippery word, and one that can regrettably sometimes be used rather bluntly. As I understand it, however, all Christians share in the ministry of the Church, by virtue of who we are, baptised followers of Jesus. In our daily lives, at work, with those whom we love, in our leisure, we are His people. If we can see this, and acknowledge the light that we all carry, then we will indeed be the disciples that Jesus would have us be.

May God bless you this month as we turn from the crib to the cross, shining with the light of Christ in the world.

+ Nicholas

Bishop of Grantham (The Rt Revd Dr Nicholas Chamberlain)

SUTTERTON FOOD BANK

The Food Bank is up and running in St Mary's Church Sutterton on Friday mornings from 10am to 12noon. It is not just for the people of Sutterton, but for anyone in our local communities who needs it. For those in need, enough food for three days can be accessed on production of a voucher. Our vouchers are interchangeable with those of the Boston Food Bank, open on Tuesday and Thursday from 12noon until 2pm, at St Christopher's Church Fenside.

Vouchers can be obtained from various organisations such as Children's Centres, Schools, Nurseries, Citizens Advice Bureau, Social Services, Mayflower and Healthcare Professionals.

If you know of anyone who is in a crisis situation and where the Food Bank could help please direct them to one of these organisations as the Food Bank can only provide food to those with a voucher.

The food is largely donated by the general public e.g. supermarket collections. If you would like to donate items such as: cereal, jam, biscuits, pasta, tea bags, tins of soup, beans, spaghetti, macaroni, vegetables, rice pudding, there is a box in St Mary's Church near the font where these items can be placed.

If anyone would like to know more about the Food Bank please contact Janet on 01205460386.

fosdyklers

If you don't know what introspection is – you need to take a long, hard look at yourself

SPECULATING THE PRECEPT

We carried out a quick survey of the government's Valuation website which, if our count is correct, shows there to be 213 homes in the Fosdyke Parish which is at odds with the 248 newsletters we deliver within the parish (A further 33 newsletters get distributed elsewhere.).

The breakdown of the 213 homes is 84 Band A, 65 Band B, 50 Band C, 12 Band D and 2 Band E.

We might be wrong but we've done our own calculations (based on 213, not 248) which suggests the number of nominal Band D properties in Fosdyke is about 170 meaning a Band A property could increase by £1.57 a year and a Band E by £2.86, but we're no mathematicians so don't take our word for it! We'll wait and see.

As we went to press we heard that BBC are proposing a Band D increase of £3.12 on the Council Tax for 2016 (eg £2.08 for Band A).

SEEING-IN 2016

New Year's Eve celebrations went well for both The Ship and Fosdyke Social Club with large crowds at each venue.

The former featured a quiz followed by a karaoke while the latter featured entertainment from local band Phatt Knappii.

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A Question of Murder

by Jane Crane

PART FOUR

Gould let himself into his tiny cottage and stood in the darkness of the hallway for a few seconds just listening to the sounds of the house welcome him back. He kicked off his shoes and dropped his jacket onto the newel post at the bottom of the stairs and went into his living room. He opened up his laptop, signed in and then went into the kitchen to get himself a drink. Was it too early for a beer, he wondered as he bent down to peer into his pathetically empty fridge? Never too early, he said to himself, as he reached in and pulled out a can. Cracking the ring pull on the top as he went back into the living room, he sat himself down in front of his computer and typed the name 'Dominic King' into his search engine.

It didn't take long for the hospital director's name to yield some results. He found plenty of articles about Mr King and his charity work, Mr King and his appointment as the director of the hospital and Mr King as a possible future Tory party MP. Noticeably absent from the search however was any reference to the deaths of patients that DS Sullivan had found after just a cursory search of Mr King's background. Odd that the press hadn't made more of it, especially since Mr King was being touted as a future member of Parliament, thought Gould. He found lots of pictures of Dominic King, mainly taken at black tie charity events, a few of him posing outside the hospital. Gould studied him critically. He was a tall and imposing figure, smartly dressed but with that air of superiority that really got up Gould's nose.

Out of the corner of his eye Gould suddenly noticed the red light on his answer machine was blinking at him. He groaned as he reluctantly raised himself out of his chair and went over to the machine; the display showed that he had six new messages. More flaming PPI companies or people trying to sell me solar panels, he thought. Pushing the button to hear the first

message he was surprised to find it was Catriona Randall.

'Hello Mr Gould, it's me, of course,' Gould couldn't help but smile at the woman's confidence, no need for a woman like her to actually introduce herself, how could you not know who she was? 'I'm checking on your progress. Please call me as soon as possible.' The message ended as abruptly as it had begun, no pleasantries just straight down to business. The next four messages were all from Catriona Randall and it was obvious from her tone that she was growing increasingly irritated by Gould's apparent failure to reply to her in a timely manner. Gould downed the last of his beer and burped loudly in response.

'If I haven't heard from you by 7.30 I'm just going to have to come and pay you a visit.'

The last message was short and to the point and it sent Gould into a panic. He wasn't in the mood to have to deal with that woman. Glancing at the clock on the mantel he saw it was well past 7.30; the idea of Catriona Randall on his doorstep any minute propelled him out into the hallway. Within seconds he had his coat and shoes on and was making his escape to the local pub, confident that Ms Randall wouldn't venture out into the night to track him down if he wasn't at home when she dropped by.

Half an hour later and Gould was tucked away in the corner of his local, The Fisherman, actually not in Fenney but in Fenney-Seas-End about a ten-minute walk from his home, feeling quite pleased with himself. He'd ordered a nice pint and was just waiting for his steak and ale pie and mash to arrive. He liked this place, it was still a good old fashioned country pub, complete with stained black beams adorned with horse brasses and a richly patterned carpet that did a great job of hiding stains. He felt confident that no one was about to spoil his peace or his dinner.

'Here you go then'. The landlady put his plate down in front of him and dropped some cutlery onto the table; she was by no means the friendliest woman but she did make a great pie. Gould was practically salivating by the time he'd liberally thrown on some salt and pepper and unrolled his knife and fork from the paper napkin. He was poised to take his first mouthful when he heard a voice behind him.

'That stuff will kill you Mr Gould. I'd prefer it if you didn't keel over from a heart attack before you've had the chance to help me.'

Gould dropped his knife and fork onto the plate with a clang and a few faces turned in their direction.

'Ms Randall,' he said, 'what a lovely surprise. Won't you join me?' The invitation was just a formality; she'd already sat in the chair across from him.

'You're not hiding from me are you Mr Gould?'

'Whatever gave you that idea Ms Randall?'

She narrowed her eyes and stared at him for a few seconds. He lifted his beer and took a long swig before putting it down with a thump. He loaded pastry and meat and mash onto his fork and shovelled it into his mouth, with Catriona's narrowed gaze never leaving him.

'Do you have any news for me?'

Gould chewed for twice as long as usual before swallowing. 'You only told me all this yesterday, I don't know what sort of news I'd have to share in such a short time.'

'You went to your old police station today, didn't you? Surely you found out something there?'

How did she know that's where he went? Was she following him? Or having him followed? Gould took another mouthful of pie, still taking his time chewing and swallowing.

'How did you know that's where I went today?' he asked. Catriona looked sheepish and Gould knew his suspicions had been correct.

'I followed you when you left your house this morning. I'm sorry, I just wanted to make sure that you were really going to help me and not just fob me off. I followed you to the police station. I watched you go in, waited for about an hour and when you didn't come back out I assumed you must have found something otherwise you wouldn't have been in there that long.' Catriona dropped her gaze, suddenly embarrassed. 'I'm not normally such a crazy person but I just can't seem to let this go. Not until I'm satisfied that it's been investigated properly.'

Gould felt sorry for her all of a sudden. He was used to dealing with the relatives of victims, he'd had to do it so many times over the years. No matter what the crime or who the victim was, all the friends and relatives he had encountered always had one thing in common, the need to know 'Why?' Whether it was an accident, a murder, a missing person or a burglary, they always wanted an answer to that particular question more than any other.

'Well you were right about one thing, the investigation was definitely a botch job.'

Catriona sat up in her chair, 'I knew it!'

Gould held up a hand to stop her. 'Hang on a

minute. A botched investigation is no indicator that something sinister is going on. Don't get carried away. It could just be bad policing, nothing more.'

'So how do we find out? What happens next?' she asked.

'I've got an appointment to see the director of the hospital tomorrow morning. Dominic King.'

'Yes, I'm acquainted with Mr King,' she replied.

'Of course you are. You punched him didn't you?' he said.

'I may have shoved him gently,' said Catriona, 'but I never punched him.'

'You're still banned from the hospital grounds though right?' Gould drained the last of his beer and stood up.

'Yes, I suppose so. Even though that's completely ridiculous, I never did anything wrong, the idiot man just overreacted, that's all. Why?'

'Because I don't want you getting any stupid ideas about following me to the hospital. I'm going to see Mr King under the pretext that I'm researching my new novel and just need some help checking facts. I don't need you barging in and bugging everything up.'

'But ...'

'No buts Catriona. You stay well away. Is that clear?'

'Fine,' she snapped back, 'but you'd better call me the minute you get back and tell me what you've found out. Otherwise I'm going to have to come looking for you again.' She pushed past Gould and out of the door, letting it slam shut behind her. Gould shook his head.

'Bit high maintenance is she that one?' said the landlady, as she came across to clear Gould's plate.

'You have no idea,' said Gould with a shake of his head.

END OF PART FOUR

FOSDYKE FARMER'S HORSES TOOK FRIGHT AND GALLOPED OFF IN THE BARLEY FIELD

Robert Bates, aged 17, of Kirton died in the harvest field at Moulton Marsh. Mr C E Bonner Deputy Coroner for Spalding district on Saturday afternoon, held an inquest at Fosdyke touching the death of the young man, who was killed in a barley harvest field in Moulton Marsh, with his master Mr Lloyd, a Fosdyke farmer. He was engaged leading horses in the barley field harvest, when suddenly the horses attached to the waggon took fright and galloped off. Robert Bates was thrown down, but holding onto the leading horses reins with both hands was dragged along for a distance of fully 300 yards. He was being knocked about very severely, and was compelled at length to let go, when the waggon passed over him, hitting his head. His expired within a few minutes. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally killed.

Source: *Nottingham Evening Post*, Monday, 8 September 1902

CHARGED FOR STEALING A DUCK FROM FOSDYKE FARMER

Mr Joseph Shepherd, who was employed upon the works executing the Forty Foot Drain, was brought before Rev Dr Roy charged with stealing a duck from a Fosdyke farmer Mr Charles Hammond. The duck was found in his possession of the accused, who had carefully contrived to deprive it of everything by which it could be identified: he had burnt off the feathers, together with the wings, head, and legs, and when apprehended was proceeding to cook some of the duck. He was convicted as a rogue and vagabond, and committed to prison to hard labour for three months.

Source: *Lincolnshire Chronicle*, Friday 7 August 1840

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Sunday

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12 noon and 1.30 pm
Main Menu available from 3.30 pm
Afternoon Tea 3 pm until 5 pm

Copy Deadline

News that means nothing to you might be interesting to someone else so don't be afraid to contact Terry - preferably via email: terry@fosdyke.org.uk or phone: 260275 or knock on the door or post your info through the letter box 6 Whitecross Gate

no later than 15 February