

# HITCHED

# OPEN MIC

Both acts and audience were thin on the ground at the June Open Mic at the social club. Even some of the regulars like *Open Road* and *Stuck With Nothing* weren't there.

However it was still an entertaining evening with hosts *Phatt Knappii* and *Kiya Brown* supplying the entertainment along with new-to-Fosdyke's-open-mic, Angus, from Digby the other side of Sleaford, whose self-penned sociopolitical songs gave food for thought while still delighting with the melodies.

For those unsure of what Open Mic means, it's a friendly evening where you can go to watch and listen to various acts performing either covers or original songs. If you're brave enough you can also get up to the microphone yourself. Open Mic nights generally attract a different clientele to other evenings at the social club and respect is offered to everyone who stands up and performs.

The next Open Mic is Thursday, 13 July, and non members are welcome and entry is free. Doors open at 8pm, music starts at 8.30.



We offer congratulations to Andy and Kerry Sedgwick (nee Wright) who were married on 30 May on the *Independence of the Seas* while on a Mediterranean cruise.

# SAVE A LIFE

Sadly only one in ten people survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Like a lot of other medical emergencies, the faster help can be obtained the better the chances of survival.

LIVES is a Lincolnshire charity that supports more than seven hundred highly trained and dedicated volunteers who get to their neighbours fast to deliver vital care in those first critical moments of a medical emergency before handing over to the ambulance service.

The charity is supporting BBC Radio Lincolnshire's 2017 Save A Life campaign to teach ten thousand people across the county CPR, creating an army of life savers.

On **Wednesday, 28 June**, between **4 and 8pm**, **Fosdyke Social Club** is opening its doors playing host to a **CPR Awareness Day**. The course is a practical session that shows you how to recognise when someone is in cardiac arrest and the key first actions you take in such an emergency.

There is no requirement to book and it's free - so just turn up! If you need further details you can call 01507 525999 or [savealife@lives.org.uk](mailto:savealife@lives.org.uk).



# PUZZLES PAGE

## SUDOKU

		4	1			7		
					4			
3	1				6			8
		1						3
		9				8		
6						1		
1				9			4	2
				2				
		3			4	9		

### Across

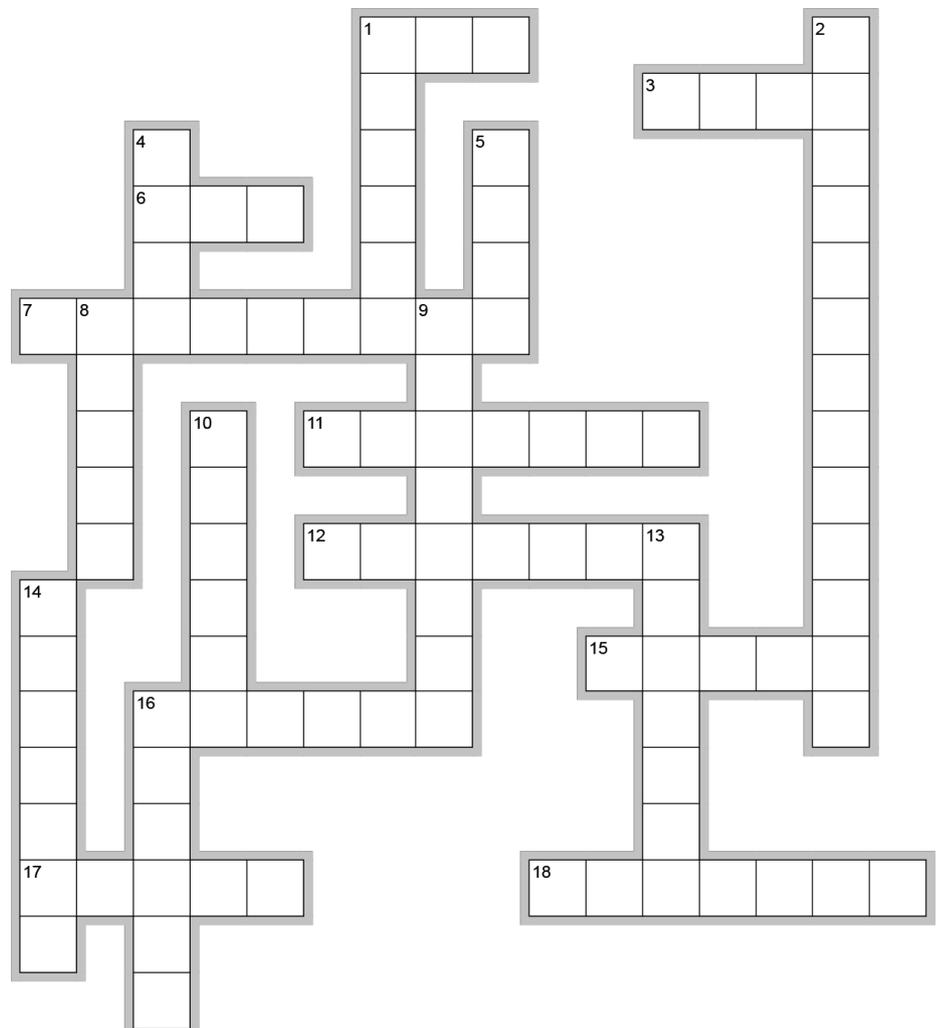
- See also 3 across (3)
- Every second Thursday at the social club (4)
- Check last month's Green Tips. Thos one came out before the oak. (3)
- The demand this of your dogs. (9)
- Dave the award-winning builder. (7)
- This was muddled up on last month's front page. (7)
- Provides shelter for your yachts, but not specifically. (5)
- Inspired by them. (6)
- David Wallder is talking about these. (5)
- John, the body repair man. (7)

### Down

- Who owns the farm? (6)
- Mark Cox does these. (13)
- She writes the Fenney Mysteries. (4)
- A Lincolnshire company that pays top prices for this. (4)
- Every Monday in the village hall. (5)
- Bezz sweeps these. (8)
- Chris Andrews spoke about these brood parasites in last month's issue. (6)
- A mirror from one of these featured on last months front page. (7)
- Not the doctors but Arb-Core do this to trees. (7)
- Joanne cleans these. Small and large. (6)

Solutions Page 7

## CROSSWORD



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# Always red?

Your garden should be looking it's best at the moment, the borders full of colour and the air full of the scent of roses and sweet peas. It's a month to enjoy your garden, eating al fresco, appreciating the flowers and watching the abundance of wildlife.

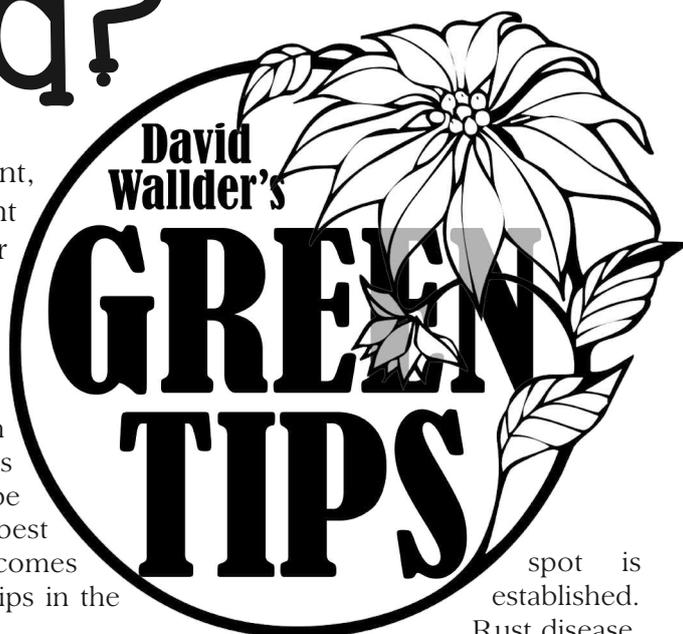
I also find that the pace of routine work slows a little bit after the frenetic onslaught of spring. During hot spells the grass may begin to look worn and brown. It is tempting to water the lawn at times, but it really isn't necessary, as grass has an amazing capacity to regenerate. Whenever, rain does fall, the grass will, as if by magic, turn back to a lush green sward.

Many people, when deadheading roses, just snap the old flower heads off. But if you want to continue the display into autumn you should prune back to a bud lower down the stem to encourage strong new shoots.

Prune to an outward facing leaf to keep the centre of the bush open. Wild roses should not be deadheaded as the best part of their display comes when they produce hips in the autumn.

After deadheading, give the roses a feed to boost growth and encourage more flowers later in the summer. Use a fertiliser specific to roses, or one that is high in potash to encourage strong shoots. A fertiliser high in nitrogen will result in soft, sappy growth, which is more prone to attack from pests and diseases.

Diseases like blackspot, rust and mildew are more of a problem in summer, the first two especially if the weather has been damp. Mildew tends to appear when the weather is drier. To minimise the spread of diseases, gather and burn all affected leaves. Never put them in a compost heap, as this may spread the spores of the diseases around the garden. If you spray for blackspot, use a recommended fungicide, but do it early in the season before the disease has got a hold. Spraying is useless once black



spot is established. Rust disease, the symptoms of which appear as black spores on the undersides of the leaves, is more prevalent on



plants that are deficient in potash, so feeding with a rose fertiliser, which is high in potash, will help reduce the problem.

Mildew will attack plants that are under stress due to lack of water. Control mildew by keeping plants well watered, and spray with an approved fungicide if it is persistent.

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Chris Andrews' **WILD**  **TIMES**

# Dragons & Damsels

stems of reeds and other water plants. There they break through their outer skin to reveal the new, fully formed and winged creature inside. It takes a while for the new form to dry and harden, and during



Blue-t Damsel with prey

this time most fall prey to birds. But eventually they are ready for flight, and go off to terrorise the skies, much like they used to terrorise the water. They are still equipped with massive eyes that can see in all directions and a superb mastery of flight. Forwards, sideways, even backwards. Just like a helicopter. No flying insect is safe! Once they see a smaller insect they chase it down, grab it and then use powerful jaws for make short work of their victim. This can be very good for us, as they are partial to eating midges and mosquitoes.

Hi there! Chris from the RSPB nature reserve at Frampton Marsh Here again with your monthly look of all that is best in the natural world.

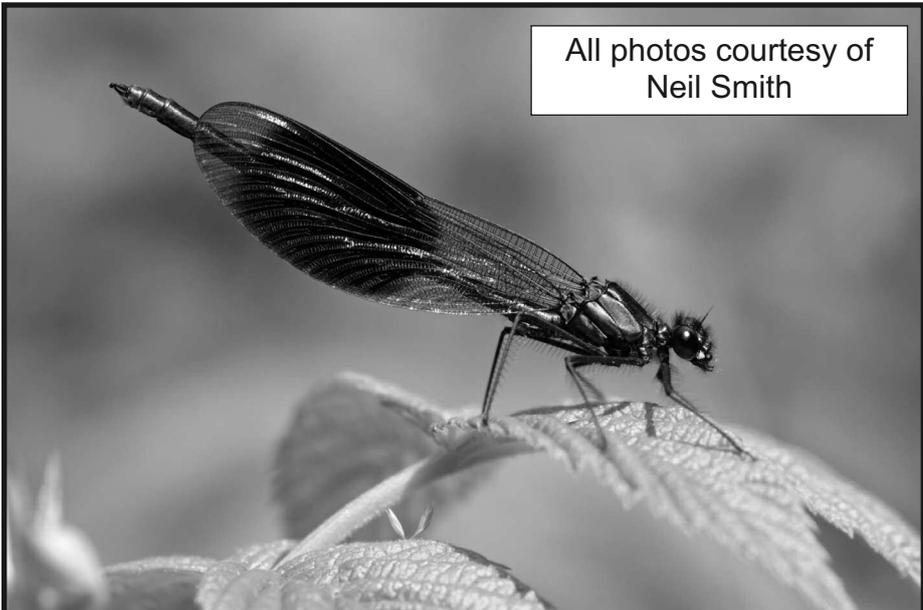
So how would you fancy living in a land where ferocious dragons hunt down their hapless prey, whilst damsels dance to attract a suitor? Sound like something from Game of Thrones? Well, believe it or not, you are living there now!

Dragonflies and damselflies are related insects that love this area of Lincolnshire. All the drainage ditches provide an excellent hunting and breeding ground. Here in South Lincolnshire, we might expect to see eight different kinds of damselfly and 11 different types of dragonfly! Damselflies are fairly weak fliers and so will stay close to water but dragonflies can range wide and far. How do you know which ones are which? Well, dragonflies are usually much larger, but the best way is to watch one when it rests. Damselflies fold their wings down their back. Dragonflies hold their wings out sideways.

Whilst we normally see the adults zooming about in the air, both dragon and damselflies start

off their life underwater. They hatch from eggs attached to aquatic plants and live their first couple of years of their lives as underwater beings. Ferocious little beasts they are too. In fact, dragonfly nymphs (nymph is the name for the young version) are one of the scariest creatures around. Huge eyes help them spot their prey, which they then carefully stalk through the weeds. When they get closer they have jet propulsion to send them shooting forward into the attack. Finally, when they are in range, they have spring-loaded jaws that shoot forward to grab their prey. A bit like the creature from the Alien franchise of films. It is just as well for us that they are only a couple of centimetres long. Would you like to go for a paddle if they were any bigger?

The adult dragonflies and damselflies are voracious hunters too, but of other flying insects. When the time is right, the nymphs leave the water and climb up the



All photos courtesy of Neil Smith

Banded demoiselle

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giving nature a home

Mind you, they can fall victim themselves. The hobby is a small bird of prey, a summer visitor to Britain. It likes to eat birds like swallows, but is also quite partial to a dragonfly or two. Even dragons have their enemies!

But what about the dancing I mentioned? Well, you might well be familiar with birds having territories. After all, they spend quite a bit of time defending them with songs. Each bird will have its own bit of land and sing to advertise the fact to rivals. Well, dragonflies and damselflies are the same. Only rather than singing,



Ruddy Darter

they use fancy flight displays instead. Males will try to lay claim to the most attractive spots for egg-laying, and then mate with the females who arrive to do just that. Of course every male wants the best spot, and so the resident male will patrol his territory, looking out for rivals. If one appears they show off to one another with rapid display flights to see which is the stronger. Strongest insect claims the spot. They even display to drive off other species, which birds generally don't do. It is a fascinating world out there, keep your eyes peeled to see what you can see.



Blue Tails mating

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# Sport

## NEW SUNDAY TEAM GAINS SPONSOR

Fosdyke Sunday FC have already found themselves a sponsor for their blue and yellow kit and footballs and have officially joined the Spalding and District Sunday League. Fosdyke-based Graphic Space who provide website solutions have agreed to support the new Sunday side.

There are just nine teams in the league, but each team plays their opponents four times (twice at home, twice away) so there are still sixteen games in a season. First game will probably be Sunday, 10 September.

The league employs a roll on/off rule whereby substituted players may come back on to substitute another of their team mates. This can be repeated indefinitely.

If you are looking for a Sunday side to play for then check out their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131547164045647/> and contact their manager Dave Clarey. He is very upbeat about the new team's chances of doing well next season.

## POOL

Fosdyke still had an outside chance of a place in the league with one more game to go just after we went to press. This was the latest standings:-

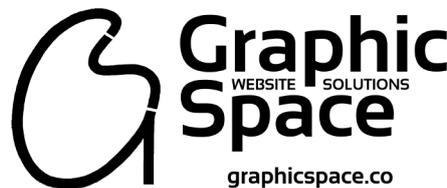
RMC A	16	84	26
Draymans A	16	93	25
Fosdyke	15	77	24
Holbeach	15	51	18
Draymans B	16	64	17
Fishermans	15	57	14
Horse Groom	15	50	14
RMC C	14	34	6
Black Swan B	14	33	3

## FA CUP FRIENDLY

FA Cup final day saw Fosdyke first team take on the reserves in a friendly that showed the potential of next season's reserves as they only lost 5-3.

One of Fosdyke's players, Andrew Baker, had recently lost his daughter to an undiagnosed heart defect and the two teams raised £50 for the charity Heartlink.

Following the game a celebratory end of season drink in the social club bar took place and six even stayed to form a team and enjoyed the evening's monthly Quiz Night at the club.



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Wednesday 6.30 pm - 7.25 pm

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Wednesday 7.30 pm - 9.15 pm

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Margaret is an experienced dog trainer and competitor in Obedience Competition. She has also trained her Golden Retrievers to work for the gun and has carried out demonstrations of gun dog training at County shows including All About Dogs in Brentwood, Essex, for three years running. She currently offers Behavioural advice for problem behaviour in pets.

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For further information please ring Margaret on 01406370920 [margaret.law4@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.law4@gmail.com)

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# THIEVING SCUM

There has recently been a spate of thefts in Fosdyke. Oil, lawn mowers, strimmers and fishing gear for instance. One with some clear CCTV footage.

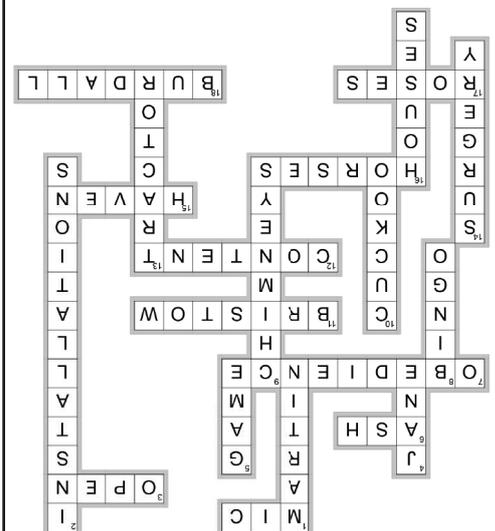
However, that doesn't mean to say the culprits will be found and convicted. Far better to have avoided the thefts in the first place.

We should all be vigilant. An unfamiliar van or person out walking could well be people looking for an opportunity. It seems likely the recent thieves had made their access from the bottom of the victims gardens. So, while views of the fields are one of Fosdyke's attractions make sure your back is as secure as your front.

Not only lock your shed and garage but secure what's inside.

## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

6	7	9	4	1	5	3	8	2
1	8	3	6	2	7	5	9	4
2	4	5	3	9	8	6	7	1
5	7	1	8	3	9	2	4	6
4	2	8	1	5	6	9	3	7
3	9	6	2	7	4	1	5	8
8	5	4	9	6	2	7	1	3
9	1	2	7	4	3	8	6	5
3	6	7	2	1	9	8	5	4
9	3	7	5	8	1	4	2	6



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# ILL EQUIPPED? ... £100 FINE

Apologies to all the responsible dog owners in the village who are considerate to their neighbours, but we have to remind everyone who takes a dog for a walk that it's not only an offence to leave dog poo on the ground but it's also an offence to be without a suitable bag to pick it up.

That means if you are challenged by an enforcement officer and are unable to produce suitable equipment to clean up after your dog you can be fined £100. That's even if your dog hasn't even done its business.

If you see someone allowing their dog to foul our village streets and not picking up the mess then take a photo and e-mail it to us. We'll be happy to show everyone the irresponsible culprits.

We're refraining from naming people at the moment but we have

witnesses who have seen those responsible for the dog poo on the path along Puttock Gate. To them: Please be considerate and avoid being fined.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

Lincolnshire County Council have finally updated their route schedule. The next mobile library visit will be on 3 July outside the village hall between 12 - 1pm.

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## Fosdyke Social Club

Saturday, 1 July

### WHIST DRIVE

8pm



Saturday, 8 July

### POOL SINGLES

Open to all! - 8pm



Thursday, 13 July

### OPEN MIC

Opens 8pm - music 8.30-11pm

**WATCH AND LISTEN TO LOCAL AND NOT-SO-LOCAL TALENT. ALL FOR FREE. NON-MEMBERS WELCOME.**



Sunday, 16 July

### CAR BOOT

1pm - 4pm  
BBQ and bar



Saturday, 22 July

### QUIZ

8 pm

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# RAIN SAVES THE DAY

I started last month's column by wishing for rain following a long dry period which was affecting farmers in a range of ways. As soon as I pressed send on my email to Terry the heavens opened and we got a really good soaking. This will have provided plenty of moisture to the root zone of many parched crops across the county. It always worries me when we do finally get rain following a prolonged dry spell as nature normally has a way of evening things out so I thought once it started to rain it wouldn't know when to stop. But luckily, we had enough to be beneficial without the potential to cause any long-term issues.

Those of you who visited farms at the weekend will have known it was open farm Sunday with a couple of local farms opening their gates to the public with Oldershaw's of Moulton and



Revesby Farm at Boston taking part. Open Farm Sunday was set up back in 2006 by LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and since it started more than fifteen thousand farms have opened up to the public with over one point eight million people visiting for the one Sunday a year with over two hundred and fifty thousand visiting last weekend alone. It is a fantastic opportunity for the general public to get onto farms and discover what it is like to be a farmer and learn about the great work farms do to provide us with a range of produce and how they enhance the



A haylage bale being wrapped

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**BINGO**  
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down at 7 pm  
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hay this week. For those of you who are confused I thought I would just explain the difference between hay and haylage. They are both mature grass which is mown and left to wilt for different periods of time. The mown grass is flicked out or turned daily to wilt in the sun until the right moisture content is achieved. Hay is much lower in dry matter normally below 13% compared to haylage at 25 - 30%. Once baled the haylage is wrapped in plastic for natural fermentation to take place and hay is not wrapped. Haylage is regarded as a highly nutritious hay without the dust and spores.

Our new glasshouse was finished last week so we now need to prepare the land and install an

irrigation system so we can plant a wild rocket crop for seed production. A large pumpkin trial has been planted with over 90 varieties alongside some outdoor seed production trials and we are also only a couple of weeks from harvesting our first seed crops of the season.

Cereal farmers are fast approaching the start of harvest with oil seed rape crops first on the list and will soon be desiccated to even up the ripening of the seeds and also a spray called pod stick will be applied which does exactly what it says on the tin and sticks the pods together to stop valuable seeds being lost before harvest. Barley and wheat crops will soon be changing colour with harvest around eight weeks away. As the landscape slowly changes colour the organised chaos of the 2017 harvest will soon be here.

countryside we live in. Next year's event is on the 10 June so get the date in your diary.

## HAYLAGE AND HAY

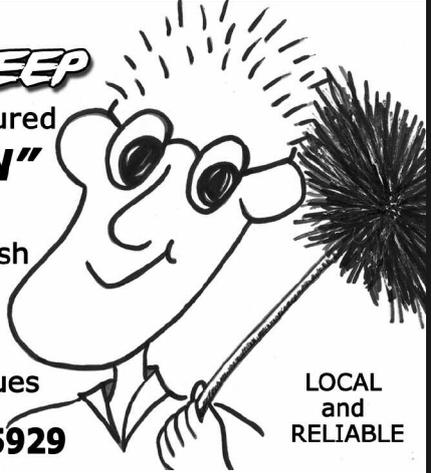
It has been a busy period for me at work with plenty going on, we have continued making haylage and we will be mowing grass for

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## POP-IN LUNCH

The next Pop-In Community Lunch is planned for Fosdyke village hall from 12.30 on Tuesday, 12 September, when the menu will feature home-made steak pie. Please remember to book early to avoid disappointment on [allsaintsfos@outlook.com](mailto:allsaintsfos@outlook.com) or leave a message on 01205260672 with Margaret.

## CHURCHYARD VOLUNTEER

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, our Garden of Rest tidy-up warden is sadly leaving the village. Is there anyone out there who is prepared to give up half an hour a month or so to help out with this small task and keep our Garden of Rest as tidy as we can. There is a cordless strimmer available for use to help, and, of course the brown garden waste bin.

## CHURCH BROWN BIN

We have recently provided a brown bin for the disposal of flowers and foliage in the churchyard. Please don't put paper or other materials in this bin as the council will not then collect it and we will be forced to remove this service.

## All Saints Fosdyke

Churchwardens:  
Jon 01205 260672  
Terry 01205 260408

## CHURCH VACANCY

The vacancy for a new vicar for our group has now been filled, and we expect our new vicar to arrive in early September. Full details in next month's newsletter

### Sunday, 2 July Holy Communion

9.30am

Sunday, 16 July  
*No Service at Fosdyke*

### Sunday, 30 July Holy Communion

Group Service at Algarkirk

9.30am

We warmly invite everyone to come and join our friends and neighbours at Algarkirk on the 30th. This service replaces our normal third Sunday Service due to holidays.

## LETTER FROM THE (NEW) VICAR

Dear People of God in the parishes of Kirton, Algarkirk and Fosdyke,

It seems somewhat strange sitting here in Northern California looking out of my study window at the mountains bathed in glorious Californian sunshine, and reflecting on the idea that in less than twelve weeks I shall be moving into The Vicarage in Kirton and getting ready for my Installation as your new Vicar and parish priest on 4 September.

Maggie and I are both very excited about our move home after eight years, serving in two very different parishes here in the USA. We are excited to be coming to you with a wide experience of ministry in both pastoral, liturgical and

## TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD

Dear Friends,

*'We are convinced that England will never be converted until the laity use the opportunities for evangelism daily offered by their various professions, crafts and occupations... this being so, the Christian laity should be recognised as the priesthood of the Church in the working world, and as the Church militant in action in the mission fields of politics, industry and commerce'. So said the 1946 report, Towards the Conversion of England, commissioned by Archbishop William Temple.*

Seventy years later, and a more recent report, Setting God's People Free, debated at General Synod earlier this year, makes exactly the same point, and asks for what it calls two major culture changes in the way we think about being and doing Church.

*'Until, together, we find a way to form and equip lay people to follow Jesus confidently in every sphere of life in ways that demonstrate the Gospel we will never set God's people free to evangelise the nation,' says the report. 'Until laity*

*and clergy are convinced, based on their baptismal mutuality, that they are equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship and equal partners in mission, we will never form communities that can evangelise the nation'.*

It is a report that reminds us that as Christians we are not just redeemed 'from' something, but 'for' something as well. Each one of us is called to play our part in bringing about the transformation of our world and of lives as we share what we know of Jesus in all the different places God sends us to. We gather together on a Sunday to be sent scattered into the world as Church the other six days of the week.

It is an exciting vision of what the Church has always been called to be, but maybe one we have not always lived out. The challenge for us as a diocese is how we do that now, to move from just words in a report, to actions that make a difference. Seventy years has been a long time to wait!

+ David Grimsby

preaching styles. We fell in love with your amazing Church buildings and we know the area quite well over many years of travel to East Anglia. The call to serve as your priest came to me very strangely and yet powerfully, so here we are answering the call to serve with energy, enthusiasm and passion.

I was born and raised in North Eastern England in the City of Durham, growing up under the shadow of that city's great Norman Cathedral, the burial place and shrine of both St Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede. Thankfully my upbringing from birth was in the context of a committed and active Church of England family whose daily life was immersed in the life of our local church and parish.

I trained for the priesthood at Chichester Theological College in West Sussex and also have a Theology degree from Durham University. My experience in ministry has been forged in urban and rural parishes in England, Scotland and the USA.

We are counting down the days to our move, and as I bring to a close my ministry at All Saints here in Redding, I ask your prayers for our future life together under God's guidance and inspiration.

Every best wish and blessing to you all,

# WHIST WINNERS

Seems we messed up the Results last time. Winning pair of the April whist drive at Fosdyke Social Club was David Bristow and Mary Sellars. May winners were Norman Raynor and Mary Baldwin.

Joint winners (they decided to split the prize money) at the June whist drive were Karen Marriott/Sue Epton and Dave Baldwin/Seamus Rooney

# PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

The minutes for the May parish council meeting which would have been signed off at the 6 June committee meeting have still not yet appeared on the parish council's website as of 15 June.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4 July, at 7.30pm in the committee room of Fosdyke Village Hall. All welcome.



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# THE FENNEY MYSTERIES

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## What Goes Around Comes Around

Jane Lacey-Crane

### PART 4

“You’re intrigued, aren’t you? I can tell. You’ve got that weird squinty look in your eye.”

“I wasn’t aware I had a look.” Gould examined his reflection in the mirror on the back of their hotel room door. They’d come back to the hotel after talking with Dave Coombs’ widow.

“Well you do. So, tell me what you’re thinking?” Catriona patted the bed next to her, encouraging Gould to sit down.

“I’m not sure to be honest. Barbara Coombs isn’t exactly a reliable witness.”

“That poor woman. She looked like she’d completely given up.”

Catriona was right; Barbara had been in a bad way by the time they left. Gould had been reluctant to leave her but the widow had insisted.

“I just want to understand what happened, Ian, that’s all,” she’d said, clutching Gould’s arm as he made his way to the front door. “It doesn’t make any sense.”

Gould had promised that he would keep in touch but he’d decided to keep his investigations to himself for the moment. Barbara didn’t look like she would have been able to cope with any more information.

“So, what next?” asked Catriona, pulling the pile of paperwork towards her. Rifling through the pages she pulled out the file on Peter Wells, the next man on the list.

“It says here that Wells lived in …” a small smile crept across her face, “Tunbridge Wells. That’s funny, don’t you think?”

Gould couldn’t really see the humour. “Just a coincidence,” he said, dryly. Catriona looked up from the file, sensing a change in his mood.

“What’s wrong? Look, I’m sorry, I know this isn’t funny. It must be hard for you, these men were your friends at one point.” She crawled across the bed towards him and placed a hand on his shoulder.

“They were more like family.”

“I get it, really, I do.”

Gould smiled his reassurance but deep down he didn’t think she did. It wasn’t her fault, it was just that unless you’d been there, been part of that group,

dealing with the kind of stuff they had to deal with, you couldn’t understand, not really.

Gould stood up, taking Catriona’s hand. “I need a drink and some greasy food.”

“I think the pub next door can satisfy both those requirements,” said Catriona. She could see he wasn’t in the mood for talking about this anymore. “Let’s go.”

\*\*\*

From the outside the pub looked like a typical old English country inn, all lime-wash plaster and dark wood beams, it even had a thatched roof. But disappointingly, the inside was a different matter. It was just another large chain ‘gastropub’ – complete with painted furniture in deliberately mismatched, but still tasteful, colours and whitewashed floorboards.

“Very shabby chic,” muttered Gould under his breath. He’d been hoping for something more along the lines of sticky carpet and horse brasses. Catriona raised an eyebrow.

“Ooh get you, shabby chic. I’m impressed.”

“You’ve left so many interior decorating magazines at my place, I may have cast my eye over a few.” He suspected that the magazines had been a subtle hint from Catriona that it was time to do some decorating. His house in Fenney was still pretty much the same as the day he’d moved in. Interior design wasn’t his thing; as long as he had running water and a bed to sleep in, he was happy.

“Good evening, welcome to the Hungry Monk, do you have a reservation?” A perky looking waitress approached them both as they entered.

“No, we don’t. Just looking to get a quick drink and a bite to eat,” said Catriona.

The waitress frowned, looking down at the clipboard she was holding. “I’ll just need to see if we can fit you in.”

Gould looked around the pub; it was practically empty.

“It doesn’t look like you’re going to struggle to find us a table, does it?” He hated officious people with clipboards, they brought out the worst in him. The waitress raised her heavily pencilled in eyebrows.

“We have reservations due to arrive any minute, sir.”

Gould was about to bite back but Catriona spoke first. “I’m sure anything you have will be fine.”

The waitress returned to studying her clipboard and then pulled two laminated menus out from under her podium. “If you’ll just follow me please.” She walked across the pub, past at least ten empty tables Gould noted, and stopped at a small table right by the fire exit.

“This will be fine, thank you,” said Catriona, taking her seat. Gould said nothing.

“I’ll send someone over to take your order in a few minutes.” The waitress turned on her heel and walked

away.

“Uppity little madam,” said Gould, “the place is hardly overrun with customers.”

“She’s just doing her job. What are you going to have?”

“A pint and a pie. What about you?”

“Hmmm. Not sure. Fish and chips looks good. So does the sticky toffee pudding.”

Gould loved the fact that, despite her tiny frame, Catriona was a woman who loved her food. His ex-wife had been a picker, she would chase her food around the plate for half an hour and then say she was full despite having hardly eaten a bite. Angela had been paranoid about getting fat. She was permanently on a diet and was always trying, unsuccessfully, to put Gould on one too. A waiter arrived at their table.

“Can I get you something to drink while you decide on your food?”

“I think we’re ready to order,” said Gould, closing his menu and handing it to the young man. “I’m going to have the steak and ale pie and a pint of Guinness.”

“And I’ll have the fish and chips and a glass of Chardonnay.”

The waiter nodded and then left them.

“Are we going to head over to Tunbridge Wells tomorrow then? It’s only about forty minutes from here. We could easily do it and then head down to London tomorrow night,” said Catriona.

“Sounds like a plan. I want to see if I can speak to any of the officers who dealt with Dave Coombs accident here before we go though.”

“Will they tell you anything other than what’s in the report we already have?”

“Maybe, maybe not. In my experience, what goes in the official file isn’t always a complete picture of the case. An officer might sometimes get a feel for something not quite right but can’t make it official as it’s just gut instinct.”

The waiter came back with their drinks and they raised their glasses in a toast.

“Here’s to your gut instinct then,” said Catriona, taking a sip of her wine and staring over Gould’s shoulder. “I think we have a visitor.”

Gould turned to see a smartly dressed young man with a neat haircut making his way over to their table. Everything about him screamed ‘copper’.

“Mr Gould?” said the man.

“Yes, that’s me. Can I help you?”

“Detective Sergeant West, Kent Police.” He stuck out his hand and gave Gould a firm handshake. “I understand you might have some questions about the death of Dave Coombs. I was one of the investigating officers on the case.”

“And you’ve come out tonight to see me because I have questions?” Gould sounded incredulous.

“Mrs Coombs called the station after you left. She was very upset and quite insistent that I find you and speak to you. Can I ask what your interest is in the case?”

“Dave was an old friend and colleague, I’ve only just heard the news of his death so I wanted to come and pay my respects to Barbara. That’s all.”

Gould saw the young man’s demeanour shift slightly as he took in this information.

“You’re on the Force?”

“Retired. But Dave and I worked together for a long time in CID down in London.”

“My apologies, I didn’t realise I was talking to a fellow officer.” At this point the man extended his hand to Catriona. “How rude of me. I’m Samuel West.”

“Catriona Randall. Please, won’t you sit down?”

“Just for a minute.” DS West pulled up a chair and sat down; Gould noted, with a hint of irritation, that he was sitting quite close to Catriona.

“Are you here in an official capacity Sergeant?” Gould childishly left off the ‘Detective’ part of the man’s rank. Samuel West managed to drag his attention away from Catriona and he turned to face Gould.

“Not really. Mrs Coombs got a bit hysterical on the phone, the only way I could calm her down was by agreeing that I would come and speak to you. She thinks there’s some big conspiracy, that her husband’s death wasn’t an accident. She’s been making a lot of noise about it.”

“And what do you think, Detective Sergeant West?” asked Catriona, leaning towards the officer and giving him a sweet smile and a view of her cleavage. The young man swallowed nervously; poor chap, thought Gould, he didn’t stand a chance. He’d seen Catriona pull this stunt before, usually when she was trying to get herself out of trouble or get someone to tell her something they probably shouldn’t.

“Well, there was something. Coombs had definitely been drinking, his clothes stunk of whisky, his shirt was soaked with it, but there wasn’t a pub anywhere near where he crashed.”

“Perhaps he bought the booze at a shop, not a pub?”

“That’s what we thought initially but CCTV images caught him coming off a petrol station forecourt just thirty minutes before the crash and he hadn’t bought booze there. Then traffic cameras recorded him on the road out of town. He didn’t stop anywhere else before he headed out into countryside.”

“Perhaps he already had it in the car?”

DS West paused. “Then how come we never found any bottles in the car with him after the crash or anywhere along the route he drove out of town?”

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

#### Fosdyke Village Hall Lottery 250 Draw - Latest Winners

26	Mr T White	Fosdyke	£10
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**Next draw: Monday 10 July at the Village Hall Bingo Night**

Liz Wallder's  
**Book Review**

**INTO THIN AIR**

Jon Krakauer

**THE CLIMB**

Anatoli Boukreev

Watching the film "Everest" led to me reading these two books and as they are different sides to the same story I feel that to review one I must review both.

They are about two ill-fated expeditions up Mount Everest in May 1996 when, as people descended, a storm hit, killing eight people. Krakauer is a journalist who had joined one party to cover the climb and after surviving the mountain, wrote a book. That book was very harsh towards an experienced guide, Boukreev, who was on a different expedition and later, after reading what Krakauer had written, published a book putting forward his own side of the story.

Confused? They are both intriguing accounts of a horrific

event- I don't really understand why anyone would put themselves through all this pain, freezing temperatures and horrific endurance just to get to the top of the world. Mount Everest is not a particularly tricky climb, but it's the high altitude that causes problems as they are climbing higher than a jumbo jet flies- madness!

Krakauer as a journalist and published author writes a fantastically exciting adventure story that I found very difficult to put down. He was so upset over the outcome of the climb that he actually wrote the book as therapy and all of the confusion and anguish that he felt on the mountainside is there. He still obviously holds himself responsible for not doing more to help others, but the lack of oxygen leaves one tired, confused and unable to think clearly.

Boukreev is a professional Russian climber who guides groups to fund his climbing, as it's a ridiculously expensive activity. The book, though, is actually

ghostwritten by a professional author and it's full of pages of taped interviews from Boukreev, who only has broken English. It shows that Boukreev used his years of experience to rescue a number of climbers from certain death, but is also haunted by those he was unable to help. It's full of maps, details and rants, which makes it flow less as a story, especially the second half, but both books are needed to get a full and gripping account.

Having read these books and as there have already been ten deaths on Everest so far this year, it does make you reflect on the extent of the commercialisation of climbing Mount Everest. Maybe it should be left for the professionals who don't have to rely on bottled oxygen, which would also help with all the rubbish that's been left there over the years. And the fact that the path up is strewn with dead frozen bodies seems so wrong.

That aside both books were totally absorbing, a real window into a world where I never want to go.

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## Copy Deadline

If something has happened to you or a friend, or is going to happen, we want to hear about it. So, contact Terry - preferably via email: [terry@fosdyke.org.uk](mailto:terry@fosdyke.org.uk) or phone: 01205 260275 or knock on the door or post your info through the letter box  
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