

FOSDYKE MAGAZINE

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TRACTOR RALLY SUCCESS

Another successful Vintage Tractor Road Run Charity Event is expected to have raised more than three thousand pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support and attracted a good many tractors.

The BBQ was busy supplying food to both farmers and visitors to the event. Some people who had never been there before were disappointed that there were very few "attractions". A banner, put up by the organisers, had been on display at the social club car park for a couple of weeks also advertised it as a fun day.

Still an enjoyable day, and all for a good cause.

PROGRESS

We're very pleased to say that the parish council is beginning to get its act together regarding the minutes as both the February and April minutes are now available at the parish council's website which can be easily found by going to www.fosdyke.org.uk.

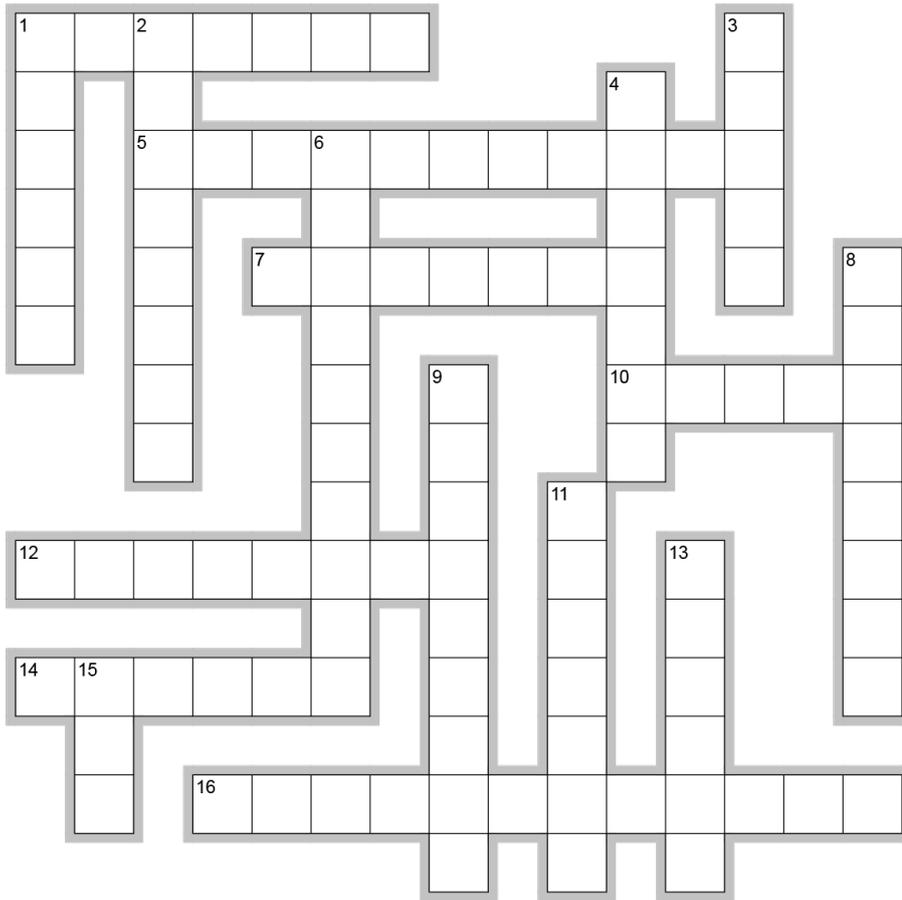
However, minutes are still going to be at least a month out of date as they are not posted until they have been approved at the following month's meeting despite guidelines which advise that draft (unapproved) minutes be made available to the public within a month of a meeting..

You can read some interesting points from the minutes in several articles in this month's *Fosdyke Magazine*.



PUZZLES PAGE

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Where most of us live.
5. Where's the playing field. (2)
7. He'll get your chimney cleaned.
10. Does a bit of welding amongst other things.
12. You might sheer sheep here on 10 June.
14. In the borough of
16. Local band, (2)

Down

1. Bit like Fosdyke but more mysterious.
2. Makes your home better.
3. For the oldens.
4. A nocturnal bird might help your web solutions. (2)
6. This pub sails away. (3)
8. You don't need to be a hippofile to improve your confidence.
9. Our local church. (2)
11. A river nearby.
13. They supply bits and pieces on your plate or you can keep it in the paper.
15. Not the new Main Road.

SUDOKU

Solutions Page 19

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DINGBATS



1



2



3

Wet one

“Ash before Oak - we're in for a soak, Oak before Ash - we're in for a splash”. Well, from what I've seen Ash trees have come into leaf before Oaks this year, so we should be in for a wet summer. About time too gardeners may say and water butts are beginning to run dry! Gardens have been getting very dry this year, we have had a relatively dry winter and spring.

We must do our best to conserve the natural resources, such as water. If you have not done so earlier in the year, spread a

working order, plants always grow better with rainwater than tap water, especially in areas like Fosdyke where the water is very hard.



mulch of organic matter over any bare soil after rain to conserve moisture. Make sure your gutters and water butts are clean and in

leaves at ground level and discard them. The new foliage can often be seen growing from the centre of the plant.



Hellebore seeds can be collected from the plant as you tidy them up, and sown straight away. If the seeds are left on the plant to ripen this will inhibit germination. They don't require any special conditions, sow the seeds in a tray or small pot, cover them lightly with some compost and stand the container in a shady cold frame or at the base of a sheltered wall. When the seeds germinate, pot them on once they are large enough to handle.

You may find if you have never collected seeds from hellebores that every year a crop of seedlings appears around the plants. These seedlings can be potted up and grown on as new plants. They will never come true to type - that is to say if the seeds come from a pink flower, you may not necessarily get pink flowers from the new plants. But you never know, you may come across a stunning variation.

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Chris Andrews'
WILD  **TIMES**
Going Cheep

Hi there! Chris from the RSPB reserve at Frampton Marsh here again. Once again writing with thoughts on what is happening in the natural world. As we move deeper into the year, I am sure you will notice how busy all the birds are. Making nests, laying eggs and raising their chicks.

Birds have some very different strategies for raising chicks, depending on which species they are. Some have chicks that can run about and find their own food almost immediately. Covered in soft downy feathers, they are quite mobile and do look like little birds. Ducks are good examples of this. As soon as the final egg has hatched, the mother duck leads her brood off to find somewhere safe to paddle about. Wading birds do this too, though their chicks are even more precocious, and often spend quite a bit of time away from the

parent, returning only for shelter from bad weather. We are about to see a lot of that down here at the reserve soon. Already we have some lapwing chicks, but there will hopefully soon be many more. Plus avocets, gulls, redshanks and more.

To get chicks this advanced does take quite a long incubation, so other birds have a different tactic. Their eggs hatch sooner, but the chicks can't look after themselves. Missing any feathers, they are quite helpless, and need their parents to keep them warm and bring them food. Only after a

couple of weeks are they finally able to leave the nest, and even then they often still depend on their parents to bring them food. Blue tits, safe in their nestboxes are a good example of this method. They are great to watch as well. These days you can buy nestboxes with built in cameras which can send video footage back to your TV or computer. It is wonderful to see the footage. And then later on see the



Cuckoo chick in reed warbler nest, courtesy Mike Richards, rspb-images.com



Song thrush, courtesy Mike Richards, rspb-images.com

chicks popping out of the nest hole on their first big adventure.

Finally, there is the joker in the pack. The cuckoo. Their chicks are born in the helpless state, but rather than do all that time consuming parental bit, cuckoos offload their offspring onto surrogate parents. Finding the nest of a suitable bird (reed warblers are often a favourite) they remove one egg and lay one of their own. Their chick hatches and pushes the other eggs or chicks out, then claims all the attention of its foster parents. Oddly, despite the dramatic size difference between the warblers and the cuckoo, they never seem to catch on. Instead the scurry about, feeding the ever hungry changeling as it grows to monstrous size, bigger than them!

I'd just like to finish with a heartfelt plea. Please, if you see a baby bird, do NOT pick it up. Every year we get lots of calls from well-meaning but misguided people



**giving
nature
a home**

who have found an 'abandoned' chick and have carried it off. Most of these were not abandoned at all, their parents were watching from a safe distance. When they leave the nest many birds can't yet fly, but instead hide away in undergrowth and wait for the parents to return with food. Unless they are in immediate danger, say from a cat, it is far better to leave them be. If you have picked one up, please put it back close to where you found it, and as soon as possible. In the event of a chick without feathers having genuinely fallen out of the nest, try to pop it back in. Despite stories to the contrary, the parents will not abandon it due to human scent. Oh, and if you get ducklings in your pond, hot tub or water feature and they genuinely can't get

out, it is definitely worth giving them a hand. You can either put a plank in the water to give them something to scramble up, or catch them and move them to safety. If you are doing the latter, try to catch the mother duck first as the ducklings will naturally try to move to be with her. This makes it easier to catch the whole family. Oh, and please don't bring any birds into us. We don't have vets or animal hospitals. Instead ring the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999 and they will be able to assist or advise you.



Robin chick, courtesy Ben Hall, rspb-images.com



Barnacle geese, courtesy Anne Waterfield



Lapwing chicks, both courtesy Neil Smith



Coots, courtesy Neil Smith



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LINCS BEST KEPT VILLAGE ...

The Best Kept Village competition was discussed at length at the February parish council meeting. Cllr C Cropley remarked that in these austere times he couldn't sanction the spending of the entrance fee if the majority of the village wasn't behind the competition. It was proposed by Cllr Wright and seconded by Cllr Pitt that an article be put in the village newsletter.

Although that article, presumably aimed at establishing the desires of residents in regards the Best Kept Village, was never sent to *Fosdyke Magazine*, it was agreed by a majority decision at the April parish council meeting to not enter the competition this year.

Looking at the Lincolnshire Best Kept Villages website (lincolnshirebestkeptvillages.co.uk) one can wonder at the usefulness of being a part of the competition. It seems that the site was only created to celebrate fifty years of the competition (set up in 1962) and we were unable to find out who last year's winners were. And the Campaign to Protect Rural England, one of the partner groups promoting the competition only list North Lincolnshire! Without the support of villages like Fosdyke then it's likely the competition will eventually die a death. A shame in some respects as it does help to focus a pride in the community.

Perhaps the council could set up a Best Kept Front Garden competition for Fosdyke residents.

GRASS CUTTING DECISION

After considering quotes, it was decided at the February meeting of the parish council that the cutting of the grass outside the village hall, now excluded from the services provided by higher authorities and one of the reasons why the village precept has risen, would be undertaken by Malc Firth Landscapes Ltd.

The next parish council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6 June, at 7.30pm in the committee room of Fosdyke Village Hall. All welcome.

BAND PLAY SLEAFORD LIVE

Fosdyke's 80s covers band Phatt Knappii entertained a small audience at Heckington Mill on Saturday, 6 May, between 3 and 5pm, as part of Sleaford Live's annual event and are there again on 24 June as a part of Armed Forces Day. Go and help them raise money!

Phatt Knappii are picking up a small following that reckons the band are improving all the time, and are especially impressed with the band's own songs, written by guitarist and backing singer Terry Martin.

MAGAZINE OKAY

Fosdyke Magazine was again discussed by the parish council, this time at their February meeting.

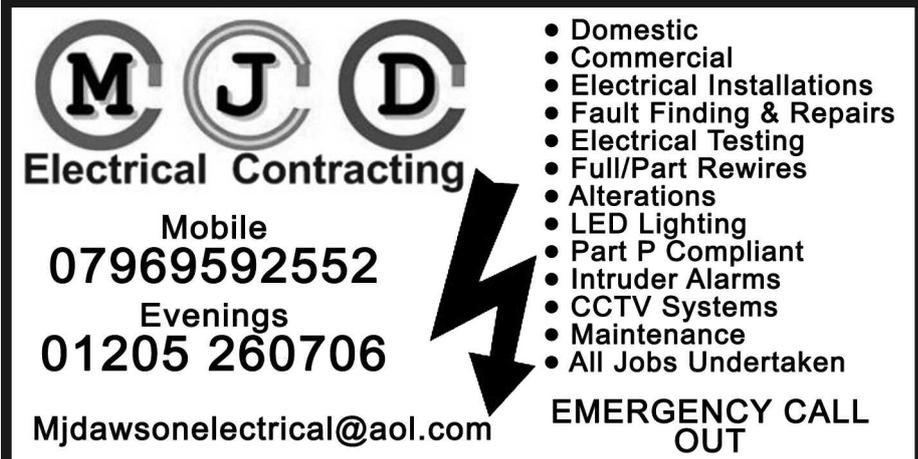
Cllr Cropley (the minutes don't say which one) was pleased that the newsletter was continuing to be less contentious and Cllr Glenn was pleased that fewer articles gave the opinion of one person. It was agreed that if the present tone continued it was showing the village in a more positive light.



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LOCAL OIL THEFTS

We've heard from at least one Fosdyke resident who has had oil stolen from their tank recently and also from properties in Algakirk.

The thefts appear to have been carried out both during the night and during the day.

Please keep vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the police.

BETTY'S BUTTONS BRING BUCKS...

Leading up to, and including the Tractor Rally, Betty Williamson has been getting people to guess how many buttons there were in a jar to raise money for Mcmillan Cancer Relief.

She eventually raised an excellent £60 with Larinda Walls guessing the exact number of 417!

Fosdyke Village Hall Lottery 250 Draw

Next draw: Monday 8 June at the Village Hall Bingo Night

Tickets for 2017-2018 available from Alan White on 260654

The Ship Inn
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www.shipinnfosdyke.co.uk
theshipinnfosdyke@gmail.com



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Afternoon Teas 2pm until 5pm
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PCSO Williams

neil.williams@lincs.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Corssen-Davies

jarrad.corssen-davies@lincs.pnn.police.uk

PCSO Smyth

esther.smyth2@lincs.pnn.police.uk

Just £12 a year will get you an advert in the Fosdyrectory. Ring Terry on 01205 260275 for more details.

POP-IN LUNCH

The next Pop-In Community Lunch will be held in Fosdyke village hall from 12.30pm on Tuesday, 13 June. Weather permitting we thought a cold buffet would make a nice change so we are planning for a soup starter, Cold Home-cooked meats, new potatoes, salads and a selection of desserts. Please remember to book early to avoid disappointment on allsaintsfos@outlook.com or leave a message on 01205260672 with Margaret.

GARDEN-OF-REST

As mentioned in last months 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.

ROGATION SUNDAY

Rogation Sunday is a Sunday in the year when we think especially about our farming community. A lighthearted service is planned for Sunday 25th May at 3pm – all welcome to attend this special 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, subject to the normal pre-employment checks. Full details should be available for next months newsletter.

CHURCH BROWN BIN

We have recently provided a brown bin for the disposal of flowers and foliage in the churchyard. Please do not 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.

PENTECOST

I think of myself as having been an argumentative teenager. My parents say I wasn't, but I can remember the discussions that we had to this day...

Later life has softened me, I think, but I still enjoy a good conversation, and the excitement of meeting someone with very different views from my own.

How do we develop as human beings unless we are in contact with those who are unlike us in some ways, while being very like us in others? All human beings, all created by God, all with value and purpose and dignity.

One of the great joys of the Church is that it is a body that is in essence inclusive and outward-facing. The gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is to reveal the possibility of unity in Christ and to give that unity purpose and confidence.

At the first Pentecost, people from all over the known world were able to recognize what they shared, a recognition that was symbolized by the way in which the Holy Spirit enabled them all to understand the message of 'God's deeds of power' as spoken by the

Sunday, 21 May
**Rogation
Sunday Group
Service**

10pm

Sunday, 4 June
**Holy
Communion**

9.30am

Sunday, 18 June
**Queens 90th
birthday
Service**

9.30am

Galilean disciples yet heard in their own language of origin.

A shared identity in Christ overcame the negative effects of difference of language, culture and nationality. It also meant that in a time of considerable political upheaval, the Church was able to provide hope because it placed a priority on works of justice and boldly challenged a tendency to self-centredness and fatalism.

United in the power of the Spirit, people looked out, worked together, and were given a new, concrete, objective identity in Christ. Just read the Acts of the Apostles to see this happening.

And the Church of today shares that same identity! We remain a Pentecostal people, empowered and unified by the Holy Spirit.

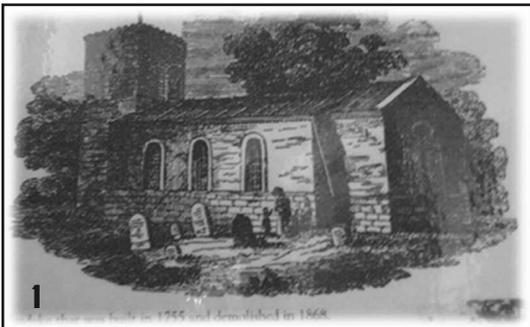
This Pentecost, as we prepare to vote in a General Election, may we remember our shared identity in Christ, with all that this means for the way in which we should treat each other and contribute to the life of the world. And let us be confident, therefore, in our faith and in our Church.

God bless you,
Bishop Nicholas
Bishop of Grantham

WELCOME TO FOSDYKE! (2)

Last month when we mentioned the venues in Fosdyke (village hall, social club, Moorings Cafe, The Ship Inn, multisports arena, playing field, bowls green, adventure playground, etc) we failed to mention something that makes Fosdyke stand out from some of the other villages nearby: All Saints Church with its slightly leaning spier.

To go some way towards making amends to the wardens and regular users of the church we asked if we good carry a feature on the church. So here it is.. Even if you aren't that religious it's worth a visit, and if you're not at all religious it's still a building that we need to maintain and keep as a focal point for the community.



FOSDYKE - OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH

There have been three established Churches on the present site, with the first church records dating back to 1439. They have all been dedicated to "All Saints" – with the first one being a twin in design to the very beautiful early cruciform fenland church with central tower and spire at Algarkirk. The first church had five bells, but four of them were sold to help defray the expenses of building the second one.

The only remains of this first church in use are the restored font. The first church fell into disrepair and was taken down and a new one built using the old material, in 1756.

The second church was a neat little structure with a low tower, containing just the one bell. This church contained a neat altarpiece representing the wise men presenting their gifts to the infant Jesus: there was also, of course, the

original octagonal font, very beautifully carved, with angels in the compartments, and a pyramidal cover of handsome fret work. The font was carried through to all three churches and is still in use today (picture 2), its cover in fine carved fretwork oak, said to mimic the

famous Boston Parish Church, or 'Stump' as it is affectionately known locally.

The third and current church was designed by Mr Edward Browning of Stamford, and built by Messrs Pattison of Ruskington. It stands upon a shallow mound some feet above the level of the road, and is composed of small red bricks and Bath Stone dressings. The old Barnack stone, which remained from the first church, being used in the construction of the larger portion of the walls. It consists of a nave, north and south aisles, chancel, vestry, tower and spire.

Dedicated to All Saint's the



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current building was gifted by the Rev'd. Basil Berridge and consecrated in 1871. Revd Berridge was an important person in the area – his family having been local gentry here and at nearby Algarkirk since the time of James II. He was a 'squarson' – a local curiosity combining the roles of parson and squire (It is interesting to note that Canon Gervase Markham – born in Grimsby, was the last squarson in England, and died aged 97 years as recently as 2007).

The vicarage at Fosdyke – paid for by Revd. Berridge was never for his own use – it was for the assistant curate. A handsome building in its own right, it was built on the foundations of 'The Bell' public house – demolished for the purpose! The photograph below was taken in 1913.



Revd Berridge was also a local magistrate for Boston. Fortunately, he was a great benefactor for Fosdyke, and at his own expense of some £8,650.00 he rebuilt All Saints Church, built the new vicarage house, and built a school for the village. He also brought the

glebe land for the Parish up to about 100 acres – sadly, long appropriated during the famous and, hotly disputed to this day, 'glebe wars' of the mid twentieth century.

The noticeable tilt to the handsome chevron leaded spire is there because the tower stands on 'new' ground and not the earlier footings of the previous two church buildings. The tower houses a single bell now, as two were sold off. It is topped off by a wonderful gilded cockerel weather vane, restored for the centenary of the present building in 1967.

Resembling the early English style, the interior of the building is magnificent in its simplicity, and yet beautifully proportioned - only the plainest of materials are used, save the three lancets of stained glass which make up the imposing East window, and yet the overall effect for a small village church is a masterful example of the work of architect Edward Browning.

The clerestory consists of cupped circlets, and the nave roof is supported by Mansfield shaftlets, giving variety to the colouring of the

stonework. The nave and chancel roofs are substantial in character, and pleasing in form. The former is open; the latter vaulted and panelled. The alleys are paved with Minto no tiles, and those of the chancel are of very rich and well-assorted colours.

A reminder of the previous building is to be found in an early photograph on the North Wall.

A programme of maintenance work is planned to make sure that this lovely building is as beautiful for future generations as it has been for us.



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COUNCILLOR BROOKES WINS



Following the recent county elections Mike Brookes retains his position on Lincolnshire County Council in the electoral division of Boston Rural which covers Fosdyke with an overwhelming 68.6% of the votes. The second placed UKIP candidate received just 15.3%.

GENERAL ELECTION 2017

Candidates for Boston and Skegness for Thursday, 8 June, are (in alphabetical order of party): Mike Gilbert for the newly-formed Blue Revolution Party; Matt Warman for the Conservatives; Victoria Percival for the Green Party; Paul Kenny for Labour; Philip Smith for the Liberal Democrats and Paul Nuttall for UKIP.

BEWARE THE WELLAND

One of Fosdyke's long standing residents has asked us to remind everyone about the dangers of the river Welland.

In the hot summer months, particularly in the school holidays, the murky waters of our nearby tidal river can beckon to youngsters. Ask anyone who has a boat and they will tell you about the dangerous undercurrents.

Never underestimate the powers of water.

WHIST WINNERS

The monthly Whist Drive at the social club on Saturday, 1 April, was won by Mary Sellars and David Bristow by just three points.

Seven pairs competed for the prize money. The next Whist Drive is on Saturday, 3 June.

MOBILE LIBRARY

Lincolnshire County Council have finally updated their route schedule. The next mobile library visit will be on 5 June outside the village hall between 12 - 1pm.

Fosdyke Social Club

Tuesday, 30 May

AGM

8pm

All members welcome



Saturday, 3 June

WHIST DRIVE

8pm



Thursday, 8 June

OPEN MIC

Opens 8pm - music 8.30-11pm



Saturday, 17 June

THE CUBE

Fun challenges! - 8pm



Sunday, 18 June

CAR BOOT

1pm - 4pm
BBQ and bar



Saturday, 24 June

QUIZ

8pm

Chicken/fish/scampi and
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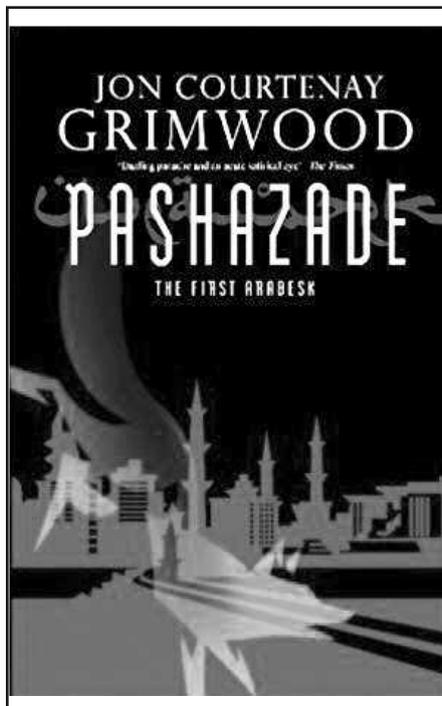
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LOCAL
and
RELIABLE

Elizabeth Wallder's
Book Review
 Pashazade -
 The first Arabesk
 by Jon Courtenay
 Grimwood

Author, Jon Courtenay Grimwood was born in Malta, and grew up in Britain, the Far East and Scandinavia and I think it shows. He's written other science fiction series, one of which is called "redRobe" which I haven't read, but might do now. When I started this book I became very confused early on, it's set amongst the Muslims of North Africa so there are words I don't understand and it's also set in a world where Germany won the First World War.



It's not even clear what year it's set in, whether it's set in a future world or now but once I'd read the first couple of chapters I started loving it.

The story is all centred in the mad urban city of El Iskandyia (Alexandria?) in the summer where the heat is almost intolerable and where crime goes unpunished if you're one of the wealthy elite.

The main character, Ashraf Bey, I disliked immediately, but that changed over the course of the book and I ended up rooting for him. Raf finds himself getting off a plane in El Iskandyia with a passport showing him to be a pashazade, which I gather is some kind of Prince, along with his fox, Tiri, who lives mostly in his head and is invisible to other people.

It's part murder mystery, part adventure, starting very confusing and I nearly gave up as I was inundated with words I don't know or understand. Still not sure if they're real words or if it's a made up language, but I slowly fell in love with the style and the adventure, really rooting for the three main characters.

There's an underlying current of weird futuristic story telling, e.g. when Raf enters a very exclusive club disguised as a young scallywag he notices the other clients-

"Only a few of those in the room

showed their age in a surgical tightness around the eyes, the regrettable side effects of having reached middle age before the start of nanotec surgery. The rest had that youthful permanence which came from being able to afford faces that were constantly rebuilt from the inside."

It's not an easy book to read, but in the end, I really enjoyed this book - I definitely want to read the next one of the trilogy, but I may have to read this one again just to get everything straight in my head. Now I know how it finishes then it may make the confusing start more straightforward.

CLERK'S PAY RISE

Following a closed session of the parish council at their April meeting it was agreed that due to the clerk's increased work load the clerk would be awarded an additional twenty-six hours per year with an additional three per cent increase. The clerk was asked to monitor her hours and to produce confirmation regarding PAYE.

ANONYMOUS LETTER TO COUNCIL

At the February parish council meeting one piece of correspondence recorded as being received was an anonymous letter regarding the street lights but because the letter was anonymous no action could be sanctioned.

We've no idea what that was about but if it was you and it's that important that you wanted some action perhaps you should put a name to the letter.

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THE DRY WEATHER CHALLENGE

The forecast for an unsettled remainder of May will be a welcome sign for most farmers who have parched crops and grassland. According to the Met Office the UK has had only 47% of the average rainfall with four fifths of the countries rivers have fallen to abnormally low levels following one of the driest winters on record.

We had a small amount of rain fall on Sunday morning but within an hour after it had stopped the ground looked as dry as before albeit a few small puddles on our lane. We could do with a good inch of rain to make any difference and give the ground a good soaking. Spring sown crops such as Barley, Wheat, Beans and Sugar Beet are suffering from patchy germination whilst winter sown cereals are turning pale or going yellow as the

fertiliser is still sat on the surface waiting to be washed in. As I passed through Newark last weekend on my way back to Derbyshire there was a dairy farm irrigating grassland which is a sure sign of how dry it has become. Some farmers are reporting potential crop yield losses of up to 50% if they don't receive a good amount of rain in the coming weeks.

We made a start on haylage



making last week mowing a ten acre field on Monday and baling and wrapping it on Thursday and turning it several times in-between. The field was cut earlier than planned as we needed to free up the field for sowing a pumpkin trial and some seeds crop trials. It did give us an opportunity to try out our new baler and wrapper though without the pressure of trying to get a large area cleared in one hit. The rest of the grassland will be left until



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later in June when it will be more mature before mowing it for hay.

Potato crops have started to emerge in the area and growers will soon be out with their sprayers applying fungicides to prevent blight as the crop reaches the rosette stage. Again, the dry weather will have a major effect on the emergence of potatoes with varying moisture levels in the ridges. Application timings of pre-emergence herbicides have proven to be very difficult as these chemicals rely on moisture in the soil to be effective at weed control. In potato crops the weeds are normally out competed by the quick growing canopy of the potato plants which shades out and

smothers any weeds, but with the uneven emergence and slow growth due to the recent cold north easterly winds the weeds may take advantage and become an issue.

Planting of brassica crops including sprouts, kale, cauliflowers and cabbage are still in full swing as I pass fields of straight, tidy lines of plants being planted by gangs sat on the back of planting rigs. I felt for them last week when the icy winds were blowing straight off The Wash. These crops will also be desperate for a drink as the small plants are laid flat to the ground and looking rather dehydrated during the day.

You may have seen the leeks at the side of the A16 being harvested recently and it amazes me how many people they have working on the rigs at any one time. The field was almost full of cars and people with approximately fifty people working on each rig, it must be a logistical nightmare trying to manage them all. The rigs are just like mobile factories where everything is harvested, trimmed, QC checked, washed, packed, labelled and ready for the supermarket without entering a factory.

Following on from my recent articles which mentioned to use of

glyphosate I thought it might be worth noting that Canada has recently given the popular herbicide the all clear with their federal government declaring it has no health risk to humans or the environment. Currently no pesticide regulatory authority considers glyphosate to be a carcinogenic risk to humans. The EU Commission has said there is no reason to doubt the scientific evaluation of glyphosate and its future in the EU should be decided by the 31 December. However green groups including Friends of The Earth and the Soil Association are still calling for an outright ban.



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CUP DEFEAT

Wednesday, 19 April
Fosdyke 1 - 3 Kirton Town

Fosdyke first team suffered a 3-1 defeat in the Kirton Cup against a very good Kirton Town side but gave them a really good game that, sadly as usual, on another day etc etc.

Fosdyke applied early pressure and took the lead through Jody Betts who rolled the ball beyond the keeper after good work on the right from Zippy Zac Chapman. Unfortunately the same player put the ball in the wrong net minutes later when a long throw caused problems in the box. 1-1.

The remainder of the first half was a very tense and even affair with the midfield trio of Michael Beauchamp, Dynamite Dan Beecham and Ben Lawton competing well and the back four holding firm against everything that was thrown their way.

The second half proved to be eventful. Firstly a diving header from the home side was ruled out for off side which upset the locals and when another off side flag went against them, a Kirton player sadly got himself sent off for punching the linesman. Fortunately things settled down after that.

Kirton took the lead with a looping finish followed by an all out assault on the home goal in search

of an equaliser. The addition of Super Sam Melson and Marv Gadgie gave fresh impetus to the attack and Fosdyke went close a number of times. Kirton however held out and grabbed a break away third in the last minute to progress.

It was a great battling performance where Fosdyke were always in the game and holding our own. Man of the Match was Sam Melson who made a huge difference in the second half.

LEAGUE DEFEAT

Saturday, 22 April
Kirton Town 4 - 1 Fosdyke

A 4-1 defeat at Graves Park yesterday was a little harsh and flattered Fosdyke's hosts Kirton Town somewhat but that's the reality of life in Division 1. If you give good players opportunities they will score.

The first opportunity Fosdyke gave the opposition was when a long ball caught out the back line and the rampaging striker had his heels clipped. Staying on his feet he was faced by a quick off his line

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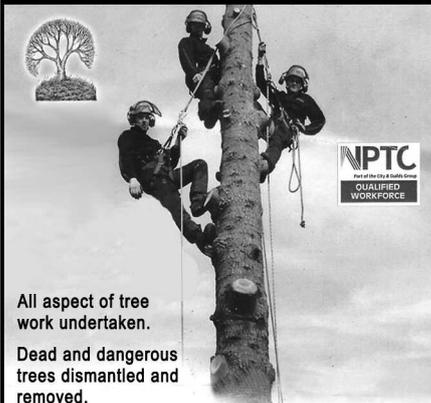
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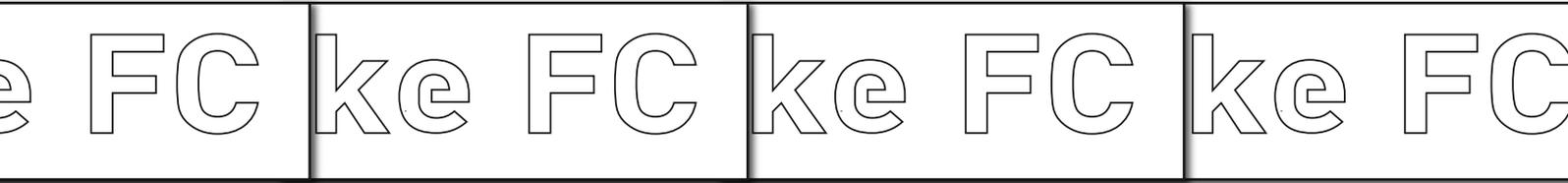


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Tristan Thomas Gilbert who made a fine block only to see the referee go back and give the penalty for the initial foul. The penalty was put away and Fosdyke were 1-0 down.

At this point the game was very even and Lloyd Mccann was inches away from connecting with a header that would have drawn Fosdyke level.

Then, as they seem to do, Fosdyke gave away two soft goals. Long ball over the top and well ... it was 3-0 before they knew what had hit them.

The second half saw Fosdyke really go for it and apply a huge amount of pressure on their hosts goal but the finishing touch just could not be found.

Daniel Fletcher made a fine auxillary striker and went close with a header and then after tackling the keeper saw his shot roll agonisingly wide of the post by inches. Narrow margins and all that. The performance of everyone in the second half was notched up a gear and if only that goal would have come who knows?

Typically Fosdyke conceded a fourth on the break but finally they did have some luck, a penalty that was dispatched by James Munn it was in the ninetieth minute and time had ran out for any sort of speculative fight back!

Man of the Match? Lee Nicolson in his first start impressed greatly at left back but the award this week goes to Mighty Michael Beauchamp who was outstanding in the midfield and then, when switched in to the back line, was Bobby Moore-esque with some expertly timed last ditch tackles.

Uncle Jack made a top-draw save in first half kept it 1-0 to Fosdyke at half-time with a goal from Jamie Clark. Dave Clarey then got another from the penalty spot for Fosdyke, and the team soaked up any pressure in the second half before Clarey buried his second when he got on the end of a cross from Joe Martin.

The rest of the game was end to end and sadly the Mareham striker volleyed a great goal to take away a deserved clean sheet but the win is what Fosdyke needed to end the season on, giving them renewed confidence for next season.

END ON WIN!

Saturday, 22 April
Fosdyke Res 3
- 1 Mareham United

What a way to finish the season A well-deserved 3-1 win. The whole team was man of the match!

MORE OF SAME

Saturday, 29 April
Fosdyke 1 - 4 Frieston

The same old story. Copy and paste. Home against Frieston and there really wasn't that much in the game but Fosdyke lost 4-1.

First half saw the visitors dominate with Fosdyke looking to hit them on the break. Chris Chapman went close when Leon Marsh teed him up in the area but it

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

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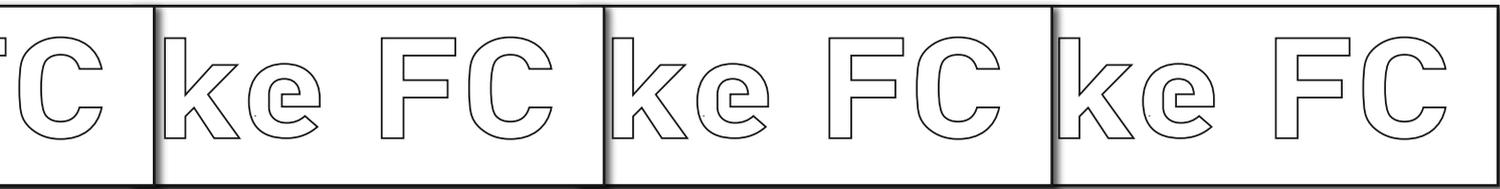
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was the visiting side who took the lead. A great cross from the Frieston winger was nodded home after about ten minutes, before two further quick goals followed which were down to slack marking and a lack of concentration in defence.

Yet Fosdyke fought back with Zac Chapman going close when he burst away and saw his fierce drive go just wide before Leon Marsh had the ball in the net only for the off side flag to be raised and the goal chalked off.

The second half saw a resurgent Fosdyke dominate and Frieston hit them on the break. It was the visitors who extended their lead when they added a well taken fourth before sub James Waldron hit a late consolation for Fosdyke. Further chances came for the men in Tangerine but if you don't put the away you don't win games.

Man of the Match? Dynamite Danny Beecham was Fosdyke's most positive attacking force and ran himself ragged.

CURTAIN DOWN

Saturday, 6 May
Fishtoft 7 - 1 Fosdyke

The curtain came down on a dismal season in typically "game of two halves" fashion with 1-7 defeat at Fishtoft.

The first half saw both teams go close and although Fishtoft were by far the dominant side, Fosdyke stuck to the task of defending and seeing what they could get on the break.

James Munn had a rasping free kick parried away by the keeper and a turn and shoot on the edge of the box moment almost saw Leon Marsh open the scoring.

At the other end Josh Eldred and Ben Parker were in inspired form blocking shot after shot and keeping the ball away from our net. Tristan Thomas Gilbert between the sticks looked equally solid. It was heart breaking then, to concede with the final kick of the half as a cross to the back post eluded everyone but for the Fishtoft striker who knocked the ball back across the keeper in to the net.

Within a minute of the restart Fosdyke were two down after a fantastic strike from a Fishtoft attacker curled past the keeper and getting back in to the game seemed a tougher ask. A third came minutes later but there was still hope that Fosdyke could at least trouble the scorer.

Daniel Fletcher, playing up front

won a number of headers that sent Leon Marsh and James Munn scurrying away and lead to attempts on goal which finally deservedly came when James Munn turned inside his defender and rifled a shot into the bottom corner.

It could have been better moments later when Leon almost got on the end of a cross but that was as good as it got as Fosdyke then collapsed and conceded a further four to really underline the problems they have had all season: Playing well for thirty minutes or sixty minutes is not enough. It's got to be the whole ninety minutes at this level or you get beat.

Man of the Match - Josh Eldred played with heart and commitment that deserved better so took the final Man of the Match for this year.

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Maddy, who attends Thomas Cowley High School in Donington, was up against thirteen and fourteen years olds from seven other schools in the area. and threw

17.28 metres which was a personal best for her.

She has only been throwing the discus for a year and only started training for this competition a week before the event



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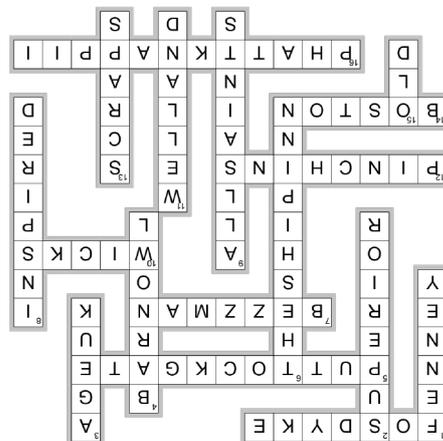
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5	7	9	2	6	1	3	8	4
1	6	7	5	8	2	4	3	9
8	9	4	1	3	7	5	2	6
2	3	5	4	9	6	1	7	8
7	4	1	8	2	3	9	6	5
9	2	8	6	1	5	7	4	3
3	5	6	7	4	9	8	1	2

1. Okay by me; 2. H2O
3. Make a monkey out of him

THE FENNEY MYSTERIES

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What Goes Around Comes Around

Jane Lacey-Crane

PART 3

The drive to Kent from Fenney had been long. An accident on the M25 and queues at the Dartford Bridge had managed to turn an already lengthy journey into an interminable one. By the time Gould pulled into the car park of the Maidstone Premier Inn he was tired, stressed and hungry.

'Hey, Catriona, wake up. We're here.' Gould tried to wake his sleeping passenger as gently as he could. Catriona opened one eye and yawned.

'How long have I been asleep?'

'About an hour. You dozed off just as we came across the bridge and I've been listening to you snore since then.'

Catriona sat up. 'You should have woken me. I said I'd keep you company. And I do not snore!' She looked indignant at the very idea and Gould laughed.

'It's fine. I had the radio on to keep me company and drown out the noise you were making.'

Catriona punched him on the arm. 'That's not funny.' She reached up and stretched her arms above her head. 'I need a drink.'

'I think we might be out of luck.' Gould gestured to the pub that was attached to the hotel. The bar was in darkness; the only light was coming from the hotel reception next door.

'You'll have to make do with a cuppa in the room,' said Gould, opening the door and getting out. After almost five hours cooped up, Gould's back was aching just enough to make him feel his age for a minute. He watched Catriona spring out of the car and head around to the boot. Not for the first time he wondered what she saw in him. He was fifteen years older, greying at the temples and wrinkling around the eyes. Almost as if she'd read his mind, Catriona hauled her bag out of the boot and came around to his side of the car. She rose up onto her tiptoes and planted a kiss on his mouth.

'Come on old man, let's get you inside and I'll make you a cocoa.'

'Oi! Less of the old man.'

'That'll teach you to tell me I snore, won't it?' Catriona winked at him and headed into the hotel reception.

* * *

Gould woke the next morning feeling tired and stressed. The bed was hard and the pillows were too soft. So much for the hotel's 'good night's sleep guarantee', he thought. Sitting up, he scrubbed his face roughly with his hands to clear away the fog. He could hear the shower going in the bathroom and for a second he considered going in and joining Catriona but he was distracted by the pile of papers on the dressing table. It looked like she'd been up for a while and had sorted the papers into groups for each of the dead men. It was disheartening to realise that the smallest pile was everything they had on the first person they were here to investigate.

Dave Coombs, aged fifty-one, killed in a car accident on his way home from a night out. The newspaper clipping included a picture of the scene, a secluded stretch of country road, bordered on both sides by high hedges. The article mentioned how the car had been going too fast as it reached a bend and the driver had lost control. The implication in the report was that Dave had been drinking and had unwisely chosen to drive himself home. No other cars were involved but the police were asking for the driver of a red Peugeot seen nearby at the time of the crash, to come forward with any information they might have.

Gould picked up the Lilliputian sized kettle on the dressing table and took it to the bathroom to fill. He needed a cup of tea before he could even think about starting his day. Steam poured out of the door as he went in and Catriona poked her head around the shower curtain.

'Are you coming in?' she asked.

'Tempting but we don't have time. We're due to see Dave Coombs' widow at nine.'

Catriona shrugged. 'Suit yourself.' She stepped out of the shower and squeezed past Gould to grab a towel. 'I read about the accident before I got in the shower,' she said, 'seems like a fairly typical case of too much booze and not enough brains getting behind the wheel.'

'I agree but I want to talk to his wife before I make up my mind.'

Catriona finished rubbing herself dry and threw the damp towel at Gould.

'Better get on with it then Detective.'

* * *

Dave Coombs house was a modest 1960's semi, that sat anonymously in a long street of other

unremarkably modest 1960's semi's. So far, so depressingly normal, thought Gould as he navigated into a parking space. As they made their way up the path to the house, Gould noticed the curtains in next door's front window twitching. New car and new faces were obviously cause for gossip in this little corner of the world.

'Should I wait in the car, do you think?' asked Catriona.

'Why?'

'I don't know. Don't want the poor woman to feel pressured. She knows you but I'm a total stranger. She might feel uncomfortable talking in front of me.'

Gould smiled. From what he could remember about Dave Coombs' wife, she wasn't exactly shy. He'd been at plenty of parties and barbecues back in the day that had ended with Barbara Coombs belting out showtunes whilst dancing on a table. Or passing out drunk under a table. He'd still been married then but by that stage his wife had given up attending work functions with him. The writing was on the wall for that relationship even way back then.

'You're fine,' he said. Gould heard a key being turned in the door and then it was slowly pulled open. Two bleary eyes peered out from under a head of frizzy red curls.

'Yes? Can I help you?'

Gould moved closer. 'Barbara, it's me. Ian Gould. Do you remember, we spoke on the phone yesterday? I used to work with Dave.'

The woman looked confused for a few seconds but then she seemed to rally herself. She straightened up and began patting her hair self-consciously.

'Of course! I remember. Ian. That's right. Sorry, please come in.' She stepped back, holding the door open wide for them and Gould and Catriona walked in. 'Please, go through into the front room. I'll be with you in just a sec.'

They made their way into the room but only barely; it was a mess. Crockery and glasses, newspapers and clothes, every chair and surface had something on it.

'What the hell?' Gould was shocked. Barbara had always been obsessed with keeping her house clean and tidy. He thought back to all the times that Dave would come in to work complaining about his wife's passion for neatness. Over in the far corner something moved.

'Please don't let it be a mouse,' said Catriona, shrinking to Gould's side, 'I will freak out if it's a mouse.'

'It's just a cat, look.' The black moggy carefully made its way along the windowsill, skilfully avoiding the dirty glasses that were stacked there, and then jumped down and ran out of the room.

'I can't stand cats,' shuddered Catriona.

'Here I am!' Barbara came into the room behind them. She'd tidied her hair a bit and had changed out of her dressing gown and into a tracksuit. 'Let me just

clear up a bit for you, so you can sit down.' She moved quickly around the room, picking up papers and piling them in the corner. 'Sit, sit,' she urged. Gould and Catriona perched on the edge of the sofa and Barbara sat down in the armchair opposite.

'How are you?' asked Ian. 'I was so sorry to hear about Dave, I didn't know he'd passed away until a few days ago.'

Barbara waved a dismissive hand. 'It's fine, I didn't expect to hear from anyone off the job. Dave lost touch with everyone when we moved here. I told him he should go out and meet up with people more but he didn't want to. He said he liked it quiet, didn't need to go out.'

'That must have been hard for you?' asked Catriona. Barbara looked surprised by the question.

'Didn't really seem to matter what I thought,' she sniffed, 'Dave said he just wanted to forget about everything he'd seen after all those years in the Met and concentrate on finding some peace for once. Didn't matter that I was bored out of my mind, oh no, that was fine.' She pulled a well-used tissue out from her sleeve and blew her nose.

Gould thought about this for a minute; the newspaper said the accident had happened when Dave was driving home from a night out. It didn't make sense.

'So where had he been on the night he was killed then?' asked Catriona. They'd obviously both had the same thought. 'The newspaper implied that he'd been out and that he was drunk when he got behind the wheel.'

'He was not drunk! How dare you say such a thing! Who the bloody hell are you anyway?' Barbara stood, eyes flashing. 'Dave gave up drinking almost ten years ago. I was the drunk in this relationship, not him! Dave was a good man, he would never do such a stupid thing, never!'

'I'm so sorry,' Catriona stammered, 'I didn't mean to upset you ... I ...'

'I went to bed that night, drunk as usual. I must have passed out or something. I didn't even know he'd gone out until the police came knocking in the early hours to tell me what had happened to him. That's the part I can't get my head around. I'd left him downstairs watching the telly. Why did he leave the house?'

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

Jane Lacey-Crane lives in Pinchbeck and belongs to the Red Wine Writers group



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