

EQUINE FUN DAY



On Sunday, 9 July between 2 pm and 4 pm a wide selection of Fosdyke residents and people from outside the village visited Sunset Farm in Mill Lane to find out more about horses and EAL. It was a free event for all the family where they could experience the positive benefits of horses. Activities included meeting the horses and ponies, a nature trail and treasure hunt, grooming and leading the ponies through an obstacle course (as you can see from the above photo). Hot and cold refreshments were also served.

The idea of Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) is that spending time with horses will positively and permanently change your life.

EAL is very different to other well-known types of Equine Therapy, such as that Riding For The Disabled where the emphasis is on the physical benefits that individuals can experience through

riding horses.

While there are physical benefits to EAL, its focus is on the emotional, spiritual and mental influence that spending time with horses has on your life. EAL is experiential, meaning you learn by “doing” and the horse is a facilitator, a living breathing being who helps to direct your session, making it a

combination of education, therapy and fun.

EAL is a great way to improve your confidence, communication and self-esteem and is very empowering, with the horse’s honest reaction to your actions and behaviour giving you a deeper understanding of yourself. Even at its simplest level EAL gives you a sense of achievement and wellbeing that is both lasting and valuable. In today’s busy world you need to take time out for yourself and EAL enables you to discover a feeling of inner peace, to simply “be in the moment” and away from all the stresses and strains of modern life.

WELL DONE PARISH COUNCIL

We’d like to commend the parish council for catching up with the minutes on their website, easily accessed by going to fosdyke.org.uk. The June minutes were up when we went to press. July minutes won’t be available until approved at the next meeting, though there are recommendations that encourage councils to publish notes (unapproved minutes) within a month of a meeting.

However, the link to the minutes of the May meeting only bring up the agenda, not the minutes. We’re all human and sometimes Fosdyke Magazine doesn’t get things right either so we’ll score them 7/10. We’d have given them an 8/10 if not for the link error and if ever notes from a meeting appear within a month of a meeting then they’ll get a 10 from us.

Chris Andrews' **WILD**  **TIMES**
Marvelous Moths

Welcome again to the monthly RSPB column. This month we are looking at moths. “Moths?” I hear you cry. “Why on earth would anyone be interested in them? Drab brown things that eat holes in my clothes and bash against the window at night”. Well, no. If you look into things you’ll discover a whole other side to them.

Right, let’s start off with their eating holes in your clothes. Yes, there is a species of moth which can cause holes in your favourite cashmere sweater. It is even called the clothes moth, which is a bit of a giveaway. But that is just one species, as opposed to the 3500 or so species that live in the UK. That’s a lot of different moths, all of whom are far more interested in sipping nectar from your garden flowers than they are in your frocks and socks. And even then, you only have to worry if your clothes are made from natural materials. Modern synthetic fabrics like nylon and polyester hold no place on the moth’s menu. It isn’t even the adult moths that do the nibbling, but their caterpillars.

OK, but they are all dull brown things, aren’t they? Well ok, some are. Anything that spends most of the daylight hours sleeping needs some form of defence against being

eaten by sharp-eyed birds. Camouflage is the most obvious answer, hence many different variations on brown. But some moths can be pretty spectacular. Elephant hawkmoths for example are a riot of bright pink and lime green. Others hide their colours under drab upper wings, but when they fly reveal yellow or crimson underwings. Not to forget the day-flying moths, who can be just as colourful as the butterflies. Yes, there are such things as moths which fly during the day; it isn’t just the preserve of butterflies. In fact, the distinction between a moth and a butterfly is a pretty artificial one. Scientifically speaking, they are all really one and the same thing.

So, flying into lights. Well yes, they do this (and no-one knows why) but it does allow us to get some really good views. Commercial kits exist to trap moths so they can be examined and then



Poplar Hawk Moth, courtesy Chris Andrews

The chap in the photo above is Dan Snowden, who was an intern here a couple of years ago and since become assistant warden at an RSPB reserve in Kent. We take our internships very seriously, and so far everyone who has done one with us has gone on to a paid position.

Been there, cleaned that
Small house and larger family houses

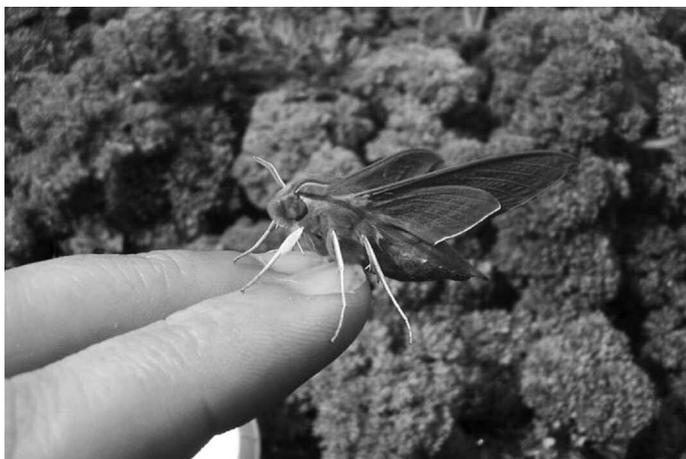


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Poplar Hawk Moth, courtesy Chris Andrews



Elephant Hawk Moth, courtesy Chris Andrews



Mint Moth, courtesy Neil Smith

released unharmed. But you can do the same in your own garden just with a desk lamp and a white sheet. Shining the light at the sheet will bring lots of moths in to rest on the sheet, where you can have a really good close view of them. Some can even be persuaded to sit on the end of your finger. You couldn't do that with a butterfly, could you? July is a great time for moths in Lincolnshire, with the warmer nights being a good time for the adults to fly about their business.

And what do moths do? Well, mostly they drink nectar from flowers. Like butterflies they have specially adapted straw-like mouthparts, ideal for sucking up the sweet liquid. There is one day-flying moth where this is particularly noticeable. Hummingbird hawkmoths do look just like hummingbirds, as they hover in front of flowers. They then unfurl their long proboscis to suck the nectar.

a defence against predators such as birds. They then advertise this by being black and yellow, universal warning colours. The toxins stay even when the moth has become an adult. Only then the warning colours are red and black. At this time of year though the caterpillars seem to be everywhere. They can easily strip all the leaves off a ragwort plant, and then go trundling off looking for me. So watch where you step, and learn to appreciate the beauty of moths!

One of the most noticeable moths about at the moment though is not the adult, but the caterpillar. I am sure many of you are familiar with ragwort, the yellow flowering plant. Not particularly beloved by those with horses or livestock as it is poisonous. But a nice tasty treat for the caterpillars of the cinnabar moth. The caterpillars are untouched by the toxins, and store them in their own bodies, to act as



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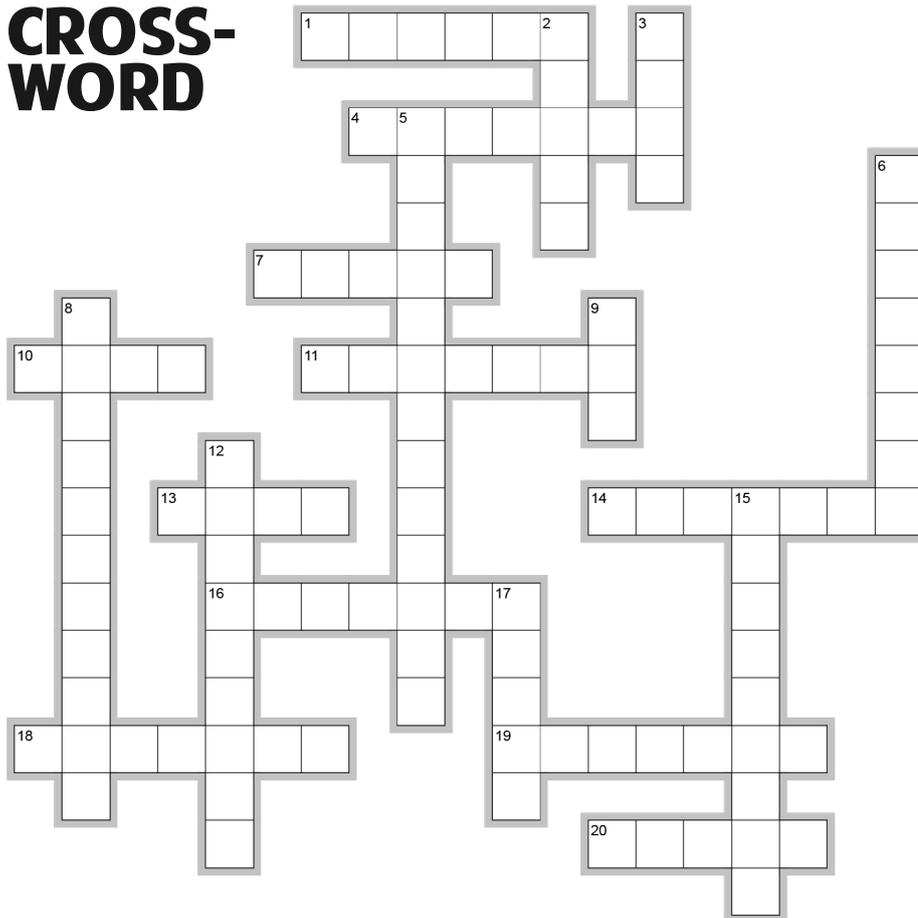
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Cinnabar moth caterpillars, courtesy Neil Smith

PUZZLES PAGE

CROSS-WORD



Across

1. The dog star (6)
4. Hanging gardens (7)
7. Flat ring for throwing (5)
10. An agreement (4)
11. Church tower (7)
13. Game played on horses (4)
14. Cinderella's coach (7)
16. Vegetables originally purple (7)
18. Half human half horse (7)
19. Greek epic poem (7)
20. Female fox (5)

Down

2. Pertaining from the sun (5)
3. Large sea fish of the mackerel family (4)
5. Able to use both hands alike (13)
6. Greek sea god (8)
8. Naked chef (5 & 6)
9. Moisture deposited from the air on cooling at night (3)
12. Thin white earthenware (9)
15. Instrument for counting paces (9)
17. Wrinkly leaved cabbage (5)

SUDOKU

Solutions Page 18

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SCRAPPED

If you were a fan of fish and chips van Scraps that stopped in the village on Friday evenings you'll no doubt have realised they've ceased trading.

After a couple of years they have decided to pack it in. We heard that the van needed a lot of work so it was no doubt a case of costs. A shame that we won't be hearing the sound of "Star Wars" again on a Friday night.

We noticed recently that Sutterton Fish & Chips shop was also up for sale as a going concern. Hopefully we won't lose that nearby facility as well.

On a happier note, for those who hadn't realised, The Codfather in Kirton has reopened after the fire that closed them down in May.

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MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT BENEFITS

We can now report that the Fosdyke Vintage Tractor Run - held on Sunday, 7 May a very successful day and the event raised £3,381.20 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Julie Nicol, one of the organisers would like to thank everyone who helped and supported this local event.

EAL CHOICE AT ASDA

If you were in Asda in Boston recently you may have noticed that one of the local charities being supported was EAL which, as you can see from the story on the front page is well worth supporting.

We hope you popped your tokens in their box to help them and support a worthwhile concern in Fosdyke.



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MAKING HAY WHILE . . .

July is always a busy and exciting time for farmers especially for those who grow cereals or oil seed rape as the harvest period has started. I saw my first combine of the season today whilst driving home harvesting oil seed rape, but they have been on the move for over a week now further south, which is a good two weeks earlier this year than the average. Drought conditions earlier on in the year has had varying effects on yields with crops on lighter soil types recording lower yields and poorer quality than crops grown on heavier soil types. No surprise with a bone-dry spring followed by extreme heat in June leading to some crops dying on their feet.

optimum quality and back to the process plant for freezing within two and a half hours it is a military operation running 7 days a week 24 hour a day.

The UK is the largest producer and consumer of frozen peas in Europe and is 90% self sufficient with over 35,000 hectares grown each year which is equivalent to 70,000 football pitches. Around 2 billion portions of peas will be harvested each year with the average person eating 9,000 peas a year. The expensive machinery and exact precision at harvesting requires great collaboration from 20 farmer groups consisting of 700 farmers along the east coast from Essex to the north of Dundee with

This week (10th July – 16th July) is Great British Pea Week launched by the Yes Peas! Campaign and the British Growers Association celebrating the British pea harvest.

The pea vining team have been around the area over the past few weeks as some of you may have been unlucky enough to get stuck behind one of the convoys of four or five huge pea viners when they move from field to field as I was a couple of days ago. Although irritating at the time you can't help but be impressed at the scale of the operation or when you see them all lined up in a row clearing a field of peas in no time at all. With only a relatively small harvest window to get the peas harvested at the



Martin's Farm

the east coast providing the ideal environment for growing superior quality peas.

Salad Harvest

We have been busy combining the stock seed crops at work starting with salad rocket, kale, wild rocket.

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Hay Harvest

The first couple of grass fields are ready for second cut which should make some good quality hay and was cut today (Friday 14th). I will make small conventional bales with this which we use for the goat herd. Small bales (conventional) are becoming much less common due to the high

equivalent to approx. 50 small conventional bales. Large volumes of crop can be baled very quickly and efficiently with the handling all done by machines as opposed to a team of people man handling small bales. We will then be waiting for the local farmers to start combining as we buy straw off the field and bale it ourselves to use as winter bedding for the cows along with having a good supply to sell.

Land cress and onions. The larger batches are harvested through a mini combine harvester which looks exactly like the combines you see in the fields harvesting cereals and the working principles are the same but on a miniature scale. The smaller trial batches are cut and left to dry and then either thrashed by hand or a small electric thrasher is used. It seems very strange at the time driving a combine harvester into a glasshouse!

labour input and costs required to handle them. Large square or round bales are now common place as each one can weigh between 250 – 500kg with a 500kg bale being

All hopes are now on a settled period of good weather so that the combines can continue to roll and we can carry on making hay while the sun shines.



The small glasshouse combine harvester

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NEW VICAR

The Revd Paul Blanch comes to join us as our new Vicar as from 4 September



My spiritual journey began as a small child, when I was raised in a committed and active Church of England family whose daily life was immersed in the life of the local church and parish. I was one of those fortunate children who was taught to pray at home, but also led by example to worship with the family, Sunday by Sunday, at the parish Eucharist in our active and lively village church. My early years, from around the age of five years onwards, were further influenced by attendance at a Church of England school, and I can look back to those days as powerful, profound and spiritually heady!

By the age of sixteen, I had

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volunteered for active service with the Church Army through their exciting young people's scheme of Christian service. For me, this brought together the balance of an active faith with 'hands on' service, and it is an experience I will never forget. My journey to priesthood came to fruition in my late-twenties, and my time at Chichester Theological College was a very significant experience. This formed me for parish ministry in what has since been a diverse and exciting ministry over thirty-one years.

The liberal Catholic tradition of the Church is where I see myself being most fulfilled in ministry, and I still feel very inspired to give of my best in leading good-quality liturgical and spiritual worship, alongside investing in challenging teaching and relevant preaching. My experience in a variety of ministerial locations, both in the UK and the USA, has given me an insight into the breadth of the Christian tradition, meaning that I can adapt, accept and apply myself to the many different ways of being 'church'. This has contributed greatly to my experience of seeing growing congregations and supporting others on their spiritual journey. So, from ex-mining communities to rural East Anglia, via the Potteries of Staffordshire, and on to New York and California, I now look forward to a new ministry in the Fens!

Along with my wife, Maggie, we are really looking forward to our move back to the UK, and to taking up the role that I feel very much called to in the Benefice of Kirton in Holland, Algarkirk and Fosdyke.

KING JOHN'S TREASURE

Legend has it that crown jewels, gold and money were lost in the medieval mud of the fens in 1216.

It was the year after the Magna Carta was sealed, the country was in revolt and King John was having to quell rebellion uprisings. He had been travelling from the port of King's Lynn to Lincoln, passing through Fosdyke, when, according

to historical chronicles, the treasure was lost.

It has since become one of the most sought after troves in the country.

Now, clues about the disappearance of King John's treasure have been unearthed in a "game changing" archaeological survey, according to experts.

In a light hearted take from this, we thought we would have a treasure hunt in and around the village church on the weekend of September 9 and 10. There will be a set of clues to follow and the chance to look at some of the ancient documents and relics of our own church – who knows – you might find our 'treasure' and win the prize.

That's enough information for now.

Full details in next months Magazine.

POP-IN LUNCH

The next Pop-In Community Lunch is planned for Fosdyke village hall from 12.30 on Tuesday 12th September, when the menu will feature home-made steak pie. Please remember to book early to avoid disappointment on

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CHURCHYARD VOLUNTEER

Thanks so much to our new Garden of Rest Volunteer who has already sprayed the area for weed and will be setting grass in September to begin the process of beautifying the area and making it a little more respectful and appropriate.

CHURCHYARD 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.

Sunday, 30 July Group Service at Algarkirk Holy Communion

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.

Sunday, 6 August Holy Communion

9.30am

Sunday, 20 August Morning Worship

9.30am

Lincolnshire people talk for England



In place of a bishop's letter this month, the Revd David Dadswell, Bishop's Strategic Implementation Adviser and a member of Bishop Christopher's immediate staff, introduces himself and his role in the diocese.

Dear Friends

The pea harvest has just started as I write this. Huge machinery is marching across the fields with great urgency to gather and freeze the precious crop, so it can appear fresh and tasty on our tables into the darkest winter months. Harvest is a strong image for us as Christians. We need to be out in the fields telling people about Jesus, healing people's wounds, building lively communities where God's kingdom of justice and love transforms lives for the better.

It was a great joy and privilege for me when Bishop Christopher invited me to join his staff as a fellow worker in the harvest. The role he has asked me to fill is all about helping the diocese at all levels to deliver on its promises, particularly through the diocese's strategy and the learning communities. I've come from 20 years as an organisational consultant and bring insights and skills about structures, systems,

ways of working and culture that enable what we want to happen to come into reality. So far I've been astounded at the variety of imaginative things going on in the diocese, at the commitment to making a difference and at the ability of Lincolnshire people to talk for England! That last feature is great for someone new to this sort of job. I've been getting huge amounts of information and insights into what it's like being the Church here – the challenges, the strengths, the history and the possibilities.

Something I learned as a consultant is that you're not the person who delivers the product. I hope that the work I will be doing with you will be useful and constructive, but it will only make sense if it helps you to be effective as an ambassador for Christ in your workplace, your community, your circle of friends, your place of education.

I look forward to meeting more of you friendly folk of greater Lincolnshire, and I ask for your prayers for the work I and my colleagues are doing to support your Christian witness.

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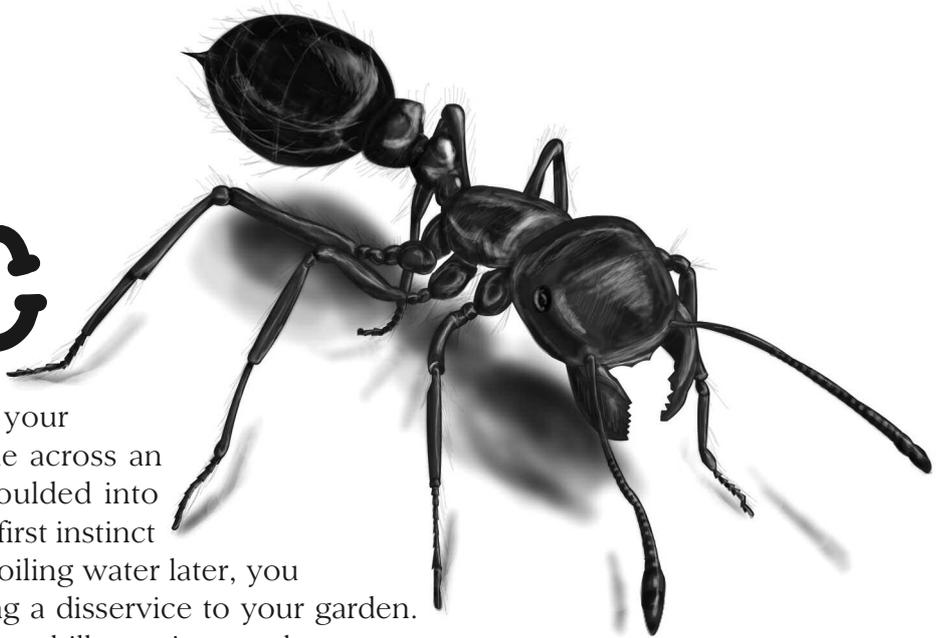
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Ant music



When you wander through your lawn or garden and stumble across an anthill, a small mound of soil moulded into tiny pellets, it's often a gardener's first instinct to destroy it. Much powder and boiling water later, you may find that you're actually doing a disservice to your garden.

Though most gardeners find these anthills a nuisance, they are our first clue to the important, helpful roles ants play in gardens and lawns—they're tiny rotovators. Tunnelling ants turn over as much soil as earthworms do, aerating the soil and redistributing nutrients. Ants are also part of the world recycling crew: acting as scavengers, collecting dead insects and turning them into fertilizer for your soil.

Gardener's friend

Rather than being seen as pests, ants can be understood as our partners in gardening. One of the most easily observed and important roles that ants play is as seed dispersers. In the temperate regions, ants disperse woodland spring wildflowers, such as bleeding heart, trout lilies, and most violets. They conduct this same role with flowering plants across the country. This enterprise is so beneficial that plants appear to have adjusted the timing of flowering and fruiting to take advantage of high ant activity early in the year.

Another advantage of having ants in your garden is protection from herbivores. Ants are attracted to the nectar found on the plant stem or sepals (not the nectar found in flowers that is used by pollinators). The ants patrol these plants and disturb herbivores and seed-eating insects by attacking them, by causing them to fall off the plants, or by interrupting feeding, egg laying, courtship, or moulting. The ants crawling all over sticky peony buds in early summer, for example, protect them from

enemies, and the ants are rewarded with a rich food source. Some plants also reward this pro-active role by housing ants in special structures, in addition to

providing them with food rich in proteins, lipids, and carbohydrates.

Ant protection from predation is also beneficial for some of our most common insects. The caterpillars of some butterfly groups produce a sweet substance known as honeydew to attract ant protectors. The ants "farm" the caterpillars, sometimes even carrying them into

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the ant nests to complete development. This interaction can add more butterflies and birds to your garden as they become attracted to the greater insect activity.

Ants can cause concern but they are a nuisance rather than destructive pests. They do little damage to plants themselves, except by disturbing soil around plant roots and depositing it on the surface during their nest building activities. This can be a nuisance on lawns and where low-growing plants are being buried by excavated soil.

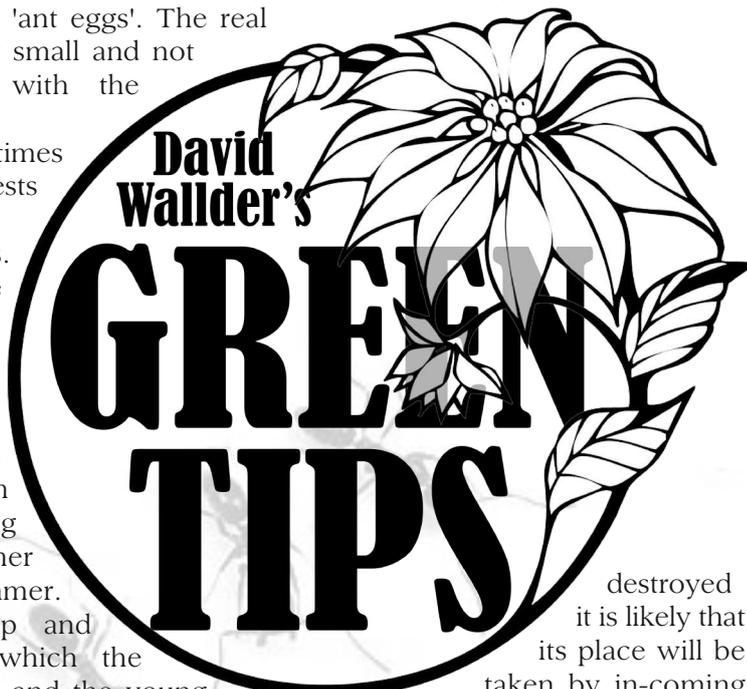
Life cycle

They have an extraordinary life cycle. Ant nests contain one or more fertile female ants, known as queen ants, which lay eggs in brood chambers within the nest. Most of the other ants in a nest are smaller wingless sterile females, which are known as worker ants. Their role is to maintain, guard and enlarge the nest, feed the larvae and gather food for the colony.

Some species of ants pupate inside spindle-shaped whitish-brown silk cocoons. These cocoons are often mistakenly referred to as 'ant eggs'. The real eggs are very small and not easily seen with the naked eye

At certain times of year, ant nests produce winged ants. These are young queens and male ants, which often emerge en masse from nests during humid weather in the summer. These fly up and mate, after which the male ants die and the young queens try to find suitable places where they can establish new nests. Once mated, the queen ant no longer needs wings, so they are bitten off!

Learn to love your ants
Unless nests are particularly troublesome, ants are best left alone. If a colony is



destroyed it is likely that its place will be taken by in-coming queen ants, which take over the territory and establish even more new nests

Disperse ant heaps on lawns by brushing the excavated soil on a dry day before the lawn is mown, otherwise the soil will get smeared on the lawn surface by the mower

If the lawn has an uneven surface due to years of ant activity, peel back the turf in the raised areas, remove excess soil and relay the turf. This is easier to do in the winter when ants are less active

To make a real impression on ant numbers it would be necessary to destroy the nests rather than just the foraging ants. That is difficult to achieve as ant nests occupy a much larger volume of soil than the surface excavations might suggest.

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BEREAVEMENT

Our thoughts and condolences go out to the family and friends of Andrew Brooks who died recently at the age of 62. He had lived in Bell Lane for many years, though had moved away from Fosdyke a short while ago. He was a popular neighbour.



FOOTY TALK

Fosdyke Sunday FC seem serious in their bid to do well in the Spalding and District Sunday League, already sporting their new blue and yellow strip sponsored by Graphic Space in pre-season friendlies.

Both the Saturday sides are also working on their skill and fitness, trying to fit in as many friendlies as they can before the new season starts.



Fosdyke Sunday FC sporting their new kit.



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EMERGENCY CALL OUT



Obedience Competition Class

Tuesday 7 pm - 9.30 pm

Puppy Class

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General Class of mixed ability

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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.

www.petbehavioursolutions.net

For further information please ring Margaret on 01406370920 margaret.law4@gmail.com

Fosdyke Village Hall



DOG FOULING: A MESSAGE TO PET OWNERS FROM BOSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

If you walk a dog you have a legal responsibility for cleaning up after it when it defecates. It is your responsibility to clean up – not the responsibility of the parish council, the borough council, the county council... or anyone else. Everyone knows that, even if they claim not to!

No one wants to see, smell, or worse, step into, a pile of dog poo that an inconsiderate owner has knowingly left behind. Dog faeces present a real health hazard to children in particular – they can cause blindness.

Failing to clean up after your dog in this borough is now punishable by a fine of £100. In fact failing to be able to demonstrate your intention to clean up – producing a poo bag for instance – is now punishable by a £100 fine.

In addition to the borough council's own enforcement officers the council has now also enlisted the services of a private enforcement company, 3GS. Their uniformed enforcement officers, who are ex-military, will be mounting surveillance in hot-spot areas and after hours, so early morning and after-dark dog walkers can be dealt with. They are equipped to confirm an offender's identity and issue an on-the-spot fine.

The borough council is happy to accept information which can help deal with offenders, but the public is asked not to put itself at risk of confrontation in obtaining information. Please supply information such as the name and address of the alleged offender together with a description of them and their dog, the date and time of the offence and the location of the offence, so that we can investigate. All information will be dealt with in

strict confidence. Contact the enforcement team on 01205 314583.

POOL WINNER

Daniel Rhodes was the winner of the social club's recent Pools Singles competition.

CUBE NIGHT CLASH

Terry Martin, four-times winner of the social club's annual Cube Night, in the fifth year of its inception, was knocked into second place recently by Martyn Hayes.

Based loosely on TV's The Cube contestants compete in quirky tests of skill in balancing, aiming and general co-ordination, not to mention a memory game to tax the brain. Marshalled by Pauline Fish with equipment made by Ronnie Wicks these nights are always fun but with that little competitive edge that can make them tense and exciting. First lady, and in third place, was Liz Martin. So the heading could have been "Phatt Knappii whitewash The Cube".

Fosdyke Social Club

Saturday, 5 August
**WHIST
DRIVE**

8pm



Thursday, 10 August

**OPEN
MIC**

Opens 8pm - music 8.30-11pm



Saturday, 19 August

**DOMINO
DRIVE**

Open to all! - 8pm



Sunday, 20 August

**CAR
BOOT**
& TABLETOP SALE

1pm - 4pm

BBQ and bar



Saturday, 26 August

QUIZ

8 pm

Chicken/fish/scampi and
chips supper.

Members £5.50, guests £6



MATTY HAYNES

who recently toured with Leo Sayer

will be appearing on

Saturday, 2 September

Tickets: £5 members, £5.50 guests

For bookings and inquiries contact
Jane Bristow 01205 260455

MOBILE LIBRARY

Lincolnshire County Council have been playing around with the mobile library times and while the van will still be stopping outside Fosdyke Village Hall on a Monday it will only now be between 10.15 and 10.45 and not for a whole hour as was previously the case. Not a lot of time to have a browse!

WHISTFUL WINNERS

Alan White and Jane Bristow were the winning pair at the social club's July Whist Drive with John Sellars and Dave Baldwin just two points behind in second place.

A total of nine pairs took part in the drive with the next one on Saturday, 5 August.

OVER SIXTY AND BORED?

Kirton Friendship Club is a community group for the over 60s that meets every Thursday in the New Life Community Church building in Wash Road, just off the A16 near the roundabout, from 10 am until 12.30pm.

Activities include board and group games, guest speakers, outings, group quizzes, raffles, etc.

Membership is just £1 a week and everyone is welcome. For more information call Sue on 07963155225.

DONATED

Turnout may not have been high for the CPR Awareness Day at Fosdyke Social Club on Wednesday, 28 June, but the social club still donated £40 to the LIVES charity.

Those who attended were able to learn how to use a defibrillator, master the compression technique and could also have their blood pressure taken and sugar levels tested.

DEFIBRILLATOR

At the parish council meeting on 6 June (and paraphrasing some of the minutes that are now available at their website) Cllr C Cropley explained that a defibrillator was being supplied by the Community Heartbeat Trust

It was proposed that the clerk write to the village hall committee to request permission for the box to be installed on the wall of the village hall.

For more information about the Community Heartbeat Trust go to their website at communityheartbeat.org.uk.



Our Services



Do you live in Boston and South Holland? Do you need

Home Support Service - cleaning, laundry, ironing, shopping
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Activity Groups, Pop In Coffee Shop, Hearing Clinic, Chiropody

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THE FENNEY MYSTERIES

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What Goes Around Comes Around

Jane Lacey-Crane

PART 5

Gould sipped his pint and examined D.S. West closely. The young officer looked like he was barely out of training but Gould decided not to let that fact bother him too much.

"So, no bottles in the car and none on his route?"

"Nope. It was a straight road out of town, didn't take long to establish that there were no discarded whisky bottles. And his blood alcohol level suggested he must have consumed a substantial amount by the time he crashed. No doubt about that."

"How did he get so drunk then?" asked Catriona.

"No clue. But in the absence of any conflicting evidence, the officers on the scene just went with the obvious explanation."

"Lazy police work?" said Gould.

"Maybe. I wouldn't really like to comment on that."

Gould frowned and took another sip of his pint. An uncomfortable silence stretched across the table until Catriona finally spoke.

"The file mentioned something about a red Peugeot?"

West seemed surprised that Catriona had that information. He looked at Gould for clarification. Gould shrugged.

"I called in some favours and got the original case notes sent to me."

"I see. Yes, there was a red Peugeot, it left the petrol station at the same time as the victim but we haven't been able to trace it."

"No number plate from CCTV at the petrol station?" asked Gould.

West shook his head. "The number plate was obscured by dirt. We couldn't get a clear image. We appealed for the driver to come forward after the accident but so far, no luck." D.S. West stood up, buttoning his jacket. Reaching into his breast pocket, he pulled out his card and gave it to Gould.

"I'll leave you to your dinner. But if I can be of any further assistance, please get in touch." He smiled at Catriona and then turned and left.

"Call me suspicious, but I don't like him," said

Catriona, spearing a chip with her fork and waving it at Gould. "He knows more than he's letting on, you mark my words."

Gould smiled. "Is that your many years as a detective talking?"

"Oh, shut up and eat your pie."

* * *

Gould and Catriona checked out of the hotel early the next morning, to make their way to Tunbridge Wells. Catriona had managed to locate the address of Peter Well's ex-wife.

"How long have they been divorced?" asked Gould, manoeuvring into a parking space outside the house of the former Mrs Wells. Catriona checked her notes.

"Almost six years apparently. When I spoke to her on the phone yesterday she painted a very unflattering picture of her ex-husband."

"How so?"

"She caught him cheating with her best friend. She came home early from work and found them on the kitchen floor. And it wasn't the first time he'd cheated on her she said."

"Yeah, Peter always did have a bit of a wandering eye." Gould switched off the engine and he and Catriona got out. They hadn't even made it half way up the path before the front door was flung open and short blonde woman in an orange kaftan came hurrying towards them.

"Ian Gould! As I live and breathe!"

"Hello Kay, it's good to see you. You're looking well."

"That's what happens when you have a mid-life epiphany and finally get shot of a useless husband. That and giving up meat, dairy, gluten, fags and booze!"

Gould ran through her list in his head and wondered what that left?

"And who is this darling girl?" asked Kay Wells, pushing past Gould to envelope Catriona in a patchouli scented hug.

"This is Catriona Randall, she's my ... er ..."

"I'm his P.A.," said Catriona and gave Gould a small smile.

"Well, come in, come in. I've made tea." Kay linked arms with her visitors and led them towards her front door.

* * *

Ten minutes later Gould found himself wedged into a beanbag chair, nursing the foulest excuse for a cup of tea he'd ever tasted.

"It's nettle, I make it myself you know," announced Kay, proudly.

"It's lovely," said Catriona, taking a small sip and then discreetly putting her cup to one side. "Kay, when we spoke on the phone, you said you hadn't really

seen Peter that much since the divorce. Is that right?"

Kay nodded. "Yes, but I'd heard all the rumours about what he was up to. We had a lot of the same friends and they kept me up to date with his antics. Drinking, gambling, eating too much. He'd put on about five stone by the time he died. Mind you, even with all that extra weight he still managed to sleep with half the women around here." Kay shook her head. "Stupid man. Wouldn't listen to anyone when they told him to take it easy."

Gould thought he detected a faint note of sadness in her voice. "When did you speak to him last Kay?"

"He called me the night before he died. Totally out of the blue, we hadn't spoken for years.

"What did he want?" asked Catriona.

"I'm not really sure to be honest. He was drunk, obviously. He kept rambling on about mistakes he couldn't change, regrets and all that sort of thing. He told me he was sorry for everything he'd done." Kay reached into the pocket of her kaftan for a tissue and blew her nose loudly. "The next thing I heard was that his cleaning lady had found him dead in his bed the next morning. All that eating, drinking and sleeping around finally caught up with him. Silly man. Doctors said he had a heart attack in his sleep. Nothing anyone could have done."

"Was there an autopsy carried out?" asked Gould. He didn't want to trigger any alarm bells with Kay but he needed to know.

"Autopsy? No of course not, there wasn't any need. He was a prime candidate for a heart attack. It was more of a shock that he'd lasted as long as he had before it happened."

Gould felt something stir in his gut. No autopsy for Peter Wells, no proper investigation into the death of Dave Coombs; all of this was making his instincts twitch. He wasn't a fan of exhuming bodies but he was starting to feel like this might be the road he'd be forced to go down.

"Where is Peter buried?" asked Gould. Kay looked shocked.

"Buried? He's not buried anywhere, Ian. You must remember how claustrophobic he was. He always made me promise not to bury him. He's right there. See." Kay gestured towards the fireplace and to the urn sitting on the mantelpiece above it. Great, thought Gould.

* * *

"I think we're going about this the wrong way," announced Gould. They were sitting in a greasy spoon café just around the corner from Kay Wells' house. Gould had insisted they find somewhere to get a proper cuppa so he could remove all traces of Kay's nettle tea. And he wanted a bacon and egg sandwich. Catriona watched as he slathered his sandwich in tomato ketchup before taking a huge bite.

"That is so good," Gould exclaimed. Catriona reached across and wiped egg yolk from his cheek with a napkin.

"How so?" she asked.

"Eh?"

"You said we were going about this the wrong way. How so?"

"We've been looking at all these men individually. I think we need to look at them as a group, focus on what they had in common. Myself included."

"Well, you only knew each other from work, so the common denominator must be something to do with that." Catriona sipped her tea and watched Gould over the rim of her cup. She loved watching his mind whir away when he was caught up in something.

"That's it! We all worked in C.I.D for years but there was only ever one case we all worked on together. It was a big one, made it into all the papers."

"Which one?"

"Dr Jonathan Fitzgerald."

"Name doesn't ring any bells," said Catriona.

Not for the first time, Gould was reminded of their age difference.

"You were probably too young to pay much attention. It was about twenty years ago."

"I was fifteen, Ian. Too busy having crushes on popstars to keep up with current affairs."

"Dr Fitzgerald was a well-respected Harley Street surgeon. Very rich, very powerful. Lots of celebrities and politicians as clients. Although they all faded into the woodwork when he was charged with multiple counts of sexual assault on his female patients."

"Hang on, I think I do remember this. He was convicted but only served a few weeks in prison because he killed himself, didn't he?"

Gould nodded. "Yes. Left a note protesting his innocence and then hung himself in his cell."

"Oh my god, didn't his wife commit suicide too?"

"Yes. She couldn't handle the shame; the newspapers were vicious to her. All claiming that in some way she must have known what her husband was up to. He killed himself and left her to deal with everything so she shot herself in his study at their home in Knightsbridge."

"And this is the one case you all have in common?" asked Catriona.

"Yes. There were so many victims, it took all of us just to handle the witness statements."

"But what do you think the case has to do with the deaths of all your friends?"

"I'm not sure. But I know where I can go to find out. Finish your tea, we need to get to Kings Cross."

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

Fosdyke Village Hall Lottery 250 Draw - Latest Winners

96	Mrs L Burt	Fishtoft	£10
149	Mrs J Rowson	Kirton	£10
7	Mrs Y Crawford	Sutterton	£10
239	Mrs M McBurne	Holbeach	£10
243	Mrs R Hicks	Fosdyke	£15
64	Mrs A Jackson	Hubberts Bridge	£20
228	Mrs J Scotney	Swineshead	£25

Next draw: Monday 14 August at the Village Hall Bingo Night

Liz Wallder's
Book Review
WOLF HALL
 By Hilary Mantel

My husband read this book a few years ago and recommended it, but it didn't appeal to me until after watching the tv series last year. Hilary Mantel is an eccentric lady with an extraordinary voice, as you'll know if you listened to the Reeth lectures this month on radio 4 but I tried to ignore all that and take the book as it comes.

It concerns the events surrounding Thomas Cromwell as he becomes close to Henry VIII. He tries to keep the peace between the King and his first wife, Katherine of Aragon, as he tires of her and becomes besotted with Anne Boleyn. I'm sure some of us remember the rhymes from our school days and can remember that the first wife is divorced and Cromwell is there to sort out the ins and outs of the proceedings to make this so. Overlying the story is the threat to Anne that if she doesn't produce a male heir she may lose her place and possibly her head. Jane Seymour has appeared

at court by the middle of the book. It portrays Cromwell as having a well-developed sense of humour, having wicked thoughts about the elite as he's dealing with them. The narrative of the book can be puzzling, though it's written in the third person, that person is always Cromwell.

The intrigues of court life do get quite confusing at times and the cast of characters at the beginning of the book is essential to enable you to follow the plot. Normally I'm not a great lover of historical novels, but I really enjoyed this and found that it read more like a contemporary novel.

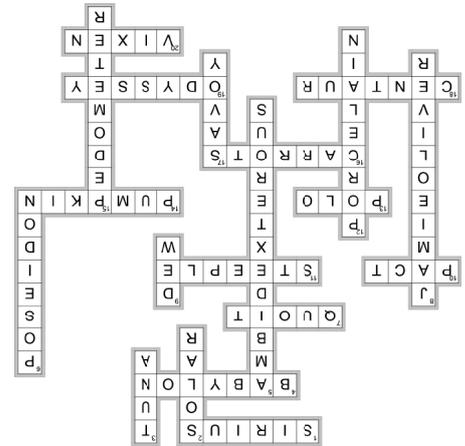
ADVISE YOUR CHILDREN

Boston Borough Council have reminded Fosdyke Social Club that only members and bona-fide guests are allowed in the club.

If you don't have a family membership please inform your children they are not allowed in the club unless accompanied by an adult member. Family membership (two adults and two children) is still only £7 a year. Individual membership is £4.50.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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



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ALMHOUSE VACANCY

Applications are invited for a one bedroom bungalow on Old Main Road, Fosdyke.

To qualify applicants must be of limited means and normally resident within either the Parish of Fosdyke or Algarkirk.

A weekly maintenance contribution will be payable.

For more information, or an application form, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees at 50 Bell Lane, Moulton, PE12 6PH (01406 370846) or sawclerk@aol.com

Closing date for applications

8 September 2017

FOSDYKE PARISH COUNCIL

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Fosdyke/>
 Clerk to the Council, Mrs. W. DePear Ferry
 House, Old Inn Lane, Fosdyke Bridge,
 Boston, Lincs PE20 2DE
 01205 260609

wdepear.clerk@btinternet.com
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 Councillor Chris Cropley Tel. 01205 260226
 Councillor Terri Wright Tel. 01205 260497

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Councillor Aaron Spencer Tel. 01205 460394
 Councillor Mike Cooper

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR for FOSDYKE

Councillor Mike Brookes Tel. 01205 820616

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 or phone: 01205 260275 or knock on the door or post your info through the letter box
 6 Whitecross Gate

no later than 14 August