

MUDDY HELL!

A call from a lady living in Mill Lane, we'll call her Miss B, prompted us to do a bit of research about the responsibility of mud left on roads by farmers (mainly).

Miss B was under the impression that the roads in Fosdyke were cleaned by BCC once a quarter. Our investigations confirmed this, although the council spokesman was unable at the time to confirm what months they were carried out. Miss B found that she had to ring the council to remind them each quarter. Last September she was unwell and failed to ring the council. No cleaning was carried out; the same again in December and March. On phoning the council she was told that the cleaning had indeed taken place as their records showed the work had been signed off. Miss B is almost certain that no road cleaning had been undertaken by the council and has since gone to the complaints ombudsman who's provisional report agrees with the council; but all they've done is check paperwork which says the rotas were fulfilled. This is where you come in.

We wondered if anyone has

seen the council cleaning the roads this year. If they have, please let us know. We hear lots of complaints from villagers about the conditions of the roads due to farmers not cleaning them or cleaning them badly, ie just spreading the mud across the road rather than removing it. Here's a quote from the Boston Borough Council website: "... those who do not take a responsible attitude and allow

mud to be deposited on roads and footways and do not take prompt and effective action to remove it are guilty of offences under the Highways Act 1980 but could be charged by the police of much more serious offences ...". So, we should all exert our right to complain to the council or police who are obliged to follow it up.

Please take the time to email mysay@fosdyke.org.uk or ring 260275. Your name will remain anonymous unless you are happy for us to use it in a report.

FLY TIPPERS PROSECUTED

The majority of residents of Fosdyke dispose of garden waste responsibly, usually by obtaining a brown bin from Boston Borough Council for a one off fee of £25. But there is a minority that seem to think they can dispose of garden waste in dykes and hedgrows. Boston Borough Council confirm that not only is this not allowed but that it is classified as fly tipping and will lead if proven to prosecution.

If you don't yet own a bin contact Boston Borough Council on 01205 311112 or you can email them fen.road@boston.gov.uk. The council is also keen to prosecute flytippers so if you do witness an offence of this

kind please call their enforcement officer Becky Shinn on 01205 314200 with all the details or you can complete the Fly-tipping report form downloadable from their website.

Keep Fosdyke tidy!

Copy Deadline

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

no later than 15 July

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What's been going on at

Fosdyke Social Club

Well, you can't get it right every time! And the Fosdyke Social club committee will be making sure any future acts that they book are thoroughly vetted first as the evening with duo One 2 One turned out to be a bit of a fiasco.

They were late in setting up, although they apologised; and, after a sound-check, went outside for cigarettes leaving the audience wondering what they'd let themselves in for and regretting paying £4 (£4.50 for non-members) for such an unprofessional start. But having paid they were determined to enjoy themselves despite a continued below-par performance which often involved the male member of the duo roving amongst the audience with a radio microphone encouraging individuals to sing. Basically it was a glorified karaoke night. So if you love karaoke you'd have been pleased!

If you decided not to support the club on that particular evening and hate karaoke you can feel smug, but, as a rule, the music evenings are always very good.

In stark comparison to the previous Saturday's 'karaoke' the Open Mic night featured live music from four different acts and no comparisons were made as there were just none to make. The Open Mic night, costing nothing to attend, could have charged far more than £4, and had people going home thinking they'd had great value for money. That they don't have to pay makes it so much more enjoyable!

So, the second Thursday of each month is still a date for your diary. Come along and see what you've been missing!

Last month's Quizmaster was Karl Fawcett who's quizzes always feature something to tax the memory cells. Surprise winners - we can't repeat the team name - were a small three-person team made up of Kerry Wright, Andrew Sedgwick and Terry Martin. Sometimes it's better to have fewer in a team. Less arguing ...

Open Mic in pics

The AGM took place on Tuesday, 10 June when the standing committee was re-elected and two new committee members, Tammie Walls and Ray Hoey joined to bring the committee up to eleven.

The year had proved to be successful and treasurer Jane Bristow thanked, in particular, Martyn Hayes, Karl Fawcett and Liz & Terry Martin for organising the very successful Open Mic nights.



Regular guitarist/singer Kiya Brown was joined by Hana Gronhaug.



Resident trio Phatt Knappii at the Open Mic night.



Debunking common myths

Is there a hobby anywhere that's more loaded with folklore and superstition than gardening? On any allotment or over the garden wall you'll find someone convinced that potatoes must be planted on Good Friday, that garlic keeps aphids away, or that human hair wards off eelworm.

So what are the common myths that have been debunked by scientific research?

Lighten clay by adding sand

Clay soil can be a gardening nightmare, particularly in some areas of Fosdyke. It turns rock-hard when dry, drains badly, takes an age to warm up in spring and is tough to cultivate. However, it holds its nutrients better than most types of soil and, if drainage can be improved, it produces bountiful plants.

Soil is a mix of minerals, organic matter, water and air. The balance

of those ingredients – and particularly the ratio of sand, silt and clay – affects quality dramatically.

Gardeners coping with particularly heavy clay soil are sometimes tempted to lighten it with sand. According to plant scientists, that will often make it worse. Sand particles are bigger than clay particles. As a consequence, clay is relatively impervious, while sand soils can absorb plenty of water.

Digging a hole and adding sand can create a sump that draws in water, drowning plants.

Converting a garden is a mammoth task. It has been estimated that you would need 250kg of sand or grit for every square metre of clay soil.

The best thing to do in this situation is to make a raised bed and then add the sand so the water has somewhere to go.

Young trees should be staked

Tough love doesn't just apply to children – it also works for trees. While it may be tempting to secure a sapling to protect it from the wind, stakes can weaken plants. It is recommended that saplings be staked for the first year to 18 months. After that you want to remove the stake because the tree can become reliant on it and you get a tree that is not as strong and stable.

Botanists showed in the 1950s that trees allowed to sway with the wind grew thicker lower trunks than those staked. They also tend to have thicker branches, but don't grow as tall. The buffeting from winds releases ethylene gas, a growth mediator that triggers the formation of wood-strengthening lignin.

The best advice is to place stakes at a 45-degree angle. They should be positioned so the prevailing wind blows the tree away from the support.

Sun through water burns leaves

There are many good reasons to avoid watering plants in the sun. But sunburn is not one of them.

The belief that water droplets on plants focus solar rays and burn foliage has persisted for generations. However, it was found that water droplets were too close to leaves to cause burning before they evaporated. The only risk was on hairy plants such as ferns, which kept the droplets far enough away to act as lens.

In the summer outdoors, it is best to water in the afternoon and evening to reduce the amount of evaporation. If you use a sprinkler system with a timer, it's best to do it before dawn because there tends to be less wind and it is cooler.

CLEAR-UP THANKS

One of the responsibilities of the Fosdyke Playing Field committee is to ensure the facilities at the playing field are maintained (and Fosdyke Social Club has a major roll in supplying funds for the upkeep of the field and children's play equipment).

Recently though they failed to notice a dirth of weeds and shrubs that had sprung up within the adventure playground area and it was left to five-year-old Daisy's parents to take it into their own hands to clear the area.

If more of us took responsibility for the village's facilities then Fosdyke would be a cleaner happier place. As the saying goes, "if you want something done, do it yourself."

The Playing Field committee

wish to thank the do-gooders in question (they'd like to remain anonymous) and are happy for parents and guardians to help maintain the facilities if they wish by pulling up weeds, etc. The equipment itself is being considered for remedial work to replace various items damaged through wear and tear. Hopefully the introduction of the teenage swings outside of the adventure playground has helped to reduce this wear and tear.

TELLY TREAT

England might be out of the World Cup but their games were well supported at Fosdyke Sports & Social Club in the group stages of the competition.

The club's usual telly was replaced by a slightly larger one for the duration of the World Cup so that fans could more fully enjoy watching the international games.

They won't able to watch England in the final though.

SOX RETURNS

Thankfully you won't be seeing the headlines "Have you seen my pussy", although that's most likely what The Sun newspaper would have used had they received the same e-mail as us.

Caroline Miller was looking after her daughter's cat but it had disappeared, and, so she thought, was most likely heading back to Boston. Shortly before going to press, however, Caroline called to say that Sox had thankfully returned safe and well.

Good news for a change!

CROW CRAP

We had a call recently from a lady who was less worried about the casual attitude of dog walkers who break the law by not picking up their dogs' faeces than the crows whose flight path seems to go right over her house.

Her and her neighbours' cars are on the receiving end of the murder as it swoops down from the horse chestnut trees around the church and heads out over Mill Lane.

She recommends a cull, but "before you apply for any licence to control wild birds, you must be sure that you have exhausted all possible ways to satisfactorily deal with them." <https://www.gov.uk/wild-birds>.

PARK PICNIC

On a sunny Sunday recently a family were spotted on Fosdyke Playing Field, not far from the swings, under the shade of a tree, having a picnic.

How nice to see the facilities used other than by footballers and dog walkers.

Fosdyke Social Club

Saturday, 5 July

POKER NIGHT



Thursday, 10 July

OPEN MIC

Doors open 7.30 pm
Music starts 8.45 pm

FREE LIVE MUSIC!
or have a go yourself!
Second Thursday of every month



Friday, 11 July

PLAYING FIELD AGM

7.30 pm



Saturday, 2 August

POKER NIGHT



Thursday, 14 August

OPEN MIC

Doors open 7.30 pm
Music starts 8.45 pm

FREE LIVE MUSIC!
or have a go yourself!
Second Thursday of every month



Saturday, 23 August

BINGO



Saturday, 30 August

QUIZ

For inquiries or to book tickets contact
Jane Bristow
01205 260455

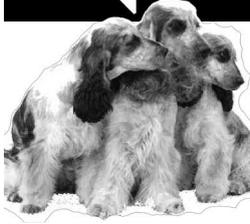


You can't rely on ranters these days, can you? In particular, Rachel is as reliable as she claims the parish council to be. She blows hot and cold (mostly cold, so it seems) and for someone struggling to find work you'd think she'd have time to write a simple column once a month. Maybe that's why she's not got a job; she's just not up to completing menial tasks. Not that writing is a menial task, but if she's not able to schedule into her busy days a little bit of scribbling then what chance has she got of holding down a job. But then, where's the transport to get her to a job?

Yet, if it's so easy to write an article, why aren't more people sending in their interesting stories ... it's usually complaints? We get telephone calls here at the Fosdyke Newsletter headquarters but rarely get a nicely typed and coherent article. And then when we decipher our own notes from the calls we get moaned at for getting the facts wrong! Sure, we're happy to edit and tidy up an e-mail or file from a memory stick or disk and even rewrite it, but we ain't professional journalists so expect a few mistakes. We do our best to check facts and remain unbiased. That's not to say don't phone us, just don't expect a one-hundred percent correct interpretation. We will do our best though.

So, back to Rachel. Do we give her another chance? Does she want another chance? Who the **** is she anyway?

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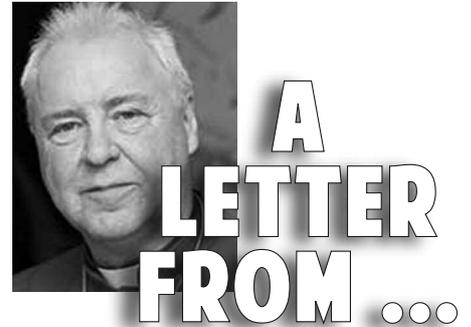
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Imagine that many of you reading this letter are preparing to take a summer holiday.

Whether you're going away or staying at home, the summer months are often a time when we're able to change gear and slow down a little. They are an opportunity for some rest and relaxation.

It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we are only doing God's work if we are busy. It is true that our faith must be expressed in action, but should only ever be part of the story. That action must be informed by prayer and reflection. The gospels tell us that Jesus often got into a boat and took himself away from the crowds after busy times, so that he could spend time alone with God. Jesus knew how important it was to make the time to do that.

When we live at a busy pace, we need rest in order for our bodies to recharge and feel rejuvenated. But there's more to it than that. Finding time to rest is essential for a life that is balanced and healthy, emotionally and spiritually as well as physically. Rest gives us time to recalibrate, to reflect and to pray, to ask ourselves, 'Am I doing the things God wants me to do in my life?' Reflecting on that question might lead us to think about doing things differently, refocusing our lives so they are once again in tune with what God is asking us to do.

So wherever you may be this summer, I encourage you to find some time simply to rest in the presence of God. May you be blessed in your rest and relaxation, and in all that you do in God's name.

Bishop Christopher



RhainStorm

We haven't had a Foslite - the feature about local people from the village - for quite a while, so when we heard about Kerry Wright and Andy Sedgwick's equestrian exploits we thought it was about time we brought the feature back.

Kerry and Andy, from Bell Lane, started RhainStorm Equestrian on Wash Road (next door to the Grey Hound rescue kennels) just under three years ago with horses they brought down from Lancashire.

After losing one of their top horses, Lotti, last summer - a very sudden unexpected death - they have continued to compete with their two remaining horses, Empire Dancer, aka Pants, and Rhain Storm Autumn Affair, aka Saffi.

Competing at showing and dressage events they have made a fantastic start to the 2014 season, taking eight first places, four second places and several other places (third to sixth) at various venues in Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire.

Pants has qualified for the Trailblazers ROR (Retraining of Racehorses) Dressage Championships, a national event at Stoneleigh Warwickshire in July and the Equifest National

Championship in the show hack category at the East of England Showground. He is currently contending for the T.A.R.A (Thoroughbred and Retrained Racehorse Association) National Championships.



Above, Empire Dancer, "Pants", qualifying for Equifest National Championships.

foslite

Saffi has qualified for the 15+ National Dressage Championships at Arena UK Grantham, an event for horses over fifteen years old, also for the 15+ National Showing Championships in the Hunter Type category.

Kerry does all the riding with grooming and transport by Andy.

Pants, an ex-racehorse who had a successful racing career winning several races and earning over £70,000 for his owners, was bought by Kerry after he retired from racing.

Saffi is a retired top class JA (Jumping Association) show jumping pony, where she had a very hectic life with weekly show jumping duties for a horsey family back in Lancashire.

Last but not least they have a small pony, Lydia, who looks after the stables when the others are out competing.

Kerry also qualified Lemar "Geri", who is owned by Cecilia Dobson from Kirton, for the 15+ National Showing Championships in the Riding Horse category.

All to look forwards to for the second half of the season.

Follow RhainStorm Equestrian on Facebook.

FOSDYKE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council, Mrs. W. DePear
Ferry House, Old Inn Lane,
Fosdyke Bridge, Boston,
Lincs PE20 2DE
01205 260609
Councillor Martin Pitt (Chairman)
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Councillor Aaron Spencer
Tel. 01205 460394
Councillor David Witts
Tel. 07929717846

LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR for FOSDYKE

Councillor Mike Brookes
Tel. 01205 820616

OVERWHELMING RESPONSE!

Well, we didn't expect anything else really. Our expectations, and no doubt yours too, were confirmed by the overwhelming apathy and lack of interest shown by almost everyone in the village. Only the McMeechan family from Whitecross Gate showed an interest by filling in the simple form on the back of last month's *Fosdyke Newsletter*.

Another good idea goes by the wayside? Maybe not. Just as we went to press some children on the swings said they were interested in the talent contest. So parents, do something for your kids. We'll give it another month. You know who to tell.



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BOWLS NEWS

Goodfellowship Bowls Club, Fosdyke's best kept secret(!), after a mediocre start to the season have started to pick up points.

They have once again been busy in the Boston Three Wood League on a Monday, the Spalding EBA Three Wood League on a Tuesday, the Spalding Two-Wood League on a Thursday and the Conningsby League on a Friday. Various members have played in area and county competition with varying degrees of success.

New club members, including one from Fosdyke, have fared quite well and proved an asset to the club, which like many bowls clubs, have seen a drop in members over recent years despite it being a sport for all ages.

For instance, Goodfellowship's youngest member is sixteen and she has trialled for England on a number of occasions.

Sue Hoyles, grandma of Fosdyke's triplets, has been looking after the green for the last few years and her hard work has paid off with heaps of compliments coming from the visiting opposition

Fosdyke Village Hall
BINGO
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POOL NEWS

After many successful years the Wigtoft Sunday and Wednesday Pool Leagues will be folding at the end of the Summer season.

With The Golden Fleece in Wigtoft almost certainly closing in October it was decided there wouldn't be enough teams to sustain a new competition. Shame!

JOIN THE 250 DRAW

The new draw starts in July so if you want to stand a chance of winning a few quid every month, and a big prize at the end of the year, contact Alan on 260654 for your tickets.

Fosdyke Village Hall Lottery 250 Draw - Latest Winners

167	Mr A Sands	Fosdyke	£10
94	Mrs J Fish	Holbeach	£10
166	Mrs E Ingham	Sutterton	£10
189	Mrs G Ashton	Pinchbeck	£10
215	Mrs F Gott	Fosdyke	£15
164	Mr S Ford	Fosdyke	£20
27	Mrs E Mapletoft	Sleaford	£25
166	Mrs E Ingham	Sutterton	£250

Next draw: Monday 14 July 2014 at the Bingo