



## FOSDYKE'S TRACTOR RALLY

A good collection of vintage and not so old tractors trundled around the local roads and lanes on Sunday, 13 May, when farmers from near and far joined forces to help raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, currently estimated at over £3,000.

The top picture shows a selection of the tractors on display at the Playing Field in Puttock Gate and the bottom picture shows the crowd at the auction and raffle. Thankfully the weather turned out nice!

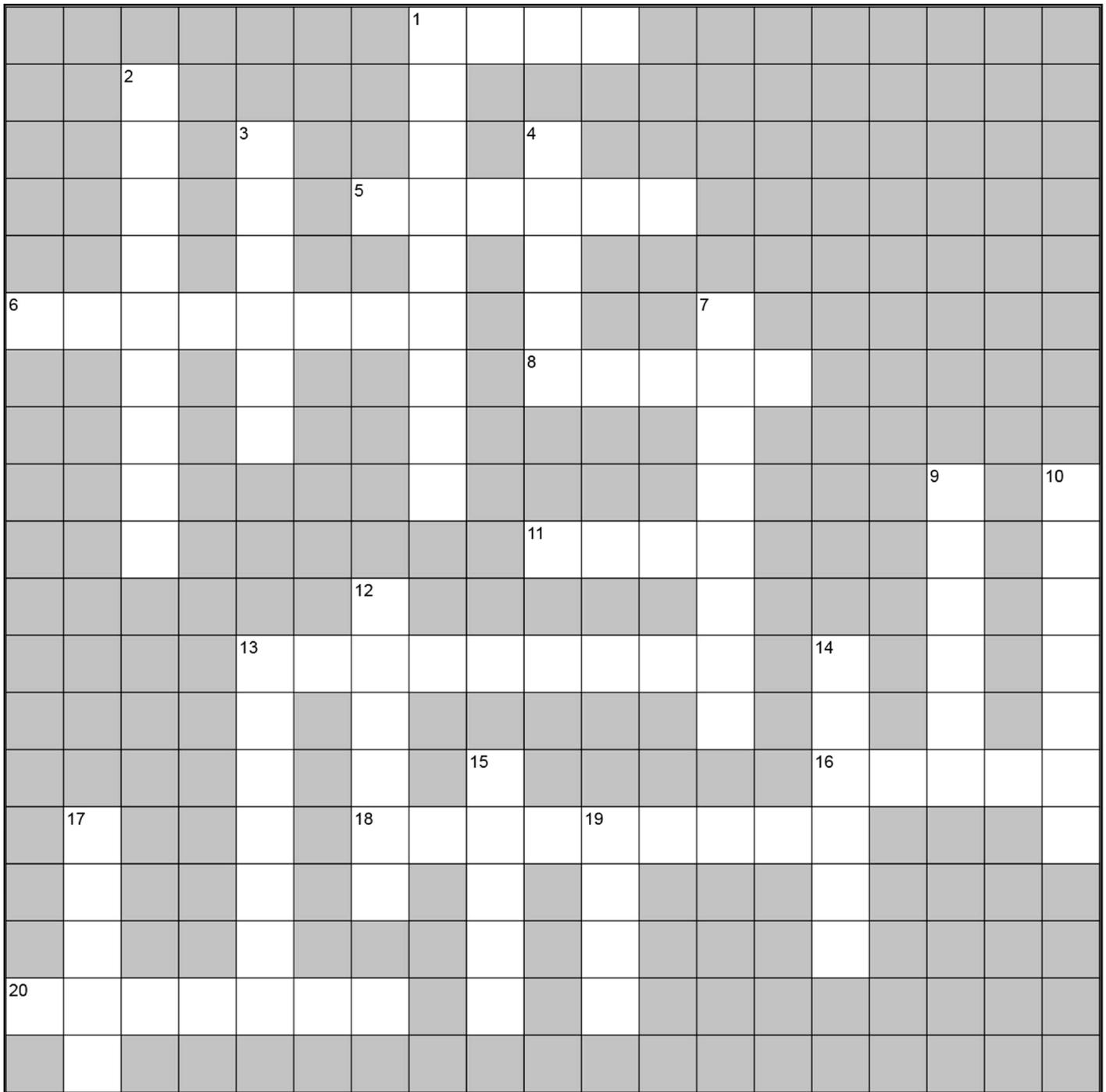


## COUNCILLORS' FAILING

It has been pointed out to us that Wigtoft and Sutterton Parish Council are able to publish their approved minutes on a regular basis. Their clerk is also the same clerk as Fosdyke Parish Council suggesting that the reason for our parish council dragging its feet falls directly on the heads of the councillors (not quite an unintentional pun).

The parish council might not have to worry about our criticisms in a few months, not that they take much notice anyway! In fact one councillor refuses to read *Fosdyke Magazine*.

**For an update on the new editorial team for *Fosdyke Magazine* see Page 8**



# Royals Puzzle

## Across

1. The Princess Royal's first husband (4)
5. Abdicated in 1936 (6)
6. Fergie's eldest daughter (8)
8. Still the Duchess of York (5)
11. Mrs Tindall (4)
13. Fourth in line to the throne (9)
16. Kate's sister (5)
18. The worlds longest serving monarch (9)
20. Prince Harry's surname (7)

## Down

1. Maiden name of the Princess of Cambridge (9)
2. The Honourable Lady Ogilvy (9)
3. Patron Saint of England (6)
4. Earl of Wessex's son (5)
7. Queen Elizabeth II sister's name (8)
9. Son of Prince Andrew of Greece (6)
10. Queen Elizabeth II eldest grandchild (7)
12. Miss Markle's christian name (6)
13. Brother to Edward and Andrew (7)
14. Countess of Wessex (6)
15. Mother of William and Harry (5)
17. Duchess of Cambridge's second son (5)
19. Only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II (4)



Solutions  
Page 13

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# Sudoku

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

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# KNAPPIINESS

Over the last few months Lincoln's Siren Radio has been playing tracks from Fosdyke band Phatt Knappii's *Love Is EP*.

The radio station has a local music spotlight show on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They have played some of the tracks more than once.

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# VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear Parishioner,

Our parish church of All Saints stands proudly at the very heart of our small village and yet it is sometimes easy to forget it is there, we almost take it for granted. But it is there and there has been a Church on the site since around 1400, serving this community, as the present Church building still does today. It is the focal point for many village events; not only for Sunday services, but for those Christmas, Harvest and Carol Services when we gather together. It is also there to welcome our parishioners and visitors for some of the most important occasions in our lives - our baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Because our church is there for us now, we tend to take it for granted and probably assume that it will always be so. Unfortunately, we will only be able to maintain the building in its present condition, continue with our current services and the same level of priestly support if we are able to pay our share of the associated costs.

The monthly cost of maintaining our Church's presence and



ministry in Fosdyke at present is around £568.

Ongoing running costs, including insurance, heating, light, maintenance of worship services, and minor repairs are heavy on a building this size and age, so it should come as no surprise that this equates to £142 per week, that is £21 per day and just short of £0.87 every hour.

All Saints is not a wealthy parish church. The Church of England ministry, which is available to the whole community, is funded mainly from the regular giving of us, the regular congregation, donations from visitors and the annual fund raisers.

We know that many of you support the church in a variety of ways already, for which we are immensely grateful. However, we need to face the reality that the church needs your help to get onto a secure financial footing. Ideally, we

need to do this through regular giving to assure the Parochial Church Council of a regular source of income when managing church finances.

We feel we must do all we can to preserve our church for future generations. Some in our wider community share this sentiment and contribute regularly to ensure that our Church continues to serve the whole village. We hope

that you might wish to join them by giving a sum, however small, on a regular basis.

As your parish priest, I am not asking you to do anything that my wife Maggie and I are not doing generously ourselves. We give to the Church by Standing order every month, and I ask you to consider the same as part of your support to your village Church.

Our Treasurer, Jill Harrington, will be happy to answer any questions that you might have about the church's financial situation and how you can help or call me at The Vicarage on 01205 624128 for more information. All correspondence and discussions will, of course remain confidential. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely  
Fr Paul F Blanch  
Vicar.



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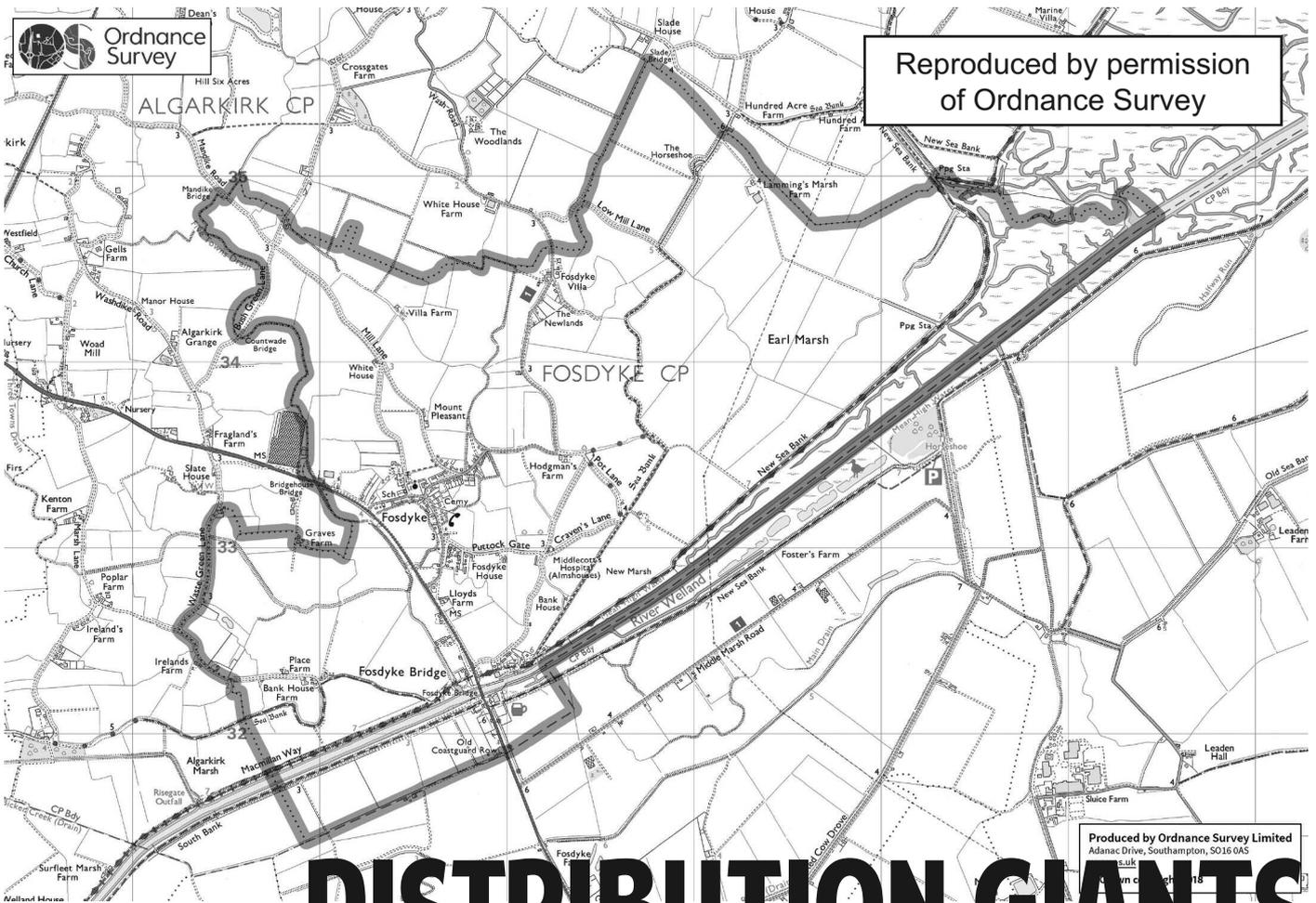
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\*The newspapers arrive in various bits on Saturdays and we have to put them together. Added to this, we do collect cash that day, which together, affects our delivery time.

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*Fosdyke Magazine* would like to take this opportunity to thank all the voluntary distributors who take the time each month in various weather conditions to make sure everyone in the village receives their copy, whether they want it or not!

So, thank you to Jane Bristow, who delivers to the back end of Bell Lane and all of Whitecross Gate; Jim Cobb, who does Bell Lane from Old Main Road to Whitecross Gate; Rosemary Saward, and Mark & Elaine Cox, who split between them the South-East end of Old Main Road to the Old Post Office, including Randolph Road; Liz Martin, who does the remainder of Old Main Road, Mill Lane, and the A17 to the Moore's farm which is actually just outside the parish; Matt Dawson, who delivers to Snaith Avenue and Puttock Gate and as far as Bank House in Wash Road; Pauline Fish, who completes the remaining houses in Wash Road, including Hiltons Lane; Helen Crouch, who delivers to Wash Road and Old Inn Lane to the East of the A17 behind the marina; Terry Martin, who gets on his bicycle to cover the South-West side of the A17 where the Moorings

Café is situated and along and including a bit of South Bank and all of Washway Road, including the dwellings at the end which are just outside Fosdyke's boundary, then it's cross country along the bank of Smeeton's Lane and along to Boundary House in Washgreen Lane, including the few houses within Algarkirk, then across to the Mill Lane, Mandyke Road, Bush Green Lane intersection. Not forgetting, of course, Ray Hoey, who when he's not off on a jaunt, actually makes sure all the distributors have the correct amount of copies.

Let's also not forget past distributors like Denis and Elaine Glenn, Wendy DePear, Steve Woods, Shirley Gratton, Liz and David Wallder, and people who have stepped in to cover for others like Larinda Walls, Nicky Furnell and June Barton. They'll be there supporting the new editor.

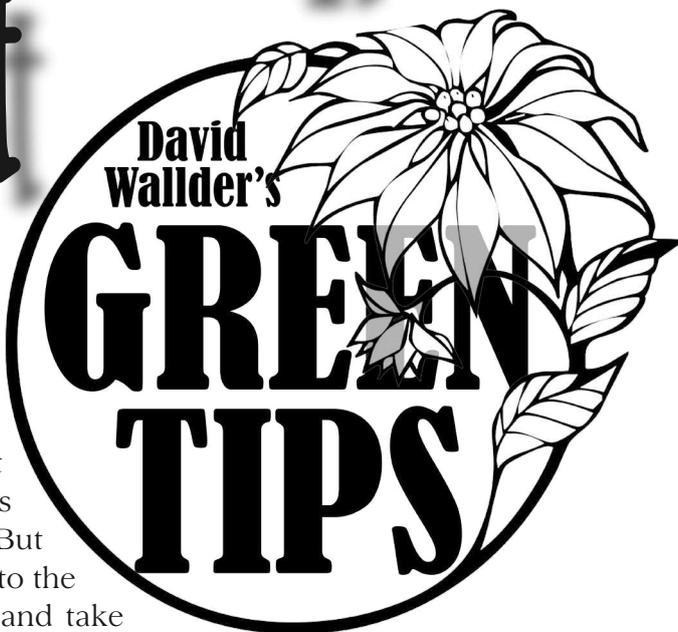
# Summer's here at last

After a few false starts, summer should be here at last. You should be able to start enjoying the fruits of your labours. But take time to listen to the birds and insects and take in the scents, often stronger in the evening.

Get all pruning of peaches and plums done in the summer. The sooner any wounds heal the less chance there is that any trees will be affected by silverleaf. Remove any unwanted shoots as soon as possible, any sideshoots from the fruiting shoots can be pinched out to 5-6 leaves.

## Plums

Heavy crops of plums can be thinned early in the month to prevent the brittle branches of plum trees from breaking under the weight of the crop. Thin in two stages, removing only any damaged or diseased fruit first. Don't remove too many fruits to begin with as the trees will naturally shed some fruit around now. This is called the "June drop". Wait until this has happened, then a second thinning out can be done if the fruits are still overcrowded. You can also support heavy branches if you fear they will



be damaged by the weight of the fruit, especially on young trees.

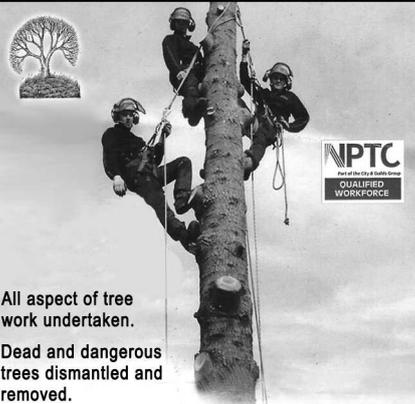
## Apples & Pears

Don't be tempted to thin out apples and pears either until after the June drop. It is all too easy to plough ahead thinning out the fruits, only to see the ones you have left all falling off leaving you with none.

## Gooseberries

Gooseberries can also be thinned for larger fruits. The thinnings can be cooked. One pest to look out for is gooseberry sawfly caterpillar. They can attack right through the summer and a bad infestation can completely defoliate a plant. The caterpillars are nearly an inch long, yellow-fawn in colour and marked with black spots. Inspect the plants regularly from spring onwards, paying particular attention to the

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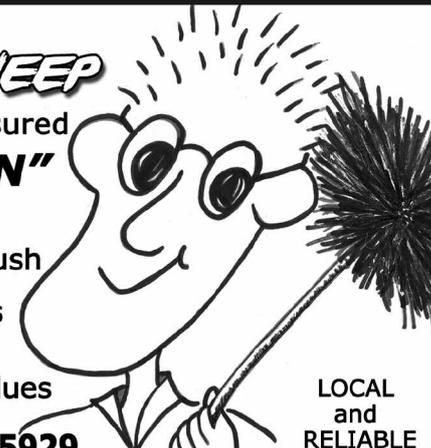
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undersides of the leaves and squash any eggs and caterpillars you see.

## Strawberries

Spells of wet weather can encourage the spread of grey mould on strawberries. Inspect fruits regularly and remove infected ones. Don't compost them, as they may spread the disease to other plants in the garden. If you need to spray, use a fungicide, but removing the leaves early enough should do the job. Ensure plenty of air circulates around the leaves and keep developing fruits off the soil by putting straw or mats under them. This stops soil being splashed on the fruits by rain, which can spread the mould.

## Blackcurrants

Blackcurrants can often suffer from a viral disease called reversion. This distorts the leaves and usually makes them smaller than usual. Any badly infected plants should be

dug up and burned. If you want to replace them, buy only certified stock that is free of the virus. The virus is spread by the blackcurrant bud mite, which lives in the buds and gives them a distinctive enlarged appearance. Buds like this should always be picked off.

## Fruit Care

Keep all fruit well-watered in dry

spells to ensure a good crop of quality fruits throughout the summer. Mulching with organic matter will help in retaining moisture and reduce the need to water. Mulching will also keep down weeds, which compete for water and nutrients in the soil, also many weeds act as hosts to pests and diseases.

Jane Bristow takes aim at the social club's darts doubles night



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## DARTS DOUBLES CHAMPS

The annual Darts Doubles championship held at the social club on Saturday, 12 May, was won by Ronnie Wicks and Malcolm Armstrong with Trevor Nathan and Jane Bristow in second place

## BEREAVEMENT

It is with sadness that we report the death on Saturday, 28 April, of Linda Woods, aged seventy-five, from Snaith Avenue, who has been a Fosdyke resident for forty-two years.

Her funeral was held on Friday, 11 May. Our thoughts go out to her family and friends.

# TERRY'S REIGN

As of the copy deadline for this issue (14 May) nobody has shown any interest in taking on the responsibility of editing and publishing *Fosdyke Magazine*. There's just one more issue to go before Terry Martin finishes what he started back in December 2012 when he edited his first Fosdyke Newsletter (as it was called then) after Jon Tofts had relinquished the roll he had carried out for many years. It was a parish councillor who asked Terry if he'd be interested in taking on the task.

He knew what he was letting himself in for as he had published several other magazines in the past on a regular basis. See "Other Mags" on facing page.

He confirmed that he'd take on the voluntary position on the proviso that a new printer be provided and that by offering advertising he could pay for the cost of paper and cartridges, etc for the printer. This proposition was accepted.

## FINANCIAL STRUGGLE

The first few years were a financial struggle and, despite the new printer, the quality of printing left a lot to be desired. Last year, for the first time, the revenue from advertising was enough to have the magazine printed at Newton Press (though Terry's wife, Liz, and he still staple the collated sets together to save money). There are three hundred copies printed every month. A copy deadline of the 14th of each month gives Terry nearly four days to layout an issue of the magazine as the contract with the printers is for artwork to arrive on the 18th for a turnaround of two days, though they often complete the printing in just one. It is usually necessary therefore to get as much of the magazine put together before the 14th deadline.

During the last five-and-a-bit years the magazine has stirred up a few local people though no bricks have been thrown through windows, yet. Angry correspondence has ensued, facts have been misinterpreted or gotten plain wrong (rarely), but everyone is still speaking as they're all grown-

ups and understand that life isn't as simple as we'd wish and there is no such thing as an ideal world. We all have a dream, of course, but that's all it can ever be.

## POUNCED UPON

It's not difficult to calculate that over Terry's period as editor he has spent a solid one year and two months working on the newsletter, and it's a voluntary position so the only rewards are the words of gratitude from those who actually read the magazine. The spare



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**August 2018**

- 3rd Beside the Seaside £10
- 9th A Big Day Out in London Adult £22 Child £19 Family ticket 2+2 £70
- 13th Norwich in the Summer £10
- 16th Scenic Suffolk and the Chocolate Lady £35 inc. Tour Guide & Chocolate
- 21st Norfolk Paddleboat Adventure Adult £21.50 Child £19 inc. Paddle Boat Ticket
- 22nd Cambridge in the Sun £10
- 30th Beautiful Beverley £10
- 31st Cadbury World Adult £30 child £28 inc. Cadbury World Ticket

**September 2018**

- 16th National Arboretum £25 inc. Train Ride Ticket

**October 2018**

- 11th Historical Ely £10
- 24th Autumn in the Wolds £10

**HOLIDAYS 2018**

- 28th July to 4th August The Bright Lights Of Blackpool All Coach Travel 7 Nights Bed, Breakfast & Evening Meal £330 per person £15 single supplement
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copies that remain, once all residents have received a copy (about twenty), are pounced upon at the village hall bingo nights and literally gone within seconds.

Over the last year Liz has taken on the task of looking after the advertising. She has always been a proof reader and adviser. "You can't

## OTHER MAGS

When Terry was younger and into tabletop wargames he published a number of wargames fanzines, notably *Dice* and *Random Factor*.

When he caught the paintball bug he published the fanzine *Born To Dye* which indirectly led to him becoming chairman of the European Paintball Sports Federation and influential in making paintball both legal and respectable in the UK through meetings with the F8 Division of the Home Office and English Nature. At this time he was also writing a monthly column for the respected *Paintball Monthly*.

Just before he moved to Fosdyke he launched the much acclaimed science fiction, horror and fantasy magazine *Murky Depths* which in 2010 was awarded the prestigious British Fantasy Award for Best Magazine/Periodical.

put that!" But sometimes Terry goes ahead anyway. She's usually right! Terry has even been cautioned by a parish council chairman and summoned to parish council meetings. They have suggested that the magazine be run by a committee.

## COMMITTEE RUN?

At the time Terry couldn't envisage a committee working within the deadline though if the job were split into say an Advertising Administrator (which is in effect what Liz does now), an Editor (to collate the news, letters and regular columns that are sent in), a Layout Artist (to physically layout the magazine), and a Distributor (to

collect the printed copies from the printer and pass the completed newsletters to the volunteers who post it through your door), and a small team of Finishers (to staple the copies together when they come back from the printers – there's still not quite enough revenue to pay for that too) it could work.

*Fosdyke Magazine* has a great and reliable team of people who deliver the magazine on a voluntary basis. The other year, with a bit of cash in the kitty and with The Ship's sponsorship, *Fosdyke Magazine* was able to give them a little Christmas box of a £20 voucher to have a meal there. A one-off that would be nice to repeat.

## CENSORSHIP

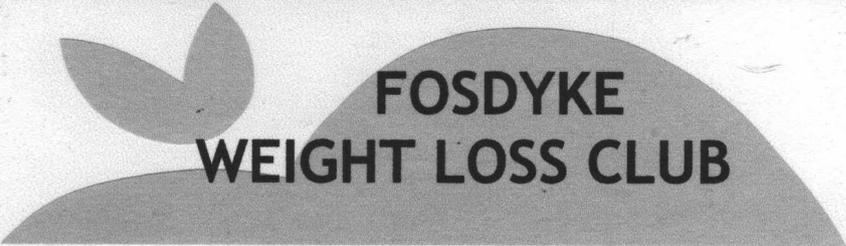
The Editor and the Layout Artist need to work closely together, so to Terry, with his publishing and graphic design background, it seemed a no brainer to combine the task. The push from the parish council to form a committee also

smacked to Terry of censorship. Something he couldn't accept. Why shouldn't a village newsletter tackle difficult and sensitive issues?

Residents are sometimes surprised that certain bits of local news are not included in the newsletter. Terry isn't psychic though, so if no-one tells him how can it be included?

## PENULTIMATE ISSUE

So, this could be the penultimate issue of *Fosdyke Magazine*. If no one comes forward, the account will be closed. The fairest thing to do is calculate how much is left to run of an advertiser's advert (adverts are normally inserted on a twelve month basis) and reimburse them, leaving the newsletter finances back where they started in 2012. The accounts are available to view on request. It would be a shame to lose *Fosdyke Magazine*. Are you up for the challenge and ready to be a part of the new team, or do you think you can work the miracles that Terry has on your own?



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## POP-IN LUNCH

The next Pop-In Lunch is on June 12th in the village hall from 12.30. All welcome to come and enjoy a good home-cooked lunch and the chance to chat with friends and neighbours - -The Full Monty is still an amazing £4.50.

## FR. PAUL IS HERE IN THE VILLAGE

On Thursdays to help anyone who wishes help, after our weekly short service at 12pm. If you have been bereaved, need a sick visit or perhaps just someone kindly to talk – he is your man, and here every week in Fosdyke. Just pop in church and have a chat.

## CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT FOSDYKE

On the evening of May 31st, All Saints Parish Church here in Fosdyke will be the setting for a very special event. The Bishop of Richborough, The Right Reverend Norman Banks will be in our parish to Confirm two adult members of our congregation. Mrs Carol Marshall and Mrs Betsy Gratton will be Confirmed by the Bishop in what is a very powerful and moving liturgy. The word "Confirmation" means

strengthening or deepening one's relationship with God. It enables a baptised person to confirm the promises made on their behalf at baptism. It is also a sign of full membership to the Christian community. In the Anglican Church, the sacrament of confirmation is conferred through the laying of hands and each participant is also anointed with the Holy oil of Chrism.

The service will be followed by a wonderful Party to welcome the new members into the full life of the Church. Why not come and see for yourself. All are welcome. The 31st May is also the Feast of Corpus Christi. The celebration of Corpus Christi celebrates the presence of the body and blood of Christ, in the sacrament of the Eucharist. All are welcome at 7pm on May 31st.

<p><b>Sunday, 27 May</b>  <b>Holly Communion</b>                  9.30am</p>
<p><b>Thursday, 31 May</b>  <b>Confirmation Service</b>                  with the Bishop of Richborough                  7pm</p>
<p><b>Thursday, 7 June</b>  <b>Prayers at Noon</b>                  12 noon</p>
<p><b>Sunday, 10 June</b>  <b>Sung Holly Communion</b>                  9.30am</p>
<p><b>Tuesday, 10 June</b>  <b>Pop-In Lunch</b>                  12.30pm</p>
<p><b>Thursday, 14 June</b>  <b>Prayers at Noon</b>                  12 noon</p>
<p><b>Thursday, 21 June</b>  <b>Prayers at Noon</b>                  12 noon</p>
<p><b>Sunday, 10 June</b>  <b>Sung Holly Communion</b>                  9.30am</p>
<p><b>Thursday, 28 June</b>  <b>Prayers at Noon</b>                  12 noon</p>

**All Saints**  
 Fosdyke

Churchwardens:  
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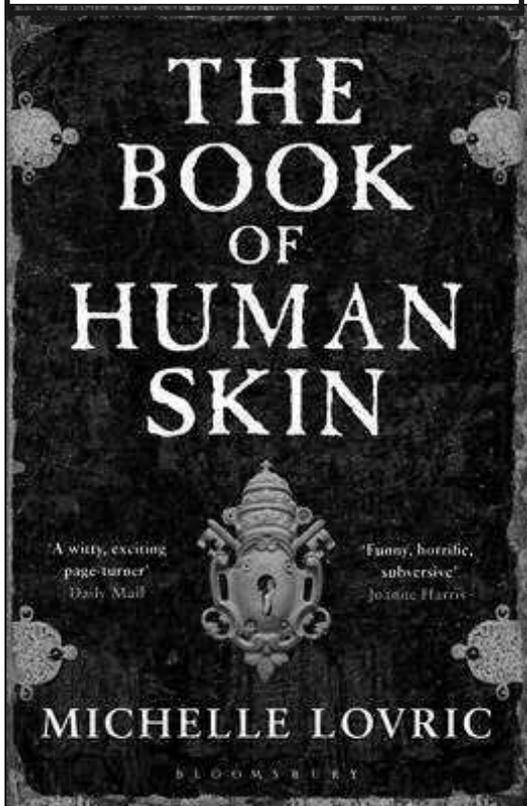
and you will have the occasional joke



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



Liz Wallder's  
**Book Review**  
**THE BOOK OF HUMAN  
 SKIN**  
 By Michelle Lovric



This is a very bizarre book to read and also to look at. Its cover is made to (sort of) look like ripped skin and the edges of each page are coloured black which makes it a strange book to

hold. The story is equally bizarre with each chapter being written by a different character and with different fonts to show the character of each person. For example, one of the main character is a servant, so his font is in a big style with miss-spelled words. As a lot of the chapters are quite short, some in fact a mere sentence, it makes it a very hard book to put down, as my eyes were always skipping ahead and I'd have to keep reading until I'd found out what was going on with certain individuals.

And a lot happens. My husband read this book first and when I asked him what he thought of it, he said it reminded him of the storyline of an opera. I wasn't sure what he meant by that comment until I started reading it myself. But I do agree with him now, something about the intense story telling.

The book starts in 1784 with an earthquake and a birth of one of the most evil characters I've encountered, Minguillo Fasen. It follows his life in Venice and his interactions with his mother, sister, a servant, a skin doctor, a mad nun

in Peru and several others. All their lives entwine in surprising ways through the course of 30 years and are full of "unmitigated villainy, Holy Anorexia, quack medicine, murder, love and an unusual form of bibliomania". Something for everyone then.

The story races along and I had no idea where it was going, couldn't even guess until quite near the end, and then it still surprised me. It's full of historical detail and Lovric obviously knows and loves Venice. The book made me cringe, but also laugh out loud, especially the insane Nun. I think as the book is all written in the first person, but different people, then it made me love the characters more. I got a real insight into how they thought and their dreams and wishes. With the horrible characters it made them more personable and, in a way, even more evil. To understand that they're doing these horrible things out of boredom or a sense of injustice was an eye opener and it makes them more real.

This is a great book and it's left me wanting to read more. There are quite a lot of very interesting historical notes at the back, about Venice, Nuns, Napoleon's health, mountains and of course books bound in human skin. I had no idea that these actually existed and I definitely do not want to read any them. But I would like to read more by Michelle Lovric.



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# ONE-POINT WHIST WIN

It was a close run thing at the social club's whist drive on Saturday, 5 May, when Tammie Ryan and Clive Rhodes' score of 118 was just one point more than John Sellers and Karen Britchford.

## Fosdyke Social Club

**Saturday, 2 June**  
**WHIST DRIVE**  
 8 pm

**Wednesday, 6 June**  
**AGM**  
 8pm all members welcome

**Saturday, 9 June**  
**CUBE NIGHT**  
 8 pm (bit like TV game show)

**Thursday, 14 June**  
**OPEN MIC**  
 Opens 8pm - music 8.30-11pm

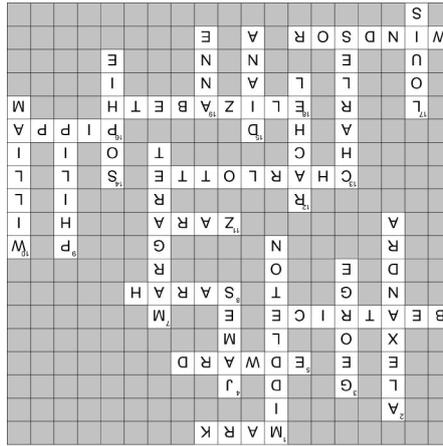
**Sunday, 17 June**  
**CAR BOOT SALE**  
 PLUS INDOOR TABLES  
 Sellers 12 noon - Buyers 1 - 4pm

**Saturday, 23 June**  
**QUIZ**  
 8 pm  
 Chicken/fish/scampi and chips supper.  
 Members £5.50, guests £6

**Saturday, 30 June**  
**DOMINOS DRIVE**  
 8 pm

For bookings and inquiries contact  
 Jane Bristow 01205 260455

# PUZZLE SOLUTIONS



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

# FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Fosdyke first team finished in third place of Division 2 of the Boston Saturday League just two points short of division winners FC Hammers. But it looks like they've done enough to be promoted as a couple of teams dropped out of Division 1, so next season will see a better class of football. A strong performance by Fosdyke Reserves gave them fourth place in Division 3. However they had the ninth worst goal average out of the thirteen teams.

Fosdyke Sunday's aim at the beginning of the season was to not finish last in the Spalding League and they achieved that but only by one point.

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# JAMMIN' AT THE SOCIAL CLUB

Thursday, 10 May, was another successful Open Mic at the social club. Members and guests came through the doors, bought their first drink, found a table and waited patiently for the first act to start the evenings entertainment.

As always, it was host band *Phatt Knappii*, with a set of 80's covers rather than their own material, that started off the proceedings before Tony from ex-Holbeach skiffle band *Jet* played his bass to some rock and roll classics with Sean (from *Stuck With Nothing*) backing him on drums. Then Fosdyke resident Graham Hawkes gritted his teeth (he's in constant pain with a crippling back problem) to give the audience a mix of his self-penned songs interspersed with anecdotes of the reasons for them being written.

Karen Clare, with a bunch of self-penned country songs, then entertained with demands for her to record a CD for those who love her voice and tunes.

Karen was then joined by *Paragon 5* from Helpringham, turning into a bit of a jam session before Liz and Terry duetted three songs before Martyn Hayes joined them again for *Phatt Knappii* to round off the evening.

Although some of the regular performers had been booked to support a charity open mic in Sleaford the evening was still enjoyed by the audience.

## DRIVING CARE

Could all residents please make sure they set a good example to visitors by keeping to the 30mph speed limit in the village.

We have both young children and elderly people in Fosdyke. Be vigilant in your driving and don't get blaise and too familiar with your usual routes



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# ANGUISH

a fictional story

by Nina Mercetter

Nina Mercetter is the pen name of Terry Martin used for all stories appearing in Fosdyke Magazine. This story first appeared in the collection *Probably Maybe Perhaps* and then in the anthology *Plonk*, both published by The House of Murky Depths.

Spongers like her should be locked up. They were no good to society. No good to themselves. Ben Stains didn't think his views were extreme. In fact he thought most other people's tolerance verged on anarchy.

Through the café window he watched the vagrant woman as she wheeled her pram, full of her worldly possessions, along the high street, doing her late evening trash-can rounds before the daily town-centre collection robbed her of some unthinkable treasure. Her clothes hung with that same-colour caked look reminding him of the 'mime' artists he'd seen along London's Southbank, sitting or standing like statues, when he and his wife Lynn had visited the Eye. But they didn't smell. There could be no doubting she would. Just like the woman who had cleared a whole tube carriage on that same trip. That anyone could allow themselves to smell so disgusting had shocked both of them.

A piece of cereal bar caught in his throat at the thought. It took several minutes to recover from the resulting coughing fit. The few other customers in the café glanced at him disapprovingly. He refrained from giving them the finger, but the temptation was there. When his tickle finally subsided the old hag had disappeared, no doubt searching more lucrative bins. This thought merely caused him to dry retch and those at the nearby tables avoided looking in his direction.

Had someone suggested to him that maybe there was an element of jealousy in his almost fanatical hatred of an old woman who he had never spoken to, he would have laughed and denied it without a thought. But she was free, and he wasn't. His marriage had not been the most successful although Lynn and he were still together, just. What responsibility for a tramp?

With a cup empty of both coffee and warmth and a café that no longer seemed welcoming, Ben left to walk the last few miles home, dreading the usual moans and groans; unlike others, not looking forward to the weekend at all. He used to take home a bunch of flowers and a bottle of red wine on a Friday evening and he and Lynn would cuddle up in front of the fire to watch a DVD. That seemed years in the past.

Monday morning came way too soon, yet, in many ways, it was a huge relief. They had rowed nearly all weekend and his year-old daughter, Sarah, suffering from yet another cold, had kept them awake most of Saturday and Sunday night. Begrudging peace arrived

when Lynn wheeled Sarah to the local park — the walk would do her good. No, she didn't want a lift. No, she didn't want him to come too, she wanted to be on her own. It had all stemmed from an argument about money -- it was invariably about money, but not exclusively. Recent promotion should have made them better off, but where did the money go? He'd watched Lynn push the pram down the terraced street. The little plastic duck he'd bought his daughter, that she'd grown so attached to, hung from the canopy, bright yellow against the standard Mothercare dark blue. Lynn had stopped briefly at the corner of the street to speak with someone just out of view. Ben had been furious when his wife eventually moved off to reveal the filthy bitch of a vagrant. It was the first time Ben had noticed that Sarah's pram was identical to the woman's, but how could she bear to be near the filthy, stinking cow let alone talk to her?

Stressed out at work, with the extra responsibility, Ben had no respite Monday morning. A couple of silly mistakes resulted in his boss calling him into his office.

"What's the problem, Ben?"

"Still settling in, George. Won't happen again."

"But you were already doing the work before you were made up to IC." George was younger than Ben, had taken up the manager's position almost straight from university. He didn't have half Ben's experience, who did he think he was?

Ben hesitated. He didn't want to admit he was under stress; was finding it hard to cope, at work and at home. He tried to stop himself clicking the pen he'd brought with him. "I'm fine. Just a bit tired is all. Sarah's not been sleeping too well. Been keeping us both up."

"Do you think you could do with some time off?" George was looking worriedly at the pen, frowning at each click.

"Not at all. I'll be fine. You have my assurance."

George didn't look convinced. "If you need any help or want to talk about anything my door's always open."

"I appreciate that," he said as he stood, wanting to exit the room as soon as possible. "Thanks."

All eyes in the office looked his way, he could feel them, as he strode back to his desk. He threw his pen down and looked at his watch. Early lunch, he thought.

Having driven to work that morning, he decided to make use of the car and took a trip to the park to eat his sandwiches away from the office. If he didn't he'd still get hassled with phone calls and queries. His favourite bench gave him a panoramic view of the river. To his left, a variety of ducks and geese waddled along the bank or splashed in the shallows above the weir. Its continuing rumble always calmed him. Perhaps life wasn't so bad after all.

No sooner had this thought crossed his mind when, from around the back of an adjacent clump of shrubs, the old vagrant woman appeared, hood up on her pram, protecting her black plastic sacks from who knew what.

The cheese sandwich dried in his mouth, sucking out any last remnant of moisture. All his pent up anger

and frustrations seemed to channel themselves towards the hag, as if all his problems could be blamed on her.

Even while a part of him knew this was illogical his emotions got the better of him. He flung his sandwiches, Tupperware box and all, into the raging water, slipping on the loose gravel of the path as he stormed back to his car.

A bent-back nail, as he opened the door clumsily, gave him pain enough to quell his anger somewhat, even to the point of realising his stupidity.

Leaning back in the driving seat he closed his eyes and willed himself to relax, surprising himself with a modicum of success. A gentle tap on the window brought him out of his reverie. He turned his head lazily.

"Scuse me, dearie, but you're not supposed to park 'ere."

Ben was speechless. A fury he never knew he possessed left him gasping for words. Such audacity from the old woman! Who did she think she was?

He gave her a single finger, proud of his outward composure. Turning on the engine and simultaneously slamming it into gear, he reversed the car away from the reprimanding look, catching sight of her pram on the pathway beneath the weir. He looked from that to the old lady and smiled unpleasantly.

Her eyes betrayed her sudden realisation. Still smiling, and watching the woman's face, Ben methodically slipped the car into first. She was screaming "No! No!" as he floored the accelerator

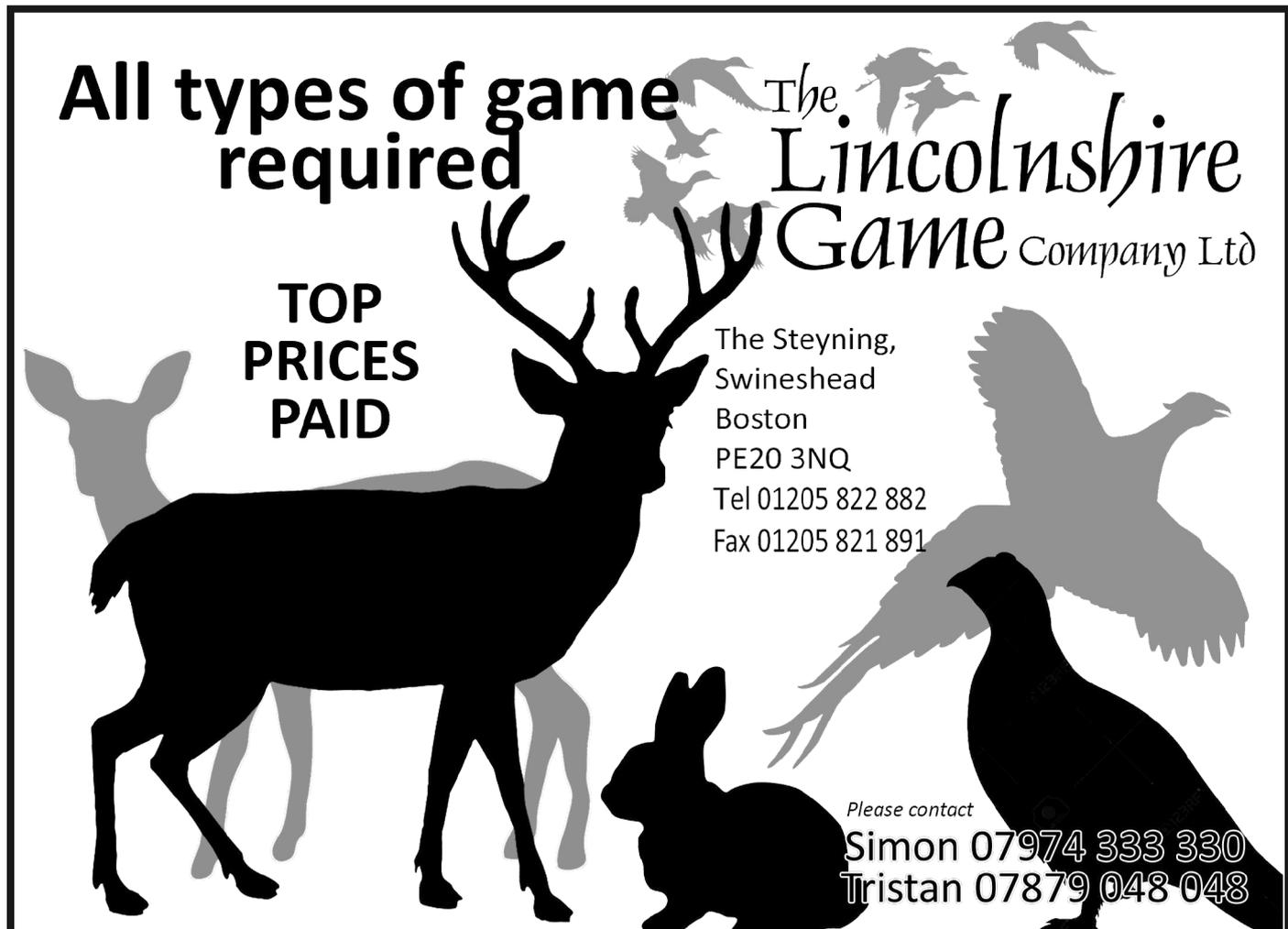
pedal, keeping it there as the car jumped the shallow kerb, shot across a carefully maintained flower bed, missing a statue of a long-forgotten local celebrity by mere millimetres, flattened the "Keep off the grass" sign before crashing into the pram. It lurched unceremoniously over the edge of the bank out of Ben's vision, but before it did a little yellow plastic duck swung out from the canopy. His insides knotted in an instant.

Ben hadn't needed to brake. The car had stalled to a halt on the brink. He was heedless of anything but what he had done. Why had his wife come to the park two days running? Why had she left Sarah on her own? These were just two of many minor thoughts that were consumed in his despair. He couldn't swim and he knew the currents hereabouts were lethal. He'd murdered his own daughter.

The old hag was running along the bank with the flow of the water screaming and waving her arms about.

Ben took the car out of gear and let the electronics open the windows as the front wheels edged over the bank. He closed his eyes, and took a final and unnecessary deep breath as the vehicle tipped forward into the foam.

His wife Lynn mourned briefly, but she soon found a new partner who was happy to accept Sarah as his own. The old woman had scoured the river for days afterwards and managed to find almost all her possessions accept for the yellow plastic duck the nice young lady had given her.



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# AGE UK MERGER



**F**osdyke Magazine has recently been informed about two local, respected charities that are joining forces.

The Trustees of Age UK Lincoln & Kesteven and Age UK Boston & South Holland have decided to merge to create one single organisation, Age UK Lincoln & South Lincolnshire. The area the new body will be providing services to will be Lincoln City including surrounding areas, North Kesteven, South Kesteven, Boston and South Holland. This combined area will mean they are able to offer services and support to approximately 110,000 of the 171,000 people over the age of sixty-five across Lincolnshire, with almost 15,000 of those people being eighty-five plus. These figures will be higher as they also provide services to people over the age of fifty.

The boards of trustees, executive and staff teams and their volunteers have all worked very hard to establish Age UK Lincoln & Kesteven and Age UK Boston & South Holland as forward thinking, innovative and solution focussed organisations that provides quality, effective and efficient services to their customers and they strive to continuously improve the range of services and support they offer in

order to meet the changing needs of the older people they support.

All of the services now provided across Lincoln & Kesteven will be extended during the coming months across Boston and South Holland, including personal care, help in the home, laundry services, gardening and deep cleans, to name but a few. They will continue to grow and develop their combined information and advice service and their volunteering opportunities and services too.

Where it is more usual to hear of services closing or reducing this is good news for Lincolnshire and serves to demonstrate that growth and development continues to happen despite the obvious difficulties, and the collaborative and integrated approach that they believe in provides them with opportunities for the future.

If you would like to understand more of what Age UK Lincoln & South Lincolnshire can offer now or has planned for the future then please do not hesitate to contact them Michelle Seddon on 01522 696000 or 01522 567212. Their website is [www.ageuk.org.uk/lincolnandsouthhlincolnshire](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/lincolnandsouthhlincolnshire)

Age UK North Lincolnshire and Age UK Lindsey merged last year under the latter's name.

## Village Hall

for hire for a

## Family Celebration

or a

## Children's Party

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# BINGO

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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](mailto: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 June

## Fosdyke Village Hall Lottery 250 Draw - Latest Winners

29	Mrs C Woods	Fosdyke	£10
239	Mrs M Mackburn	Holbeach	£10
197	Mr G Hicks	Fosdyke	£10
21	Mr B Sargent	Waplode	£10
248	Mrs S Harding	Holbeach	£15
147	Mr T White	Fosdyke	£20
228	Mrs J Scotney	Swineshead	£25

Next draw: Monday, 11 June, at the Village Hall Bingo Night