



FOSDYKE: A PLACE TO BE

Just a little reminder to long standing residents and newcomers to Fosdyke of the facilities that the village offers.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

One of the most obvious features is All Saints church which holds regular services and is a focal point for those with a religious leaning, though you will be welcomed whatever your beliefs. You can find out what's coming up by visiting their notice board or checking out their pages in Fosdyke Magazine.

PLAYING FIELD AND SOCIAL CLUB

The playing field, which belongs to the village and is run by Fosdyke Playing Field charity, is the envy of some other villages. The football pitch is one of the best in the Boston league, so we're led to believe, and at the back of the field Goodfellowship Bowling Club has been hired out for president's games and is immaculate. The multi-surface play area is visited and used by people outside of the village as well as local youngsters and is one of the most recent additions to the playing field facilities. The adventure playground

for under twelves is also visited by people from outside the village with the swings next to the club house being the latest addition to accommodate the wishes of older children. Deprived of the social club, which holds regular events, the village would not be able to maintain the facilities as without their fund-raising efforts there would be no money to sustain them.

THE SHIP INN

The Ship Inn just over the bridge has become a popular place to eat as well as selling some fine beverages. After several changes of hand Sarah Simms has come up with a winning formula to keep the pub going. There's also a quiz once a fortnight on Monday evenings with a £20 meal voucher to the winning team.

VILLAGE HALL

The village hall in the centre of Fosdyke was opened back in the 60s and is a valuable asset to residents. The regular bingo nights on a Monday (and that usually

includes bank holidays too) are well attended and jackpots of £70 are not unheard of. £5 for six cards of fourteen games with a tea break halfway and a time to chat makes it an enjoyable social event and a way of getting to know about local people. Who said gossip!

YACHT HAVEN

Not many villages can boast a marina which helps to remind us that Fosdyke was once the home of several fishing families. If you need to moor a boat it's somewhere to think about whether it's just for a visit or a permanent berth.

MOORINGS CAFE

We also have a café in Fosdyke. The Moorings Breakfast Café on the other side of the A17 to the main village. Take care when crossing the road but worth the trip. They're open from early morning till 2.30pm except for Wednesdays when they have a well-earned day off.

EQUESTRIAN SOLUTIONS

This relates to Sunset Farm in Wash Road. All horsey related stuff but with a leaning towards the partnership between horses and humans and the confidence it can give to the latter.

AND THAT NOT ALL ...

There are also builders, electricians, plumbers, artists, writers, musicians and other talented people in the village, not to mention a coach works and a coach company, and, of course, farmers.



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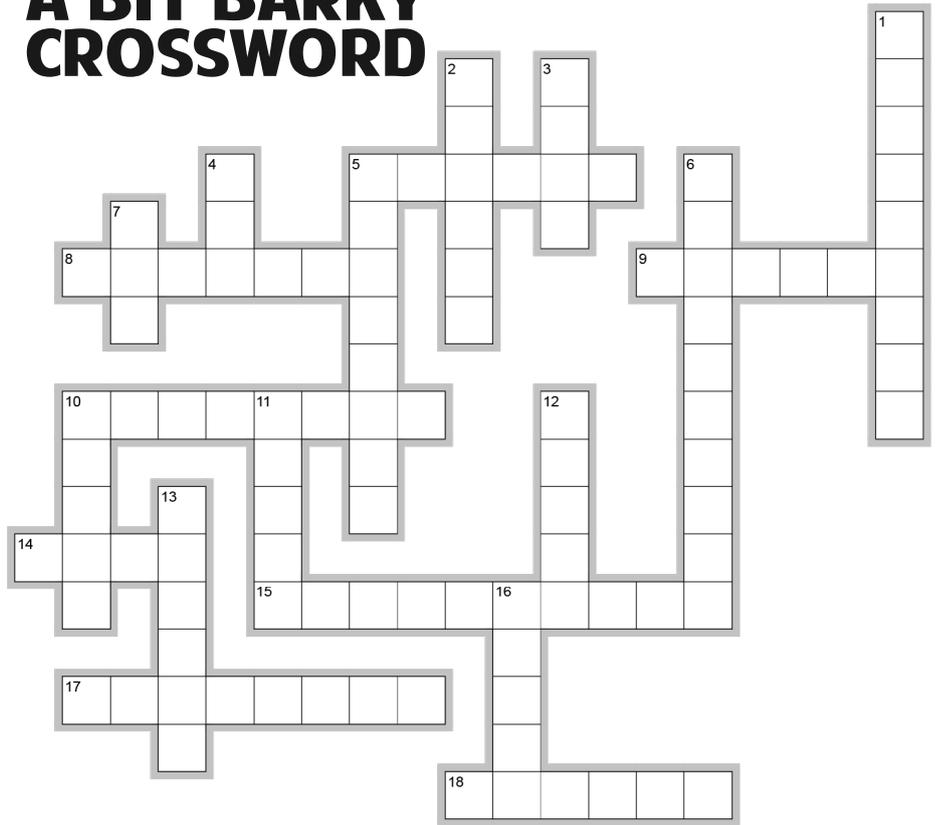
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PUZZLES

A BIT BARKY CROSSWORD



Across

- 5. It's of the genus Juglans. It's fruits are commonly eaten at Christmas. (6)
- 8. Banned from school and a product of clues 11 down and 17 across (7)
- 9. A fruit almost in distress. (6)
- 10. A prickly and popular field hedge. (8)
- 14. Shaped like Pete Tong, perhaps. (4)
- 15. High in vitamin C, their berries can cause diarrhea and nausea if eaten from the tree but make a fine cordial, wine and addition to jams and pies. (10)
- 17. See 11 Down.
- 18. I wild roadside delight of blossom, possibly associated with Japan. (6)

Down

- 1. It can grow very high and annoy neighbours if not kept trimmed. (9)
- 2. Also known as sallow, and osier and sometimes cry a lot. (6)
- 3. Little Jack Horner pulled one of these. (4)
- 4. You'll find a row of these at the playing field car park. (3)
- 5. Woody with hanging flowers found in gardens. (8)
- 6. The bramble's fruit composed of small drupelets. (10)
- 7. Cube-like hedging, perhaps. (3)
- 10. It produces cob nuts. (5)
- 11. Their nuts used to be ground up and fed to horses to relieve them of coughs. And 17 Across. (5,8)
- 12. Popular fruit tree for a common granny, perhaps. (5)
- 13. Popular garden hedge. (6)
- 16. A wrongly spelled version could be found by the seaside. (5)

SUDOKU

Solutions Page 17

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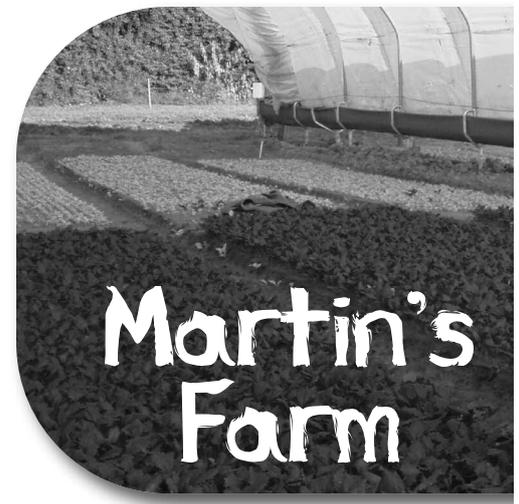


TECHNO, BEET & DEBATE

We managed to get all the straw baled and in the shed a couple of weeks ago and it already seems like a distant memory since the weather turned distinctly autumnal. It seemed like the day after we finished baling someone turned a switch from summer to autumn. With the combines all finished for the season apart from the odd field of beans here and there the attention turns to sowing the next lot of crops. Stubbles are being cultivated and ploughed and drills are on the move.

Even with the ever-changing technological advances in farming it still takes a lot of man hours by dedicated teams to not only harvest crops but also to prepare the ground and drill new crops along with nurturing that crop until the next harvest. I have mentioned various automated systems that are in development in previous editions before but I was amazed when I heard what my old university, Harper Adams had achieved. They

recently harvested a field of barley “hands free”. The one-hectare crop was drilled, grown and harvested entirely by robotics without a single person entering the fenced off field which is a world first. All the drilling, spraying and fertiliser applications were carried out by



Martin's Farm

robotics controlled by computer programmes and mapping systems from drones. Even the sample of barley to check the moisture content prior to harvest was collected by a drone fitted with a robotic grabber. The team are now hoping to turn the barley into “hands free” beer. To me it's a scary

Planting the sorrel crop



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thought but this kind of technology will soon be common place within agriculture.

This year's sugar beet harvest will soon be under way with the processing plants starting up within the next week. Forecasts are for a bumper crop this year with an expected 1.4 million tonnes of sugar to be harvested. This is due to a combination of favourable weather conditions for sugar beet and the increase in area from last year. Compare this to last year's harvest of 0.9 million tonnes with the total area slashed to reduce sugar stocks it is a positive for the sugar beet growers along with increased prices.

The debate regarding glyphosate is still going on with a decision on its approval renewal getting closer. The latest report from the EFSA (European food safety agency) has concluded that glyphosate is not an endocrine disrupter with no evidence that it is harmful to humans. The latest study concluded that glyphosate does not have oestrogen, androgen, thyroid and steroidogenesis mediated endocrine disrupting properties. This latest conclusion is consistent with other world-wide studies. With all this evidence in favour of glyphosate you would think that approving the use of the chemical for another 15 years would be straight forward. However, France is planning to defy the European Commission and vote against the proposal to renew the licence. I think the debate will continue to make headlines in the coming weeks.

Following the recent busy period at work it is nice to take stock and have a couple of days in the office to plan the next jobs and finish at a good time.

I still have plenty of things to keep me busy over the next few weeks. I have just planted a seed crop of sorrel which will be in the ground for three years with multiple harvests so this will be a challenge to keep the crops clean and healthy for such a long period of time. We have also just undersown some grass with clover to add nutritional

value to the forage next year. I have a couple of grass fields that need ploughing and re-seeding before the winter. The glass houses are a hive of activity currently with the last crops of the season drying and awaiting harvest, new crops are being planted and we also have a busy time with customer visits looking at our trials. We have over three hundred baby leaf varieties on display along with a range of herbs, Orientals, pumpkins, kales, peppers, tomatoes and lettuce on show.



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YOU CAN'T BEAT LIVE MUSIC!...

... and on the second Thursday of every month you can enjoy a variety of acts for free at Fosdyke Social Club.



John Ingamells

The 14 September saw six separate acts, mostly soloists with a well overdue return from John Ingamells, lead singer and guitarist with Unshaven, whose long standing health issues means he's exhausted at the end of his rock and blues set. Yet he put in his usual excellent performance.

Graham Hawkes is another act the club hasn't seen for a while, also due to health issues, but he bore the constant pain well with a couple of songs before he accompanied new girl to the Open Mics Hannah Wickham whose voice spans an

amazing range and has to be seen and heard. Thankfully she plans to make Fosdyke a regular haunt.

Karen Clare was a regular at the first Open Mics nearly five years ago but family commitments meant she couldn't make them anymore. Recently however, now her children are older, she has been returning and has also been returning to her country roots after a spell singing with a couple of local party bands.

Not to be forgotten are Kiya Brown, with her unique voice, and host band Phatt Knappii, who are taking a break from gigging at pubs and festivals to expand their repertoire.

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The audience, including several who had never been before thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

The next Open Mic night will be on Thursday, 12 October from 8pm. It's free to club members and guests so it's not going to be an expensive night out and you never know who is going to turn up.

With the holiday season out of the way the next Open Mic might be very busy. Not many towns, let alone villages, have free live entertainment. Why not give it a try?



Karen Clare



Hannah Wickham accompanied by Graham Hawkes

The Ship Inn

www.shipinnfosdyke.co.uk
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Monday to Saturday
 Food served from 12 noon until 9pm
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 Afternoon Teas 2pm until 5pm
 Evening Menu 5.30pm until 9pm

Friday

Fish and Chips £9.50

Sunday

Lunch Carvery £8.50
 (two courses £12)

Sittings 12 noon and 1.30pm
 Main Menu available from 4pm

KING JOHN'S TREASURE!

Legend has it that crown jewels, gold and money were lost in the medieval mud of the fens in 1216. In 2017, we gave folks the opportunity to look around our church, follow the treasure trail clues and seek to find the treasure – sadly, it remains one of the great undiscovered treasures of the world, but those who followed the trail did well! Thank you to our volunteer team, who kept the church open for the weekend.

POP-IN LUNCH

Thanks to everyone who supported the September Pop-In Lunch. The event raised a little over £200 and was enjoyed by around thirty folks who had the chance to enjoy a good home-cooked lunch and the chance to meet our new vicar, Fr. Paul and Maggie.

The next Lunch will be on Tuesday October 24th. In the village hall 12-12.30 as usual.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Tickets are now on sale for our famous Harvest Festival and Lunch – no tickets needed for the Harvest Festival itself! – in church from 09.30 on October 8th. Offers of produce

**All
Saints**
Fosdyke

Churchwardens:
Jon 01205 260672
Terry 01205 260408

gratefully received at the church all over that weekend.

Harvest Festival is a great time to remember our ties with the land and it's bounty that we enjoy – especially here in Lincolnshire – the great garden of the country. Why not pop along and join us in worship and thanks, with our new vicar, Father Paul Blanch. This will be a service focussing on the harvest of the land, with time honoured traditional harvest singing. We would love to see you all there – young and old.

HARVEST LUNCH MENU

Home-made soup and crusty bread

~

Home-made cottage pie
Seasonal vegetables

~

Fruit strudel and custard

~

Tea or Coffee

All for a laughable £6.00 per head

HARVEST LUNCH TICKETS

Please remember to book early as places are limited to the capacity

Monday, 8 October

**Harvest
Festival**

9.30am

Sunday, 22 October

**Holy
Communion**

9.30am

Sunday, 29 October

**All Saints
Patronal Festival
Group Service**

10.30am

with our friends and neighbours
from Algarkirk and Kirton

of the hall and last year we were bursting at the seams.

You can book from any PCC member

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01205260408

allsaintsfos@outlook.com

at the door – 25 old main road

HARVEST AUCTION

The inimitable Jim Gott will once more be at the helm of our auction of produce, which immediately follows the Harvest Lunch in the village hall from around 2pm. Everyone tells me that food prices are on the rise, so why not take advantage of Gentleman Jim and buy some great produce, fresh from the field, at rock-bottom prices, and support your local church at the same time. It's a winning formula.



THE VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

First, let me express my sincere thanks to all the folk of Fosdyke for their warm welcome both to the Village and the Church. A social lunch at the village hall with great food was a good introduction to some thirty plus villagers, and then for my first service at All Saints. Thank you!

As some of you may know, most of my ministry has been spent in the UK, in places such as Edinburgh, Co Durham, Suffolk and Staffordshire as well as Derbyshire. The last eight years have been very different indeed,

with five years in up-state New York and the last three years in sunny California.

There are some similarities between Northern California and Lincolnshire, and that is agriculture. Here it is vegetables and flowers in abundance, and in California it was almonds, walnuts, olives, rice, and citrus fruits. All of this reminds me of the fruits of the earth, fruits which when we see them daily we can so easily take for granted.

As I write this letter to you, we are already planning our harvest services in the parishes of Kirton, Algarkirk and Fosdyke, so that we can say thank you to a God, however we visualise that God with grateful hearts.

It is said that the German mystic Meister Eckhart once said that if the only prayer you make is “thank you,” that will suffice. I have come to believe that Thanksgiving is the virtue of interdependence, the recognition that our achievements are not fully our own, but emerge from a network of relationships that sustain and shape us, giving us the materials from which we create our experiences moment by moment. Thanksgiving as a spiritual practice reminds us that all our gifts are communal as well individual. Our creativity and freedom, our ability to choose the good and noble, have their origins in forces larger than ourselves—God, this good earth, and persons who have guided, protected, inspired, and nurtured us.

One of the saddest things I witnessed in the USA was how so many Americans are tempted these days to circle the wagons and care only for their own kin, whether in terms of school, property, or civic responsibility. While of course we always have an obligation to home and family, our gifts and talents are meant to be shared with the wider community. Thanksgiving for me reminds us that we are all in this together. It also reminds me that our personal fulfilment is connected with the well-being of others, including people we may never meet. Rugged individualism is an illusion of every level

of life. What is needed is innovative but responsible relatedness.

Thanksgiving is the virtue of abundance. It looks at life in terms of possibility. It imagines a meal for a multitude in five loaves and two fish. It believes that pausing a moment to reach out, at just the right time, can transform a person's life. As the adage goes, even when we didn't have money, we weren't poor: we were abundant in dreams, love, and relationships. As chaos theory so powerfully notes, the flapping of a butterfly's wings can influence weather across the country, and so can acts of grateful

generosity done time and time again.

Thanksgiving turns us from individualism to community and to wider and wider circles of care.

I would like to personally invite you to the Harvest Festival at All Saints Church in Fosdyke on October 8th at 9-30am followed by the Harvest Lunch and Auction in the Village Hall. Tickets for the Lunch £6! The worship is FREE!

“Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.”—Marcus Tullius Cicero

Your friend and priest,
Fr Paul F Blanch

Science and religion



Science – A Challenge to Religious Belief: this is the title of a recent little booklet written by a former colleague who, while spending most of his professional life as a research scientist, also found himself being ordained towards the end of his professional life.

When posed as a question, rather than as a statement (as in the booklet's title), it is one that always has me shouting 'No' in response. It was while I was doing my own research on sugar chemistry that I came to an active Christian faith, and yet in so much popular thinking today the title is held to be true. In the recent British Social Attitudes survey it was reported that 71% of people aged between 18 and 24 said they had 'no religion', fuelled I suspect at least in part by that cultural sense that science has triumphed and that 'religion' no longer has a part to play in the modern world.

By contrast, a short book I read over the summer (What We Talk About When We Talk About God by Rob Bell) used the word 'open' to describe the world we live in. A world that is 'open' to far more mystery and depth, beauty and order than science by itself can

describe. As Rob Bell says, 'Science does an excellent job of telling me why I don't have a tail, but it can't explain why I find that interesting!'

A small group in the diocese is currently exploring the connections between science and faith, and at their recent day event, which was entitled much more positively 'The Fruitfulness of Science and Faith', it was pointed out that the history of the relationship between science and faith is complex, and it is one that has been 'hijacked' at times for ends that are nothing to do with faith or science. We looked at terms such as conflict, independence, dialogue, integration, complexity and prophetic conflict to describe possible positions that people have held, and all are good, but, in the end, it is that word 'open' that I like. That is, to be able to live in a world 'open' to the possibility of something beyond that which 'science' alone can describe. For me, that made sense, when I came to that conclusion, amongst the sugar solutions in the laboratory, over 35 years ago. It is something that I am convinced of still today.

With every blessing,
Bishop David

Chris Andrews'
WILD  **TIMES**
Woody Woodpecker

Hello again! Chris from the RSPB reserves of Frampton Marsh and Freiston Shore, here again with your look at what is happening in the natural world in and around Fosdyke. After looking at butterflies last time, we're back to the birds. I'd like to look at what is becoming an increasingly common garden bird, the woodpecker.

Well, actually not just one woodpecker. Around Fosdyke there are four different kinds which we are likely to see. Two of the commonest are the green woodpecker, which is (oddly enough) green. And the great spotted woodpecker, which is black and white. And yes, it has spots. These two birds have somewhat different habits too. The great spotted woodpecker lives in trees, pecking at wood. Odd that! It uses its strong beak to get under the bark of trees. Then a long harpoon-like tongue is used to seek out and catch the grubs of wood-boring beetles. Though it isn't averse to eating other things too. Nuts and pine cones are sometimes wedged into a crevice and bashed with the

bill to give up the tasty insides. Peanut feeders in gardens also receive the same treatment, and this is happening more and more often. It is great how a formerly shy woodland bird is increasingly giving very close views, right outside our windows. Somewhat more distressing for lovers of garden birds is their habit of breaking into nestboxes to eat the chicks within. Nature red in tooth and claw...

So what of green woodpeckers? Well, although they also look for



A wryneck, courtesy Neil Smith

beetle grubs, they also are likely to be seen down on the ground. Especially if you have an ants nest in your lawn. They will shove their beak right in the middle and scoop out all the ants and juicy grubs. Yum, yum! You might also know green woodpeckers from a classic



Great Spotted Woodpecker, courtesy Tom Marshall

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children's TV show. One of the country names for a green woodpecker is a 'yaffle', after its laughing calls, known as 'yaffling'. And, as you may remember, in Bagpuss there was a carved wooden bookend in the shape of a woodpecker called Professor Yaffle. Bet you didn't realise it was based on a real bird!

The other two kinds of woodpecker you can get are both much rarer. Lesser spotted woodpeckers look somewhat like miniature versions of their great spotted cousins. The latter are about the size of a blackbird, the former are house sparrow sized. They have similar habits to their larger cousins too, but tend to be rather more choosy in where they live. They like a mix of young and old trees next to each other. Changes in forestry practice in the 80s and 90s really did not suit them, and their numbers have dropped by 75%, making them really quite scarce.

The final woodpecker is a visitor rather than a resident, the wryneck. This small brown bird, a bit larger than a sparrow, acts more like a thrush than a woodpecker. It loves to feed down on the ground, especially on ants. It has gone extinct as a breeding species in the UK, but each year down the East coast birds get blown in from Scandinavia. If you are lucky you may stumble across one on the sea

banks, picking insects off the grass. Their unusual name comes from its threat display. If it feels threatened it rapidly twists its head from side to side like a snake, trying to intimidate predators. The word wry meaning twisted.

Now is a time of year when we are extra likely to see a woodpecker in the garden, as the young birds will have left the nest. However, they don't go too far and stay with the parents, being shown how to find food. Which means plenty of visits to lawns or garden birdfeeders. Keep your eyes open for one today!



giving
nature
a home



Green Woodpecker, courtesy Ben Andrews



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THE FENNEY MYSTERIES

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What Goes Around Comes Around

Jane Lacey-Crane

PART 7

What the hell was happening? Why did West have Catriona? And more importantly, where? Gould jabbed his finger on the call button. He listened to the phone ring, praying that Catriona was going to answer but knowing in his gut that she wouldn't.

"Hello there Mr Gould. I've been wondering when you'd call. Catriona has been very worried, haven't you my dear?"

Gould heard muffled sobbing and then West's voice again.

"What's that Catriona my lovely? I'm so sorry – it's very hard to make out what you're saying, what with the gag and everything."

"You listen to me West, if anything happens to her, I swear I will make your life a living nightmare."

"You mean more than you have already?"

"Don't be a coward West. If I'm the one you want then come and get me."

"All in good time Ian, all in good time."

The phone clicked off; Gould just watched the screen turn black in his hand.

"Everything alright mate?" Spiking's voice from behind him, made Gould jump.

"What? Yes, everything's fine."

"Are you sure? You look like you've seen a ghost."

"It's fine. Look, I have to go. Thanks for your help."

Gould shoved his phone back in his pocket and all but ran down the corridor, back out to the front of the police station.

Once outside, he headed for the only place he could think of to start his search; the pub across the road where he'd left Catriona a few hours before. He dodged between the traffic and pushed open the doors to the pub's main bar. It was pretty busy, the lunchtime crowd were in, sipping white wine and eating their paninis and pork scratchings.

"Excuse me, have you seen this woman?" Gould grabbed a passing waitress and showed her a picture he had taken of Catriona; it was his favourite one of her. She was sitting on his sofa, glass of wine in hand and she was laughing. At that moment Gould really wished he could remember what had made her laugh so much.

"Yes, she was here. Sat at the table by the window with a bloke in a suit. They both ordered wine but I think she'd already had a bit too much." Gould could see that the waitress was busy, she was already being summoned by a customer at another table.

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Well, no sooner had they drunk their one glass the gentleman had to help her out of the pub. She could barely stand up, she looked really the worse for wear. Some people just don't know their limits. See it all the time in here. I'm sorry but I've got customers. Excuse me."

Gould knew that Catriona couldn't have been that drunk; when he'd left she'd been sipping a latte. West must have slipped her something. But where the hell had he taken her?

Maybe he could find some clues in the pictures that West had sent. He didn't want to look at them again, he didn't want to look at the bruised and battered face of the woman he loved but he knew he had to. He pulled out his phone and anxiously scrolled through the photos. All the shots of her were too close-up to see much of her surroundings; Gould found it hard to concentrate on anything other than Catriona's eyes; swollen and bleeding and so full of fear. He felt the rage building steadily inside him, clouding his thoughts. He needed to focus on finding her.

Look at the photos, he told himself, focus on the clues. The last photo, the one of West gurning at the camera with a terrified looking Catriona in the background, was different. In order to get himself into frame, West had obviously changed the camera position. Gould noticed that behind him there was a mirror. Only half of it was in shot but it was enough for Gould to notice that it was reflecting something on the other side of the room. Gould expanded the picture and there, in the corner was the outline of a window and the view beyond. He could just make out the shape of a tree, a monkey puzzle tree, that was obviously growing outside the window. A spark of recognition flashed across Gould's vision; where had he seen that tree? The newspaper photo! He pulled the paper he'd found in the records room out of his pocket and smoothed it out on the table in front of him. The Fitzgerald twins were being led away from their Knightsbridge home after the suicide of their mother. And there, in the front garden of the house stood a monkey puzzle tree. It was smaller and neater than the one in the picture of West and Catriona but it was definitely the same one. That's where he had her; his old family home.

* * *

Gould drove like a maniac through the streets of West London, cursing at taxi drivers and traffic lights. He hadn't heard anymore from West and he was making himself sick with all the things he was imagining that West might be doing to Catriona.

Gould mounted the kerb outside the Fitzgerald house in Knightsbridge. The house looked abandoned, the worst one on the street, but there was the tree. Gould knew he was in the right place.

He walked quietly up the stone steps in front of the house, trying to listen for any signs of life inside. He couldn't hear anything but that didn't mean they weren't there. Gould had visions of West lurking just behind the door, armed with god knows what, ready to pounce. The front door was slightly ajar and Gould pushed it open with his foot.

"Catriona! Catriona can you hear me?"

He heard the sound of muffled cries coming from a room across the hallway and he moved warily over to the door. He shouldered it open and stepped inside; Catriona was sitting in the middle of the room. Her hands were bound behind her and her ankles were tied to the chair legs.

"Ian, don't. Stay where you are, don't come in," she cried. But it was too late. Gould heard the gun cock by his right ear and felt the cold press of steel against his neck.

"Glad you could join us Detective Inspector. Step in to the room and don't make any sudden moves."

Gould did as he was told, never taking his eyes off Catriona.

"What do you want West? Or should I call Fitzgerald?"

"Very clever. You worked it out. I probably shouldn't have come back to the old family home but it seemed a fitting place to end our little story."

"And what is our story?"

"It's the story of petty men, police officers trying to make a name for themselves, who destroyed the lives of an entire family with their false allegations."

"Your father was tried and convicted. We had plenty of evidence to support the allegations made against him."

"You ruined him!" West shouted, shoving Gould to the floor. "You ruined him, and my mother, and you left two children without parents!"

"I'm sorry for what happened to you and your sister."

"Don't talk about my sister! You killed her too!"

"I don't know what you're talking about, West. Why don't you just put the gun down and we can talk?"

"She hung herself, did you know that? My sister. Right here in this house. She broke in one night, when she was 17, and she hung herself from one of the rafters in her old bedroom. It was almost two weeks before they found her."

West was too busy reminiscing to notice that Gould had moved into a crouched position. When he was sure that West's focus was elsewhere he lunged across the room at him, shoving him backwards into the wall. The gun went off and Gould heard a scream but he couldn't tell where it had come from. He wrestled West to the ground and began pounding his fists into the man's face.

"Ian! Stop, please stop!" Catriona's voice broke through the fog of anger that was clouding Gould's brain. He rolled away from an unconscious West and crawled over to Catriona.

"I'm so sorry, Catriona, this is all my fault. I didn't know ... I didn't realise who he was ... I should have known ..."

"It's alright. It wasn't your fault. Please just get me out of here."

Gould began to untie Catriona's wrists and ankles. Kneeling by her chair he was filled with a sudden rush of emotion. He'd almost lost her, this amazing young woman. He felt like the universe had given him a second chance and he wasn't going to waste it.

"I love you Catriona."

She looked up at him, her face was deathly pale and she was shivering uncontrollably.

"I want you to marry me," he said. "I want to spend the rest of my life with you, if you'll have me."

She raised her hand and gently touched his face. "I love you too, old man. I think being married to you might be fun." She smiled and Gould wrapped his arms around her waist and pulled her close to him.

THE END

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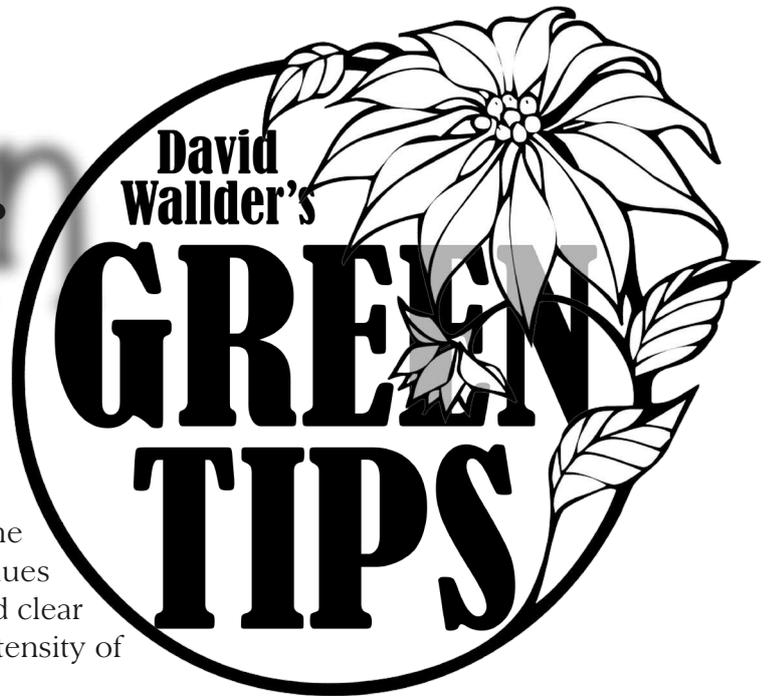
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Autumn jobs



October can bring a richness of colour to the garden, with the multitude of different hues displayed by autumn foliage. The night frosts and clear sunny days, which we often get, bring out the intensity of the colours in the leaves of trees and shrubs.

Fruits and berries are an added attraction now, not only to us, but to our feathered friends too. Shrubs such as cotoneaster, and trees like mountain ash and crab apple are often covered in colourful fruit. But the birds love them so much that often a whole tree can be stripped of berries quite literally overnight. I for one don't feel too aggrieved about sharing with these garden friends – though ask me that again in the spring when they've stripped an unprotected fruit tree of buds. Conversely, if you're picking fruit, don't forget to leave some on the branches for the birds. Overall,

though, garden birds are a joy, not only when they eat up pests for us, but also when you witness their feeding and bathing antics, and especially when they honour our own green sanctuary by raising their young in it.

There is less time to garden in the evenings now, so for most people that means most of the work outdoors must be done at the weekends. This leaves little time to get on with things and with some jobs the earlier they are done in autumn the better. One such is winter digging, especially if you have heavy clay soil. The more

time this type of soil gets for the winter weather to break it down the better, so dig it as early as you can. Don't underestimate the effect wind, rain, frost and snow will have in improving this type of soil. After a winter of pounding by the elements, in spring you will be able to break down the clods (technical term) easily to make good seed beds. Incorporate as much organic matter as you can into the soil, as this will also improve the structure of the soil. If you don't have a compost heap of your own, there are plenty of stables in the vicinity where you can pick up some horse manure. It's wonderful stuff!

If you don't have a compost heap, now is a fantastic opportunity to take advantage of all the fallen leaves that you have to rake off your lawns. It seems something of a tradition to burn leaves in the autumn, but this is an awful waste of a valuable commodity. Autumn leaves piled into a heap and left to decompose for a year or two will make the most wonderful organic matter to use as mulch or a soil conditioner, known as leafmould. Leaves can be mixed with other material and put on a compost heap, but if you want leafmould, then they need a heap of their own. The best way to do this is by making a container using four stakes with chicken wire around them. The wire should help to keep the leaves in one place, looking



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tidier and stopping leaves being blown all round the yard. Larger leaves will take longer to rot, but after 18 months to two years you should have good friable leafmould.

If you haven't room to make a wire enclosure for the leaves, or

enough leaves to make it worthwhile, then put them into black polythene bags with a few holes punched in them and tie them up. You will have good leafmould in the same length of time.

MOBILE LIBRARY NOT YOUR ONLY CHOICE

The nearest library to Fosdyke, if you can't make the mobile library, is Kirton Community Library situated in the New Life Community Church, on the corner of Wash Road and the A16. Opening hours are::

Tuesday - 10am - 1pm
 Thursday - 2pm - 4pm
 Saturday - 10am - 12pm

The library is run by volunteers and could really do with having a few more folk to help out. Tuesday is split into two by one and a half hours sessions and the other days are both a straight two hours. There are always two people covering

each session and volunteers may put in as few or as many hours as they want - every week or once a month, it's entirely their choice; every little helps! If any one is interested and would like to know more, please call Diane - 07427 931353. Alternatively, just pop in to the library and have a chat with one of the existing volunteers.

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



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EMERGENCY CALL OUT

FORGOTTEN VOLUNTEERS

We need reminding occasionally about the people in the village who give up their time for no financial reward for maintaining the village's appearance and its smooth running.

As much as Fosdyke Magazine has criticised the parish council, the councillors have the interests of the village at heart, even if they don't live here. We believe they could be more proactive in making Fosdyke a better and more interesting place to live. You could say that the residents are responsible for putting them there, but with no door-to-door canvassing who knows what they have to offer until they take their seat. Something to bear in mind in 2019 if, and only if, someone who isn't currently on the council wishes to stand.

But we were actually thinking

more of the likes of Malcom Gwynn and his wife who keep our roads and verges clear of discarded rubbish. They do all this for free and in their own time. It's not an official position (though backed by a cash-strapped Boston Borough Council - why wouldn't they if someone offers their services for free).

Then there's the social club and playing field committees, the latter also trustees of the charity that looks after the playing field facilities. The social club is, in effect, it's fundraising arm.

Those who run the village hall also do so as volunteers.

A big thank you to everyone who contributes something to the village because ... they love the village they live in.

family of four or £4.50 for an individual all helps towards the running costs of maintaining the field and its facilities. If you choose to use the club, membership gives you the right to 50p off all major events such as the monthly Quiz Nights, Supper Nights, live entertainment and other special functions. You'll also be free to use the bar at any other time and take guests along with you.

Whether you decided to use the club or never visit it your membership will help towards the upkeep of a valuable resource for Fosdyke.



Fosdyke Social Club

Saturday, 7 October

WHIST DRIVE

8pm



Thursday, 12 October

OPEN MIC

Opens 8pm - music 8.30-11pm



Saturday, 21 October

QUIZ

8pm

Chicken/fish/scampi and chips supper.

Members £5.50, guests £6



Sunday, 28 October

DOMINO DRIVE

8pm

MAKES SENSE TO JOIN

If you have children or are at all sporty then you'll be interested in maintaining the facilities at the playing field.



If you'd like to contribute something towards its upkeep and surrounding amenities why not join the social club?



Even if you have no intention of using the club the £7 a year for a

A THOUGHT

We should take a few moments now and again to think of the people in the village who may have suffered a loss recently or are caring for friends or members of their family. If you know of anyone in that position ask yourself 'is there something I can do to help?' You never know what's around the corner and a sudden illness or accident in the home could mean you're the one needing support.

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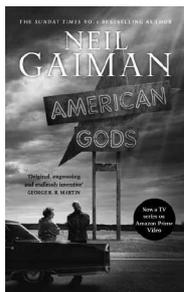
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Liz Wallder's
Book Review
American Gods
 by Neil Gaiman



I have been a lover of Neil Gaiman's work since the early 1990s when I read the Sandman graphic novels but I think that this is my favourite conventional novel of his.

"American Gods" is a well thought out tale of what happens to the Gods of Immigrants when people move to another country, in this case America. Full of folk stories of ancient gods and demons that live and work amongst us, it's mostly a tale of a road trip with a murder mystery thrown in and a lot of magic tricks too- something for everyone.

I love the chapters that steps back from the actual story being told but concentrates on just one god or demon, telling the individual stories of an Arabian jinn and an Irish leprechaun, amongst many others.

It's an amazing well-written story that I found difficult to put down even though I had read it many years before. Gaiman captivates and entertains as always. Although I haven't seen it, there has just been a sky television series made of American Gods with Ian McShane but I would certainly recommend the book.

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 October

FOOTBALL EXTRA

Fosdyke Sunday FC are still looking for players so if you fancy a game pop along when they're playing and have a chat with Dave Clarey before or after the game.

Fosdyke Sunday FC home fixtures:- 1 October v Queen Athletic FC; 8 October v Cowbit Athletic FC Bulls; 15 October v Pinchbeck Utd Sunday FC.

Saturday first team home fixtures: 14 October v Coningsby Reserves

Saturday Reserves home fixtures: 7 October v Swineshead Institute "A"

DISSAPOINTED

As we've pointed out in another article in this month's issue the parish councillors all do their work voluntarily (although they are allowed expenses). It's only the clerk who receives a salary.

However, if we were a part of the council we'd be disappointed that our discussions and actions weren't more widely published. The July minutes are still not available at their website and they would have been approved at the September meeting.

FOSDYKE PARISH COUNCIL

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