

# SALTFLEETBY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025



*photograph Amanda Chapman*

Deck the halls, hark at those jingling bells and look out for Santa on his round; it's that time of year once more. Lots to read in this winter edition. Reports from various events that have taken place. The final instalment of the history of our local pub takes us up to 1965. The history of the last 60 years is sparse so 1965 seems a good ending point.....for now. More village history to come in 2026.

Earlier this year, myself along with the Clerk, applied for an award from the ELIF Grassroots scheme. Item 6 of schedule 1 of the 2011 Project Funding Agreement (windfarm) specifically states that the windfarm fund may be used to purchase land for the benefit of the village. My thinking at the time was that if a grant was awarded, combined to a windfarm award, Saltfleetby may be in a position to purchase an area of land for village use. We did not receive a grant.

The application process required three quotations. One of which was supplied by Mrs. Ysanne Deans of Thornham Farm, who at the time had 56 acres of land for sale. Upon hearing of our failed attempt to purchase a small plot of community land, she invited me to a meeting. This meeting led to my proposal at the November Parish Council meeting. Details can be found on pages 28 to 31.

Thornham Farm was also the venue for the first St. Peter's bonfire and fireworks evening. Pictures and report on page 40.

The annual Harvest supper was enjoyed by a sellout crowd, again, photos and words on page 32.

Saltfleetby Community Association's annual quiz was extremely well attended in November and a full detailed report can be found on pages 34 to 37.

News, articles and all Parish Council business along with recent newsletters, can be found on the parish council website, easily accessed by using the QR code.



Once again my thanks go out to my small band of regular contributors to this quarterly newsletter. The closing date for articles and advertisements for the Spring 2026 issue is 28th February. Photos and articles are always welcome, please send them in.

All content to be emailed to

**christopher.stone@saltfleetbyparishcouncil.gov.uk**

Most viewed pages			
Page title	Sessions	Views	% Δ
1. Saltfleetby Homepage - Saltfleetby Parish Council	765	162	+20.2% ↑
2. Parish Information - Saltfleetby Parish Council	89	70	+56.2% ↑
3. Council business - Saltfleetby Parish Council	61	58	-3.3% ↓
4. Contacts/Council Members - Saltfleetby Parish Council	45	36	+125.0% ↑
5. Saltfleetby Village Newsletter - Saltfleetby Parish Council	41	38	+21.1% ↑
6. About Saltfleetby Village - Saltfleetby Parish Council	40	35	+20.0% ↑
7. 2025 Parish Council Minutes - Saltfleetby Parish Council	38	36	+16.7% ↑
8. Annual Parish Meeting Agendas - Saltfleetby Parish Council	32	30	+17.2% ↑
9. Gayton Wind Farm Community Fund Application Forms - Saltfleetby Parish Council	32	29	+45.0% ↑
10. 2025 Parish Council Agendas - Saltfleetby Parish Council	31	31	+55.0% ↑

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Visitor locations	
Town/City	Sessions
1. Louth	52
2. London	34
3. Bath	31
4. Nottingham	12
5. Singapore	11
6. Leeds	10
7. Lincoln	9
8. Norwich	9
9. Bolsover	6

The Parish Council web address supplies us with monthly reports on usage. I thought you may be interested to see the monthly figures for October.

Interesting to see that visitors from Singapore came in fifth in the table of viewers.



Come along with friends and family to  
**St.Peter's Church**  
on  
**Christmas Eve.**

Join in the celebrations, singing the carols we know and love. The evening starts at 6.00pm followed by mince pies, cake and mulled wine.

A collection will be held during the evening with all contributions donated to  
**ANDY'S CHILDREN'S HOSPICE**

# St Peter's Church



St Peter's is an ecumenical church shared equally between the Church of England and the Methodist Church.

The Church is open for worship every Sunday at 10:30am. The format of the services alternates each week between the two faiths.

The church has been on its current site for nearly 150 years and whilst its primary function is a place of Christian worship, it is being used more by the community.

Regular events at the church include the Chat and Craft Group on Mondays, the Art Group on Wednesdays, a Coffee Morning is held on the first Wednesday of each month, except January, and Charities Bingo is held on the last Sunday of every month.

The Church was asked to hold a Chine Supper in 2024 due to the lack of a village hall. The event was a great success as was the Harvest Supper also held that year. Residents requested that the church hold more community events and this year, 2025, nine events have been/will be held. All the events were oversubscribed and unfortunately many were unable to obtain tickets, but the number of places had to be restricted as only 50 - 60 people can be comfortably seated in the church.

In 2026 it is hoped to organise a full programme of events for residents of the village, however the organisation and delivery of these events require manpower. If any one is prepared to give some of their time to help organise and/or conduct the events please contact June Spetch on 07961 424988.

The following events will take place in St Peter's Church in December:-

1 Sunday 7th December ~ Christmas Sing Along.

Favourite Christmas pop songs with Gavin Willerton.

2 Wednesday 24th December ~ Christmas Carol Service at 6pm.

3 Monday 29th December ~ Christmas Quiz Night.



**Heather and Rose**  
**ROMANS**  
 HANDEMADE LUXURY FRAGRANCES



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<https://simplebooklet.com/romansbrochurecollection>  
 SCAN ME

Do you love luxury home fragrance & body products?  
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100% vegetable, made from pure soya bean oil.

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## SALTFLEETBY CHAT & CRAFT GROUP



The Chat & Craft Group meet every Monday at St Peter's Church on Main Road from 9.30 am – 12.30 pm (no need to attend for the full 3 hours, just drop in for the time that suits you).

No joining fee, no weekly fee and even the tea/coffee won't cost you a penny!

Members enjoy a range of crafts - knitting, embroidery, crochet, cross-stitch, papercrafts and more.

New members are always made welcome – just turn up one Monday with your chosen craft to work on.

**For more info ring or text Val on 07950 026580.**



# **Saltfleetby Short Mat Bowls Club**



**Marshlands Community Hall**

**Saltfleetby LN11 7SS**

*Come and join us*      **Every**  
**Thursday 2pm - 4pm**  
**Friday 7pm - 9pm**

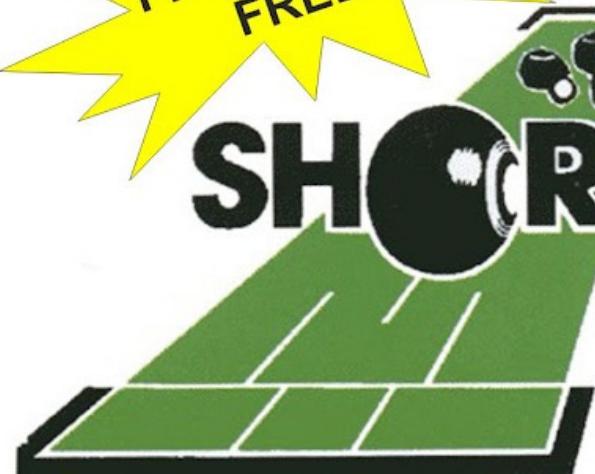
**All ages and  
abilities welcomed**

**Only £3.00  
per session**

**First session  
FREE**

For more info  
contact TRISH  
07788 702004

# **SHORTMAT**



*It's fun  
to play!*

# HISTORY OF THE PRUSSIAN QUEEN

## 1950 to 1965: FRANK AND VERA SEARBY

Frank Searby was born in Grimsby in July 1904. The second youngest of six children of William and Hannah Searby (nee Brogden). The family lived on Hamilton Street, where his father worked as a dock labourer and fish curer. He was christened at St Andrew's Church, and attended St John's School on the corner of Cleethorpes Road and Rutland Street. After his father died in 1914, his mother married fisherman, Percy Leggett and the family went to live on Montague Street, Cleethorpes. Frank worked as a tram driver for the Grimsby Corporation Tramways.

Vera Daniels was born in Sheffield in June 1905, the second daughter of Lawrence, a clerk, and Elizabeth Ann (nee Carrick). She was christened at Sheffield St Michael and All Angels, Neepsend. As a young child she moved to Cleethorpes with her parents and older sister, where they lived on Douglas Road. Here her father worked as a railway shunter and then a railway traffic inspector. In 1921 16-year-old Vera was working as an apprentice tailoress in Grimsby, her 17-year-old sister was a milliner in Cleethorpes.

In April 1937 Frank and Vera got married in Grimsby. They lived on Lestrange Street, Cleethorpes. During the war Frank was in the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) as a part-time warden. He later worked as a groundsman at a bowling green in Cleethorpes, before the couple moved to Alford where they had a grocery shop.

When Frank suggested to Vera that they take over the Prussian Queen, she was wary as it was not in a very good state structurally or financially. She'd never even been in a pub before! Up until then a pub had been taboo, she said "*mother was dead against anything like that and I had never been in a pub before, but I told Frank I would go if I could do some catering, and not serve in the bar*". She later recalled that she was amazed at what they did there, just the two of them, whilst still having to cope with rationing. Vera said that she spent most of her time in the kitchen.

At this time, the Prussian Queen was owned by Hewitt Brothers Brewery of Grimsby. In March 1950 Frank was granted a protection order for the pub, and the licence was officially transferred to him in June 1950.

### Breakfasts and Suppers

They soon established an excellent reputation for catering, regularly fully booked. One Sunday 100 people enjoyed breakfast there, typically consisting of half a slice of gammon, two eggs, sausage and fried bread, followed by hot scones and butter.

Frank wanted to revive the historic tradition of a big **Harvest Festival Supper**, as used to be held in village barns and old alehouses. The first at the Prussian Queen was in October 1950. The room and bar were decorated with sheaves of corn, bowls of fruit, and baskets of vegetables, giving a warm and festive appearance to what many considered to be the event of the year. 62 villagers sat down at trestle-tables filled with harvest produce and other foods, then enjoyed entertainment after the meal. The next day all the produce that had formed the decorations were taken to the Louth County Infirmary.



The first Harvest Supper at the Prussian Queen on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1950. Photo appeared in The Louth Standard on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1950

The Harvest Suppers became a beloved annual event. In 1951, ninety people attended the meal, which included ham and tongue, salad, trifles and cakes. Vera did all the catering; a few voluntary helpers assisted with serving. Reverend Carr-Gregg of St Clement's Church said grace, Archie Ingamells (who grew up at the pub) was toast master for the evening. After the tables had been cleared they had community singing and a concert. Frank called it *a little family gathering* and joked that if the numbers kept increasing, they would soon need the Town Hall at Louth! The next day a van load of produce was sent to the Lindsey Blind Home at Louth.

#### ***"PUB" HARVEST SUPPER AT SALTFLEETBY***



Seated at well-laden tables are Saltfleetby residents who helped to continue the revival of the traditional harvest supper at the "Prussian Queen," on Friday evening.

Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1951

In 1952, 110 people attended, included esteemed guests such as both of the rectors of Saltfleetby, police chiefs and inspectors. Toasts were proposed and drunk to the new Queen, and to the host and hostess. A concert party from Grimsby provided the entertainment, and much produce, donated by guests, was given to the hospital.

The tradition continued each year, with large attendances, immaculately laid tablecloths, sumptuous decorations of produce and flowers, loyal toasts, musical entertainment, and generous donations of food for *The Sycamores Home for the Blind* in Louth.



Louth Standard 18<sup>th</sup> October 1957

## Darby and Joan Club visits to Saltfleetby

Louth members of the popular club for elderly people were conveyed in three buses and several private cars for summer day trips to Saltfleetby. Here they attended services at St Clement's Church, led by Rev Carr-Gregg where they were welcomed to the village by the ringing of the church bells. Sometimes over 130 people went on to have a meal at the Prussian Queen where the Searbys provided an excellent supper. In June 1952 the nice weather allowed them to dine outside in the late evening sunshine, before being taken home, arriving back in Louth by 10pm.

## The Night a Bomb Dropped on the Prussian Queen

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 1952 one of RAF Binbrook's first jet-powered bomber planes left the air base, about 16 miles away from Saltfleetby. Number 9 Squadron had only been flying the new Canberra B2 since May. A crew of three flew through the night sky at 15,000 feet in a circuit pattern as they carried out bombing on the range at Donna Nook. The pilot, Flight Lieutenant Ted Flavell sat on his own in the cockpit, the navigators Sergeants Wilf Crank and Morris Rhodes were behind him side by side. For bombing one navigator had to crawl forward, past the pilot into the nose of the aircraft and lie prone looking out through the perspex nose-cone to take aim and release the bomb.



**English Electric Canberra B Mk.2  
WD932, the plane that dropped a  
bomb on the Prussian Queen**

The weather for night flying was good, with visibility of about 20 miles, a small amount of cloud 10,000 ft below the aircraft had thinned, the wind was just a light breeze. Sgt. Crank was in the nose-cone for the first half of the sortie dropping a single bomb on each attack run. The night targets on the coast were made up of a circle of lights for visual bombing. They dropped 25lb practice bombs that contained a small explosive charge that went off with a flash and a puff of smoke to aid ground staff on the range in their job of plotting the position of the bomb impact.

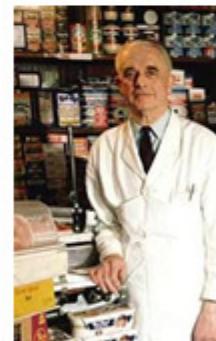
Just before 11pm Wilf climbed back into his seat behind the pilot, and Morris Rhodes went forward for his turn as bomber. They could see the countryside below them, the lights of houses and farms like small pinpricks of light in the inky blackness. The aircraft ran in towards the target and the circle of lights came into the bomb sight. Sergeant Rhodes pressed the bomb release button.....

Meanwhile the Prussian Queen had been full that evening with a mixture of local regulars, holiday makers and airmen from nearby RAF Theddlethorpe. Frank had called "time" nearly half an hour earlier. The customers had left except for a couple of friends who had stayed chatting over the bar. Vera and two helpers were clearing up empty glasses in the bar room.

Frank stood just inside the entrance to the pub. Shopkeeper Bill Platt, who ran *Platts Grocery Store* at 35 Eastgate in Louth (the one with the upside-down sign) walked round the corner to say "goodnight", then left from the back door to fetch his car from the car park. He remarked "I've been watching the airplane". Then there was a sudden loud explosion on the spot that he had just passed.

Frank later described: "We heard the bomber going over then there was a terrific flash and clouds of smoke".

When the glare went from their eyes, they saw that the ladies' toilet three feet away from them, had been severely damaged. They rushed out to find it in a state of ruin, with a hole where the window had been, the cistern and lavatory pan a pile of rubble on the floor. Bill Platt stood a few yards away, shaken but unhurt.



Bill Platt in his Louth grocery shop in 1982

The 25lb flash bomb had gone through the window, smashing glass, blowing out brickwork and twisting the metal window. No one was injured.

Frank told reporters "It was just lucky that Bill walked by that split second earlier. It was like a small gun going off. I did not think it was as near as that. It happened so quickly. I thought maybe it had dropped in a field". "If the bomb had dropped a yard to one side it would have come through the door

and then some of us might have been badly hurt". Mr Platt said "it was a narrow escape, I had been watching the very plane that dropped the bomb".

An emergency call was made to the RAF authorities at the bombing range, and a bomb disposal squad turned out to recover the bomb. Frank commented to the Grimsby Evening Telegraph the following day "It was a narrow squeak, but it was business as usual again today. Only the toilet was damaged".

It seems that by a chance in a million, the lights in the pub car park were arranged in a circle, and were mistaken for the target on the range, just a short distance on to the east and the practice bomb had scored a direct hit right in the middle!

**LINCS.  
PUB  
HIT BY  
BOMB**

Grimsby Daily Telegraph  
21<sup>st</sup> August 1952

**BOMB DROPPED  
ON VILLAGE**  
**Blinding Flash and Loud  
Explosion**

Lincolnshire Standard and Boston  
Guardian 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1952

Villagers had been awakened by the explosion. Mr Geoffrey Cabot, who lived nearby, commented to the Standard: "There are lights on the bombing range and I wondered if they bombed the Prussian Queen by mistake. If so, it was good aiming". RAF officers and representatives of the brewery came out to examine the damage.

The following evening the crew of the Canberra bomber and some of their colleagues from RAF Binbrook visited the Prussian Queen to apologise for the damage caused. Navigator Wilf Crank later recalled: "when we realised there were no injuries, we did see the funny side of it". The RAF held a court of inquiry and the captain was reprimanded.



Sir Cyril Osborne  
in 1962 (National  
Portrait Gallery)

The accident was mentioned in Parliament when the issue of dangerous stray RAF bombs on the Lincolnshire coast was debated in the House of Commons on 19th November 1953. Louth's Conservative MP, Cyril Osborne said in his speech: *"Just after last August Bank Holiday a rather heavy smoke bomb was dropped on a public house called the "Prussian Queen." It went through the window of a lavatory. Had it dropped half an hour earlier someone would have been knocked out, or killed."*

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1953 the Air Ministry announced that it would suspend the use of the bombing range near Saltfleet. When asked his opinion by the newspapers, Frank Searby said "Will it be permanent? I understand it would cost a lot of money to move the ranges. Look at the lads who go in the air. They are risking their lives for us every minute. Ours is just a flash in the pan. They cannot practice with pop guns".

**The bomber crew:** Wilf Crank from Farnworth, became a master navigator and spent the last years of his RAF service as an air traffic controller at Strubby, retiring to Friskney. He died in 2015 age 94.

Newly-wed Morris Rhodes from Kirk Hammerton, Yorkshire, departed with 9 Squadron from Binbrook to Cyprus as part of the Suez operation in October 1956. Here his Canberra B6 plane developed an engine fire and crashed just short of the runway. All 3 crewmen were killed. He was 32-years-old.

Pilot Edwin "Ted" Flavell from Battersea, was promoted to Squadron Leader. On 11<sup>th</sup> October 1956 he made history by becoming the first British pilot to drop a live nuclear bomb. Flying a Valient B1, during tests in South Australia, the bomb, equivalent to 10,000 tons of TNT, exploded above the ground. 200 miles away children in a school near Adelaide felt their building shake with the explosion. He was awarded the Air Force Cross for his part in the operation. He retired in 1968, moving to Dorset with his family, and died in 2014 age 91.



**Squadron Leader Ted Favell**  
after dropping an atom bomb in  
1956, 4 years after he dropped a  
bomb on the Prussian Queen.

### **The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II**

The day before the coronation Frank Searby organised a *challenge Coronation tug-of-war* between teams from the Prussian Queen and the New Inn, offering the prize of a barrel of beer to the winners. Large crowds gathered to watch the matches in Saltfleet, and then at Saltfleetby in the evening, which were both won by the New Inn team.

A large crowd of locals of all ages gathered in the Prussian Queen to enjoy the historic event on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953.



Inside the Prussian Queen for The Coronation on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953

### A Glider Champion Drops in for Tea

In July 1954 French gliding champion Gerard Pierre, who was competing in the world glider championship in Derbyshire, unexpectedly landed in a field near the Prussian Queen. He was helped to dismantle the glider and put it in the yard, then Frank phoned his team, who later arrived with a car and trailer.

Pierre had tea at the pub, then joined customers in the lounge where he was surrounded by excited autograph hunters, before being taken back to Derbyshire. Three days later he was declared the new world glider champion.



### Celebration Dinners

The Prussian Queen hosted a variety of gatherings and meals, bringing together people from all over the region, enjoying Mrs Searby's famous catering and the pub's hospitality. There was an annual Christmas and New

Year party for **village children**, attended by 120 children in 1953, who each received a present from a heavily laden Christmas tree and watched a Punch and Judy Show. **Louth and District Farmers** held an annual dinner there, and also a farmers' wives' dinner.

A reunion of thirteen **RAF drivers** who were based in North Cotes during the second world war, took place in November 1958. It was the first time they had been together after 14 years.



A toast to absent comrades given by Mr. H. Sutcliffe (right) to former despatch riders stationed at R.A.F. North Cotes during the war, at the re-union at the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby. Left to right: Messrs. J. Chapman, G. Wallace, J. Murdoch, A. Singfield, R. Harris, P. Bullock, R. O'Flaherty, R. W. Page, and H. Sutcliffe.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1958

Churchwardens from 15 churches in the Louth East Deanery held an annual dinner every January, attended by about 50 people each year, including the Rural Dean.

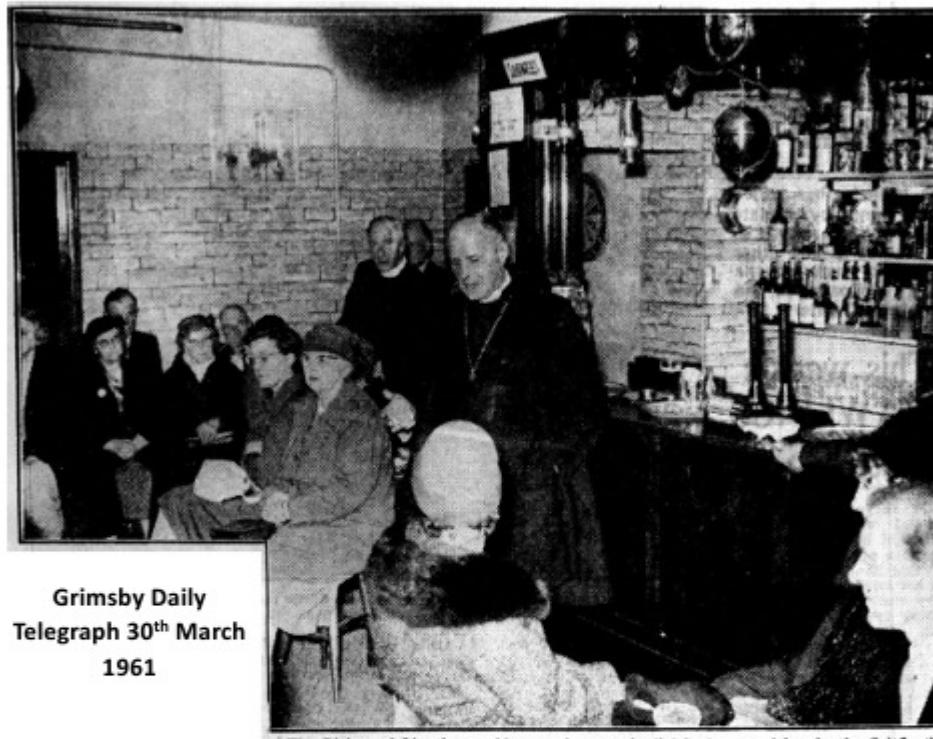
Other organisations that held dinners included Alvingham Mother's Union, North Somercotes Women's Fellowship, Louth Boy Scouts Association and North Somercotes Police.



Churchwardens' dinner at Saltfleetby  
Louth Standard 6th January 1961

**Bishop of Lincoln, Rt. Rev Kenneth Riches** toured the Deanery in March 1961. Including visiting Saltfleetby's St Peter's and All Saints Churches, where they had a picnic lunch. His tour of Marshland churches ended at the Prussian Queen, where a meal was held, attended by more than **60 clergy and church officials** from the surrounding parishes. The location for the meeting was chosen as it's the most central point in the deanery. Addressing the crowded pub whilst leaning against the bar, the bishop talked about changes needed to

bring the church up-to-date. After answering questions, the bishop chatted with villagers and joined them for sandwiches and coffee sitting around tables in the cosy lounge.



Sir Charles Tennyson  
National Portrait Gallery

In August 1961 members of **The Tennyson Society** met at Locksley Hall in North Somercotes, where the poet's grandson, **Sir Charles Tennyson** gave an address. They then had tea at Prussian Queen where prestigious guests included the Society's secretary the Archdeacon of Lincoln, the Venerable A.C. Smith; the Sub Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, Canon A.M. Cook; and Mrs R. Tennyson d'Eyncourt. One guest, Mr Hunter cycled from Newark to join the event.

## Drain Reeding Auction: The End of a Long Tradition

Our network of drainage dykes had to be cleared of reeds each year, some needed reeding twice a year to allow fresh water to get into the dykes in summer and then allow a free outward flow in winter.

The reeding was done manually by local men. It was not an easy job, often entailing standing with one leg in the water and the other on the drain-side to scythe the reeds and other vegetation, to keep the waterway clear. Local farmworkers could earn a lot of extra money by taking on the task.



Louth and North Lincolnshire  
Advertiser, 26<sup>th</sup> May 1951

Traditionally contracts for this work were allocated to men who came along to the local pub to bid at the annual "*Ridding of the Reeds*" auctions. These were held at the end of May or beginning of June. There used to be several such auctions in the area, the one in Saltfleetby was the last remaining, a unique tradition in our village.

The old custom of dyke-letting had been conducted for perhaps 300 years, believed to have been taking place at the Prussian Queen since the early 1800s. Around 50 or 60 local men gathered in the lounge of the pub to take part in a rare example of a **Dutch auction**, where the **lowest bid** won the contract. The pub landlord chalked up the bids on a blackboard.

The auctions used to be conducted by the **dyke-reeve**, a local appointed in each village to oversee work on the dykes and levy a rate for their upkeep from the landowners. The Louth Drainage Board, formed in 1938 was then responsible for this work. Fred Taylor of Thornton Farm, was the last dyke-reeve for our village, who attended as an observer while the drainage board engineer conducted the auctions in the 1950s.

The auctioneer called out the name of the dyke, such as: *Fishmere, Rabbitmere, Outgang, Greyfleet, Long Croft, Lowlands, Backstreet, Fleet Drain, The Aples, Little Mardyke* etc, and gave the length to be cleared in chains (one chain is about 20.1 metres). The bidders responded by shouting

out the price they were prepared to do the work for, starting high, until a lower bid was accepted for the contract.



An unusually optimistic bid brings a smile from "auctioneer" Mr. D. C. Morris, engineer to the Louth Drainage Board, and Mr. G. Murdy, the board's general foreman.

Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 31<sup>st</sup> May 1956

Reeding veteran 65-year-old Ernest Clark, told the newspaper reporter: "You've got to know how to swing a scythe – aye, and how to sharpen one too. Otherwise you can go home". He grinned as his next successful bid prompted a shout of: "Are you saving to get wed?"

Dyke-reeve Fred Taylor, puffing his pipe commented "What shall we do when these old ones are a-cummin' and the young men are not coming forward".

Mr Morris said that the drainage board "are only too keen for it to continue, for it provides employment and is an excellent way of getting the work done". At the end of the auction the total cost of clearing the dykes in the 7,500 acre area came to £475.

In 1958 the total of bids came to £450. Frank thought that it may have ended up being the last, due to the declining number of bidders coming forward to

It was conducted with good humour, the pub crowded with bidders and onlookers, with choruses of laughter at optimistically high starting bids. "What am I bid for Manby Middle Gate?" called the auctioneer Mr Morris in 1956. To the first bid of £35, he replied "We are letting, not selling you know!"

Among the 1956 bidders were 73-year-old Edward Dring, who was pleased to win a contract for £19 15s.



A smile of triumph from a "wizard" of the scythe, 65-years-old Mr. Ernest Clarke. Among his successful bids was one for the Landlord's Dyke — and that includes tree admirer and user.

Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 31<sup>st</sup> May 1956: Ernest Clarke

take part, and the increasing mechanisation that was "gradually cutting out the need for the men".



The landlord of the Prussian Queen, Mr. Frank Searby, chalks up the bids for one of the lots.

Grimsby Evening Telegraph 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1959: Farmworkers gather at the Prussian Queen to bid in the unique reed auction, and Frank Searby chalks up the bids.

Mr Morris commented that at the 1960 auction "there were more people sitting at the auctioneer's table than there were bidding". Because of lack of competition in bidding, Louth Drainage Board made the decision to end this centuries old tradition. They reluctantly declared that there would be no more Dutch auctions at the Prussian Queen. The 1960 auction was the last.

### Frank Searby's "Free Pass" Leaflet

From Louth  
Museum

Phone: Saltfleetby 39

**Free Pass**

This pass is good in all bars, providing that the bearer walks, crawls and carries his own baggage and stays for all drinks and smokes at—

**THE  
PRUSSIAN  
QUEEN  
SALTFLEETBY  
LOUTH**

This pass is not transferable except to another man with money.

Licenses - Robin D. Evil  
alias Frank Searby

**TEN COMMANDMENTS**

I—When thirsty thou shalt come to my house and drink. Thou shalt honour me and my barman, so that thou may live long in the land and continue to drink at my house for ever.

II—Thou shalt not take anything from me unjustly, for I need all I have and as much more as I can get.

III—Thou shalt not expect glasses too full or glasses too large, for I must pay my rent.

IV—Thou shalt not sing or dance too long for it is wasted drinking time.

V—Thou shalt honour me and mine, that thou may'st live long and see me often.

VI—Thou shalt not break or destroy anything on the premises, else thou shalt pay for double the value. Thou shalt not dare to pay me in bad money, "crook cheques," "chalk," "slate" or foreign currency.

VII—Thou shalt call at my place hourly. If unable to come, I shall

consider it an insult unless thou sendest a substitute or an apology.

VIII—Thou shalt not offend thy fellow customers, nor cast base insinuations upon their characters by hinting that they cannot drink too much.

IX—Thou shalt not take the name of my goods in vain by calling my beer "shops" or with a glance at the sky remarking "it looks like rain again," for I always sell the best the market affords, and am always at home to my friends.

X—Thou shalt not forget thy most honourable position and high standing in the community as to ask the barman to "shout" but thou may'st "shout" for him (or me) often.

**The Disasters that Happened to Three of my Customers**

One said: "I'll pay Saturday night as sure as I live."—**He's dead.**  
Another said: "I'll see you tomorrow."—**He's blind.**  
The other said: "I will pay this week or go to hell."—**He's gone.**  
Moral: The best-laid schemes, etc.

Many local couples came to Saltfleetby to hold their **wedding reception**. Marriages that took place at St Peter's, St Clement's and the East Methodist Chapel in the village, as well as at Manby, North Somercotes, Louth and Grimoldby, had receptions at the Prussian Queen, catered by Vera.

Louth Spire Road Racing **Cycling Club** frequently stopped over at the Prussian Queen as a break for refreshments during their long rural rides, enjoying tea by the fire before venturing out into the bad weather for the ride home.

The **darts** team played in the Louth, and the Mablethorpe & District Leagues. In 1954, they were presented with a wooden spoon with a red ribbon bow as a losers' prize, but came third overall in 1960. Frank did well in the pairs and individual competitions, and served as Louth league chairman from 1953-56. The league championship took place at the Prussian Queen in 1956, when Vera presented the prizes.

#### Frank and Vera's Retirement

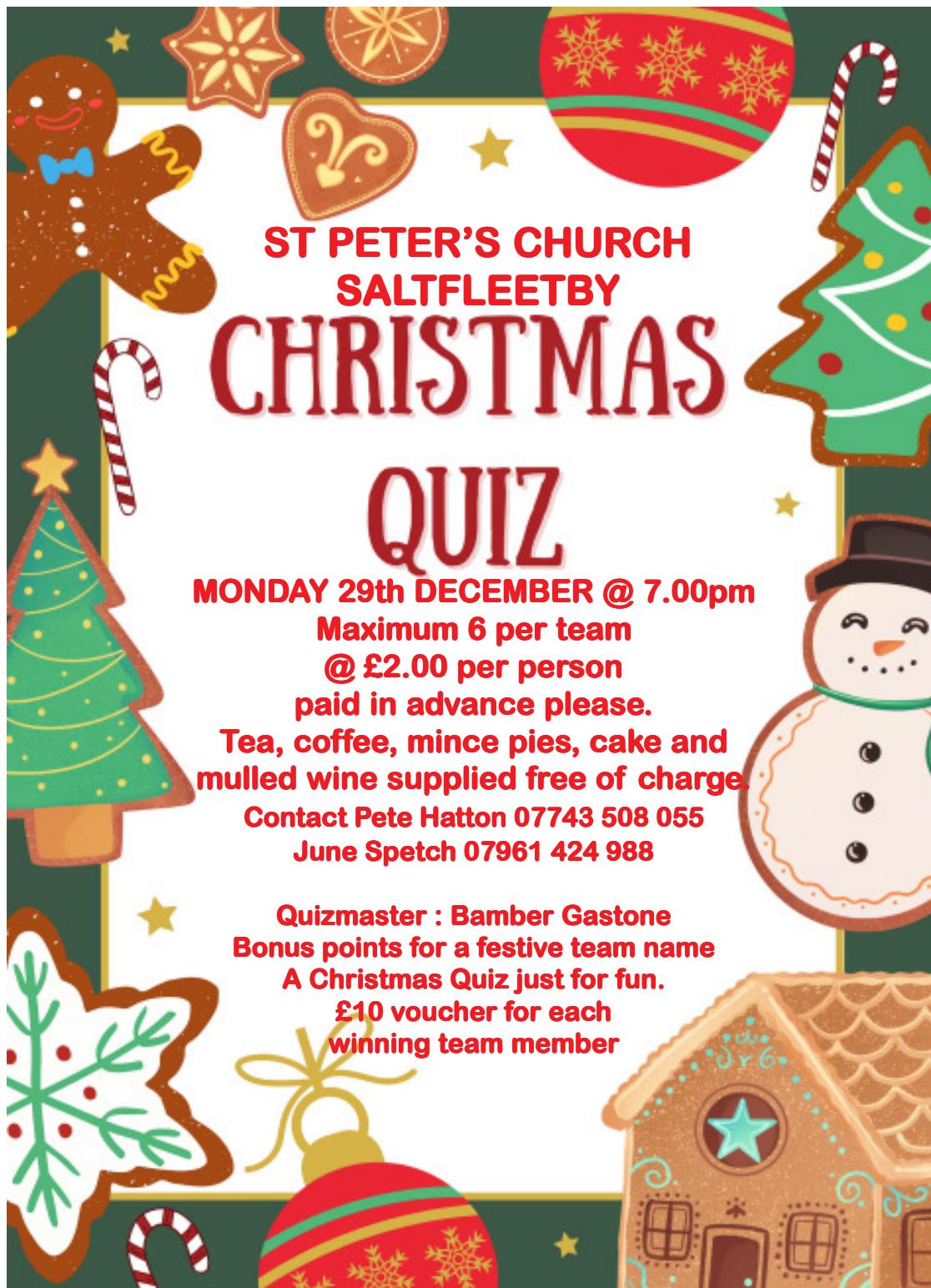


Mr. and Mrs. F. Searby, who are retiring after 16 years as licensees of the Prussian Queen, Saltfleetby, with members of their staff and friends after presentations from the staff, customers and friends last night.

Grimsby Daily Telegraph 26<sup>th</sup> November 1965

After 16 years at the pub, Frank and Vera retired in November 1965. They went to live in South Cockerington, where Frank continued his keen interest in local history. He died in May 1980, age 75.

Vera treasured her scrapbook of memories from their golden era at the Prussian Queen, full of signatures of visitors from around the world, and photos of smiling faces sat at beautifully laden tables. Vera died in January 1993, age 88.



Throughout 2025 various village events have been extremely well catered for by a very local company, Fiddley Diddley. This year, for the third year running, their team were absolutely thrilled and honoured to have received the Gold Award for “Best Food Delivered to Your Door”.



The event known as the Taste of Excellence Awards held at the Drill Hall in Lincoln was a truly glittering evening, themed “A Night at the Movies.” From the red-carpet welcome, to the spectacular entertainment by the Lincoln School of Performing Arts and a beautifully served three-course dinner, it was a celebration of culinary excellence across our county.

To be recognised again in this category was such a proud moment for the team.

Every buffet, every delivery, and every order prepared is made with genuine care and attention to detail. Saltfleetby groups will no doubt be calling upon their services once more in 2026.

Fiddley Diddley offer quality home-made food for all occasions, including buffets, afternoon teas, grazing table experiences, corporate catering, weddings and special celebrations, and you can browse menus and prices in the catering services section of their website.

[www.fiddleydiddley.co.uk](http://www.fiddleydiddley.co.uk) or call Lindsey 07717 312895

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# **Saltfleetby Art Group**



**The Saltfleetby Art Group meet in St Peter's Church Main Road every Wednesday, except the first Wednesday of the month.**

**Sessions start at 10:00am and run until Noon.**

**All adults and accompanied children are welcome.**

**No matter what your level of proficiency you can still enjoy drawing or painting.**

**Help and advice is on hand by the more experienced members.**

**If you wish to give art a go just turn up with a pencil and paper.**

**Free Tea, Coffee and conversation are available.**

**For more details Contact Pete Hatton on 07743508055**

**Below is a picture by one of our eccentric members!**



# TAYLOR MEMORIAL GARDEN

Upon hearing that a recent grant application to possibly purchase an area of land for village use had been refused, long standing resident, Mrs. Ysanne Deans took the very generous decision to gift two acres of her land to the village. This land will become a village asset. Details are currently in the early stages but it is envisaged that the area will be known as Taylor Memorial Garden with a permissive footpath to Green Lane, to be known as Taylors Way. Mrs Deans wishes there to be a permanent record of the Taylor family in Saltfleetby. The following has been provided by Ysanne:

## Taylors of Saltfleetby (and thereabouts)

With the help of family bibles and a few family members being interested in family history we have traced the Taylor family back to the 1600's.

As with most families there have been stories told down the generations also sad occurrences such as one family having several baby boys who all but one died in infancy and they were all named John. Certain names pass down the tree. Due to space, I have only added siblings where relevant.

We start with Edward Taylor (b1675) m Elizabeth (1679), their son also Edward (1702 – 1762) m Rebecca Clark (1707) another Edward followed (1734 – 1812) he married Anne Haines (1734 – 1785) A change of name comes next with Thomas (1766 – 1831) his gravestone can be seen in All Saints churchyard, he married Mary Ashlin (1775 – (1844).



Thomas and his son William (1813 – 1879) visited Partney sheep fayre, there are no records of sheep purchased or sold but William met his future wife Rachel Robinson from Lusby there. William & Rachel had a daughter Betsy (1846 – 1911) who was courted by local diarist William Paddison, in a book written from his diaries he talks of Betsy, lamenting how he neglected her and his grief at her passing before he could make amends!

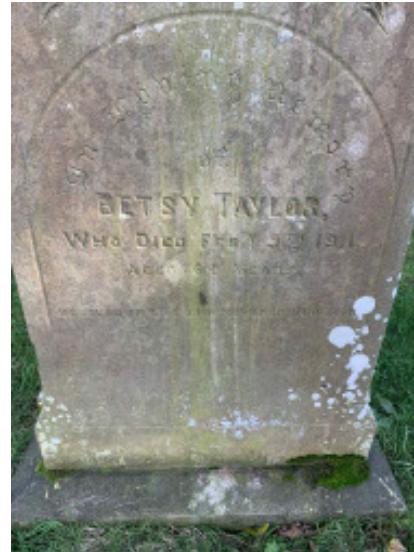
Back to the family tree, Betsy's brother William Robinson Taylor (1853) married Ellen Store (b 1854), by the turn of the century they were living at Carlton Grange with their children: Edith (1886) Constance (1887) William, Frederick (1895) and Robert (1899). Robert and Edith married sister and brother Gladys and Ralph Stephenson; Robert's grandchildren Anna & Mark live at Great Carlton.

William served in WW1 and survived but suffered shell shock and took his own life soon after returning home. Farming in the early 1900's must have been ok as William Robinson Taylor bought each of his children a farm/small holding.

In 1908 he bought Thornham Farm for his daughter Constance (Connie) for his son Frederick he bought Northend farm, the buildings are now converted into homes. As Thornham Farm house was much bigger Fred moved in there, Connie never married and travelled a lot visiting the Store relatives who had emigrated to South Africa, my grandmother always blamed her for bringing meningitis back which almost killed my father when he was 6.

Fred married Dorothy Smith in 1923, their son John was born in 1924 and daughter Barbara 1930. When John announced his engagement to Sheila Cooke in 1950 his mother said 'anyway where are you going to live? We ain't moving!'

A parcel of land with a dilapidated cottage near 'The Stump' had just been purchased so it was renovated and John and Sheila moved in after their wedding in 1952. Three children were born to them while there – Angela Helen 1954, Hilary Ysanne 1956 and Alastair John 1960.





*At a christening Helen & Ysanne on the floor, aunty Connie holding Alastair to her left Dorothy Taylor at back Fred Taylor & my parents John & Sheila to right of Connie is my other grandmother Eva Cooke*



*Mr Fred Taylor, Ysanne's grandad*

When it suited my grandmother to 'retire' to The Old Orchard in 1960 my mother dug her heels in and refused to move to Thornham Farm until 1962 Helen married Joseph Leslie Armstrong in 1977 and moved to Sweden where she still lives, she has two children, Thomas Magnus (1986) and Claire Roma (1990) I (Ysanne) have 3 sons Ashley (1976) Andrew (1986) and Ewan (1989) Alastair married Linda Sanky in 1983 and lives in Shropshire, they have no children. Ashley has 3 daughters Chloe (2001) Leona (2004) and Thea (2021) Leona has the surname Taylor and has a son Caleb (2024). They live in Newark so even though the Taylor name goes on apart from those in the graveyards there are no longer Taylors living in Saltfleetby.

With such a long history I wanted a living memory of the Taylor family.

Initially I thought of a permissive path leading to Green Lane to be named Taylors way, but the more I thought about it and having inherited a third of the land I decided I'd like to gift 2 acres of this land for the use of the village in memory of the Taylors.

My vision would be a quiet reflective area planted with trees, hedges and wild flowers to attract nature. Maybe a community orchard and gardens but also space for village events. I don't just want this to be to remember my family but for villagers to remember theirs too, plant a tree or put a bench in memory. Leading from this area will be Taylors Way a footpath leading to Green Lane which will replace the many paths which have been lost over the years.

*Ysanne Deans*

**Once I had presented Ysanne's generous offer to the Parish Council in November, I applied to the Woodland Trust. This is their reply:**

Dear Chris,

Thanks for applying for a community tree pack. We're really pleased to tell you that your application has been successful!

Your trees will arrive in late February or early March and we'll be in touch closer to the time with more information about your delivery.

In the meantime, we recommend checking out our planting and tree care tips to help you plan for the big planting day.

Large Year Round Colour (420 saplings)

Good luck and happy planting!

**So, with 420 saplings to plant, on a day yet to be determined, volunteers will be required. If you would like to help, in any way with the planting, please contact Councillor Brian Hall (assistant head gardener) 07849 736 603  
It is hoped to make it a fun community planting event.**

## HARVEST SUPPER AT ST. PETER'S

Friday 17th October saw the church full to capacity once more with 60 people enjoying an evening of music and fine food.



Food prepared by the superb Fiddley Diddley and songs performed by the Mablethorpe arm of the now nationally famous "Can't Sing Choir"



A splendid evening was enjoyed by all and thanks go to everyone concerned in organising this annual event.

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# Saltfleetby Community Association Quiz

This ever popular event took place on the 2nd November, and what a cliffhanger it turned out to be, 3 tie break questions being needed to separate the top two points scorers.

11 teams sat down ready to pit their wits against 8 rounds of questions set by our ever popular quizmaster Dave. Each team had a joker card to double the points scored in their chosen round. Who would use theirs to best advantage?

Last years wooden spoonists wondered if a change of name to "The Dork Scratchings" would help, but more about that as we proceed.



Round 1....Horses, and "Snooker Loopies" who I believe fielded an ex jockey jumped right in and played their joker. It looked to be a good ploy giving them an early lead, but only by a neck from a hard chasing "A Bridge Too Far" and "The Creaking Bones"

Round 2....Panto, he's behind you, oh no he's not! No jokers played but "Dynamic Duo" were highest scorers with 9 correct putting them joint leaders with "Snooker Loopies" on 16 points with "Unicorns" and "A Bridge Too Far" close behind on 15 points with 2 more teams on 14 points.

Round 3....Lollies, a picture round of ice creams and lollies over the years. "The Dork Scratchings" played their joker to good effect scoring a full 10 points doubled up to 20 giving them a 7 point lead over the rest of the field. "The 4 Gees" also scored a perfect round, no brain freeze for these 2 teams. One more round before the break, could these unexpected leaders cause an upset? 5 more rounds and we will know.

Round 4....Seasons, a high scoring round by all teams with "The Creaking Bones" playing their joker to good effect adding 18 points to their tally to give them a 1 point lead over "The Dork Scratchings". Last years winners were trailing 6 points behind the leaders, but with the 2 front runners having played their jokers, could they hang on and cause an upset? "Ballaspur" scored 9 points, still leaving them in last place, but with joker still available, things could change.

Time for "Pie and Peas" served by Helena and Rachael, and the raffle drawn by Trish and Barbara, who also kept a check on the quiz scores throughout the evening and not forgetting Eddie running the bar, ably assisted by Amy when he couldn't keep up.  
Fed and watered and raffle prizes allocated, it was back to business.



**"Unicorns"**

Round 5....Saints, no jokers being played. "The Creaking Bones" came out of the traps strongly scoring 9 points to maintain their lead, but although "The Dork Scratchings" only scored 5 points they clung on to second place with 42 points

"Unicorns" scored 9, "A Bridge Too Far" and "Charlie's Angels" scored 8 putting these 3 teams on 40 points. It was getting very close for 2nd place, but with the current leader having played their joker things could quickly change and an upset looked less imminent.

Round 6....Famous Women, both past and present, but again no jokers played, were tactics coming into play? "Unicorns" and "Mind The Gap" certainly knew there women scoring a maximum 10. "A Bridge Too Far" scored 9, but "The Creaking Bones" held a 3 point lead. "The Dork Scratchings" along with "The 4 Gees", "Norfolk Halls" and "Dynamic Duo" scored a less than impressive 3 points.

Round 7....Nature, another picture round, this time of flora and fauna. Last years winners "A Bridge Too Far" gambled their joker along with "Charlie's Angels" and "Mind The Gap". This would change things!!

"A Bridge Too Far" were in their customary position....1st, with "Charlies Angels" jumping into 2nd place with "The Creaking Bones" in 3rd, only 5 points separating them, but early pace setters "The Dork Scratchings" were slipping down the leader board. "Unicorns" had a poor round and were 12 points behind the leaders. Would the final round produce a sting in the tail or would it be the familiar ending.

Round 8...Music, from opera to pop and confidence was high with 6 teams playing their jokers. "Unicorns" scored a maximum and doubled up with their joker which catapulted them from 5th to joint 1st alongside "A Bridge Too Far"...what a surprise!! "Charlie's Angels" did enough to secure 3rd place but only by 1 point from "Mind The Gap" with "The Creaking Bones" a further 1 point behind

All in all a good night, but to have winners you have to have opponents so thank you to all who took part. Someone has to come last and that was "Ballaspur" but scoring 47 out of a possible 90 is no disgrace considering the team fielded only 2 players. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the night but we had to separate the 2 top points scorers.

"Unicorns" had 3 perfect rounds but their knowledge of "Nature" let them down, bet they'll be swotting up on that.

"A Bridge too far scored consistently in every round to force a tie break. 2 bible related question couldn't separate them so who knew the distance, according to google maps between Louth and Edinburgh?

"A Bridge too far" were closest and thus won again but thank you "Unicorns" for a close run contest.

*Your  
Winners*

**"A Bridge  
Too Far"**



TEAMS	Horses	Panto	Lollies	Seasons	Saints	Famous Women	Nature	Music	Total Points	Final Position
Sno	10 10	6 16	7 23	8 31	7 38	4 42	5 47	7 54	54	7th
The Dork Scratches	3 3	7 10	20 30	7 37	5 42	3 45	2 47	8 55	55	6th
Unicorns	7 7	8 15	6 21	10 31	9 40	10 50	3 53	20 73	73	2nd
A Bridge Too Far	8 8	7 15	8 23	9 32	8 40	9 49	16 65	8 73	73	1st
The Creaking Bones	8 8	6 14	6 20	18 38	9 47	6 53	7 60	5 65	65	5th
Dynamic Duo	7 7	9 16	4 20	7 27	6 33	3 36	3 39	14 53	53	8th
Ballaspur	6 6	2 8	5 13	9 22	5 27	5 32	1 33	14 47	47	11th
The 4 Gees	6 6	4 10	10 20	8 28	4 32	3 35	3 38	12 50	50	10th
Norfolk Halls	4 4	8 12	7 19	7 26	3 29	3 32	5 37	12 49	49	9th
Charlie's Angels	6 6	8 14	9 23	9 32	8 40	7 47	14 61	6 67	67	3rd
Mind the Gap	5 5	7 12	6 18	9 27	6 33	10 43	14 57	9 66	66	4th

\* scores in red are joker played (double points)

\* 1st place decided on tie break

To run these nights and future events, volunteers are needed.  
 If you feel you could offer a little time please message  
**“Saltfleetby Community Association”** on their facebook page  
 or come along and see us at one of our monthly coffee mornings,  
 every 3rd Friday with a selection of cakes.



## Welcome to Pets & Paths - Your Saltfleetby based pet assistant!

I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the newest dog walking service in the area!

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Saltfleetby  
Community Association

# St Peter's Bonfire Night

Another excellent, well attended event in the village to celebrate 5th November. All 60 of the free tickets were allocated. Passing cars even stopped to watch the (low noise) fireworks from the roadside!



Huge thanks to everyone at St Peter's Church and Ysanne at Thornham Farm who made the night possible.



Delicious soup, hotdogs & hot dessert was provided by Fiddley Diddley Catering, which was free for all in attendance, with plenty of food for everyone to have seconds (and thirds!).

A wonderful evening where villagers old and new gathered and enjoyed each other's company.

*Amanda Chapman*



## December has arrived, ushering in the start of meteorological winter.

However if you prefer to wait for the winter solstice before getting your scarf and gloves out you will have to wait for a little longer.

The solstice marks the shortest day and longest night, in the northern hemisphere and the start of astronomical winter.

Technically speaking the solstice is a specific moment, not a whole day and in 2025 it happens at 15:03 on 21st December.

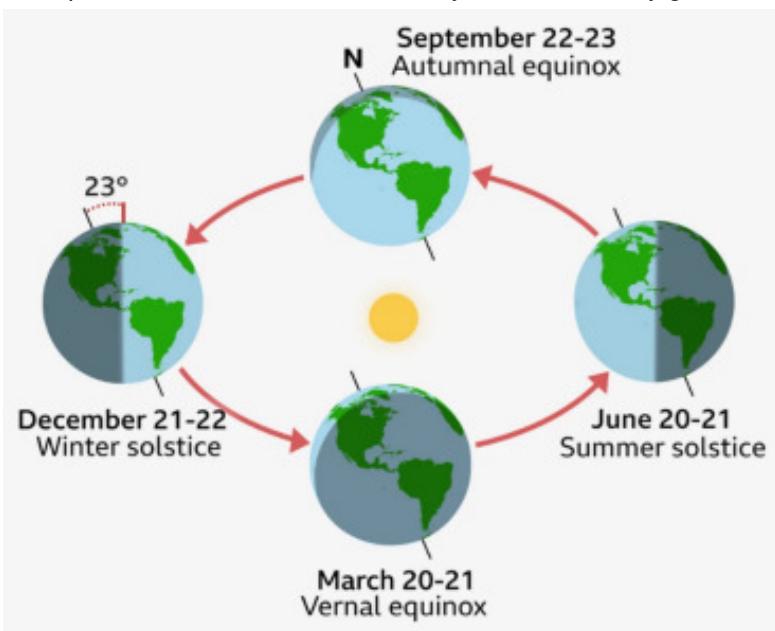
The word 'solstice' comes from the Latin sol, meaning 'sun', and sistere - to 'stand still'.

The winter solstice is the moment the Sun appears to stand still, directly above the Tropic of Capricorn, the most southerly latitude it reaches annually.

This gives the southern hemisphere its longest day of the year with the Sun reaching its highest angle in the sky.

It leaves the northern hemisphere with less sunlight and consequently its maximum amount of darkness.

We have solstices because the Earth is tilted on its axis by 23.5 degrees, which affects which part of the planet's surface the sun is directly overhead at any given time.



The part of the Earth tilted towards the sun varies throughout the year.

After the winter solstice the Sun begins to move north again relative to the equator until eventually - six months later - it reaches its most northerly point, overhead the Tropic of Cancer, and gives us the summer solstice.

Midway between the two solstices we have the equinoxes where the sun is directly over the equator.

## Monthly Coffee Morning at St Peter's

For 11 months of the year, on the first Wednesday of the month, you will find St. Peter's church filled with laughter and pleasant conversation.

From February to December, verger Stuart Leeder and his wife, Pauline, prepare the church to welcome everyone from 10.30 until noon. Offering tea, coffee, and a vast selection of resident supplied cake, villagers old and new, young and old, meet for a general catch-up chat and December's coffee morning was no exception.



Pauline Toothill (left), seen here with her husband, now lives in Louth. Her parents moved to Saltfleetby from Birmingham when she was six months old. As the family grew, her father built them a larger house. At the time in 1954, it was known as "The Newey". That house is now my home.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, SALTFLEETBY

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*wish you a very happy Christmas*

*and a prosperous New Year*