

Saltfleetby Newsletter

Autumn 2026



Welcome once again to the Saltfleetby newsletter. This autumn edition is a bumper issue, thanks to the fantastic number of events that took place during the hot, dry summer months.

It seems my editorial in the summer newsletter ruffled a few feathers, even becoming an agenda item at a recent parish council meeting. As I write this in mid-September, I have not received any official feedback about what the specific issue was.

Rumour has it that my comments regarding Freedom of Information requests caused concern. However, anyone who attended the annual parish meeting will know I only repeated statements made during that session. I cannot respond to gossip, but I am always open to legitimate, direct feedback. If you have a point to make, I am happy to discuss it—my contact details are at the end of this page.

As the future of the newsletter is due to be discussed at the November Parish Council meeting, this could well be my last outing as editor. I hope not, but time will tell.

In this autumn issue, you will find a wonderful selection of articles from local residents and village groups.

Highlights include the well-attended SCA quiz in June, the Taylor Memorial Garden event in July, a visit to the New Inn in Saltfleet, the recent bike race, and a fascinating look into the history of Henry Usher.

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

I hope you find something of interest in this issue.

christopher.stone@saltfleetbyparishcouncil.gov.uk



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

BONFIRE NIGHT

7 th November

BY TICKET ONLY
AVAILABLE FROM
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Tel:- 07474 477006

Email-louthhandymanservices@gmail.com

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



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of

Joan Read

after a short illness. Joan was a much loved member of the community, friend to so many, and a member of the bowls club since it's inception in 2018. A long standing supporter of the Women's Institute and local events she will be missed by all who knew her.



RIP

The Little Village Tea Shop



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The Little Village Tea Shop
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The Life and Family of Reverend Henry Usher, Rector of Saltfleetby St Clement's from 1867 to 1889

Anyone who knows Lincoln is familiar with the Usher family name, thanks to the Usher Gallery and long-established High Street Jeweller's shop.

Richard Usher (1778-1837) was born in Lincoln and married Millicent Radford (1781-1832) in Bulwell, Nottinghamshire. They had children John, James and Ann, before moving to Lincoln where Mary, Henry, Richard and Eliza were born. The family lived on Broadgate where Richard worked as a *labourer*, *wood sawyer*, then in the textile industry as a *scourer* (washing wool using soap and urine in preparation for dyeing) and a *dyer*.

His eldest brother John died in 1825 at the age of 19 and was buried in St Swithin's. By 1835 Henry's brother **James** was working as a watch and clock maker in a tiny shop at the south end of Lincoln High Street. In 1837 he moved to a larger shop on the High Street, opposite The Cornhill. Youngest brother Richard also worked as a watchmaker, but was sentenced to 6 months in Lincoln Gaol for felony in 1838. He died in Boston in 1841 aged 22, his brother James was in attendance.

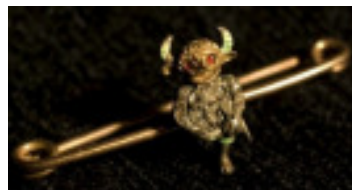
Their son **Henry Radford Usher** was born in December 1816, and was christened in St Swithin's Church on 28th December 1816, an older building on the same site as the present-day church near Greyfriars.



Lincoln High Street in 1851, with Usher's Jewellery shop on the left

Lincoln Library
Local History Collection

James's son **James Ward Usher** was born opposite the jewellery shop in 1845, which he took over in 1874. He made a fortune making and selling souvenirs depicting the *Lincoln Imp* on numerous items such as brooches and spoons, obtaining the rights to use the image from Lincoln Cathedral. He became mayor of Lincoln and his collection of art and craft objects are now housed in the Usher Gallery.



One of James Ward Usher's original Lincoln Imp Brooches

Lincoln Museum



The Usher Gallery, Lincoln,
built 1927, named after
Rev Usher's nephew



James Usher Jewellery Shop, Lincoln
now on Guildhall Street, owned by H L Brown

Young **Henry Usher** went to live in London where he worked as a teacher at **Radnor Street School** in Islington (which was demolished in 1958). Founded as a Methodist Mission in 1798, it was the oldest dedicated Wesleyan Sunday School premises in London. The institution was a pioneering educational effort in London's rapidly growing, poor, overcrowded City Road area, near the north edge of London. It provided a rare opportunity of somewhere for boys and girls to go to learn to read and write. It also established its own private circulating library, a soup kitchen and children's sick fund. With help from a grant from the City of London, and voluntary subscriptions, a boys' day school was opened there in 1837.

Here he took courses in "*the four classes*": which consisted of fifteen lectures on Latin, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Greek. The course was listed as *Lectures to Schoolmasters*, established out of funds donated by an anonymous benefactor.



London University (UCL) in 1828

Henry Usher was a schoolmaster at Radnor Street in 1840, when he enrolled at **University College London**. The grand innovative new university was then only 12 years old, founded as a secular alternative to Oxford and Cambridge.

The lectures were delivered by the professors in the colleges of the respective subjects, on weekday evenings from 7 to 9pm. The students had to read the same books as for the BA degrees in the separate subjects.

At the age of 24 in 1841, he was living in a student lodging house on Cannon Row in Westminster. It was provided by the National Society of Education, a Church of England organisation founded to promote religious education in England and Wales, especially for the poor. Most of the residents there were

young men from working-class backgrounds, who went on to have careers as teachers. Also, resident was 40-year-old Robert Oxlad a former Baptist minister and famous author on the Reformation.

In 1842 Henry was working as a **schoolmaster** at Armley near Leeds, a rapidly expanding industrial town, location of the world's largest woollen mill at the time, and site of workers' riots in August 1842.

On 27th September 1842 he married **Alvira Fields** at Holbeach All Saints' Church, Lincolnshire. Alvira was born in Holbeach in July 1819, the daughter of Cotnam Fields (1776-1847) and his second wife Anne (nee Copeland, 1783-1872). Mr Fields was a tailor and draper with a shop on Back Road, Holbeach. The large family lived on Holbeach High Street, where Cotnam was a well-respected local businessman, involved in local politics.

Whilst living in Holbeach, and working as a schoolmaster, Henry and Alvira had their first child, **Alexander Fields Usher** on 20th July 1843. He was christened in Holbeach All Saints' Church on 17th August 1843.

Founded in 1816, St Bees was the first independent theological college established for training men for ordination into the Church of England. It aimed to address the shortage of good new clergy, and open up opportunities for poorer students. Old St Bees Priory was used as the main lecture room and library. The parish vicar acted as college principal.



Henry went on to study at **St Bees Theological College** in Cumbria in 1845-46.

St Bees College & village in 1842, by William H. Bartlett

The students lived in lodgings in the village; many were married men who moved with their families. Around 100 men were enrolled at this time, each were required to complete two years of study. They had to wear a cap and gown in college, and when out in the nearby towns, to indicate that they were "gentlemen". The college day began with morning prayers at nine in the nave, the students taking turns to read the lesson. Lectures took place from ten till twelve in the two rooms and library, they dined in the middle of the day and took exercise in the afternoons. On Saturday mornings they

composed sermons, which they submitted and received back with remarks. Their busy curriculum included writing essays in Latin and English, studying theological texts, the Greek text of the New Testament, and taking exams each term.

After completion of the course, Henry underwent a lengthy examination to be approved for ordination into the Church, by the Canon of Worcester. He was judged as one of the equal top four candidates out of 42 applicants.

On Sunday 20th December 1846, he was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Worcester at a ceremony in **Worcester Cathedral**. Of the large number of candidates admitted into holy orders there that day, he was the only graduate of St Bees, among many from Oxford, Cambridge and some from Dublin.



Worcester Cathedral



St James's Church, Ashted
near Aston, Birmingham,
demolished in 1956

He was appointed curate of **St James's Ashted**, Birmingham. The chapel served the local community as well as members of the Dragoon Guards and their families, based at the barracks opposite on Great Brook Street. As an assistant curate, he conducted many of the ceremonies on behalf of the incumbent priest. In September 1847 he preached at the funeral of his father-in-law, Cotnam Fields, in Holbeach.

After a year as a deacon, on Sunday 19th December 1847, Henry Usher was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Worcester at a ceremony in Worcester Cathedral. Of the 38 candidates, he was placed at the head of the list by the examining chaplain.

Continuing his curate's duties, as a priest he was also allowed to preside at Holy Communion and marriages. In September 1848 he officiated at the wedding of his cousin, at St Martin's Church, that used to be on St Martin's Lane in Lincoln (where just the graveyard remains today).

In March 1849 the Usher family moved to **Lower Oddington** in Gloucestershire, where Henry was appointed curate for the parish church of

St Nicholas. Here their daughter, **Selina Louisa** was born on 18th November 1850. He performed her christening ceremony there on 21st December 1850.



Oddington St Nicolas

In 1851 the church had space for a total of 302 worshipers, the average attendance was 90 for the morning service and 150 in the afternoon, with 50 Sunday School scholars in the morning and afternoon.

He remained involved in life in his home city, frequently going back to preach at St Martin's Lincoln. A Sunday evening service that he gave there to a large crowd in September 1855 was praised as "*a very impressive and eloquent service*". A collection was made to help towards the expense of gas fittings.

After praise for a review that he wrote for the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* in 1855, the editor replied: "*The review in question was from the pen of the Rev Henry Usher, brother of Mr Usher, watchmaker of this city, a laborious hard-working curate in another diocese. The reverend reviewer has preached some capital sermons in St Martin's church in this city, and we should be happy to see him located in this neighbourhood: but he is a self-made man and has no powerful connections, so that we are afraid the chance of obtaining a living amongst the friends of his youth is but small, Would it were otherwise, - Ed. L.C.*"

In April 1857 Henry became the curate of the medieval Cotswolds church of St Paul's in **Broadwell, Gloucestershire**. The rector lived in his other parish, so the Usher family moved into the parsonage at Broadwell, where he had sole charge for seven years.



Broadwell St Paul's Church



1857 chapel window by Rev Usher

Henry was a keen stained-glass artist who made church windows. He designed and made a series of windows for the new chapel at **St Anne's Bedehouses**, Lincoln, for use by the residents of the alms-houses. In October 1857 he installed a memorial window there in remembrance of W.M. Forster and his wife Jane (nee Cholmeley, who was related to two former rectors of Saltfleetby).

Still there today, it consists of three nearly life-size figures depicting Elizabeth wife of Zaccharias (centre), Simeon blessing her (left) and Joseph of Arimathea (right). In 1858 his west window design was installed, depicting the Adoration of the Magi, inscribed in remembrance of Mr & Mrs Sibthorpe.

In 1862 Rev Usher delivered a **lecture** at Moreton-in-Marsh, and then at Newcastle-upon-Tyne Church Institution, entitled: “**On the Introduction of Christianity into the British Isles**”. In front of large audiences, including many influential clergymen, he traced the history of religion in Britain through successive ages. He covered subjects such as the ancient wisdom of the Druids, the legend that St Paul preached in England, and the arrival of St Augustine from Rome. One review noted: “*the Rev gentleman had bestowed great labour in preparing the lecture, which showed an extensive historical and biblical research*”, a vote of thanks to the lecturer “*was heartily responded to by all present*”.

In 1863 he wrote a pamphlet called “The Christian Embassy”. In September 1863 Rev Usher was appointed as the curate of **Barrowby All Saints** Church, near Grantham, working alongside the village rector, Rev George Earle Welby.

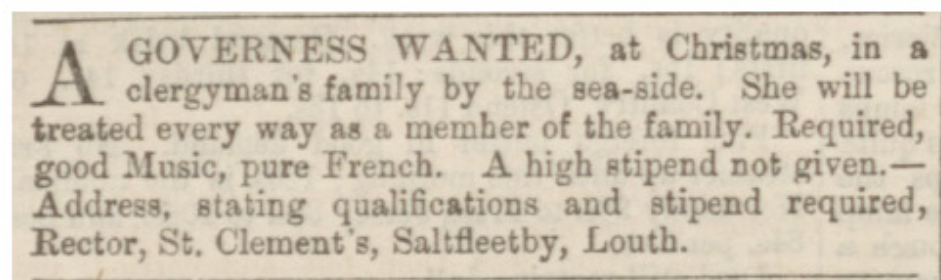


Barrowby All Saints

In May 1866 the church choir were entertained to tea and supper by Rev and Mrs Usher. By 1867 he had designed a window in the church. Said to have been very popular with the parishioners, in the spring of 1867 he was selected as one of the Lenten preachers at Grantham Church. He was also engaged in writing a work on “*The Ancient British Church*”, covering the social and religious history of England from a period of 2,000 years before the Christian Era to the time of William II.

In June **1867** it was announced that The Honourable Charles Cust had preferred Rev Henry Usher to the rectory of **Saltfleetby St Clement**. Charles Cust, former MP for Shropshire South and High Sherrif of Northamptonshire, was the son of the late John Cust, 1st Earl Brownlow, of Belton House, patron of St Clement’s Church. The Brownlow family retained responsibility to choose the new parish priest, and nominate them to be instituted into the role by the Bishop of Lincoln. Rev W. J. Williams who had been rector of St Clement’s for the last 6 years, left to be vicar of Saxilby near Lincoln.

After years of work as a curate, at the age of 50, Henry was finally awarded his own parish. As a rector he was entitled to receive a substantial income from tithes, the declared annual value of the living was £210 (worth about £30,500 today). The family moved into St Clement's Rectory on the Main Road. At this time 23-year-old son Alexander was an aspiring stained-glass artist, soon to establish a business in London making church windows. A governess was appointed for sixteen-year-old Selina at the rectory.



A GOVERNESS WANTED, at Christmas, in a clergyman's family by the sea-side. She will be treated every way as a member of the family. Required, good Music, pure French. A high stipend not given.— Address, stating qualifications and stipend required, Rector, St. Clement's, Saltfleetby, Louth.

Hereford Journal, 16th November 1867

In November 1867 Rev Usher took part in an entertainment evening in North Somercotes, where he read *"a very amusing and interesting piece"*: *"King John and the Abbot of Canterbury"*. The event was organised by the vicar of North Somercotes, who made sure that *"nothing in the least offensive or wanting in decorum was allowed to take place"*, so everything was submitted for the vicar's approval in advance.

Later that month Rev Usher officiated at the wedding of Alvira's nephew from Holbeach, which took place at Hammersmith parish church, London.

After successfully employing a governess for Selina, they then advertised in the *Yorkshire Post* for girls to join her as companions in her education: *"HOME EDUCATION in a CLERGYMAN'S FAMILY by the SEASIDE. – A beneficed Clergyman, who has engaged a superior Governess for his only daughter, wishes to receive into his family TWO OTHER YOUNG LADIES, age from 10 to 16, to associate with her for companionship and education. The advantages are home-training and bracing atmosphere, good music, pure and fluent French, German, drawing &c. Terms, including everything, 60 guineas per annum. References given and required. – Address, Rev H. U., St Clement's Rectory, Saltfleetby, Louth."* [Yorkshire Post, 6th January 1868]

A large **Harvest Festival** celebration took place in St Clement's on Thursday 24th September 1868. It was reported that nearly every man, woman and child in the parish, and numerous visitors from the neighbourhood attended the divine service in the church, which was full to overflowing for a full choral service. A collection was made for funds for the County Hospital, raising 12s 6d. The church was decorated for the occasion by the ladies of the rector's family and other parishioners, with evergreens, flowers, corn etc. The festivities were followed by a *"substantial tea, with meat for the men; after which an entertainment of vocal and instrumental music was given in Mr Stubb's barn"*. The barn was decorated by the ladies with a profusion of evergreens, flowers and banners. A large union jack floated from the top of the church tower, which had been lent by Captain Brooks RN, commandant of the coast guard. Later the men were regaled by a supply of beer and tobacco. *"Fine bright weather contributed much to the enjoyment of one of the happiest days which this parish has seen"*. [Grantham Journal 3rd Oct 1868]

THE WRECK OF THE BLUE JACKET.

STATEMENT OF AN EYE-WITNESS.

St. Clement's Rectory, Saltfleet by Louth,
Oct. 26, 1869.

Newcastle Daily Telegraph 28th October 1869

In October 1869 the coast was struck by a disastrous storm. As a volunteer with the coastguard, Henry aided in the attempted rescue of the schooner *"Blue Jacket"*.

Despite their best efforts, the ship was wrecked with the loss of all crew. Rev Usher later gave eye-witness evidence of the disaster, and attempted to trace the families of the victims.

An active member of the Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society, at a public meeting at Newark Town Hall in June 1871, he read his paper on **"Glass Painting"**. At a meeting in Holbeach in June 1872, he read his sequel paper on the **"Walls and Windows of our Churches"**.

Rev Usher attended the first planning meeting for a **proposed new railway** from Louth to Mablethorpe, held in October **1871** at the New Inn in Saltfleet. He declared the motion that Rev Freshney of Saltfleet be appointed chairman. Attended my many local clergymen, farmers & businessmen, the advantages of the scheme were discussed and speeches given; Rev Usher seconded a resolution expressing cordial approval of the scheme and pledge to use their best endeavours to carry it out in its entirety. He continued his

support for the railway, agreeing that it would be of great advantage to the local farmers, and the neighbourhood. The *Louth and East Coast Railway* opened in 1877, including a station at Saltfleetby, it served the Marsh villages for 83 years. A proposed branch to North Somercotes was never built.

Rev Usher was involved in organising the **Saltfleet District Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show**, the object of which was *"to raise the moral tone, and so to increase the happiness of our cottage hearth and homes"*. Their first exhibition was held at Saltfleetby School Room in July 1873. A bus left the Mason's Arms Inn in Louth at midday to bring attendees to Saltfleetby for the event. There was a public tea in the afternoon, when the Louth Model Band played, followed by a Grand Concert at 7pm.

By 1874, Henry and Alvira's son **Alexander Usher** was in partnership with his friend Edwin Kelly, and their **stained-glass window business** was thriving. Examples of their detailed expert work were installed in numerous churches around the country such as Lincoln St Mary le Wigford, Flamborough St Oswald, Cokethorpe in Oxfordshire, St Augustine's in Derry, and Fimber St Mary in Yorkshire. In January 1874 Edwin Kelly died at the age of 33, of pulmonary tuberculosis. Alexander was in attendance at their home in Camden. On 20th September 1874 Alexander died of rheumatic fever, aged 31. They were both buried in Highgate Cemetery in London.

Rev Usher placed eight new stained-glass windows in the old church of St Clement, the last of which in 1876, was dedicated to the late rector of the parish, Rev Richard Garvey. It depicted Jesus taking up little children in his arms to bless them, completed by Alexander's successor, the artist James Bell of London.

Numerous animals were kept at the Usher household. In November 1876 Rev Usher was fined 14s 6d for allowing a horse to stray into the road. In September 1878 four live tame ducks were presumed stolen from his property. They were found in the nearby garden of Edward Fowler, who kept ducks and said in court that he thought they belonged to him. The case was dismissed. In March 1879 Rev Usher was fined 13s 6d for keeping a dog without a licence.

In 1880 **Selina** married **John Edwin Swithinbank**, who was born in Armley, Leeds in 1851, the son of a house painter and merchant business owner. She went to live with him in Oxford where he was a student at Queen's College. Here they had their first four children, some were christened there by Rev Usher. John graduated and was ordained in 1886, then worked as a curate in Essex and Sussex, where they had another son.

In 1882 Rev Usher attended a meeting in Saltfleetby schoolroom chaired by the rector of St Peter's, to consider starting a parochial branch of the **Church of England Temperance Society** (to promote abstinence from alcohol). Rev Usher made a speech saying that Saltfleetby was considered a sober place, but after careful consideration he had been led to the conclusion that a great special evil like intemperance demanded special organization and special means to grapple with it. He concluded with an appeal for all to join the branch. The resolution was seconded by farmer George Reed of Grove Farm, a prominent member of the Wesleyan Church. It was carried unanimously and many names were speedily enrolled.

At this time the **13th Century St Clement's Church** was in a dangerously dilapidated state, despite many attempts having been made to restore it over previous years. By then the south aisle was completely destroyed. In **1885** it was decided that the only safe solution was to completely dismantle the old church and rebuild it at a nearby site, which would also be more easily reached near the Main Road. As much of the old church as possible was to be preserved, with the ground plan mostly the same, with the addition of a vestry and taller tower. The pine benches etc that Rev Usher bought for the old church three or four years earlier were transferred to the new building.



The position of the original medieval church of St Clement's about, 300 metres from the road. Map published 1824, accessed from National Library of Scotland

TO BUILDERS.—TENDERS are invited for the PULLING DOWN and REBUILDING of the VILLAGE CHURCH of SALTFLEETBY ST. CLEMENTS, near Louth. Plans, &c., may be seen on and after 6th April, 1885, on application to the Rev. H. USHER, at the Rectory House, or to Mr. W. MORTIMER, Architect, Lincoln.

Lincolnshire Chronicle 20th March 1885

The work was carried out mostly at Rev Usher's own considerable expense. The prestigious Lincoln architect William Mortimer designed the new church; 5 new bells were cast by Taylors of Loughborough; decorative tiling was made by Maw and Co of Shropshire.

The new church was opened and consecrated on 26th August **1886** by the Bishop of Lincoln, Rt.Rev Edward King. Rev. Usher and his son-in-law, Rev. Swithinbank also gave readings at the well-attended opening services. An oak pulpit was gifted by Rev Swithinbank's father; Selina made the altar cloths and gifted vases, candlesticks and other items. Stained-glass windows designed by Alexander Usher were taken from the old building and refitted into the new church, with an inscription dedicated to Henry Usher's parents and brother (James who died in 1882 aged 74). An inscription at the east end of the nave read: *"To the glory of God, in memory of Alexander Fields Usher, who died September 21, 1874, aged 31 years. An upright and blameless son"*.

The ceremony was followed by luncheon for 60 guests in a marquee at the rectory, and then a tea for a very large number of people from Saltfleetby and the surrounding parishes when Alvira, Selina and other local ladies presided at the trays. An evening service was followed by the ringing of the new bells of St Clement's by the ringers from Saltfleetby All Saints' Church.

In September 1887 Reverends Usher and Swithinbank assisted at the opening ceremony and concert for **St Matthias' Church Institute** and Working Men's Club in Canning Town, London. In October 1887 Rev Usher aided the Bishop of Lincoln at a public meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel at Louth Town Hall.

HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS.
THE RECTOR AND HIS DOMESTICS.

The London Echo 15th March 1888

STRANGE PROCEEDINGS AT A LINCOLN-SHIRE RECTORY.

Hull Daily News 17th March 1888

When Henry and Alvira went away for a few days in on 27th February **1888**, their two servants, sisters Annie and Jane Fatchett from Louth, were left in charge of the rectory. During their absence the maids (aged 19 and 20) held parties at the house, inviting a number of young men to spend a few days. When the Ushers returned on 9th March they found the house in great disorder: the best bedroom had been broken into and occupied with everything disarranged; his desk had been forced open to extract a key; the wine cellar broken open where about 30 bottles (of mostly 20-year-old port) were missing, presumed to have been consumed during the festivities. During this time, they had also ordered meat from a local butcher and killed several fowls. Annie and Jane absconded when the Ushers returned, but attended Louth County Police-Court on 14th March, along with two 20-year-old men from Louth. They all pleaded guilty, one stated that he was made too drunk to remember anything. Rev Usher strongly recommended that they be leniently dealt with, taking this into consideration the magistrates imposed a fine of £3 each.

Whilst on her way to church on a dark November evening in 1888, Mrs Usher accidentally walked into the **Mar Dyke**. It was such a dark night that she could not see where she was walking and mistook the dyke for the road. After being in the water for quarter of an hour, 69-year-old Alvira was extricated in an exhausted condition.

In July **1889** the Ushers left Saltfleetby after 23 years, and Henry was appointed the Rector of St Nicholas in **Snitterby** near Kirton in Lindsey, by patronage of the Crown. The living (income) at Snitterby was higher, valued at £420 per annum. Rev Swithinbank left his new appointment at St Mawgan in Cornwall to take over the rectory at St Clement, now valued as a living of £290. He, Selina & their four surviving young children moved into the rectory.

Rev Usher frequently visited **Snitterby School**, in November 1889 he went every day for a week and brought in some needlework for the girls. In January 1890 he spoke at an entertainment of music, acts and recitations, held in local farmer Mr Trafford's barn, to raise money for the school. He introduced the comic characters in the charade, and called for a vote of thanks for their endeavours, which raised £6 18s.

On 25th November 1890, Alvira died suddenly at their home, at the age of 71, while Henry was at her side. The cause of death was recorded as *apoplexy* (probably a stroke). She was buried in a family vault in Saltfleetby St Clement's churchyard.



Brass in memory of Alvira Usher in Snitterby Church

In March 1891 Henry installed a window dedicated to her in Snitterby St Nicholas Church, depicting the crucifixion, and a memorial brass plaque on the nearby wall of the chancel inscribed: "*in loving memory of Alvira the devoted and lamented wife of the Rev Henry Usher MA*".

On 18th August 1891 Henry Usher married widow Mary Ann Chapman. She was born in 1825, the daughter of Dr Henry George a surgeon and general practitioner in Kirton Lindsey. Her first husband, of 35 years, William Chapman, a farmer with 500 acres in Burton on Stather, died in 1884 aged 71.

Rev Usher undertook plans for the restoration of the church, including rebuilding the fallen tower. Architects *W Mortimer and Sons of Lincoln*, engaged local builders for the project in April 1894. A bazaar held in the rectory grounds in June 1894 raised money for the new tower, and also for a new peal of bells and a clock. A service of dedication for the new tower took place on 30th October 1894, preached by the Bishop of Lincoln, and evening service by Rev Swithinbank.



The tower of Snitterby St Nicholas, rebuilt by Rev Usher in 1894

After further fund-raising, including a collection at the Harvest Thanksgiving celebrations, the clock was installed in the tower in September 1896.

Rev Henry Usher died on 7th December 1896 at the age of 79, of rheumatism and cardiac failure, after suffering illness for some months. A tribute in *The Hull Times* on 19th December said: "*he was an earnest worker in his Master's cause, ever courteous and kind to his parishioners. No one who went to him*

for comfort and help ever came away disappointed". "He is greatly missed by the members of his choir, his voice having always led the singing in time and tune".

The first part of his burial service was held at Snitterby Church at 9.30am on Thursday 17th December, conducted by the Rev Simpson, rector of Waddingham who led a touching service to a full church.



The Usher family vault in Saltfleetby St Clement's churchyard

The coffin was then taken to Saltfleetby where the remaining part of the service was held at 1 o'clock on the Friday. The coffin was covered with wreaths from friends, parishioners, choir and school children. The vault bears inscriptions in memory of Alvira, Henry and Alexander, now much weathered.

Probate was granted to his widow Mary, daughter Selina, and the architects William Mortimer & his son William Malkinson Mortimer, who were executors of his will. He left effects to the value of £3698 4s 2d.

Selina and John Swithinbank had a further two children at St Clement's Rectory: Gladys in 1890 and Theodore in 1891. On 3rd September 1897 Rev John Edwin Swithinbank died of heart disease age 45. He was buried in St Clement's churchyard. Selina took over as patron of the church, and appointed Rev William H. Hutchins of Saltfleetby All Saints', to also act as rector of St Clements. She and her children moved to Ella Street in Leeds.

Mary Ann Usher moved to Kirton Lindsey where she lived with her domestic servants, including Lizzie Trafford from Snitterby. Mary died on 20th January 1903 age 77. She was buried at St Andrew's churchyard, Kirton Lindsey.

Selina continued to live with her children in the Leeds area, then in Manchester. In the 1930s and 40s she owned a house on Ashton Old Road, Manchester where she lived with her oldest daughter, Kathleen and her husband. She died in Manchester Park House Hospital on Crescent Road Crumpsall on 16th June 1944 at the age of 93.

Saltfleetby Community Association Catch Up

Sunday 14th June saw **Marshlands Community Hall** open its doors for a quiz, this time with new quizmaster Robin, and his glamorous assistant Heather keeping score. With a "new format" being advertised would we get the quizzers turning up? No need to worry because more than 50 people in 11 teams were ready to show their knowledge.

The new format was 4 rounds of 20 questions, each round split into 2 subjects, as well as 2 picture rounds, 1 in each half of the night meaning a total of 126 points were available.

With all eyes on the main prize, let the evening begin, although I can't help thinking a couple of teams may well be thinking they were there to make the numbers up. Thank you.

Round 1, General Knowledge and Bigger/Smaller-True/False. Who knew Umberto II was the last

king of Italy or a sturgeon is legally the property of the king. Did you know Vienna is closer to London than Madrid, or the river Severn is 5 mile longer than the Thames? "A Bridge too Far", where have we heard that name before, along with "Missing David" knew 80% of the answers giving them 16 points each, but even the lowest 2 teams "Norfolk Halls" and "Joan's Jesters" were only 5 points adrift on 11, early days!

Round 2, Cities/Islands-Science and Nature. If you knew Hobart was the capital of Tasmania, or Nuuk is the only city and capital of Greenland, you'd be correct, or Oology is the study of birds eggs and an Abalone is a marine snail, then you should consider being part of a team



at our next quiz on Saturday 14th November with Dave and Barbara as hosts. Whilst answering these questions, there was a set of pictures in front of them, famous people from history, two pictures of each person, one traditional and one from a modern tv series or film.



Round 2 saw "A Bridge Too Far" scoring 17 with "Babs and Co" close behind on 15. "Missing David" slipped scoring only 11½ points, while "Norfolk Halls" appeared to be thinking, even at this early stage, chocolate frogs would taste good, scoring a miserable 2 points. "Just Us 6" and "Joan's Jesters" scored a respectable 12 and 10 in what turned out to be a tricky round.

The picture round threw up some surprises with the "Old Farts" scoring a magnificent 18, could it be they had an age advantage? 4 teams, "Three Nations", "Groslers", "Just Us 6" and "Missing David" scored 16 points with "A Bridge Too Far" scoring 15. "Norfolk Halls" redeemed themselves a little with 10 points. That brought the first half to a conclusion with

"A Bridge Too Far" on 48, "Babs and Co" on 44, and "Missing David" close behind on 43½. Bottom place was between "Joan's Jesters" with "Norfolk Halls" looking the stronger contenders for the chocolate frogs.



Time for a top up of drinks and the obligatory pie and peas with gravy if desired, ably served up by the ladies in the kitchen. While everyone hopefully enjoyed their food, the raffle was drawn. Having collected their winnings it was time to carry on with the rest of the evening.

With "A Bridge Too Far" holding a slender lead, would they be in top spot at the end of the evening? Round 4 and more General Knowledge and Food. If you knew Ivanhoe was Emile Heskey's middle name or an elephant has over 40,000 muscles in it's nose, or a Tayberry is a cross between a raspberry and blackberry, then why not join us with a team at our next quiz? No surprises that "A Bridge Too Far" led the field scoring 17½ points closely followed by "Missing David" and "Mad Potters" on 15½. The bottom 2 teams remained static scoring 10 and 11 points.

Onto round 5, Fawltly Towers & Flowers. Did you know only 12 episodes of Fawltly Towers were made and Narcissus is the species name for the common yellow daffodil? Guess what..."A Bridge Too Far" knew 19 of the answers, but "Missing David" scored a full house. "Three Nations" and "Babs and Co" were close behind on 18, "Creaking Bones" on 17 with "Old Farts" and "Mad Potters" on 16. Would the second picture round of cartoon characters, one of which first appeared almost 100 years ago throw up any surprises? It certainly did, "Norfolk Halls" scored an impressive 21 points, but it was "A Bridge Too Far" and "Mad Potters" taking the top two places with 23 and 22 respectively. Could you name them all?



With all questions answered to the best of their abilities, the raffle drawn, prizes claimed, pie and peas consumed, it was time to sort out the all important results, but before that a few mentions.

To run these nights and future events, volunteers are needed. Thanks must go to Robin and Heather for organising the questions, Trish and Lesley for their sterling work in the kitchen, Paul and Eddie for their help and anyone else who helped, it is greatly appreciated.

Okay, if I've not bored you rigid, here are some results. "Norfolk Halls", despite an impressive knowledge of cartoon characters, couldn't escape bottom spot, but with 66 out of the possible 126 you may have earned a "C" on your school report. (showing my age there!) One place above was "Joan's Jesters". Only 7 points separated 9th to 4th with "Creaking Bones" just missing out on a podium place. 2nd and 3rd turned out very close with "Babs & Co" on 96, but it was "Missing David" who had the advantage by a colossal $\frac{1}{2}$ a point who took runner's up spot. It probably comes as no surprise to those who have been to, or read about our quizzes that "A Bridge Too Far" were the winners with 107½ points. At our last quiz "Unicorns", who were away for this one, lost out on a tie break. Let's hope they are available for our next quiz, or perhaps you know a group of people that could cause "A Bridge Too Far" to collapse! Till the next one, keep swotting and who knows what may happen. Thank you to all who attended because without you there couldn't be a quiz or a winner.

TEAM NAME	Rd 1	Rd 2	Picture 1	Rd 4	Rd 5	Picture 2	TOTAL	Position
Creaking Bones	15.5	11	13	15	17	18	89.5	4 th
A Bridge Too Far	16	17	15	17.5	19	23	107.5	1 st
Babs & Co	15	15	14	15	18	19	96	3 rd
Missing David	16	11.5	16	15.5	20	17.5	96.5	2 nd
Just Us 6	12.5	12	16	14	12	17	83.5	8 th
Groslers	12.5	8	16	15	15	19	85.5	7 th
Norfolk Halls	11	2	10	11	11	21	66	11 th
Joan's Jesters	11	10	13	10	15	18	77	10 th
Three Nations	14	7	16	13.5	18	20	88.5	6 th
Old Farts	12.5	7	18	13	16	16	82.5	9 th
Mad Potters	14	7.5	14	15.5	16	22	89	5 th

Sunday 2nd August was the evening of our bi-monthly bingo and raffle at **Mashlands Community Hall**, but this one was solely for the benefit of "Breast Cancer Now". With a large raffle with some good prizes as well as the bingo, the evening was well attended. With many of the prizes generously donated, grateful thanks must be extended to the following.....

Bev Hopkinson, the Wellness Retreat, Monika Garrido, Sue Handley, The Little Village Tea Shop, Holmes Farm (Nth Somercotes), Salt Box Farm, Churchills Post Office (Nth Somercotes), Tesco (Mablethorpe), Manby Meat & Fish, and J. Shaw Fruit & Veg. Apologies if I've missed anyone. The evening was a roaring success with the bingo and raffle raising £346-23. A name card swelled the funds by another £100 but we weren't finished there.

Bingo done and dusted, it was time to think about the coffee morning on 21st August, at **Marshlands Community Hall**, and a further fund raiser for "Breast Cancer Now". With tea and coffee flowing and a varied selection of home made cakes, plus a tombola as an added attraction it was well attended.



Huge thanks to Sue Warren for her help and to anyone that baked cakes or gifted prizes for the tombola. After tidying up the money was counted, and your generosity raised the magnificent sum of £111-12. Together with the bingo evening the total raised for "Breast Cancer Now" stood at **£557-35**. Once again your continued support and attendance is greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to October, we have a coffee morning on the 16th and moving on to Saturday 14th November, our ever popular quiz hosted by Dave and Barbara returns, along with the obligatory pie and peas. A week later on Friday 20th is the monthly coffee morning, with the Christmas coffee morning on 18th December with hot sausage rolls and mince pies, all events at **Marshlands Community Hall (LN11 7SS)**

As with any event help and volunteers are needed, even 10 minutes could make all the difference between success and failure. 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, always with a selection of cakes every 3rd Friday.

Saltfleetby Community Association

Upcoming Events

BINGO
plus
COFFEE
MORNINGS,
and
QUIZ

Saltfleetby Community Association
invites you to

COME and JOIN US for
COFFEE AND CAKE

Friendly
Chit-Chat

every
3rd Friday of the month
10am - 12 noon
at
Marshlands Community Hall
Saltfleetby LN11 7SS

Everyone
welcome

Meet
new friends

Mar 20th
Apr 17th
May 15th
Jun 19th
Jul 17th
Aug 21st
Sept 18th
Oct 16th
Nov 20th
Dec 18th

Free Event

*Your support and attendance
is greatly appreciated*

Saltfleetby Community Association
invites you to

BINGO
and
RAFFLE

Marshlands Community Hall
(Saltfleetby LN11 7SS)

Doors open 6-30
EYES DOWN
7-00pm

Refreshments
at interval

Sunday 4th October
Licensed Bar

QUIZ NIGHT

Bring your team
Maximum 6 players

Enjoy a fun evening of questions, prizes
and fundraising.

£2-50 PER PERSON

- GREAT PRIZES
- RAFFLE
- REFRESHMENTS

Pie and Pea Supper

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER 7:00pm

Marshlands Community Hall
Saltfleetby (LN11 7SS)



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To help strengthen communication and improve local crime prevention, I am in the process of setting up a dedicated community WhatsApp group. The aim of the group will be to share relevant information, raise awareness of local issues, and help residents stay informed and vigilant.

Should you want any further information or to be added to the group please contact Claire Saul.

Saltfleetbycrimeprevention@gmail.com

I look forward to working together to help keep our community safe.

The Great British Map: Round 2

A Sandwich of Ham and a slice of Christmas Pie



It turns out that the previous tour of Britain's eccentric addresses was merely the tip of the topographical iceberg

From 'Lost' villages to 'Ugley' residents (who are actually very lovely), here is the second leg of our tour through the towns and hamlets that make us do a double-take.

At a specific crossroad in East Kent. If you stand at just the right junction between Deal and Sandwich, the finger-posts point in opposite directions.

Turn one way for Ham, and the other for Sandwich.

And if you're still hungry, the map offers a full banquet, plus something to wash it down with.

The Fryups in North Yorkshire are split into Great Fryup Dale and Little Fryup Dale. Despite the name, there isn't a chip shop in sight!

Then we have Bread and Meat Close, a specific address in Warwick that sounds like the start of a very good picnic ingredient.

Over in Helston, Cornwall, we have Water-Ma-Trout.

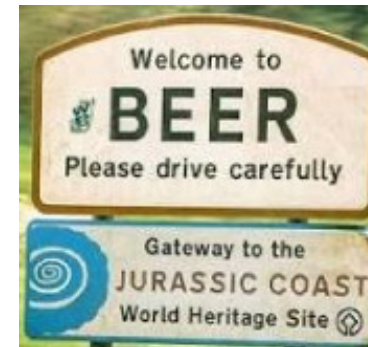


Or how about a seasonal Christmas Pie? The hamlet in Surrey, which gets its name from a combination of a 16th-century local landowning family named Christmas and the Saxon term 'pightel' or 'pightle,' which means a small, enclosed piece of arable land. Over time, this land was likely called the 'Christmas Pightle,' which evolved into "Christmas Pie"



And to wash it all down, if it isn't 5 o'clock somewhere yet, we have Cup and Saucer: a charming spot in Cropredy, Banbury. It sounds like the perfect place for a mid-afternoon brew. Or if you're not getting around to reading this till later, perhaps you would prefer Beer? This picturesque seaside village is located on the Jurassic Coast in East Devon.

And like a teenager's party, where you will always find someone crying on the stairs, your SatNav doesn't just tell you where to go; it tells you how to feel. If you're driving through the North, you might find yourself in Giggleswick, Wigglesworth, or Ticklerton, or hot under the collar at Loggerheads in Denbighshire. Apparently named after a local inn where people used to get into... well, loggerheads.



Try keeping a straight face at Sniggery Woods! Or, perhaps you'll be feeling the chill at Freezywater or Cold Christmas in Hertfordshire.



And if you're looking for a bit of Cold Comfort, you'll find that lane in Alcester. But be warned: our optimistic Welsh readers have a cautionary saying: "Live in Hope and die in Caergwrle." Hope and Caergwrle are neighbouring villages in Flintshire, with the latter housing the nearest cemetery. The Welsh certainly have a way with perspective!

On the topic of death, we have Gravesend in Kent (originally called Gravesham, the home of the Geref/Sheriff), and Death Road in Ipswich: residents reportedly refer to it as 'Dee-ath Road' to take the sting out of it. It was once home to campaigner Mary Whitehouse, apparently!

We have Ugley, in Essex: Home to the famous Ugley Women's Institute. The village is charming, as are the ladies - it's just a case of an Old English name (Ugga's Lea) ageing like a fine blue cheese. It's also pronounced 'Oogley'.



Oh, and before I forget, I received intel on Ralph's Wife's Lane mentioned in the last tour: Mystery solved! A local tells us that Ralph was a fisherman who was lost at sea, and that the ghost of his wife is still seen there today, keeping watch for him.



If you're looking for a game or a new hobby, the UK has you covered. Pronounced exactly like the circus performer, the residents are anything but in Clowne, Derbyshire. Or we have Tiddleywink, a tiny hamlet in Wiltshire that sounds like a Victorian parlour game.



Trumpet in Herefordshire is named after a local inn that sat on the old stagecoach route. Which leads us neatly to Sound, an Old Norse or English word for a narrow stretch of water.



Humberston Fitties is a gorgeous coastal area in Lincolnshire. 'Fitties' is a local word for salt marsh, but it makes us feel like we should be wearing gym gear just to drive through.

When places are called 'Lower Whatever', you would be forgiven for expecting an Upper version nearby. Not so for Lower Upham. One of those geographical mysteries, I guess, although Upper Upham does have a nice alliteration to it!

You may recall that No Place in County Durham was highlighted last time, but apparently, in Suffolk, you can also find Nowheres Corner. Situated between three villages, it literally belongs to 'nowhere'.

And finally we arrive at the bottom of the page with a few place names where our ancestors weren't being rude; they were being literal. It's just that centuries later, we've developed a much cheekier vocabulary.

In geographical terms, a Bottom is simply the lowest part of a valley. However, try explaining that to a delivery driver looking for Pratt's Bottom in Kent. It's a lovely, well-to-do area, but it remains the undisputed heavyweight champion of awkward addresses.

This leads me swiftly on to Claggy Bottom: A delightfully sticky-sounding spot in Hertfordshire. Located in Kent, Lynsore Bottom sounds rather painful, but in reality, it is a delightful village surrounded by beautiful countryside.

And rounding the bottoms off (no pun intended) we have Scratchy Bottom, a cliff-bound valley in Dorset. I assume the local sheep find it quite comfortable, even if the name suggests otherwise. Perhaps they would be better suited to Happy Bottom, also in Dorset!





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JUNE'S CHARITY BINGO HELD ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

By kind permission of the Rural Deans Office the next

Charity Bingo evening will take place on

THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Eyes down at 7.00 pm

Great prizes to be won along with a mid session raffle.

Monies collected at June's events are

donated to many different charities from large
national bodies to small individual organisations
that need financial assistance.

Come along and join in the fun.

5

3

9

1

11



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“Our boy Richard Smith”

As many of you will know my son Richard from around the village, it is with great sadness that I have to let you know that he sadly passed away on Saturday 5th September, after an illness which ultimately took his precious life.

He passed peacefully, surrounded by his family.

To say we are devastated doesn't even come close to describing the loss we feel.

However, Richard was full of life, fun and character. Known as “The Bin Man” to some of you, many will remember seeing him on his little walks around the village, where there was always time for a chat and a hello. Some may remember him walking around in his onesie, or simply standing by the Osier Holt signpost, happily watching the world go by.

Richard had a wonderful life and brought so much happiness to those who knew him.

I am incredibly proud to be called his Dad.

We take great comfort in knowing that he is now reunited with his Mum, Liz, who sadly passed away in 2021.

As a family we have decided that Richard will have a Pure Cremation, followed by a Celebration of his Life at Marshlands at a later date. You will be welcome to join us to remember, smile, share stories and celebrate the much-loved “Young Bonzo.”

Thank you, to everyone in the village who took the time over the years to stop, say hello, have a chat or simply give Richard a wave. Those little moments meant more than you probably realised.

Richard may have left us far too soon, but what he leaves behind is something that can never be taken away – the memories, the laughter, the stories and the mark he made on so many people simply being Richard.

He will be very sadly missed ,but certainly never forgotten.

Rick





Rick



FIELDS ACROSS THE YEARS

Having just sorted out my land registration I noted that fields are known by letters & numbers, this got me thinking of my dad & grandads farming days.

Fields had names.

We had Jackson's Close, The near Borrills Close, The Far Ten Acre, High Close, The Far Borrills Close and a favourite Duck Planting Meadow down the Green Lane. Along the B1200 there was Louth Roadside Meadow, the fields around the yard were Barn Close, Thornham Close and The Horse Close. Along Ings Lane we had the 20 acre, 3 acre, corner close and Grazing Seeds (whether or not it was grazing seeds it was always known as that!)

North End Farm now converted to

housing had Dicks Meadow attached to it, behind that was Fritz Meadow and the field attached to Field House where I lived until I was 6 was Fletchers Close.

Coming back along the main road near Saltfleetby House was Docking Garth.

ALL THAT Close piece or parcel of arable land called "Benton Garth" contg by admeasurement Two acres one rood and seventeen perches (more or less) situate in the Parish of Saltfleetby Saint Peters afsd and bdd on or twds the South by a Road called Green Lane on or

the Tithe Apportionment Plan of the sd Parish of Saltfleetby Saint Peters and was then formerly in the occon of Joseph Parrish subsequently of Joseph Pratt and since of Edward Taylor
AND ALSO ALL THAT close piece or parcel of arable land site in Saltfleetby St Peters afsd called Thornhams Close contg by admt 10a. 2r. 3p. (more or less) bdd by the sd Turnpike Rd on

ALL THAT CLOSE piece or parcel of arable land commonly called or known by the name of "The six acres" site lyg & being in Saltfleetby St Peters afsd contg by admeasurement 6a. 1r. 17p (more or less) bdd by the Turnpike Rd on or tows the North by lands formerly of John Goulding Sewell but then belonging to Joseph Headley on or tows the East by a lane on or tows the South by the close of ld next Thirner decord wch formerly belonged to the Revd William Banham Harrison on or tows the West and wch sd close of land above decord was marked 248 on the Tithe Apportionment Plan of the sd Parish of Saltfleetby St Peters and was then formerly in the occon of Joseph Parrish subsequently of Joseph Pratt and since of Edward Taylor

or Pasture Lands and Grounds called or known by the name of the "North Ings" in the Parish of Saltfleetby Saint Peters in the said County of Lincoln made and by virtue of the provisions of an Act of Parliament passed in the Sixth and Seventh Years of the Reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth intituled "An Act for facilitating the enclosure of Open and Uncultivated Lands in England and Wales" the said Commissioners did allot and award as follows

This led me to look at the deeds to see how the fields were identified. The photos show that indeed they were known by names - ie The Six Acres, Benton Garth, The North Ings.

Usually a field was identified by what fields and roads bordered it but on some deeds it was stated as 'marked 248 on the Tithe Apportionment Plan.

With technology times have moved on but I'll still remember fondly asking 'Where's Dad?' Reply 'Oh he's cutting Jackson's Close!

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.

The format of services alternates between the two faiths. The Church of England holds Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 11:00am while the Methodist Church hold a service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 10:30am.

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 building is currently undergoing substantial restoration, but is open for all functions as normal.

Planned events:

Festival of Churches ~ September
Harvest Supper ~ Friday 9th October
Bonfire ~ Saturday 7th November
Christmas Sing Along ~ Sunday 13th December
Christmas Quiz Night ~ Tuesday 29th December

Bumblebees are in crisis.

Bumblebee numbers are declining and some species are on the brink of extinction.

Global managed honeybee populations are rising overall, but wild bee species and managed colony loss rates face severe ongoing decline.

The UK has 24 species of bumblebee, and a third of these are in serious trouble.

Wildflower meadows and hedgerows are disappearing at an alarming rate, leaving bumblebees struggling to find enough food and shelter. In the UK, two species have been driven to extinction in the last century and, without our help, we could lose even more. If we are going to help we need to “bee” aware.

80 Percent of the “Bee Hotels” on the market are death traps.

Walk into any garden centre or scroll through any online retailer and you'll find dozens of so-called bee hotels. Stacked bamboo. Pine blocks with holes drilled in. Little decorative houses stuffed with straw and pine cones. They all look charming on a patio shelf.

The problem?

Most of them don't just fail to help bees.
They actively harm them.

People buy these things with the best of intentions, they want to help. But what they're bringing home isn't a habitat, it's a decoration and in many cases, it's a death trap.

Over decades of studying wild bee behavior, five deadly mistakes of mass-produced bee hotels have been identified.



The Five Fatal Flaws

1. “The Splinter Trap” (rough-drilled tunnels)

If the inside of that tunnel isn't glass-smooth, the bee shreds her wings going in and out. She can't fly. She can't forage. She dies in the hole she thought was her nest. Mass-produced hotels use high-speed drill bits that leave ragged fibers lining every tunnel. For an insect with wings thinner than tissue paper, it's a death sentence.

2. “Poison in the Garden” (treated softwoods)

Pine and fir ooze resin. It clogs the brood tubes. And those chemical treatments — the glues, the lacquers — bees can smell them from six feet away. They won't go near it. Cheap imports rely on pressure-treated softwoods held together with synthetic adhesives. The bees' acute sense of smell detects what we can't.

3. “The Mold Chamber” (no proper roof)

Rain gets in. The wood swells. Within one season, you've got mold growing inside the tunnels. The larvae suffocate. Thin plywood lids absorb moisture and warp. Without a weather-proof roof, every storm turns the hotel into a damp incubator for fungal growth.

4. “The Shallow Grave” (tunnels too short)

A mason bee needs six to eight inches of depth to lay a proper brood. The ones they sell at the garden centre? Three inches, maybe four. That's not a nest — that's an open invitation for parasitoid wasps to eat the brood from the entrance. Manufacturers cut depth to save material. The bees pay the price.

5. “The Decorative Lie” (filler materials)

Pine cones. Straw bundles. Bark chips. People buy them because they look nice on Pinterest. But no solitary bee on earth nests in a pine cone. All you're doing is rolling out the welcome mat for spiders and earwigs that raid the actual brood. Decorative fillers are there for the customer, not the bee.



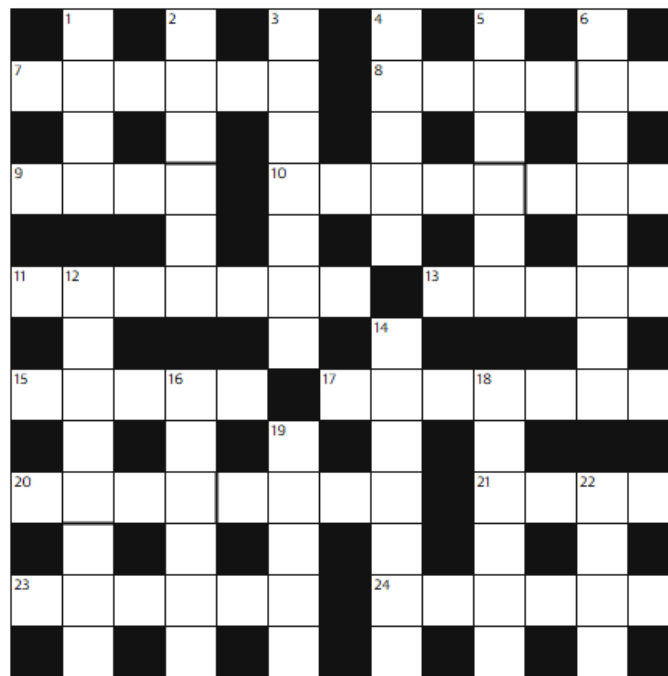
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SATURDAY, 17TH OCTOBER 2026



Across

- 7 Radio station - iron - suave (6)
- 8 Imprison (4,2)
- 9 ___ of the earth (4)
- 10 Eliminates completely (5,3)
- 11 Darling - confectionary item (7)
- 13 Mild term akin to 'ninnies' (5)
- 15 Chancellor Brandt or dramatist Russell (5)
- 17 Stout quality? (7)
- 20 Remaining (4,4)
- 21 Foot part - shrewd (4)
- 23 Inmost rainbow colour (6)
- 24 Pail (6)

Down

- 1 Austen novel that influenced *Clueless* (4)
- 2 Pasta shape also known as *farfalle* (3,3)
- 3 Third Nato alphabet letter (7)
- 4 Gamma hydroxybutyrate - thick, viscous matter (5)
- 5 WI case (anag) - Arctic fishing tool (3,3)
- 6 Roman statesman, 63 BC -14 AD (8)
- 12 Justifiable untruth (5,3)
- 14 Kenya capital (7)
- 16 Englander, Women or green men (6)
- 18 Delicate or subtle shade of difference (6)
- 19 *Don't Cry for me Argentina* musical (5)
- 22 Masticate, eg on an 11ac (4)

Just to keep the brain cells
ticking over.



Lloyds Tour of Britain for Men 2026

Stage Two of the Lloyds Tour of Britain for Men 2026, brought the race across Lincolnshire from the historic market town of Boston to the famous seaside resort of Skegness. Along the route was a bunting lined Main Road in Saltfleetby. The noise as the bikes went past was surprising, along with the number of support vehicles. Over 60 police motorcycles were in attendance ensuring a safe passage for all riders. A great turnout of residents waving and cheering the riders as they sped past.





CLASSIC CAR NIGHT AT THE NEW INN SALTFLEET

I saw an event advertised locally and wondered what age of vehicle is considered to be a “classic”. I was assured that no matter what I drive, just turn up; so I did. The range of vehicles on show was a treat to witness. I shall attend again at some point. The organisation was first class with the car park marshalls being our very own Humberstone family. Well done to all involved.





If you enjoy vehicles and a chat, as I do, it is well worth a visit. Look out for the next event.

GRAND OPENING OF THE TAYLOR MEMORIAL GARDEN

12th July

The opening event kicked off at 2:00 PM under welcoming skies, with local residents turning out in high spirits. The afternoon quickly transformed into a lively, traditional British summer festival. Families and neighbours arrived well-prepared for the festivities, setting up an impressive spread of picnic blankets, deck chairs, and gazebos across the grass.



Attendees were treated to live musicians, Nigel and Teri who provided a vibrant soundtrack throughout the entire afternoon.

Adding to the traditional English country atmosphere, a troupe of Morris dancers performed live, drawing enthusiastic applause from the crowd.

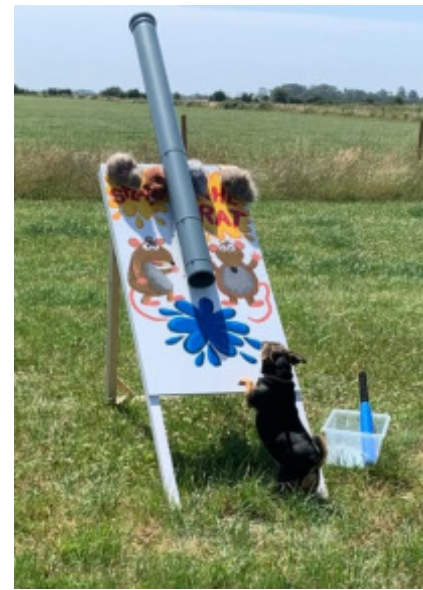


The event featured a nostalgic mix of classic fete games and stalls. Guests tried their luck at the standard raffle and tombola, while the "Lucky Duck" game proved to be a popular draw.

For the more adventurous, the historical game of "hurling for a hog" provided plenty of laughs and friendly competition.



Younger attendees were also kept thoroughly entertained with a dedicated bran tub, hoop la, splat the rat and many others.



One highlight of the afternoon was the face painting stall. The stall was hosted by the highly talented Ella Freer, a celebrated former finalist from the hit BBC competition series Glow Up. Ella brought her televised masterclass skills to Saltfleetby, transforming local faces into stunning pieces of living art.

The opening of the Taylor Memorial Garden marks a significant milestone for the area, providing a beautiful, permanent sanctuary for recreation, community events, and quiet reflection for years to come.

Useful Numbers

Ambulance, Police, Fire Service	999
Ambulance Non-Emergency	111
Police Non-Emergency	101
Fire Service Non-Emergency	112
Coast Guard Non-Emergency	112
Anglian Water	0845 714 5145
Electricity Emergency	0800 375 675
Marsh Medical Practice	01507 358623
Louth, Newmarket Doctors	01507 603121
Louth, James Street Doctors	01507 611122
Mablethorpe, Marisco Doctors	01507 473483
East Lindsey District Council	01507 601111
Lincs County Council	01522 552222
Lincs Farm & Country Business Watch	01522 558399
Lindsey Drainage Board	01507 328095
Fly Tipping	0800 195 5228
Call Connect Bus Service	0345 234 3344
ChildLine	0800 1111