

Letters to the editor

▶ Skegness memories

In my article 'Childhood memories of Old Skegness' published in the summer edition of 'The Lincolnshire Poacher', I incorrectly stated on page 56 that the pavilion in Tower Gardens, later used as an auction sale room, had been demolished.

This is not the case. It now operates as The Inn on the Park.

Henry Brown, Leasingham, Sleaford.

▶ Train derailed

As a retired engine driver I read with great interest the article on Gainsborough Model Railway Society which appeared in the December edition of 'Lincolnshire Life'. You said in your editorial that trains were 'not your thing'. If they had been you would have noticed that the locomotive 67720 on page 31 is not standing on the rails so the train would have been standing a long time at Retford Station.

C J Howden, Storrington, West Sussex.

Yes, I did know the locomotive was off the rails. It was a question of having to

take the photograph as quickly as possible before the operator grabbed the locomotive, put it back on to the rails and sent it on its way before it had a nasty accident with a goods train coming up behind it at great speed! Editor

▶ North Parade query

At the weekend I purchased a copy of 'Lincolnshire life, I do enjoy the magazine and was especially interested in the article entitled 'Above the shop'. I was very interested to learn that Margaret Thatcher was born in 1925, and that nine years later the author was born in the front bedroom of number 37 North Parade. The article goes on to describe North Parade having a crowded kitchen, and was a large Georgian house.

Whilst I would love to believe that the author was born, that his parents entertained Margaret and other neighbours, and took in the Camden girls in my house, I am struggling to believe the article but at the same time I can't believe that the author would have his

birth address incorrect so I am now questioning to origins of my 1930s' semi.

When I purchased 37 North Parade five years ago I met the former family owners, (who currently own and rent out number 35), the birth of my house I have always believed was that the land was purchased from the railway, by the station master, who commissioned two houses to a new design now known as the 1930s' semi's, one house for each set of parents. The two houses were effectively prototypes for Grantham in terms of 1930s' semi houses. From my deeds I know that my house was built in 1934, which means that the old couple I previously believed lived here couldn't have done if the author was born in the same year, and his parents worked at Marcos and Barfords.

I would love to know if the article has the correct address, and if so would the author like to get in touch to tell me more of the history surrounding number 37 as I very interested in the history of Grantham, but incredibly intrigued over this article.

Mrs F Clements, Grantham

David Leveret, writer of the article, replies: To answer Mrs Clements' understandable query, I would explain as follows:

When I was born, only one side (my side) of North Parade was numbered, with the other, more 'posh' side with larger houses and front gardens, having names and not numbers.

However, at a certain point in time, probably the 1940s, the Post Office decided to number all houses on both sides.

In the process, 37 became 74 and so on. I can't be sure how the numbers specifically changed for all houses but I would imagine that if Mrs Clements checked she would find that her house was at one time was probably 18 or 19.

If you would like to contribute to this page please address your letters to: The Editor, Lincolnshire Life, PO Box 81, Lincoln, LN1 1HD or email us on editorial@lincolnshirelife.co.uk For more information about 'Lincolnshire Life' visit our website on www.lincolnshirelife.co.uk

Star letter

▶ Village entertainment in the 1920s

In our south Lincolnshire village in the 1920s, the farm lads with little pocket money were short on winter entertainment. We had a reading room and occasionally had a lantern slide lecture. On one occasion

we were given a talk on Tanganyika by a man who had been before. We remembered this chap for his hesitation and for the frequent interjection of 'er'. We were ready for him and ran a sweepstake on how often he used 'er'.

Almost from the first sentence the 'er' crept in and so did the tittering, suppressed at first but as one section of the audience set off another, it was soon outright laughter. We forgot the sweepstake and learned little of Tanganyika but regardless, the speaker carried on even though our laughter drowned him out. I have never laughed so much in my life.

I'm sure the 'ers' were contrived but contrived or not, it was a brilliant evening's entertainment.

J N Potterton, Pinchbeck.

'Lincolnshire Life' has got together with Lincoln wine merchant Symmons & Allen, the wine division of Small Beer Ltd, to offer the winner of our star letter a bottle of wine. This month's selection is a Stonecross Pinotage Rosé.

