

Letters to the editor

▶ *Vanishing Lincolnshire*

'Will Lincolnshire Vanish?' in the January edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' was an extremely interesting article which gives the ecological picture as things are likely to progress.

Knowing our local town, just three miles downhill, is even now flooded on occasion, we find it difficult to believe that there is a 200-year time span before the worst happens. Fortunately we live up here on the Wolds and our benchmark demonstrates that we are ninety-four metres above sea level which will see us on that island which you point out will stand above the tides.

Whilst my wife and I are keen to hear of any energy saving methods, we are also keen to know of the power-raising technologies. We are keen to see these windmills dotted around the countryside but do realise that however many were raised, their output would never cope with the power needed in this country. Sad to say, nuclear power is the only way forward. However, whilst we may query this, we do have to understand that only twenty or so miles away, the French raise seventy-five per cent of their electricity by this means and we would suffer just as much if there was a disaster there as we would if any of our nuclear power houses came to grief.

What the authorities have to understand is that when oil, gas and coal are no long available, the present electrical power cables will just not stand the complete load of heating property by electricity.

To increase residents' awareness of energy saving methods, and to encourage people to do whatever they can to become more energy efficient, central government should introduce tax incentives to drag us all into the twenty-first century.

Eric Pemberton, Ucleby Cross.

▶ *Poems now published*

Some time ago, 'Lincolnshire Life' kindly printed my appeal for poems relating to the Royal Air Force. The response was gratifying and the poems of a very high standard.

Now my anthology of Air Force poems, entitled, 'The Poems We Wrote' is on sale. Max Bygraves has written a lively foreword, reflecting on the days when he served in the RAF.

Copies of 'The Poems We Wrote' are

available at £7.50 each, plus 95p for postage and packing from Eddy A Coward, 5 Brocksford Avenue, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8RH. A donation will be made to the 49 Squadron (Bomber Command) Association for every copy sold.

My thanks again to all readers who submitted their poems.

Eddy Coward, (ex RAF), Rayleigh, Essex.

▶ *Memories of The Angel*

I did enjoy reading the article in February's 'Lincolnshire Life' about The Angel at Bourne. It brought back some happy memories of fifty years ago. It must have been around 1955 or 1956.

When I was a new articled clerk with a firm of chartered accountants I used to go to assist with Henry Burr's audit at Dowsby, near Bourne, and, until I got to know their accountant well and stayed with him and his wife, I used to stay at The Angel. It would have been a big adventure for me in those days; I think Herne Bay was as far as I had been before that! The accountant used to pick me up off the train at Peterborough or Grantham, and I always remember the fast speed at which he drove and how he cut the corners on those quiet flat roads. I couldn't drive then.

When I stayed in Bourne I remember going with my manager in the evenings to play bar billiards at one of the local pubs. I cannot remember which one, but I am pretty confident I could point it out if it is still there. I expect the locals found our 'accents' unusual, but I do recall them being very friendly.

Never having been further north than Watford, I found Lincolnshire so different from where I lived in the Thames Valley, that it felt as if I had gone abroad! I also recall being given a delicacy one lunchtime at the farm where I was working in Dowsby; sandwiches filled with local hung pheasant. I had never tasted anything like it and have never had any more pheasant sandwiches since then!!

John Smith, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

▶ *Happy Holbeach days*

I live in New Zealand in a villa in a residential home. Recently, someone left behind several copies of 'Lincolnshire

Life'. It was with great delight I read about all the places I visited when young.

My uncle had a farm down by Holbeach Marsh where we used to go when the tide was out to gather samphire which we cooked and put into a vinegar-filled dish.

Sixty years ago I met my husband who was in the Royal Air Force stationed at Sutton Bridge. I am now eighty-seven and a widow but have such happy memories of my visits to Holbeach when I was young.

Mrs E Grundy, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

▶ *Youth Hostel research*

I am currently researching the 1,100 all-time properties of the Youth Hostels Association, and would be glad of any information, recollections, details of subsequent use and especially pictorial matter relating to the old Lincolnshire youth hostels at Cleethorpes, Elkington, Farforth, Glentham, Harrowby Hall, Holbeach, Lynwode, Otby, Tealby and Wainfleet, all of which operated before 1960.

I would indeed be grateful for information and materials about any long-lost YHA premises.

Please contact me if you can help.

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▶ *The Lincolnshire Flag*

In the 'Editor's Comments' section of your January edition, you mention the global spread of the Lincolnshire flag and make particular reference to its appearance in Washington DC.

Why, that's nothing! We have one on our fridge here in Dublin. How's that for cool?

Robert Bates, Dublin.

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