

# Letters to the editor



## LANDSCAPE SUFFERS – STAR LETTER

I fully agree with the sentiments expressed by your correspondent with reference to wind turbines. (Lincolnshire Life, April 2008)

Wind turbine fields are so often placed in areas of landscape beauty. It seems as if environmentalists do not care about the British landscape and the visual impact of these industrial (because that is what they are) sites. In the case of the Bamber site it will have a visual impact on the Lincolnshire Wolds, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which is supposed to be protected (which already

has quite a lot of 'hardware' blighting it - another subject!).

There are many of Britain's ancient uplands and marshlands that have been irreparably damaged by turbine farms e.g. sites in Scotland, the Brecon Beacons and Romney Marsh just to name a few. The noise disturbance for people living nearby is considerable. As your correspondent points out there is a financial gain for the farmer and the manufacturer but other people's lives are blighted. With regard to the efficacy of wind turbines there is also much dispute. Energy experts are now starting to admit that they are inefficient and do not produce enough electricity. There is talk of tidal power as the next potential natural energy source.

Any right minded person understands the need to research

renewable sources of energy but despoiling the landscape is not the answer. If we must have wind turbine fields, disputed by many, there are many industrial areas that could absorb them better, visually and away from residential areas. At the entrances to ports can be a location of low impact. Zeebrugge Harbour is a good example of this - not only do they fit in but there are no people living nearby.

I had a letter published in Country Life recently on this subject. I had driven from Lincolnshire to Haworth, the home of the Brontes, and not seen a single wind turbine on the way despite going on motorways through some of the most industrialised landscapes in Britain. On arrival in Haworth, I was astounded to see a huge wind turbine right in the middle of the



town surrounded by houses, and on the moors above, on the Halifax side, a wind turbine field. The perversity of the environmentalists and planners who had allowed this was jaw dropping. Why Haworth? A place visited by thousands of visitors from all over the world because of its association with the Brontes and the moors they loved.

I felt I had to write and sympathise with your unfortunate correspondent whose life is to be blighted by a wind turbine farm and to say how sad that more landscape is to be lost to these ill-conceived, inefficient machines.

*Susan Chambers, Kingerby*

### FACE AT THE WINDOW

I see that you have trodden the same floorboards as my great grandmother, Mary Clayton; the same boards walked on by a more famous personage, TE Lawrence. I am referring, of course, to your enjoyable visit to Browns Pie Shop and Restaurant, featured in the April edition of Lincolnshire Life.

For some time now I have had particular interest in 33 Steep Hill, Lincoln as Mary Clayton was for thirteen years, in the early part of the last century, the licensee of the Fox and Hounds Inn, the pub which preceded the restaurant. The building was at one time also known as the Bessie Bedlam.

I recently acquired a detailed two-hundred year history of the building, and I have a personal story to tell. As part of a quest to trace family history, my wife and I visited Lincoln two years ago with our twenty-two-years-old American granddaughter, a history student who was staying with us in Ipswich for ten weeks.

We were disappointed to find the restaurant closed and the lights turned off. However, in the darkness I could see someone moving about, so I knocked on the door and a young lady came to see what I wanted. I explained about Mary Clayton and the Fox and Hounds Inn and she said, "We have a photograph; I will get it for you." She propped the very large framed photo on the bar and allowed me to take a digital snap of it.

A close-up of the same bow window featured today revealed the

face of woman who appears to be looking down into the street. Could that be my great-grandmother or a guest? I wonder...I have no photograph of her to be sure.

*Peter Hopper, Ipswich*

### ESLAFORDE SCHOOL REMEMBERED

With reference to the letter from I Elmer regarding Eslaforde School, (Lincolnshire Life April 2008), it was situated on Southgate, next door to the Monuments Gardens and was run by Miss Mettam and Miss Church, both who taught music and singing. Miss Church was in charge of the school, which was a large red brick building behind the house and having a 'little end' and a 'big end' for the differing ages of pupils, with a large pot-bellied stove on the wall between the two ends. The school was originally known as Mrs Bell's Academy for Young Ladies and functioned for a number of years prior to the above ladies ownership, and taking both girls and boys.

I attended from 1936 to 1940 and with the onset of WW2, we had regular air raid practices, when we little ones would be put under the kitchen table and under the stairs of the house, and the bigger ones under their desks in the class room. The little bottles of milk for break were placed by the stove in the winter to thaw them out resulting in the cardboard tops popping up and making the cream on the top very much like ice cream. I do not recall when the school actually closed, but I continued receiving piano and singing lessons with Miss Church until about 1948/9.

I hope this will be of interest to your correspondent and perhaps other pupils who remember attending this school.

*Margaret Moor (nee Bean)  
Rowston, Lincoln*

### FURTHER LIGHT ON CANDLE AUCTIONS

Further to the note in Poachings in the February edition of Lincolnshire Life, about the pin and candle auction held in Old Bolingbroke, a hint as to how widespread this practice was in Victorian times is given by JWD Harrison in his book of memories, 'Echoes of Old Times

in Bedford and Elsewhere', published in the early twentieth century.

In his chapter on changing habits and customs, he says that, "in some villages, the grazing by the sides of the roads – sometimes not an inconsiderable area – was let annually, usually at the village inn. To save the expense of an auctioneer, a pin was fixed in the lower part of the candle, which was then lighted. The successful competitor was he who bid before the pin fell."

Information on the surviving candle auctions, which are nearly always concerned with the letting of common land, is given in Steve Round's encyclopaedic book on customs and festivals, 'The English Year', published by Penguin Books in 2006.

*Nigel Kirkman,  
Malmesbury, Wiltshire*

### STEAM LORRIES

After reading Mr W E R Hallgarth's feature about Steam Trams in a 1966 issue of Lincolnshire Life, I would like to know if anyone has information or any recollections of Steam Lorries in the 1920s and 30s.

I can remember the Spalding Urban District Council lorry, when I was cycling to the Grammar School, filling up with water at a stand-pipe in the road with a hosepipe which was carried under the lorry.

*Tom Bray, Pinchbeck.*

If you have any information please end it to us at Lincolnshire Life and we shall forward it to Mr Bray - Editor



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