



Letters to the editor

▶ *Skegness Pier*

In his article, 'A coast of contrasts' which appeared in the July edition of 'Lincolnshire Life', David Robinson is right to bemoan the storm of January 1978 that partly wrecked Skegness Pier. However, though the structure was more than 1,800-feet long prior to that date, it isn't true to say that Skegness had the fourth longest pier in Britain.

The structures at Southend, (7,080-feet), Southport (3,633-feet), Walton (2,600-feet), Ryde (2,305-feet), Llandudno (2,295-feet), Ramsey (2,241-feet) and Hythe (2,100-feet) remain longer than Skegness pier while Herne Bay extended to a length of 3,787-feet before being severely shortened in the same storm that hits Skegness.

So Skegness was only ever in ninth spot - or eighth if you argue on geographical grounds that Ramsey should be excluded because it is on the Isle of Man.

Incidentally, a section of decking has been developed at Skegness over the years since 1978, making it still possible at high tide to walk out to sea without getting your feet wet!

Tim Mickleburgh, President, National Piers Society, Grimsby.

▶ *Lighten our darkness?*

How often do we experience real darkness in our modern, well-lit world?

Just how dark darkness can be was brought home to me very forcibly one evening many years ago when I worked in a country parish in Devon. I had gone to visit a couple who lived way out in the country in an isolated house at the end of a longish drive.

It was daylight when I arrived. We had tea and then settled down to our work. When we had finished and I was ready to return home it was quite dark. How dark I didn't realise until I went out of the front door, which was shut behind me, and I was left in total darkness; no garden light, no street light, no moonlight or starlight.... nothing, just darkness.

There was an immediate problem; where was the car? I knew it was not far away but had no idea where it was! However, after a few minutes it began to rain and I could hear the raindrops falling on the car roof. I was able to find it and drive home.

The memory has stayed with me over many years, reminding me of two things; in the countryside darkness is real darkness and never go out without a torch!

Revd Canon A J Kerswill, Retford, Nottinghamshire.

▶ *Call from Canada*

I have been researching my wife's family background. She is Dawn Hewins and her great great great grandfather is Cornelius Hewins from Lincolnshire.

We have been communicating and received a lot of help from Marianne Head and she suggested we contact 'Lincolnshire Life' as there are still a lot of Hewins living in Lincolnshire.

We would be very grateful if any of his relatives could get in touch with us.

Kurt Michael and Dawn L Hewins, 309 Campbellville Road, R R # 2 Campbellville, Ontario, Canada, L0P 1B0

▶ *Missing my homeland*

I was born in Lincolnshire and until 1988 lived in Bishop Norton. I now live in Birmingham but still have family in the county. I am hoping to make contact with anyone who knows me or knew me at Huntcliff Comprehensive, Kirton-in-Lindsey between 1980 and 1985. I was in Trent House.

I miss my homeland very much so it would be very good to hear from anyone.

Julie Wilson, 20 Anchor Close, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9DQ

▶ *Recycle for Marie Curie*

Every year cancer claims the lives of more than 150,000 people in the UK, with a further one million living with the disease at any given time. Marie Curie Cancer Care provides high quality nursing, totally free, to give terminally ill people the choice of dying at home supported by their families.

You can help to raise vital funds needed to provide this care by donating your old mobile phones and printer cartridges to the Recycling Appeal run on behalf of Marie Curie Cancer Care. Simply post phones and cartridges to: Marie Curie Recycling Appeal (EL), 31-37 Etna Road, FALKIRK FK2 9EG. For more information on how to obtain freepost envelopes or arrange free pickups call 08712 50 50

50 or visit our website at www.recyclingappeal.com/mariecurie.

Thank you in advance for your support.
Emily Goulborn, Fundraiser, Marie Curie Cancer Care.

▶ *Alan Roulstone remembered*

Your article about Alan Roulstone which appeared in the July edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' brought back lots of happy memories.

In the mid-sixties I was Litho manager for the printing company which produced all Alan Roulstone's printing requirements, for the pubs and inns that he provided line drawings for. We produced four, six and occasionally eight-page brochures, plus business cards, all for a set price for a given quantity.

This business started off in the Lincolnshire locality, and when that was saturated, spread to other mainly tourist areas across the country.

The next progression was producing local area booklets called "21 for the Road" and as the name suggests, had twenty-one pubs or inns included, finally culminating with a series called "101 for the Road" covering whole areas.

The demise of these books was brought about by the introduction of the 'Breathalyser'.

At one time we had a copy negative and bromide print of every drawing he produced which was used in printing and stored in an alphabetical archive. I left the company in the early seventies to start my own business and do not know if it survived!

As you might expect, I got to know Alan very well and we had a very good rapport between us!

Finally, 'Roulstone' was not his real surname and referred to his travels around the country as a "Rolling Stone". He might well have changed it by deed poll as it was better than his original surname!

Brian Suiter, via email.

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