



# Letters to the editor

## ► 'Poacher' brought back memories

I found the article 'Skeggy Memories' which appeared in the autumn edition of 'The Lincolnshire Poacher' very interesting because I grew up in Skegness in the 1930s and 1940s. My brother, like the writer used to earn money as a barrow boy at the station with the holiday makers – few cars in those days. My brother also earned money caddying on the golf course and potato picking on the farms. My job was to help my mum with the visitors and I had to rely on tips.

I don't remember a Mr Neal as blacksmith but I do remember Mr Clarke on Prince George Street. The lady from Gallone's Café who cried out 'Ices, Ices. Tea and coffee served inside!' I remember well. In fact they recorded her voice so the recording could be played if she wasn't there. We have several photographs taken by Wrates Photographers.

Several other places have changed. We always get a good selection of books from Duttons and Majors. I usually go to Skegness once a year and regularly used to look in Majors for the books about old Skegness.

Yes, Skegness has changed but I still enjoy going back in either early spring or autumn when most of the visitors have gone. I once dressed up at a fancy dress party as the Skegness Jolly Fisherman and won first prize!

One of the best things is a walk along the front to enjoy the air. They can't take that away no matter how much they alter it.

Mary Ibbotson (née Barnes), Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire.

## ► Request from Australia

Hello from Western Australia from a Yellowbelly!

My parents were born in Lincolnshire in the 1920s and I was born in 1951 at Gosberton Clough but we moved to Leicestershire in 1954 and came to Australia in 1971.

Due to the recent death here in Western Australia of my father Geoff Holmes the rest of the family living here have started a family tree project which is pretty difficult in that we can't jog down to the Lincolnshire Archives or chat over coffee with surviving senior age relatives.

Amongst the personal effects at his Perth home we found about thirty copies of 1970s' vintage 'Lincolnshire Life' magazines but alas no records of any of the assorted family surnames nor villages/town of origin.

Researching something for the tree I discovered the 'Lincolnshire Life' web site and I've realised that amongst your readership there might be someone who has some information that might be applicable to the assorted names and places that relate to "us".

Amongst the assorted claims to fame are that my father and his father and Holmes grandfather Geoffrey R and James Henry Holmes at Donington were acclaimed as breeders of Lincolnshire Curly Coat pigs in the late 1940s and early 1950s (the breed is now extinct). The Holmes family apparently left Witham on the Hill in the late 1700s/early 1800s and went to the Pinchbeck area before marrying into the Davison family in Donington.

My mother's parents were Rylotts (and Witheringtons) and in and after the 1800s the Rylotts were farmers and builders in the Gosberton(s) area, the Witheringtons were very involved in local government in the early 1900s.

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## ► Another milestone in history

Yes, indeed 'Milestones in history', in the October edition of 'Lincolnshire Life' can 'tell the tale' but there is a follow up to this article.

In Shooters Hill, London, there is a milestone bearing the inscription '130 miles to Ypres' and the numbers of killed, missing and wounded.

Although not at first apparent, this is relevant to Lincolnshire because the man who brought it about was a freeman of the city of Lincoln.

At 03.10hours plus thirteen seconds on 7th June, 1917, Captain B C Hall, MC, MM, together with Sergeant Beer 'pressed the tit' (in his words) and the explosion that followed destroyed Hill 60 on the Western Front. The shock was felt in London, and even in Dublin. A total of 10,000 Germans were never seen again and Captain Hall received his Military Medal from

the King himself.

His brass memorial plaque can be seen outside St Mary le Wigford Church in Lincoln. The army watch with its broad arrow and number on the back, which was used to time the 'zero' hour, with a certificate of confirmation engraved inside, is in the hands of my cousin, Mrs Langley of Sneland.

The whole story is available in the County Library in 'Round the World in ninety years' by Cecil Hall himself.

David J Ashley Hall, Lincoln

## ► Bishop Fox

In the October issue of 'Lincolnshire Life' there are two references to Bishop Fox of Winchester.

What is not generally known is that Richard Fox was born at Peacock Farm, High Street, Ropsley – now a private house.

I would argue that the Bishop has a claim to fame equal to Isaac Newton and Margaret Thatcher but Grantham notes nothing of him at all.

Roy Chapman, Manthorpe, Grantham.

## ► Wrong bull

Unfortunately, there was one error in the article about 'Lincoln Red' beef in the October edition of 'Lincolnshire Life'. The so-called champion Lincoln Red bull is a Limousin! Also the first beef bull licence for a polled Lincoln Red (ie without horns – a big advantage especially in the then small buildings) was issued to Eric Pentecost on 18th May, 1956 not 1939. He was the first British breeder 'to deliberately dehorn a well-known breed by genetic means'. ('Animal Breeding' by A L Hagedoorn, Crosby Lockwood & Son, Ltd, fifth edition, London 1954).

T D Organ, Normanby by Stow  
*Very sorry about that. I had to rely on the photographer's caption as a 35mm slide is now too small for me to see clearly.* Editor

*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*