

Life in Lin

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'BIRD TABLE' FARMS HELP TO SAVE SPARROWS



Farmers are being asked to turn their land into giant 'bird tables' to help save the county's now rare population of tree sparrows.

The bird is generally found on lowland farmland with arable or mixed farming but between 1970 and 1998 its numbers declined by ninety-five per cent. The reduction in seed and insect sources has been blamed.

Now the RSPB is asking farmers to put out supplementary seeds and grain on their farms in winter as part of a farmland bird feeding project known as BirdAid. Research has proved that the birds benefit greatly from feeding with 'tailings', the by-product of the grain cleaning process which contains an ideal combination of seeds and chipped grains.

WORK STARTS ON MUSEUM

The first stage of the new £12 million City and County Museum has started with the closure of Lincoln's Danesgate multi-storey car park.

Fittings and fixtures such as CCTV cameras have been removed and will be used elsewhere in the city. Demolition contractors have taken possession of the site and have until the middle of April to clear the site, ready for an archaeological investigation.

Construction work on the new museum will start at the end of June.

City of Lincoln Council's Steve Roper said the new museum was a very exciting project for the city and county and that although the multi-storey car park would close, the city council was exploring every opportunity to find additional car parking in the area to compensate for its loss. Mr Roper said significant car parking capacity remains at the 440 space Broadgate multi-storey car park and 1,800 other car parking spaces are available for people who visit or work in the city.



LANCASTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

A service to mark the sixtieth anniversary of a Lancaster crash was recently held at the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, East Kirkby.

On 29th January, 1943, with just eighty-five minutes' flying time on its record, Lancaster ED503 was on an engine and airframe test when it inexplicably nosedived into a field near Sibsey.

Its crew of six were all killed but due to the underlying marshy nature of the land, only one body was ever recovered. The others remained with their aircraft and a memorial to them was erected in the field in 1947.

The service was held by the Vicar of Coningsby church, the Revd Thomas Moore, and was attended by the Mayor of Boston, senior RAF officers and members of the crew's families.

The event coincided with the publication of a book, 'Memorial Lancaster ED503 "Lest We Forget"', by Stanley Naylor. It is available from bookshops or from Sibsey Lancaster Memorial Trust, 15 Edinburgh Crescent, Kirton, Boston, PE20 1JT, for £4.75.



The memorial at Sibsey

Lincolnshire

happening around your county

GEOFFREY STEPHEN GILLETT 1917 - 2003

Geoffrey Gillett and Geoff to just about everyone who new him, died on Monday 27 January 2003, 2 weeks after his 86th birthday. He was an active man throughout his whole life and one of the most liked and respected members of the local community.

He has now completed a life of service to the community.

Soon after leaving school, Geoff joined the Lincolnshire police force and worked in Gainsborough, Scunthorpe, Bourne, Corby Glen, Skegness, Woodhall Spa and Boston and rose to the rank of inspector. He retired to Woodhall Spa after 30 years in the police force, interrupted only by a period in the Royal Navy in the second war serving aboard MTBs in the Mediterranean.

It was his time as sergeant at Woodhall Spa where he made many friends and this is where he chose to retire.

He joined Lincolnshire County Council and among his achievements he co-ordinated arrangements for the visit of HRH Queen Elizabeth to Lincoln in 1980. He and Rosie also attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace in 1991.

Geoff was particularly well known as a driving instructor. He had successes with his young and not so young learners but it was his infinite patience, particularly in 'interesting situations' which was in many ways his trademark.

His public face became known around the locality and county when he became a Parish Councillor and a District Councillor. He became chairman of East Lindsey District Council in 1991 and was noted for his

fairness in all things and would not accept underhand policies hatched behind closed doors.

By the time he eventually retired, his interests were not entirely confined to his garden. He had become an active member of St Peter's Church and became a Church Warden. He was instrumental in obtaining grants to enable the refurbishment of St Leonard's Church.

Geoff met Rose in 1933 and they were married in St Mark's Church Peterborough on September 9 1939. They have completed over 63 years of happy married life together. They had two sons: Geoffrey and John and

they between them have given four grandchildren with four greatgrandchildren.

Geoff was part of Masonry as a member of St Guthlacs lodge in Market Deeping, Olive Union lodge and Banovelum Chapter in Horncastle and became a Grand Lodge officer.

Geoff's life has touched so many people as a friend, confidant, lobbyist and a 'knight in shining armour'. He had a smile and an acknowledgement for whoever walked by and all was right with his world when he had a cloud of smoke billowing from his eternal pipe.

NEW COMMANDANT AT RAF CRANWELL

Air Commodore Mike Barter has taken over as Commandant of RAF College Cranwell. He replaces Air Vice-Marshal Al Smith who has left to take up a post with the Defence Logistics Organisation.

Air Cdre Barter was commissioned in 1975 and has flown helicopters in Germany and Hong Kong. He has taken part on an exchange tour as an instructor pilot with the US Air Force in New Mexico.

Other postings have been to the RAF Personnel Management Centre and on promotion to Wing Commander he took over as Officer Commanding No 7 Squadron at RAF Odiham. He later took command of RAF Odiham and was awarded the CBE for his contribution to the operational development of the Chinook Wing.

In 2002 he was a member of the Royal College of Defence Studies following which he was promoted to Air Commodore and appointed to Cranwell. He is married and has two sons.



Air Commodore Mike Barter - new Commandant at RAF College Cranwell

FOOD FAIR FIRST FOR MARKET RASEN

Lincolnshire's own Celebrity Chef, Rachel Green, will be giving cookery demonstrations at Market Rasen's first ever Spring Food Fair, which takes place at the Festival Hall, Market Rasen, on Saturday 29th, March from 10am to 4.30pm.

Having cooked at many lavish occasions - including the opening of the Jubilee Hall at the London Savoy, for the Queen and 800 guests - Rachel's exuberant, witty style is often in demand for cookery demonstrations.

The celebrity chef, who many will have seen recently on BBC Look North during British Cheese Week, will be demonstrating throughout the day using a wide variety of local produce.

The Spring Food Fair, is a whole-hearted celebration of regional produce, with stalls selling herbs, cheeses, wines, pies, cordials, chutneys, jams, breads, cakes and much more.

The foot-tapping New Orleans-style jazz band, Deep South will be playing in between cookery demonstrations. Coffees, teas and snacks will be provided by Starbucks' bakery, Market Rasen.

Celebrity chef Rachel Green

