

3 *July/August 2020* **VILLAGES** and a **HAMLET**

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The magazine for Leadenham, Welbourn,
Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe



Online edition

3 Villages and a Hamlet

The magazine for Leadenham, Welbourn, Brant Broughton & Stragglethorpe

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Front cover: A Kestrel in Clumber Park. (Photo by Fred Cooper)

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Also, the publishers reserve the right to edit any material submitted for whatever reason

From the Editorial Office - - - -

As this edition goes out on line we are on the brink of emerging from Covid-19 lockdown!

What challenging times we are now facing for the foreseeable future. Many are still very wary of socialising closely while others seem lacking in care. We wonder what the picture will be like in a years' time!

We are hoping that we will be back in print form for the next issue in September. We will be checking with all our delivery teams as to their availability to continue helping and the same for all our advertisers without whom we do not have the means to pay printing costs.

We cannot thank enough all those who took time to prepare and send items to be included in the last three on line issues of Three Villages and Hamlet.

You have kept the magazine alive over the last three months!

Those items have generated much interest and the photos were amazing. We know where to come for more!

Please do keep sending us those items. This is a 'parishes magazine' and it should be about the people living in it – as well as community activities.

So, we will be working hard towards getting all sorted to be able to go to print in September. We wish you all the very best over the rest of the summer months but most of all remain safe.

Hilary & Paul

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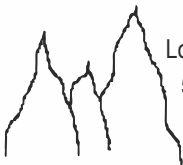
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“Pooling” together by Laura Pache

A few months ago, my partner Ian decided he wanted to get a pool for the garden. I hate them, they end up slimy, grassy, full of bugs and rot your grass. Not only that they're bloody freezing! I refuse to get in one, unless I'm at least 2 glasses of Prosecco down. Ian was though determined that the kids would love it. He assured me you could get solar heaters, filters, covers, you name it. So it was “OK, let's do this.”

Now Ian likes to think things through, he likes to study things, learn about things and be the most indecisive, obsessive person I know! He prepared an Amazon cart at least 4 times, with varying pool paraphernalia. We had heaters ready, sub pumps ready, filters ready, chlorine tablets ready, solar covers ready, the pool itself (16ft) ready, ladders ready, pool toys ready, only for them all to be deleted from the shopping cart; another 16 YouTube videos to be watched on other ways of keeping a pool. A shopping cart to be refilled again... then deleted again, 105 more YouTube videos... and the cycle went on and on, around 2 weeks to be precise. I just ignored most of this behaviour of his as I know the end result eventually comes round; all items deleted for good “sod the pool, we don't need one.”

2 days later, he's home with a “bargain” 10 foot pool bought off Facebook, a sub pump, solar cover and 2 lilos. I must say I was relieved by the size, although it did still take 3 hours to fill and I could see the grass crying as he laid it down. You would think that would be it, but oh no! Not in this household. Nothing is ever that simple or easy in this household. You see the solar cover just wasn't enough to heat the pool. Ian knows this because he measured the water temperature at least 50 times a day, skipping in excitedly if it had gone up half a degree. I had the urge on several occasions to demonstrate on him how you take a horse's temperature, however I just smiled and feigned interest.

When the pool temperature seemed to have peaked at 24 degrees, Ian decided it was time to create his own heating system for the pool. Ian is a plumber, so with copper piping in hand and his trusty sub pump he set to creating a piping system that would sit in the fire pit, whilst the water from the pool was pumped through a hose, attached to the copper piping that went in to the fire, out of the fire and back in to the pool, all powered by the sub pump. You can imagine the fiddling, checking, temperature taking, constructing, deconstructing, reconstructing that happened over the next 2 days. Eventually though, it was ready and it was all systems go.



**The fire pit and heating system
for the pool**

What ensued was an obsession with coal, wood, sticks, thin wood, fat wood, what was the best wood, “shall we go on a walk to look for wood?”, temperature coming out the pool, temperature going in to the pool. Luckily I didn’t stick him in the pool and put the cover on; but hats off to him I refrained and it worked! The pool sat at a steady 30 degrees and the hottest he got coming out of the fire, in to the pool was over 50 degrees. I even only required 1 glass of prosecco to get in it.



We had the pool up for over a week and the kids loved every minute; we all did. It wasn’t until the last day when we both started to notice a distinct aroma coming from the pool. Rotting seaweed sprang to mind and we decided it’s best to empty it, certain it must be the water, as a delightful slime seemed to be growing on the bottom of the pool, regardless of the chlorine and PH level taking.

The emptying of the pool was another highlight for the children, splashing around in inches of water on grass in your bare feet is heaven. Once it was emptied and moved the source of the stench soon became clear and unsurprisingly we had a nice perfectly formed circle of rotten, stinking, dead grass. From space it looks like aliens have landed in our garden, the foil hat crew would be round in a flash. The only real alien thing going on in this house, was a man thinking a woman was wrong about the grass! However this woman will hold her hands up and say, the grass was a small sacrifice. It can be re-seeded anytime; the amount of fun and giggles the kids had was worth every blade. The dog has no idea what all the fuss was about, she thinks the rotten grass is a huge improvement as she has her very own simulated rotting animal to roll in, in the garden. The pool really is a win, win for all... bar my beautiful lawn.

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A bit of village history.....

Brant Broughton Parish Bier

Under the tower in St. Helen's lives the parish bier. These days, sadly, it is not used as it was in years gone by, that is to carry parishioners on their final (possibly rather bumpy!) journey to church. However, it is now very useful as an extra table for refreshments, and a few years ago it travelled down to the playing field for the Village Show when it was used for a book stall!



Its history is interesting in that it was purchased in 1930 by contributions from inhabitants of the village and at a Parish meeting it was decided that it should be kept in the Parish Church for the free use of the parishioners. 133 parishioners contributed £32.14.10d. (The highest contribution was £5 and the lowest 3d.) The cost of the bier, which was made by Curtis & Mawer Ltd. of 40 Silver Street, Lincoln, was £32.10s. and the balance of 4/10d was given by the Parish Council.

Jennifer Harvey.

Impersonation Fraud

We have received 4 more reports of police impersonation fraud in the Sleaford area.

The residents received phone calls from a person purporting to be a police officer and claiming to have arrested someone for using a cloned card in the name of the victim. Fortunately the potential victims realised that this was scam and contacted Lincolnshire Police.

If you receive a similar call, hang up and call 101 on a different line. In the event that you've arranged for cash to be collected by an impersonator, call us on 999 immediately.

Remember, your bank and our officers will never, ever ask for your bank details. They will also never ask you to withdraw cash for them and to send it via courier.

Please share this information with your neighbours, friends and family to make them more aware of this type of scam.

Message Sent By

Gillian Fleet (Police, Preventing financial fraud officer, Lincolnshire)Message

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The Welbourn Reading Group, in limbo.

Impatience is starting to creep in. Without the structure of having to read a particular book, I appear to have 'lost the plot'.

Two months ago I was looking forward, eager even, to reread some of my favourite books. That hasn't happened. Roy Hattersley's fiction, based on fact, I had enjoyed but moving on to his autobiographical books I find a struggle. Giving up on a book I regard as failure. But why make yourself miserable? The result is I am still only half way through his political career.

Now this will surprise you. I dusted the nooks in my small living room bookcase. Proof that I was getting bored with Mr. Hattersley. The dusting operation took much longer than I expected. There was the small book with black and white pictures of famous paintings with humorous captions. A twenty minute break while I looked through that, followed by a more serious book, 'The Song of Songs', By Robert Graves and illustrated by Hans Erni, maybe more easily read than the Bible. For everyday reading, I found nine Norah Lofts' books. Once I found those, the dusting was finished quickly. Roy Hattersley forgotten, I treated myself to a good story, 'Afternoon of an Autocrat'. There was a note inside the book telling me I had read it in 1984, 91, and 1995. May 2020 has now been added to the list.

Some good news. My cleaning girl has been told she can start work again. Only allowed into a home where there is one person, and we have to keep two metres apart. No problem with that.

Now for this month's useless information. Did you know that if you are two metres tall you are a giant? Two metres being 6' 6¾" (in 'old money'). My grandson is 6'6¼" tall, just ½" short of being a giant. With a bit of effort from my daughter, I think we should be able to pull his head and legs to stretch him a bit, then we could hire him out as a measuring stick. When Pat – my cleaner – returns he could wriggle about on the floor to make sure we keep two metres apart. The said grandson pointed out there would be three people in my home, not the two who are allowed. How uplifting to know someone in the family has a brain. Also is it fair to expect him to travel about 300 miles (round trip) to lie on my floor.

So, June 3rd is the day my cobwebs are being given notice to quit.

Ruth Burton

WELBOURN GARDENING CLUB

Little did we think after our last meeting in March that it might (possibly) be September before we met again.

I do hope everyone is well and that our gardens have helped all of us get through these extraordinary few months. There must be some incredible ones around as a result of lockdown and glorious weather!

I'm writing this in June with the September 10th meeting in mind when we were all expecting to welcome Club member Gwynneth Bagnall from Navenby, giving her first talk on salvias.

Gwynneth tells me that she has been busy taking salvia cuttings in preparation for her talk and that, since she now has around 100 of these, she would, understandably, prefer not to have to take them through the winter.

At the time of writing this, village halls are still closed and so far there is no indication of when this might change.

In the interim, the following plan has been worked out:

IF THE VILLAGE HALL REOPENS.

With the present number of members, any sort of social distancing will be difficult in the Meeting Room and this might discourage people from coming.

SO-IF THE MAIN HALL IS AVAILABLE, we will meet there at the usual time of 7.30pm for Gwynneth's talk on 'Salvias in my Life,' with salvia sales to follow.

IF THE VILLAGE HALL IS STILL CLOSED

AND WITH ACCESS TO THE OUTSIDE AREA NOT AN OPTION, Gwynneth has asked to hold her plant sale in my front garden (6 Hall Lane,) in the afternoon, starting at 2.30pm or thereabouts. If the weather is wet the sale will be held under cover in the back garden.

IF THE VILLAGE HALL IS OPEN BUT THE MAIN HALL IS NOT AVAILABLE, I shall have to go back to the drawing board on this one and will discuss with the 'contact web' we put in place at the March meeting. Jackie Carrell for Navenby, Jane Wills for Brant Broughton, Rosemary and Ray Snell and myself for Welbourn.

Let's hope that the present speed of the lifting of lockdown isn't going to produce a second wave of the virus and that we can soon get back to the 'new normal'!

Keep safe everyone and hope to see you in September.

Nina McBeath. 01400 279027.

WELBOURN'S FLOODING RISK

In the light of national flood warnings, there was concern recently about Welbourn being affected by flooding. Since we have many new families who may not know these things, this note describes how flooding might affect Welbourn. The village is well above the flood plain so conventional river flooding is of limited risk but the village used to get flooded by the considerable storm runoff from the Edge. The Parish Council (PC) of the time persuaded LCC to create a storm drain to protect us from that effect. The storm drain runs from the bottom of Mill Lane all the way to the bottom of Soggin Lane on the east side of the main road, through the new twin tunnel culvert there under the main road into the purpose-built ditch going towards the poultry farm which is there thanks to a concession from the landowner. The storm drain has proved extremely effective although it is now thought to be partially obstructed opposite the top of Moat Lane under the field gate access.

Much of the recent flooding near the Forge was caused by run off from Mill Lane not being captured by the drains built for that purpose at the bottom of Mill Lane and in Hall Lane which are regularly choked by debris washed down the lanes and by a blocked pipe in the area of Jubilee Green/Hall Lane. This pipe has been worked on but is still partially blocked so is yet to be sorted. LCC are aware of these several blocked drains and have promised remedial work on them later in 2020.

There is another flooding problem from water running off the fields above the south end of the village which water should taken away by the drains at that end of the village but which have been overrun already this year. Remedial work has been attempted, although lack of basic capacity is part of the problem. The PC is well aware of these issues.

It should be noted that the sewer system is a separate entity from these drains except, however, in those cases where surface runoff has been unwittingly connected to the foul water system. Welbourn's sewage is piped in a pumped system with pumping stations in Dycote Lane and The Nookin pumping to the master pumping station beyond the embankment below Hall Orchard Lane which pumps all to the main sewage treatment plant below Leadenham.

The culvert under the embankment at the foot of Hall Orchard Lane is another critical point. If that culvert blocks, the new estate will flood: The culvert has recently been dredged but loose vegetation debris left on the ditch banks along Hall Orchard Lane can increase the risk of blockage and subsequent flooding.

Jake Beaty, who has recently joined the Council, was a most active water manager during the recent flooding. Sarah Brown, Welbourn's Parish Clerk, was also out regularly sorting the drainage. In addition to Jake and Sarah, other residents clear critical drains and pursue LCC for action on our drains so the issue is being dealt with by several people. If you live in Welbourn and become aware of a new drainage problem, please use the LCC Highways fault reporting website to get it fixed and advise the Parish Clerk.

Malcolm McBeath

Dear all,

Is it just me, or are you, like me on seeing the UK news reports of masses gathering at beaches despite the risk from this virus and leaving all their rubbish behind, of violence against each other and particularly the police, of stabbings and illegal gatherings which end up with attacks on each other and worse still the emergency services who have to go and deal with it, feeling not just disappointed but upset and angry?

Not long ago it seemed a change had happened in our country where we had come together, looking out for each other, caring for one another, clapping the front line workers, the NHS staff and unbelievable to think now, but our boys and girls in blue. But it seems 'lockdown' has done crazy things to a small minority of people who now see themselves as able to do just what they want, despite the rules or risks.

The tragic death of George Floyd has sparked off a movement across the world headed by Black Lives Matter who are quoted as saying that this is a 'revolution where we fight for justice, liberty and freedom'. Sadly, this has given some an opportunity to use violence and hatred to their own advantage.

Jesus taught that we are to love your neighbour as yourself and for me that translates into ALL LIVES MATTER. We should all be fighting for justice, liberty and freedom for all no matter their colour, ethnicity, creed, gender or religion. But violence is not the way. Martin Luther King Jr once said, 'We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.' All of us were created in the image of God.

This last week I told a story at one of the school's assemblies about the rainbow. We have all seen these beautiful, colourful pictures and drawings everywhere over this period of lockdown. The story tells of God meeting Noah from the Ark, following the flood, and wanting to create something that would remind everyone of his promise to them. He chose to create a rainbow, but all the colours were arguing amongst themselves and vying for the best place or trying to be a rainbow on their own, because they were more important and better than the others. But God was very clear that a rainbow would only look right and be more beautiful if all the colours worked together which as we know is very much the case.

This world as well as this country has so much to give and in the words of the song by the New Seekers all those years ago, 'I'd like to see the world for once all standing hand in hand, and hear them echo through the hills for peace throughout the land.' That's the world I want to live in and I'm sure all of you. So let's pray for that peace and love to be spread across the world, across divides, across anything that comes between us, and come together as a unified human race challenging injustice, selfishness, hunger, and all the issues that still take place in our world, but do so in the right way not using violence and hatred but love and respect for one another.

Rev Chris

Our churches have now re-opened for individual private prayer as follows:

St Swithun's Leadenham – Thursdays 10-4pm

St Chad's Welbourn – Mondays 10-4pm

St Helen's Brant Broughton – Saturdays 10-4pm

All Saints Beckingham – Sundays 10-4pm

We are still running our services online using Zoom at this time and will be exploring the possibility of public worship returning to our churches over the next few weeks once we have received guidelines. All are free to join us and our online congregation is growing weekly!

Tuesday and Friday Morning Prayer at 10am

Wednesday 10.30am Service of the Word

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion with hymns

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Gannet's Diary

So, this 'Demic thing is still around then. It seems to be still causing much confusion with so many rules as to what you humans can and can't do . I get all this from watching and listening to Him 'n Her.

I find that you learn a lot by listening and watching. We cats do a lot of that. I don't know if humans do though. They seem to spend more time talking, then shouting because no one is listening and even throwing things at each other.

And these rules? You can't go there. You can't do that. We cats don't do rules as you may know. But you humans seem to be getting very fed up with the 'Demic rules now and so Doris man in Downey Street is letting you off some rules. Maybe he doesn't want things thrown at him.

I have been enjoying the sunshine. Now the bushes that 'She' cropped have grown back again, there are some really nice shady spots in the garden. And I have also moved into next door garden - under the fence - if I need a bit more shade. The visitors with little children came and so I definitely needed the 'quick exit' factor, especially when one of them discovered the hose pipe! Everyone got very wet - except me.

Now the children had these little dancing screen thingy's which they held in their hands and tapped a lot to make lots of pictures appear. It did keep them very quiet for a while, which was most welcome.

You will gather I am not a child friendly cat. They are noisy and move around as quickly as mice. I much prefer Him 'n Her's pace of life - slow and steady but sure to be there for all my meals and provide plenty of fuss.

But I have begun to wonder if, as a 'switched on cat', I could be getting to grips with this dancing screen stuff. I mean if He 'n She can do it and we know how old they are, could a bright feline like me not learn how to tap on a screen?

What would be in it for me though? Well, what about pictures of other cats? I have been watching Sheba for a while now and could do with a change. If I can get lots of cat photos without having to wander around the village for hours at a time - - - -

I think this idea merits investigation.

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WHITHER?

From current news items, it seems that we are just waking up to the obvious oncoming crash as all the layoffs start to take effect: if 500,000 people are suddenly laid off they will stop spending so all the businesses that live off their spending will slowly die, thus increasing the number of layoffs. Add in the impact of severe social distancing on the travel, hospitality and leisure industries, then they too are expected to die.

For example, as was predicted not that long ago, that the closure of Gatwick airport for lack of trade will be a death knell for nearby Crawley. It's a huge vicious chain reaction: every element in the whole organism depends on every other. Add in the severe inflationary impact of the gov't printing money in a desperate attempt to keep the ship afloat then it becomes a nightmare.

Are we about to witness another huge shift in the human world? The Black Death in Britain hastened the end of feudalism. The industrial revolution later on totally altered the way people lived. Radio, electricity, cars and aircraft then went on to generate huge changes in everything we do and how we operate. In our time, we are starting to see how the digital age is affecting how we do things: lockdown is suggesting /teaching we do not need to commute and can work from home. [provided the internet can cope and people can afford the tools.]

It is being mooted that robots will replace people in many manufacturing processes. Indeed, they already have, as pictures of car production lines show and how a recent programme on how potato crisps are made astonishingly illustrated.

The high street is already dying: will towns become historic memories? It is reported that there is a growing impetus to move out into the countryside. If that happens everywhere, what will be the impact in our tiny island? Are we seeing this effect locally in the impending current unfortunate over-development of Waddington along the A15/A607 which is copying Lincoln's ugly, clumsy ribbon development outwards along the A46 but, if the economic fallout predicted above actually happens, who will be able to buy these new houses and where will they work?

Malcolm McBeath

Nigel & Jools Go West: Around the World in 365 Days

Part 33: Amsterdam and a final ferry journey

We were both a little jaded with sightseeing by this time and I think it meant we really didn't do Amsterdam justice. It felt like we were going through the motions, almost forcing ourselves to 'do' the city tourist spots whilst waiting to go home. It was a sudden change for me: until we left St Petersburg, I hadn't given much thought to how close we were.

We began our exploration with an evening wander to the heart of the city. We glimpsed the infamous red light district just as the neon lights were beginning to show up against the darkening sky. We didn't venture in at night as I wasn't sure I was quite ready to see what it had to offer. We did wander around in the daytime, however, taking in one of the many museums which was more than enough for me! Amsterdam is another city that is dominated by canals and waterways, so we made sure to explore on foot and by boat. Some of the bridges were very low and the tour guides took great pleasure in making sure you could watch the boat in front just fit into the tunnel you would go through next. We also went to the Ann Frank House Museum which is a poignant and sobering experience but well worth a visit. I had read the diary as a child and it had affected me greatly.



Amsterdam

On our last morning we somehow managed to get our bags out of our cabin and met up with a friend of Nigel's, who drove us to a nearby village to meet his wife for lunch. We dined in a lovely spot by the Sea and it was a great way to while away a few hours before we had to catch our train to Rotterdam.

We were in good time for our overnight ferry and it was a magical experience leaving Rotterdam as the sun went down. Even the busy commercial dock area took on a romantic hue in the beautiful evening light. We retired to our cabin fairly early and made ourselves a quick sandwich from the last of our food before turning in.



Our final ferry leaves Rotterdam heading for Hull

I woke early and lay in my bunk enjoying the quiet. It seemed strange that we would be home in just a few hours and I wondered how much things would have changed after a year. We had seen so many places and had so many different experiences in that time that it seemed inevitable that our little Lincolnshire world would have moved on too.

By the time we had eaten our breakfast, it was 7am and we decided to go up on deck to see what we could see. Not much, as it turned out: the warm sunshine of Rotterdam has been replaced by a bitter cold East coast fog, so we retreated inside to wait until we were closer to our final destination: Hull. Somehow it seemed fitting that we had travelled around the world and would be arriving back into the UK through the closest port to where we live.

My sister and brother-in-law, Jenni and Paul, were coming to collect us and, as we neared the Port, I looked for their car in the car park. It wasn't there and I said to Nigel 'I bet they haven't left Boston yet'. He laughed and said that he thought they were hiding just out of sight and would drive in at the last minute to fool us. As we drew closer to the quay, my phone beeped to tell me I had a text:

surprise, surprise, our lift was at least an hour away, so I was almost right with my flippant comment, which shows how well I know my sister!

The wait wasn't too bad. It took us a while to disembark and we were allowed to wait inside the terminal building, which was a bonus as it was cold outside. We were pleased to see Jenni and Paul arrive, though, and we exchanged hugs before setting off back to their house in Boston. Paul had asked us a few days before what we would like as our first meal back in the UK and he cooked us the perfect roast lamb dinner which we both enjoyed immensely.



Back in Blighty: having a roast lamb dinner cooked to perfection by our brother-in-law, Paul

After a lovely meal and catch up, it was time to think about heading back to Leadenham. Jenni handed us our boxes of post which she had been keeping an eye on for us and we packed those, plus the luggage, inside our car which had been parked on their drive for the whole time we had been away. I had added Jenni to the insurance, so she had driven it a few times to make sure it was OK. Last, but not least, we tied Nigel's canoes to the roof and set off. It was peculiar to be back in our own car driving on a familiar road and, in some ways, it felt as if we had never been away. We hadn't had a car to ourselves since New Zealand, some 2 months previously, and we saw more lorries on the A17 than we had seen for months. It wasn't long, however, before we were parking in front of our house, last seen a year ago. We were home.

Corona Corner.....

Kids eventually return to school after lockdown



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Extra Face Masks

Mrs Brenda Dowling of Welbourn has been making reusable face masks. They have three layers, the middle one is a bonded fabric which acts as a filter and there is an encased wire which goes over the nose which can be bent to shape. The whole thing is hand washable. She suggests ironing it after it's been washed since this should sort out any "nasties" that may remain after washing. She's has used lots of different fabrics.

The masks are available for a minimum donation of £5 each and all proceeds will go to our local church, St. Chad's. Please either message or phone her (01400 279171) to arrange to call.

The History of Leadenham Players

It all started in 1979.

Miss Margaret Shephard, head teacher at Leadenham Primary School had a huge interest in drama and music and encouraged her pupils in those areas. Margaret wanted to create something that would include all the pupils. So she wrote a Pantomime. The problem was there was a need for some adult support for the big roles.

She appealed to the Mums at the time to be involved – and we did.

The first ever Panto was Robin Hood. The Mum's and a couple of dads (I think) played the main parts but all the school children featured in it.

It took place on the floor of the old Village Hall – no stage, no curtains, no lights. Wooden clothes dryers were used to hang painted sheets as backgrounds.

I seem to recall that the whole village turned out to watch. It was great fun for everyone and the talking point within the village for months. That was the very beginnings of a drama group in Leadenham.



ROBIN HOOD. The Leadenham Players first production at the old Village Hall in 1979 From L to R. Daphne Page, Shirley Stubbs, Malcolm Smith, Ted Simpson, Pat Morris, Pam Brownlowe, ?, Veronica Wood, Winnie Smith, Dorothy Welch, Neil Chapman, Jennie Chapman, Sharon Jackson, Jackie Morris, Hilary Proctor, Dorothy Woollas

The following year a family moved into the village – Max and Lizzie Baker and their daughter Kirsty. Lizzie had been a proper thespian – trained at Bristol Old Vic and had done stage and film work. Max proved to be the best handyman in the entire world – able to put his hand to anything. (Kirsty still lives in Leadenham and runs, with her husband Philip, Rhubarb Theatre taking Drama into schools). It was Lizzie and Margaret who laid the foundations of Leadenham Players with a proper 'Committee' with a Constitution, Secretary, Treasurer etc.

Max transformed the basic Village Hall space. The lighting consisted of catering size baked bean tins with bulbs inside. He built a stage and put basic lighting above and we made stage curtains – that actually worked – well mainly! Music was supplied by a pianist – on an old upright piano.

We approached the next pantomime thinking we were 'some sort' of professional outfit – with a stage and lighting! It was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs – again the Mums leading and all the children involved, playing individual parts, as a group, singing and dancing.

Year by year it all got a bit better. We started to do full length Plays, Revues where we wrote our own sketches – but every year there has been a Pantomime. The supporting team got bigger – costume makers, lighting operators, musicians etc. and we performed professionally written scripts.



PUSS IN BOOTS, The Players last pantomime at the old village Hall in 1998

L to R Sandy Dunford, Louise Sumner, Dave Mitchell, Hayley Walker, Ryan Dixon

Then a new Village Hall was built and opened in 1998. We got funding to the tune of £200,000 from the Arts Council (Lottery supported) mainly due to the many years of the success of Leadenham Players, which we were able to demonstrate from our many years of success and support.

We have a full stage, full lighting and sound facilities with two dressing rooms and a storage area to the rear – all fully accessible for the disabled.

1999 was a feature year for the Players. We held a Drama Festival to 'show off' our wonderful new facilities. Leadenham Players, Sleaford Little Theatre, Act Two (from Bassingham) and Muskham Players each performed a one act play over two

nights. Monies raised were shared between Radio Lincolnshire's Going for Gold Appeal (St Barnabas Hospice) and Sleaford Little Theatre (who were fund raising to refurbish the Georgian Theatre, The Playhouse.



1999 and a scene from RED RIDING HOOD, the Players first pantomime at the new Village Hall -Leadenham Hall 2000
(L to R Ryan Dixon, Lizzie Baker, Kate Dunford)

The stage facilities are now used for music groups playing live for parties and Touring Theatre Groups – and still by Leadenham Players.

Pantomimes that come to mind

Snow Queen, Dick Whittington, Aladdin, Cinderella, Treasure Island, Ok Corral , Babes in the Wood, Jack and the Beanstalk and many more.

Hilary Proctor (founder member of Leadenham Players)



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Daytime TV:

Father **BROWN**
v Robson **GREEN**

I never watch daytime TV!

Unfortunately, because of Covid -19, this is no longer true.

Now, every day I'm tuning into the lunchtime news, for the latest Government Lockdown instructions.

Actually, if it was just the news, I wouldn't even count that as daytime TV. But because the TV's on, I find myself watching a programme after the lunchtime news on BBC 1, called "Father Brown".

This is the character created by the novelist G K Chesterton, on which the current series is loosely based. I say "loosely" because apart from name of the character, it has little connection with G K Chesterton's original stories which were written way back in the early 1900s (the original one in 1910).

In the current series, the stories are set in the early fifties but, rather than in the original urban London setting, it is now a village called Kembleford where, unbelievably, there is only a Catholic church and Father Brown is the parish priest. Credibility is therefore already being stretched before we get to the bonkers stories.

Although we've got used to the idea of a civilian helping the police to solve crimes – Poirot, Paul Temple, Miss Marple to name but a few, the stories are made even more difficult to take, due mainly to

the unbelievable character of the Police Inspector. He is portrayed as being thoroughly unpleasant, bad tempered, anti social as well as being a total incompetent.

After the obligatory murder - (there's one in every episode), he always arrests the wrong person.

Father Brown then steps in and of course, identifies the real killer. This infuriates the inspector who not only won't accept that he got it wrong, but every time there's a new case, tells Father Brown to keep his nose out of it and stick to church matters.

If only the writers could have given him just one redeeming feature, it would at least have helped to make the character slightly more normal.

If you compare "Father Brown" with "Grantchester", the other series with a clergyman/policeman link and also set in the fifties, at least Robson Green, who plays the Inspector is credible as well as being on friendly terms and even socialising with the vicar.

Why am I still watching Father Brown *, you ask. I suppose it's like some of the British 2nd feature (B) films made in the 50s and 60s. They're fascinating to watch because they *are* so bad.

I shall nevertheless, be glad to give up watching daytime TV when we're allowed out and about again.

© Paul Sproxton

*In fact the lunchtime series has just finished.

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THE EARLY MORNING CALLERS.

by Katy Holderness

"Hey up, Maude, what you doing?"

"Leave me be."

"Oh, me head".

Ted rolled over to see why his wife was so intent on pulling his pyjama jacket off, but she was fast asleep, her new blue rinse perm snugly encased in its fishnet cage, snoring as usual like a steam train.

"What the"

Ted sat bolt upright.

By the light of the moon streaming through the half drawn curtains, he could see what appeared to be two work men, well they looked like work men, toggled up in their overalls and caps, one of which carried a clip board and the other a brief case.

"What the hell are you doing in my bedroom?" roared Ted.

The one holding the clipboard read from his notes.

"You are Edward (Ted, Teddy) Moore born 4th November 1923. No. 704568S/5, mother – Annie Louise, Father - William Edward, Brother of Percy, Walter, James, and Annie, you married Maude Florence Smith on 10th May 1950, father of six, grandfather of four and great grandfather of one. That correct?"

"Yes, except I've only got five kids " said Ted.

"Sorry sir, but it says six here and the computer is never wrong" said the clipboard man pointing his finger to the numbers as he held it out for Ted to see.

"Well, I'm telling you, I've only got five kids and I should know, there's Gwen, Maureen, Michael, Trevor, and young Johnny, one, two, three, four, five" said an indignant Ted.

"We'll have to look into that. Archie take note" said the clipboard holder to his partner.

Archie opened his brief case and took out a pad and pencil.

"But apart from that minor discrepancy the other facts are correct?"

"Yes, but you still ain't explained who you are and why you're in my bedroom" said Ted now sitting up.

The man with the clipboard replied:

"Well, I'm Seth and this here is Archie, we've been sent by our Foreman Gabe to fetch you in, your times up."

"I knew it, I knew I should never have had that last whiskey chaser, me brains twaddled."

"Ah, out celebrating were we?" asked Archie.

"Yea, I've just become a great granddad, a girl at last, after four lads, a real little princess she is" sighed Ted.

"Well, need we say more? That's it, one in, one out, can't have too many down here, too crowded by half already." said Seth.

"You can't mean it's time for me to pop me clogs? Why I'm not ill, fit as a fiddle I am. Just look what I've been doing today. First thing, I were planting me early tates, I know it made me sweat a bit. Then, I helps the Missus put a bit of a spread out for the family before we went down to our local to wet the baby's head. I only had a couple of pints and a whisky chaser our Johnny bought me, so I knows I ain't drunk!"

"Hey, Maude, you silly moo wake up. If I were your bleeding cat, you'd be up like a shot." Ted shouted at his sleeping wife.

"Sorry old chap, but, it says here in black and white you've got to come in on 1st April, 2000... at 4.00a.m." said Archie.

"Ah, well, I've got another ten minutes, because that there clock is ten minutes fast so there." said Ted with a smug grin on his face as he looked at the illuminated clock face on the dressing table.

"Now, come on it's not so bad" said Seth. **"You'll meet all your old mates."**

"Yeah and me enemies." butted in Ted.

"No, it's not like that, everyone is mates where we are. Aren't they Archie, I said we're all mates?"

Archie nodded as he concentrated on unravelling the long reams of computer print outs from his brief case.

"Don't suppose there's any chance of a mistake is there?" muttered Ted pulling the sheet up to his chin.

"Not the slightest chance. We have the best technology that money can buy, a computer that can tell you anything you want in seconds and a lovely girl by the name of Gloria who operates it, a real little whiz kid." said Seth smugly.

"Ah, but don't forget in the past we have had one or two hiccups, when we've had to bring them back", said Archie handing Seth a sheet of paper.

"Ah, yes, I do remember, but that doesn't count - it was ages ago and it was old Mary, not Gloria" said Seth. **"And to be fair, it wasn't entirely Mary's fault, she should have had her eyes tested but she could never get an appointment at the opticians as they were always booked up and she just mis-typed a number ."**

"Oh, you just carry on chatting don't mind me, I just lives here" said Ted now annoyed and folding his arms in front of him.

"Sorry old boy. Now come on tell me, what's your favourite music?" asked Archie.

“Well, I likes the Oldies, you know Glenn Miller, the big band sounds, But Maude here, she likes Buddy Holly, but I always thought he were a bit of a nancy boy to me”

“Say, no more. Come on in Glenn and Bud.” Archie clicked his fingers.

With a whirr and a bang and a cloud of smoke, there before him stood Glenn Miller and Buddy Holly. Ted rubbed his eyes.

“Howdy Ted, nice to see you” Glenn held out his hand.

“But not so sure about the nancy boy bit” said Buddy leaning towards him with a grin.

“You for real then?” whispered Ted.

“Sure are” said Buddy.

“Right” Archie said. **Let’s have a twirl at some tunes.”**

The bedroom was soon filled with the sound of music.

“Listen Maude this is for us.”

American Patrol. Glenn Miller, remember?

Gawd, I can’t believe it, she still ain’t moved.

Are you deaf woman?”

“Sorry Ted, she can’t hear us. Not her time yet. Now then old chap are you going to come quietly?” said Seth.

“Nooo! I can’t go, not yet. Well, me and Maude well we ain’t been apart for a night since we were wed, we belongs together. And any road I got a bet on the horses tomorrow, the 2.30 at Aintree, Shining Light, it’s a cert for sure.”

Ted clung to the bed head as Seth and Archie stepped forward their arms out stretched.

“No, I ain’t going anywhere, somebody help me”

Glenn & Buddy gave him the thumbs up.

“See you real soon” they chorused.

“Gawd help me” shouted Ted.

“No good calling him” said Archie. **“He’s away on an assertive course.”**

Suddenly there was a crash of thunder and the bedroom was illuminated with a bright orange light.

“Stop...Wrong one....”

“Heavens above. It’s Gabe” said Archie.

“Gabriel is the name” boomed a voice from the light.

“Sorry” muttered Archie.

Seth studied his clipboard as his employers voice droned on.

“We have again, had a little misdemeanour but nothing that can’t be rectified. Gloria poor child has come down with the most terrible head cold and we have had to bring Mary out of retirement to take over the reins, but it is most unfortunate she doesn’t seem to be able to grasp even the simplest of instructions these days and has mixed up much of the incoming data, we have quite a task on our hands trying to sort things out and consequently we have had to close down the computer until further notice. Mary will of course be severely reprimanded this time. Now come along you two, we have a lot of work to catch up on” commanded Gabriel.

Archie quickly stuffed his papers back into his briefcase and Seth put his clipboard under his arm before giving Ted a salute and heading towards the window.

“Hoy, wait a minute” shouted Ted his heart beating loudly as he saw them all departing.

“My dear chap. My most sincere apologies. I am so sorry we have troubled you and caused you any inconvenience. Please try and forget about this most unfortunate episode. We’ll bid you a very good night and pleasant dreams.” said Gabriel from the dimming light.

Shaking his head and rubbing his eyes Ted stared towards the open window.

“Oh, and by the way Mr. Moore, I should change your bet for the 2.30 to Charlie’s Angels!” said Gabriel as the room plunged into darkness....”

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Primary School	Mrs Tracy Boulter	Head	" 272798
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Sir William Robertson Academy	Mr Mark Guest	Head	" 272422
Village Hall	Mrs Pauline Dales	Booking Secretary	" 272696
Gardeners' Club	Mrs Nina McBeath	Chairman	" 279027
"Three Villages and a Hamlet" Magazine		Editors	" 272835
			" 275145
WKW Watch	Mrs Marianne Overton	Leader	01400 273323
Book Group	Mrs Liz Bull	Co-ordinator	" 273037
The Forge	Mr Bill Goodhand	Lead Co-ordinator	" 2726238

Welbourn Parish Web Site

<http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/welbourn>

IT room tel.no. 01400 279185

Web site Administrator Mrs Maureen Lunn 01400 272978

LEADENHAM

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TEL.NO.</u>
St Swithun's	Rev Christine Goldsmith	Rector	01400 679081
"	Mrs Henrietta Reeve	Churchwarden	07889 540605
Parish Council	Ms Mel Nelstrop	Chairman	01400 273849
Primary School	Mathew Nicholson	Head Teacher	" 272702
Leadenham Hall 2000	Mr Richard Nelstrop	Chairman	" 272482
"		Booking Secretary	07740 395747
"	Mr Rob Law-Bregan	Site Manager	01400 272778
Tennis Club	Mrs Jackie Nelstrop	Secretary	01400 272482
"Three Villages and a Hamlet" Magazine		Editors	01400 272835
			01400 275145
Leadenham Players	Mrs Hilary Proctor	Contact	" 272835
Art Group	Mrs Beryl Herbert	Chairman	01529 488403
Leadenham All Weather			
	Mr Andy Allen	Chairman	01400 272605
Outdoor Bowls Club	Mr J McClelland	Secretary	01400 273757

Leadenham Website: leadenhamparish.org.uk

MP Dr Caroline Johnson (Sleaf'd office) 01529 306721

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES:

District (Leadenham & Welbourn) and County Councillor:

Marianne Overton MBE 01400 273323(h)
cllrm.overton@lincolnshire.gov.uk 01522 552066 (Sec)

District (Leadenham & Welbourn) Councillor: Lucille Hagues

cllr_lucille_hagues@n-kesteven.gov.uk

District (Brant Broughton & Stragglethorpe) Councillors:

Christopher Spray: cllr_chris_spray@n-kesteven.gov.uk

Mary Louise Green: cllr_mary_green@n-kesteven.gov.uk

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