

SPALDING & DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 2021

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION. Over the spring there have been two examples where a little bit more of the former would have been preferred to the latter. The applications by Hutchison UK for three 5G masts in Spalding are a classic example of how not to go about it. When circumstances allowed, the company could have sent representatives to the town to explain their proposals. Instead, they put forward proposals that were rejected, and then submitted fresh proposals for the same sites, only with masts up to 5 metres lower. Naturally, one asks, is there really no alternative to the chosen sites? Some engagement with local communities in the town before the applications were submitted would have enabled Hutchinson to explain the technological challenges of delivering an effective 5G solution to Spalding. Hopefully, they will have learned the importance of engaging with local communities from this experience.

Lincolnshire County Council also failed to engage with the town – over their Active Travel proposals. There may have been a two-month consultation period, but a process that limits a response to 400 characters for a set of proposals that would seriously affect the post-Covid recovery in the town is at best a very limited consultation. Government guidance* released at the start states clearly that *“effective engagement with the local community, particularly at an early stage, is essential to ensuring the political and public acceptance of any scheme.”* The actions of the County Council in drawing up their proposals for Spalding would seem to suggest they either didn’t read the Government guidance or failed to digest it.

Proposals that resulted in a 79% rejection by those who responded to it would seem to demonstrate a lack of familiarity with the town and how it functions. The people who know the town best are those who live and work in it. If the County Council had undertaken more effective local

engagement, then the planners would surely have been better informed and a more acceptable scheme proposed.

(For the record, our 400-character response to the consultation read:-

“We are concerned about the lack of local consultation whilst these proposals were being drafted. We feel that they are ill thought out and do not take into account the characteristics of the town, which are those of a market town. The proposals as they stand are likely to be counter-productive to the aim of regeneration. We urge that they be reconsidered with the active involvement of local stakeholders.” }

Fuller, constructive comment was impossible owing to the inadequate format of the consultation. There’s only so much that can be said in 400 characters.)

In view of the town’s resounding “No”, one might have thought the County Council would like to start again, taking into account the Government’s guidance above. Not a bit of it. It appears the proposals were made on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. Because the town has rejected the proposals, the money will be spent elsewhere in the county. Spalding deserves much, much better than the Active Travel proposals for cycling and walking that emerged from what appears to have been the County’s top-down approach.

□

It would be remiss of me not to offer congratulations to the County Councillors who have recently been elected in the Spalding divisions. Hopefully, they can encourage the relevant County Council departments with direct responsibility for parts of the town’s infrastructure to find ways of better understanding the needs of the town

John Bland.

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reallocating-road-space-in-response-to-covid-19-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities/traffic-management-act-2004-network-management-in-response-to-covid-19>

AGM 2021

DUE to the extended COVID lockdown, this year's AGM was a first for the Society, being held as an online event, using the popular Zoom virtual meeting software. (The Committee has been successfully using this throughout the year to hold meetings.)

Chairman John Bland's introduction recalled how we'd postponed last year's AGM due to the start of the lockdown and how SHDC's Regeneration Steering Group had likewise stalled just after it had begun to meet to discuss ideas on how to improve the town.

John paid tribute to John Charlesworth and David Jones, both longstanding active members, whose experience and expertise have been very helpful to the Society.

Over the last year, the Chairman had also been expanding our website, and using our Facebook page to enhance our presence on line.

Melvyn Price, our Treasurer, noted that we managed to squeeze in a quiz just before the lockdown began, and our calendar at the end of 2020 was well supported, both of which brought in some income. Despite our activities being curtailed, we did manage to keep our finances in good order and increase them slightly since the last AGM.

Our Committee remains the same as last year, with the addition of Graham Boor being welcomed by us all.

John Charlesworth's Projects and Campaigns Report confirmed our continued co-operation with Transported on the Market Arts Project, which will continue into 2021 with the aim of installing *The Bakers* statue in Swan Walk. We are also committed

to trying to get the Johnson Fountain re-instated in the town centre, which has been widely backed by members of the public. We are also working on our next Blue Plaque to commemorate Charlotte Charinton, whose generous benefaction built St Paul's Church, Fulney, in 1877-80 to the designs of Sir George Gilbert Scott.

This year's guest speaker was Ian George, the LCC Historic Places Manager and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquities. Ian's talk centred on his perspective on the County's heritage and historic character.

He began with examples of what archaeologists had been finding in the County and explained how the Historic Environment Record is used to formalise finds. The HER is held digitally, but the County also still holds a lot of printed documents, maps and aerial photographs. The Historic Places Team monitors planning applications and investigates whether the site has any archaeological interest that will be affected.

The Team has been working on the Extensive Urban Survey Project funded by Historic England and have begun a survey of thirty historic towns in the County.

Ian also talked about the Government's National Model Design Code and their Local Heritage List Campaign. Ian's team will be involved in creating the criteria for the best way to perform local listing. The campaign will encourage communities to nominate historic buildings and other heritage assets they value for inclusion, thus helping to protect them through the planning system.

Pat Wensor

SPALDING AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

I enclose a cheque for:- [] £8 for individual membership; [] £12 for 2 persons in the same household;
[] Free if in full-time education; [] Details of a standing order mandate

Please send to **Melvyn Price, 3 Morus Close, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2QL**

Name Address

Post Code Telephone Email

Gift Aid

[] I am a tax payer and I wish to Gift Aid my annual subscription . Please send me the appropriate form.

GRAND DESIGNS AT FULNEY



LEFT - One of the distinctive Fulney LSA houses in the 1930s a year or two after it was built. RIGHT – The same house as it is today. Try mentally removing the extension on the left, moving the door back to the right and adding a chimney, and the original re-emerges. (*Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. D. Izzard for the 1930s photo – Editor.*)

IN 1936 a hundred men marched from Jarrow to London in search of work and an end to poverty. In the same year 40 unemployed miners from the north-east of England moved to Fulney to begin new lives as market gardeners on a Land Settlement Association.

The men from Jarrow returned with nothing. The LSA became a multi-million pound horticultural industry, which still survives today.

Most people have heard of the Jarrow marchers; few people know about the LSA.

More than 1000 unemployed miners moved to 20 different LSAs across England. Fulney LSA was based on 114 acres of the ‘Dairy Farm’, which was divided into 38 smallholdings of 2.5 acres, each with a house built for the tenant and his family.

By 1970 Fulney LSA was deemed to be too small to be economic and tenants started to leave because of the threat of closure. However, in 1971 the settlement began to attract new tenants, who were quick to see the economic advantages of following the Association’s advice on cropping. By the end of 1973 all 38 smallholdings were occupied.

All LSAs closed in 1983, but were encouraged to continue as independent companies. Sidlesham Growers (formerly Sidlesham LSA) and Foxash Growers ceased operation only in 2010, whilst Snaith, as part of Yorkshire Salads, still trades today.

At Sidlesham in West Sussex, where I live, I have created a heritage trail, a website and a film to celebrate and commemorate the significant contribution that the LSA has made to our national social history. More recently an LSA house has been dismantled and is in storage at the Weald and Downland Living Museum, near Chichester, await-

ing funding to be re-erected – then the LSA story, including Fulney, will have a permanent home.

<http://www.sidleshamheritageytrail.co.uk/about>

One of the distinctive Fulney LSA houses, with a Dutch-style mansard roof, was seen on a recent edition of Channel 4’s *Grand Designs*, prompting me to investigate further. To my amazement I found that the former offices of the LSA, *below*, occupied a vetchery (dairy) of the local Priory. It is now a listed building * – though in a “very bad” state says Historic England’s *Heritage at Risk* register.



With your help I would like to tell the story of Fulney LSA. Were members of your family tenants or staff on the LSA living on Mallard Road, Weston Hills Road or Swindler’s Drove? There are several nurseries located on Mallard Road in Fulney – do you know staff who work there who may know about their previous history?

I look forward to hearing from you – Billm89@hotmail.com – and then sharing the outcomes of my research. **Bill Martin**

[*Listed because behind the dilapidated modern exterior lies the original mediaeval stone vaulting. Editor.]

PLANNING MATTERS

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH included a commitment to modernise the planning system, with a provision to speed development proposals through the planning system. Whilst we will have to wait to see the details, last year's Planning White paper offers some clues. It divides the country into Growth areas, Renewal areas and Protected areas. In Growth areas, there would be automatic consent for outline applications and faster routes of consent for detailed applications. Renewal areas would have a statutory presumption in favour of development. Only in Protected areas – which would include conservation areas – would the opportunity for public comment on a specific application remain.

The Government's reasoning for reform is to cut the time an application takes to go through the system. However, the emphasis might better have been placed on good design. As the current National Planning Policy Framework stresses: *'Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people.'* The requirement would be for all planning applicants to be aware of the principles of good design and to follow them. The same should apply to anyone commenting on an application. As with a choir, if everyone sings from the same hymnsheet, there would be greater harmony.

Locally, the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan sets out the planning policies for the area until 2036. Policy 3 lists fifteen aims that all planning applications should take into account. They are:-

Policy 3

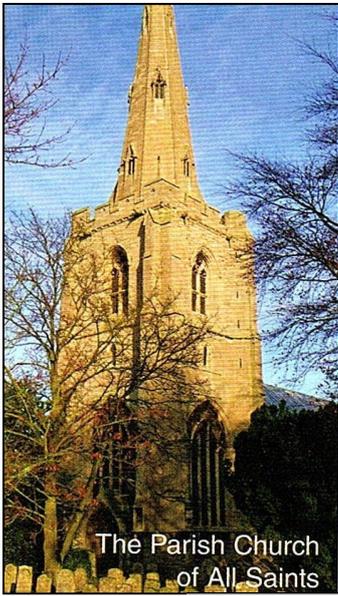
- 1. Creating a sense of place by complementing and enhancing designated and non-designated heritage assets; historic street patterns; respecting the density, scale, visual closure, landmarks, views, massing of neighbouring buildings and the surrounding area;**
- 2. Distinguishing between public and private space;**
- 3. The landscape character of the area;**
- 4. Accessibility by a choice of travel modes, including the provision of public transport, public rights of way and cycle ways;**
- 5. Provision of facilities for the storage of refuse/ recycling bins, storage and/or parking of bicycles and layout of car parking;**

- 6. The lighting of public places;**
- 7. Ensuring public spaces are accessible to all;**
- 8. Crime prevention and community safety;**
- 9. The orientation of buildings on the site to enable the best use of decentralised and renewable low-carbon energy technologies for the lifetime of the development;**
- 10. The appropriate treatment of facades to public places, including shop frontages to avoid visual intrusion by advertising, other signage, security shutters, meter boxes and other services and communication infrastructure;**
- 11. Residential amenity;**
- 12. The mitigation of flood risk through flood-resistant and flood-resilient design and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS);**
- 13. The use of locally resourced building materials, minimising the use of water and minimising land take, to protect the best and most versatile soils;**
- 14. The incorporation of existing hedgerows and trees and the provision of appropriate new landscaping to enhance biodiversity, green infrastructure, flood risk mitigation and urban cooling;**
- 15. The appropriate use or reuse of historic buildings.**

Where planning applicants have considered these issues, the planning process should indeed be quicker, provided their application demonstrates that they have done so. Where they haven't, is it not in the interests of good planning that public scrutiny of planning applications is retained? **John Bland**

E-ILLEGAL

IN CASE you're wondering, we understand that the **electric mini-scooters**, increasingly whizzing along Spalding's town centre roads or slaloming round people in the pedestrian area, are illegal – on roads, pavements and public spaces. They're legal only in a small number of pilot towns and city areas, where their accident rate is being monitored and they are provided in a recognisable livery {like 'Boris Bikes'} by the local authority or a licensed company.

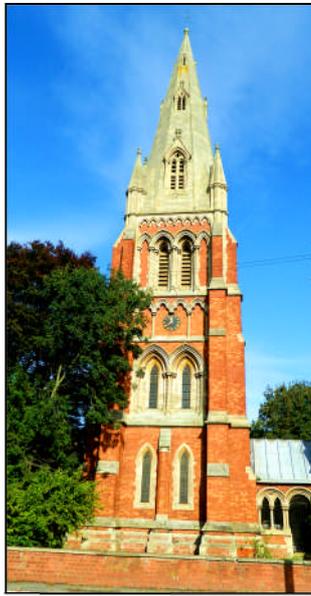


The Parish Church
of All Saints

Newton Press

Holbeach, All Saints

Rebuilt in the 14th century and restored three times in the 19th. The stonework of the roof of the north porch is described by Pevsner as “delightfully lacy”, but of the two “not at all ecclesiastical-looking” round towers that flank it, “nothing seems to be known”, he says.



Roger Smith

Spalding, St. Paul's

Site, church, vicarage and school funded entirely by Miss Charinton, together with an endowment of £300 a year. She laid the foundation stone in 1877 (and was presented with a silver trowel) and the church opened in 1881. She also donated the church's eight bells.

Miss Charinton's Churches

Next Blue Plaque

Although Charlotte Charinton lived a modest and frugal life on London Road, her outstanding generosity in the building and restoration of local churches meant she was known well beyond South Holland. *The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* of 10 January 1888, for example, recorded her death, with an account of the churches that had benefited from her munificence.

Those churches are pictured here and on the next page as they are today.



St Peter's Church, Spalding

S. 1144

From Andrew Inkley's collection

Spalding, St. Peter's

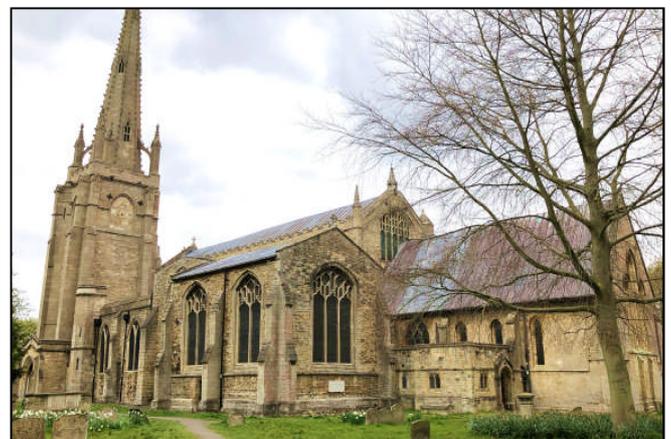
Built 1875-6, where Priory Road bends round towards the Crescent. (Chancel funded by Miss Charinton.) To the south was the Spalding Collegiate School for Young Ladies & Kindergarten, and five years later the newly built Johnson Hospital would open directly opposite. Demolished 1968 – to provide a carpark for the Spalding Rural District Council offices behind. When South Holland District Council was created in the local government reorganisation of 1974, the new council built its offices on the RDC's carpark, and its own carpark by clearing the site of the former Young Ladies' School, later the Avalon Wards adjunct to the Hospital...



Mark Tuley

Fleet, St. Mary Magdalen

14th century church, with its unusual detached steeple. Restored 1860-2. “The body of the church alas over-restored,” laments Pevsner. Now on Historic England's *Heritage at Risk* register.

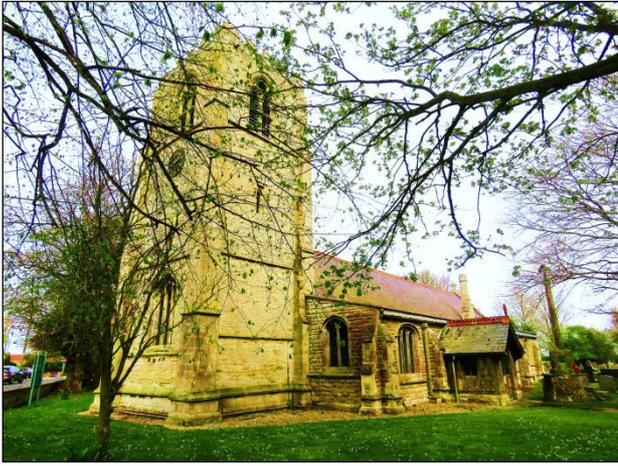


Ian Mann

Spalding, St. Mary and St. Nicolas

A wide and varied building of the 13th century and later. Restored 1865-7.

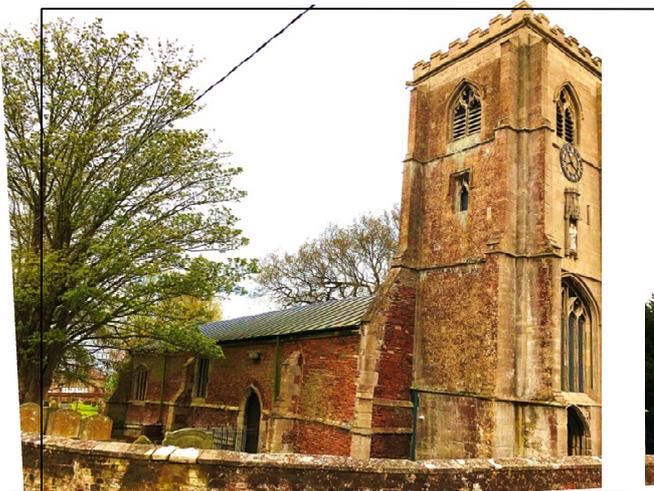
SOCIETY NOTES



Mark Tuley

Gedney Hill, Holy Trinity

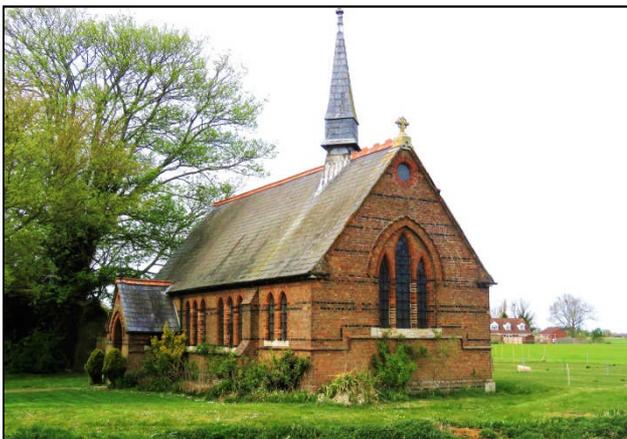
A 14th century church with an “exciting and unusual interior” (Pevsner), the nave arcades being supported on “massive octagonal wooden posts”. Only three or four like it in England. Struck by lightning in 1872. The major work required provided an opportunity for restoration (1875). Miss Charinton further donated a carved pulpit in memory of her father. Church now on the *Heritage at Risk* register – condition ‘poor’.



Ian Mann

Cowbit, St. Mary's

Early 15th century. 1882 restoration mainly financed by Miss Charinton.



Mark Tuley

Holbeach St. John's, St. Polycarp's

An acre of land donated for the building of this mission chapel.

A WARM WELCOME to new members **Ian Mann, David Budgen, Mark Tuley, Graham Boor** and **Hunor Cseszney**.

Given the uncertainties of more than a year's worth of pandemic U-turns, lockings and unlockings, tiers and traffic-lights, many thanks to the officers and committee for keeping the Society functioning via Zoom and email. With the Council Offices closed and its officers working largely from home a further complication was added. It seemed best therefore to at least have the stability of keeping the Society's officers and committee more or less unchanged from last year. **Officers** therefore for the coming year are John Bland (Chairman), David Jones (Vice-Chairman), Marian Boxall (Secretary) and Melvyn Price (Treasurer); Committee:- John Charlesworth, Robert West, Pat Wensor, Graham Boor and Paul Walls.

Subscriptions. A gentle reminder from the Treasurer to existing members who pay by cheque but may not have got round yet to renewing their subscription. (Form on p.2.)

Long-standing members will probably not have come across the note we now send to new members asking them what issues prompted them to join the Society:- Spalding's architecture and townscape? ● Planning regulations/applications? ● The blue plaques? ● The development of the riverside? ● Our shortage of green spaces? ● Art works in the town centre? ● Attractiveness of the town centre? ● Visits to places of interest? ● Tree planting? ● Other? We also ask them if there are any personal skills they would like to offer to the Society:- Legal knowledge? ● An eye for planning applications? ● Organising social events/visiting speakers? ● Publicity/press work? ● Knowledge of the natural environment? ● An urge for campaigning? ● Computer skills and know-how? ● Photography/art work? ● Other?

Perhaps during the long stretches of the lockdowns old skills and interests may have re-awakened which could make a contribution to the Society's work. We should love to hear from you. Contact details on p.8.

The Council is about to launch a consultation on the **future of our stall markets**. As we emerge from the pandemic, now is the time for some really fresh thinking, and not just a return to the same old same-old. Your committee will be making a submission on behalf of the Society, but we hope all members will take part in the consultation individually. Ranging widely. Should the Council provide the stalls? Could their layout in the Market Place and Hall Place be improved? Could the Red Lion's out-door seating be incorporated within the market? What sort of goods would you like to see added to the existing? Do we make the best use of the unique feature of the Hall Place seating circle within the market? What features of markets you've come across elsewhere in the UK or abroad would you like to see here in the Spalding market? And so on. Seize the chance.

MUCH APPRECIATED

● **SHDC** – for the revived **South Holland Centre clock**. In a strange sort of way the chimes help to strengthen a sense of community. For the duration of the chimes one is subconsciously aware that everyone within earshot is sharing the same experience, whether selling a jigsaw or buying a lettuce or a lobster.



● **Coney's** – for saving Hill's and retaining its memory in the naming style on the fascia boards.

● **SHDC's bearded street-cleaner** – for meticulously scraping the moss from between the paving bricks in Abbey Passage,

● **Network Rail** – for the much-needed passenger lifts. (Pity about the tacky-looking wooden bicycle shelter, when so much effort had been put into matching the design of the lift-shafts to the listed station buildings.)

● **Councillor Angela Newton** – for her tireless contribution to so many voluntary community causes over the years – particularly, from the Society's point of view, to East Midlands in Bloom and commissioning the abstract sculpture on the river bank near High Bridge. Congratulations on a richly deserved MBE.

● **SHDC** – for acting to free the Tuesday and Saturday stall markets from the traders' cluttering vans and trailers that crept in during the pandemic.

● **Bookmark – Q:** how do you find a book whose author you can't name, or its title, or the publisher?
A: Go to Bookmark. The only clues I could offer were that it was fiction, recently out in paperback, with a two-word title, a boy's name, the first word something like "Sproggie" or "Dumpty" "Ah," came the reply, "won the Booker Prize last year," and she disappeared into the fiction section, and returned with the book I was after. At the same time (about 11.30 am) I ordered a book whose details I

did know. About 12.15 the next day I was phoned to say it had arrived. Welcome back from lockdown, Bookmark! You're a marvel. (*Editor*)

● **SHDC** – for introducing free car-parking in the Vine Street and Herring Lane car-parks (four hours) and Sheepmarket (one hour) until 30 September.

● **Geo.Adams & Sons** – for the colourful and inventive displays in the shop's right-hand window, ever-changing according to the season or seasonal festivals, but always ingeniously incorporating a pork pie or two.

● **The Chequers** – for saving Mulberry's Bar from being turned into flats. (But let's have the simple historical name back.)

● **62 St.Thomas's Road** – for the clean-sweep restoration after years and years sinking ever further under engulfing vegetation into a horror-film set.

● **The Wombles** – for their continuing litter-picking, even tackling such a horror dumping spot as the old Johnson Hospital opposite the Council Offices. One wonders what would happen if one or two guerrilla gardeners were to move in.

● **SHDC** – for the new board spelling out exactly



what **NO VEHICLES** means for the pedestrian area on market days. "Blue badge holders and delivery vehicles are NOT exempt." But why not on the other days of the week as well? In spite of the sign at the corner of Broad Street and Herring Lane saying

PEDESTRIAN ZONE – NO VEHICLES, there were 16 vehicles parked in the Market Place at 1.00 pm on 17 May and 10 parked and one driving through at 3.30 pm on 11 June. Why is there no enforcement?

TRANSPORTED

“The government has got the levelling up agenda and the recovery agenda There's going to be pots of money [for arts projects] and we need to be ready with the right projects in the right places to get that money spent here.” **Nick Jones – programme director**



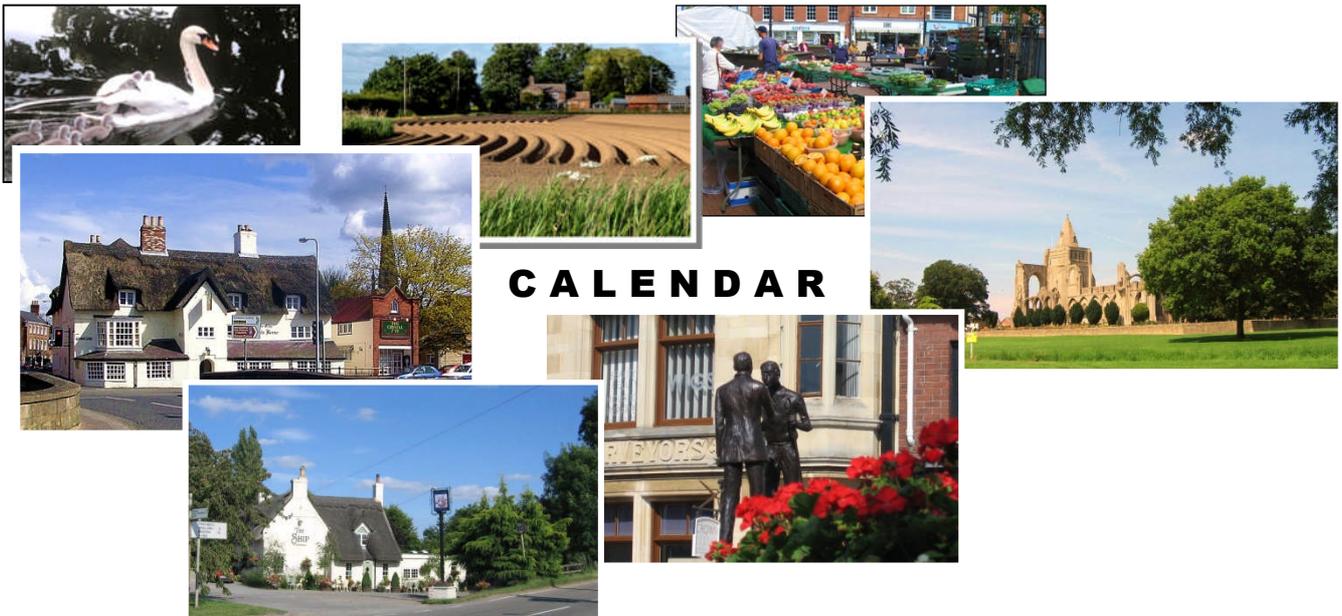
CRANES RETURN

to Willow Tree Fen

COMMON CRANES haven't bred in Lincolnshire for over 400 years, but have started to reappear in other parts of the country. Last year a pair turned up at Willow Tree Fen Nature Reserve, just about two miles from Pote Hole on the Tongue End Road. They stayed to nest and successfully reared one chick. These birds are not only faithful to each other, but also to their nest sites. Would they return this year? They did, earlier than expected, on 22 January. In due course they nested, and were seen on a Trailcam with two chicks, but sadly the chicks didn't survive and were thought to have perished on 4 May, either due to the bad weather or through predation. Apparently this is not unusual, and it is estimated that only 10-20% reach adulthood.

Willow Tree Fen Reserve is owned by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and further information can be found on the Trust's website. Common cranes are very prone to disturbance, and last year the reserve was closed off to public access in order to leave them in peace. As the birds are still there, and it is hoped they may have another breeding attempt, the reserve is again closed to visitors until further notice.

Annette Faulkner



CALENDAR

We are hoping to produce a calendar for 2022 with photographs of Spalding and its surrounding villages and countryside, including some by members who have not featured before.

We're looking for pictures that capture the landscapes, heritage, nature or beauty of the area, whether well-known views or fascinating details that few people may have noticed. Pictures that have a clear seasonal feel, too. They may have been taken a year or two ago or next week. Please send them to John Charlesworth at the address below – before mid-July – on either disc or memory stick or as prints. The pictures above from previous calendars give an idea of the variety of images we try to aim for.

Chairman: John Bland, 36 Park Avenue, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 1QX.

Secretary: Marian Boxall, 78A Edinburgh Drive, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2RT.

Treasurer: Melvyn Price, 3 Morus Close, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2QL

Newsletter: John Charlesworth, 37 Regent Street, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 2YN.

Registered Charity Number 259956

Website

01775 762150

01775 725293

01775 722908

01775 768303

www.spaldingcivicsociety.com

