



# Tuesday Talk

WITH JULIE WILLIAMS

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## Feeling foolish

ON Palm Sunday Tony Jones, the Lincolnshire Free Press and Spalding Guardian's duty photographer for the day, raced to Deeping St Nicholas.

An ever-reliable informant had texted him a hot tip that one of the eight wind turbines had taken a tumble overnight.

He drove backwards and forwards as far as he could without trespassing, looking for debris on the ground and counting and re-counting turbines still standing.

Then a puzzled Tony remembered the date...

## Appliance of science

SO students at local schools will soon be PH testing lemon juice and Coca Cola and investigating soil types in science lessons...

Resources to teach 11 to 14-year-olds how food is produced have been developed in the hope of attracting bright local youngsters into the area's major industry.

This may produce unforeseen results from inquiring young minds as two New Zealand teenagers testing soft drinks in the school science lab found that the famous blackcurrant drink plugged as rich in Vitamin C actually contained none at all.

Trade descriptions were invoked, heads no doubt rolled and changes had to be made (the drink made in the UK was never guilty of the same deception) – all from a simple experiment in a school science lab.

# Scouting is gaining in popularity 100 years on

LOCAL youngsters are racing to join brownies and cubs, guides and scouts, not to mention their younger versions the rainbows and beavers.

A second pack is being launched to accommodate all the wannabe cubs in Long Sutton and eight new brownies made their promises at Gosberton last week.

All are part of a national resurgence in membership.

You could almost be excused for thinking, in its centenary year, that this movement defined by good, clean fun, positive values and healthy outdoor living was developing its own kind of street cred.

Lifetime scout Arthur Wilkinson joined up in Spalding, aged 11, in 1943 and his memories of his first camp, on Jimmy's Field at Snettisham, Norfolk, go a long way to explain scouting's appeal.

Arthur, who was group scoutmaster at Long Sutton, said: "Through the years many thousands of local scouts have pitched their tents on that field, which was left to the movement by the parents of a scout who was killed in the First World War at 18.

"When I went there as a lad, the father of one of the other scouts moved his son's tent into the middle of the field.

"The rest of us went to sleep in three tents near the hedge.

"That night a huge gale blew



Old scouts and new at Long Sutton Scout Hall where beavers under eight pitch their tents for indoor camp (health and safety regulations): From left – Thomas Joyce (17), Arthur Wilkinson (75) and scout Connor Hockley (11). (2601071t31)

up and his tent was blown clear over the hedge!"

Arthur is looking forward to the centenary jamboree at Chelmsford in July where 40,000 scouts from all over the world are expected.

He attended the 50th back in 1957.

Also keenly anticipating the celebration is Long Sutton Explorer scout and trainee leader Thomas Joyce (17), who said: "I joined as a bit

of an adventure that was completely different to school and I have stayed to learn skills I wouldn't learn anywhere else, like cooking on an open fire, archery and leadership."

## Living up to ancient reputation

CROWLAND is finally living up to its ancient reputation for hospitality with the opening of not one, but two tearooms in the space of a month.

A medieval rhyme from before the dissolution of the monasteries compares Crowland Abbey with others

in the Fens: "Ramsey the rich of gold and fee,

Thorney the flower of many a fair tree,

Crowland the courteous of meat and drink,

Spalding the gluttons as all men do think..."

Now in a touching gesture Crowland dentist John Hartley has opened The Old Copper Kettle tearoom in the pretty shop adjoining his clinic in memory of his wife Sue, whose project it was.

And from Thursdays to

Sundays the new Abbey Pantry inside Crowland Abbey church is open to everyone and will be offering cake and coffee in place of meat and drink.

Speaking of which, has Spalding changed much in 600 years?

## The way I see it ...

I BET there are few males over the age of 15 who have not at some stage in their youthful career been told off by a policeman.

My brother was, aged eight, when he was reported by a neighbour for spying on her with a toy telescope.

My son was, aged ten, when caught watching older acquaintances throw stones at windows.

I know that in both cases police intervention, however innocently incurred, was welcomed by the parents and the lads themselves have never

forgotten and have avoided circumstances where it may arise again.

Fast forward to 2007 and there is a father who has made an official complaint after being contacted by police about his ten-year-old son's "threatening behaviour" over the Internet.

Two officers visited at 9pm and told him that the parents of a fellow pupil had reported his son for harassing their son and calling him a gay boy online.

The father reckons he was worried sick all day that the

## All wrong signals over old-fashioned police 'chat'

boy may have been making bomb threats and has complained about time wasting and heavy-handed police methods.

He says his son did not understand what gay meant and has now been banned from Internet messaging.

The police say they have to investigate all complaints of harassment and that the

officer involved decided an "old fashioned chat" was the best approach.

I say "fair enough". The dad obviously had no idea what his son was doing online and should have made it his business to know – but now he is giving the child all the wrong signals about an essentially well-meaning visit.

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**BOSTON**  
\* Assembly Rooms  
Market Place  
Tuesday 9.45am  
\* Geoff Mulder  
Swimming Pool & Leisure Complex  
Rowley Road  
Tuesday 6.00pm  
\* St Marys RC  
St Marys Road  
Horncastle Road  
Wednesday 6.00pm

**BOURNE**  
\* Rad Hall  
South Street  
Wednesday  
5.45pm, 7.00pm  
\* Church Hall  
Church Walk  
Monday 9.45am

**CROWLAND**  
\* Crowland South  
View Primary  
School  
Reform Street  
Tuesday 6.30pm

**DONINGTON**  
\* The Ruby Hunt  
Centre  
Church Street  
Wednesday 7.00pm

**HOLBEACH**  
\* Methodist Church  
Hall  
Albert Street  
Wednesday  
10.30am  
Thursday 7.00pm

**KIRTON**  
\* Town Hall  
Station Road  
Monday 6.30pm

**LONG SUTTON**  
\* Conservative Club  
49 West Street  
Wednesday 6.30pm  
**MARKET DEEPIING**  
\* Coronation Hall  
16 Hallfeet  
Monday \*10.00am  
\*New Meeting:  
Opens 16/04/2007  
\* Deeping St Nicholas  
Primary School  
Hereward Way  
Monday 6.30pm  
\* The Deeping  
Community Centre  
2 Douglas Road  
Thursday 6.00pm

**MOULTON SEAS**  
**END**  
\* Moulton Seas End  
Village Hall  
Seas End Road  
Tuesday 6.30pm

**PINCHBECK**  
\* Baptist Church  
Hall  
Knight Street  
Monday 5.45pm

**SPALDING**  
\* South Holland  
Centre  
Market Place  
Thursday 10.00am  
\* Monkhouse  
County Primary  
Pennygate  
Wednesday  
5.45pm, 7.00pm

**SUTTON BRIDGE**  
\* Constitutional Club  
New Road  
Monday 6.30pm

"I lost 3st 1lb"  
Angela, Star of our TV  
advert, revealed.



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