

The West

In View

June 2006

Distribution
39,000 East & West!



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- Ottringham Beacon
- Nancy still looks good
- Journey back in Time
- Giant is among friends
- Win a Bed worth £399!
- Test Drive
- Seasonal Recipe
- Gardening Special
- plus much more...*

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Welcome to the June 2006 issue of 'The West in View', featuring items of local and regional interest, historical and lifestyle features plus photographs and stories contributed by our many readers. Thank you all for your emails and letters, they are very much appreciated.

This issue includes a gardening feature, filled with lots of ideas to help you to keep your garden looking at its best throughout the year. Our regular two page gardening section will be as normal from the August issue.

The 'In View Gallery' once again contains a selection of photographs from the west and surrounding area. If you have a photo of the area and you think that our readers would enjoy seeing it, please send it to us by email or post. Due to a large response we cannot guarantee including every photo in the gallery but when your picture is printed we will send you £10.

We hope that you enjoy reading your copy of the *West in View*, please telephone, email, or write to us with your comments or if you have a story or feature that you think would be of interest to our readers.

If you are in business and would like to promote your services to over **19,500** homes and other businesses throughout the area, why not advertise with us? The rates are very competitive and we offer a full design, artwork and proofing service.

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The first in the *In View* series, "*Holderness in View*", is distributed to **19,500** homes and businesses throughout Holderness, giving total series coverage of **39,000!** We offer excellent joint issue advertising rates so if you would like to find out more about this extremely cost-effective advertising opportunity please contact Steve Mawson on:

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First for fascias and windows



Here to help: The highly-skilled team are dedicated to providing the highest levels of service

HUMBER Fascias and Windows, based on Hedon Road in Hull, is a family-run business which has spent the past nine years honing its skills and developing excellent standards of service.

Last year, the company was officially recognised as a master of its art and became a member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen, proving it is committed to working with skill and integrity to provide quality, service and value for its customers.

The guild is a high-profile governing body that ensures its members continuously adhere to strict guidelines and high standards.

Owners Steve and Louise Greenbank were determined to meet the Guild's criteria so they could offer extra assurance to their customers that they would receive the best service possible. Louise said: "Being a member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen enables the public to distinguish the company from unskilled workers and encourages us as a team to continue to strive for excellence."

Humber Fascias and Windows has been awarded the certificate of quality and service, certificate number A106085, and each customer is entitled to contact the company to verify its membership to the guild.

The business is a specialist roofline company, which can take care of the full removal of the roofline and install fascias, gutters, barge boards and downpipes.

Since autumn 2005, the company has become a direct stockist of Plaslyne plastic building products, which allows Steve and Louise to deal directly with the manufacturer and therefore improves the service and

allows for quicker deliveries straight to the customer.

Louise said: "Our customers have access to the best products on the market at everyday prices. We buy grade A materials that remain affordable." Humber Fascias and Windows has also successfully brought the skills it has acquired through fascia work into fitting windows, as registered installers for Eclipse PVC-U Window Systems. The company has 10 teams of men, all fully-qualified in their chosen trade and all dedicated to providing a high-quality service.

Steve said: "Once you become a customer, you remain a customer. We offer a full back-up service which means if you have any concerns all you have to do is pick up the phone and we will be there to assist."

Customers are also kept up-to-date with any special offers or promotions as they happen.

The peace of mind which is offered by Humber Fascias and Windows is backed by a 10-year guarantee on its work and, as a registered installer, there is also a 10-year underwritten guarantee from the manufacturer, covering any discolouration and board defects.

Although the business has been through a period of great expansion, the running of Humber Fascias has not been delegated to new managers. With their dedication to a hands-on approach to business, Steve and Louise are still completely involved with the day-to-day details of the business. Steve said: "I meet virtually all of our clients face-to-face and Louise is available by phone 24 hours a day.

"It is all part of our commitment to our clients, to ensure they get the high-quality service they have come to expect from us."

Step by step

- 1 Roof tiles
- 2 Eaves protector
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- 4 Fascia board – available in "Plain L" or "Ogee" (white, mahogany, golden oak or black ash)
- 5 Soffit board – Soffit available in ventilated or none ventilated (white, mahogany wood grain, golden oak, black ash)
- 6 Sarking felt
- 7 Timber truss



ON arrival at your property, Humber Fascias and Windows takes every care not to disturb the surrounding environment.

It is primarily a full removal company, which means the team strip away all the gutter, fascia, and soffit boarding back to the bare trusses.

The company refurbishes the bottom 250mm of sarking felt with eaves protector, which is designed to create a tilting fillet to stop the ponding effect behind the fascia caused by sagging sarking felt.

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Humber Fascias and Windows is now a direct stockist of Plaslyne plastic building products, which have been tested to BS.476 Part 7, 1987, standards and gained a Class 1 fire rating.



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These window systems are high security, including shoot-bolt locks fitted as standard. The products are also internally glazed – preventing the glass from being removed externally. As with the other services provided by the business, all are fitted to an exacting standard by the teams.

Steve said: "The windows are all made to the customers' requirements, including leaded to coloured designs.

The UPVC is also available in a variety of types including white, mahogany wood grain and golden oak. "None of the windows are off-the-shelf, it is all made to order by registered fabricators."

As with the fascia service, peace of mind is provided by the fact that there is no sub-contracting work, all team members are employed by Humber Fascias and Windows. And the same standards of guarantee are also provided by the business and the manufacturers.

"Our customers have access to the best products on the market at everyday prices"



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Beacon played role in wartime history

WHAT sits in a field in Holderness, looks like a giant, white trampoline from a distance and helps airline pilots find their way around?

The answer is Ottringham Beacon, a navigational aid or "navaid" as they are called by those in the know. The site consists of a group of white buildings next to a circular platform on metal legs, with what looks like a smaller circle of lights above it.

It may seem an unlikely spot for a piece of hi-tech wizardry – surrounded by fields, next to the A1033 Patrington Road, about 12 miles north-east of Hull – but Ottringham Beacon plays a crucial role in enabling aircraft, ships, oil platforms and the military to find out where they are by homing into a particular location.

The technology has been around a long time – since the 1930s – and beacons, such as the one at Ottringham, have played a huge role in the development of long-distance air travel.

The beacon at Ottringham can provide the pilot of an airliner, for example, with accurate information about the aircraft's position in relation to the ground station by working out its bearing (direction) and distance from the station.

Hundreds of beacons like Ottringham were installed in the 1950s to support Very High Frequency (VHF) radio navigation.

Ottringham is a VOR station, which stands for VHF Omni-directional Range. Without becoming too technical, it allows pilots to fly to or from a VOR station along a chosen course using a cockpit instrument connected to a VHF receiver that is tuned in to the VOR station's frequency.

Ottringham also operates under a DME (Distance Measuring Equipment) system. Signals transmitted by the DME in an aircraft are picked up by the DME ground station and transmitted back to the plane.

The DME receiver measures the time between sending and receiving the signal and then calculates the distance to the station, so the aircraft can work out where it is.

The present beacon undeniably has an important role, but its forerunner could be said to have an even more interesting story to tell.

The radio transmitters that used to occupy this site were erected during the Second World War and undoubtedly played a crucial role in the outcome of the conflict.



BBC Ottringham played its part in the final two years of World War 2

BBC Ottringham consisted of a 94-acre site with seven buildings and several 500ft transmitter masts and was built to provide a high-powered medium and long-wave service to Europe.

It began broadcasting on February 12, 1943, six months late after two of the masts collapsed during construction the previous summer.

Four 200 kilowatt Marconi transmitters were installed in four heavily protected buildings. The station had a maximum power of 800 kilowatts and, at the time, was the most powerful transmitter in the world, with the capability of transmitting four programmes simultaneously.

In addition to domestic services, the beacon also transmitted the BBC's European Service, which could easily be heard in Germany on a standard domestic radio.

However, it was the European Service that carried the all-important coded messages to resistance fighters in occupied Europe.

A seemingly meaningless sentence, such as "I kiss you, my love, three times", could be informing a resistance group in France that three planes would be making an arms drop.

A lonely field in Holderness was the centre of events that were literally making history and determining our destiny. For example, crucial messages were broadcast from Ottringham on the eve of D-Day, June 5, 1944.

BBC Ottringham continued broadcasting after the war but was closed in February 1953 due to lack of money and available channels.

The transmitters were dismantled and moved to Droitwich where they were used well into the 1970s for Radio 1 and Radio 4 on medium wave and Radio 2 on long wave.

Don't leave a Legacy of Problems

FEW OF US care to contemplate our own mortality, yet we are all aware that our departure from this world is inevitable. In the absence of appropriate preparation that departure can leave loved ones with the responsibility for organising the disposal of your estate; a task that can be complex, costly and time-consuming – and sometimes contentious. It is a problematic legacy that no-one should leave to those dear to them.

As with so many of life's problems, the solution lies in displaying foresight and seeking expert help to make practical preparations in advance. Contact a professional in the field of estate planning, and get the peace of mind that comes from knowing that your wishes will be carried out, your loved ones provided for exactly as you intend – and all without problems.

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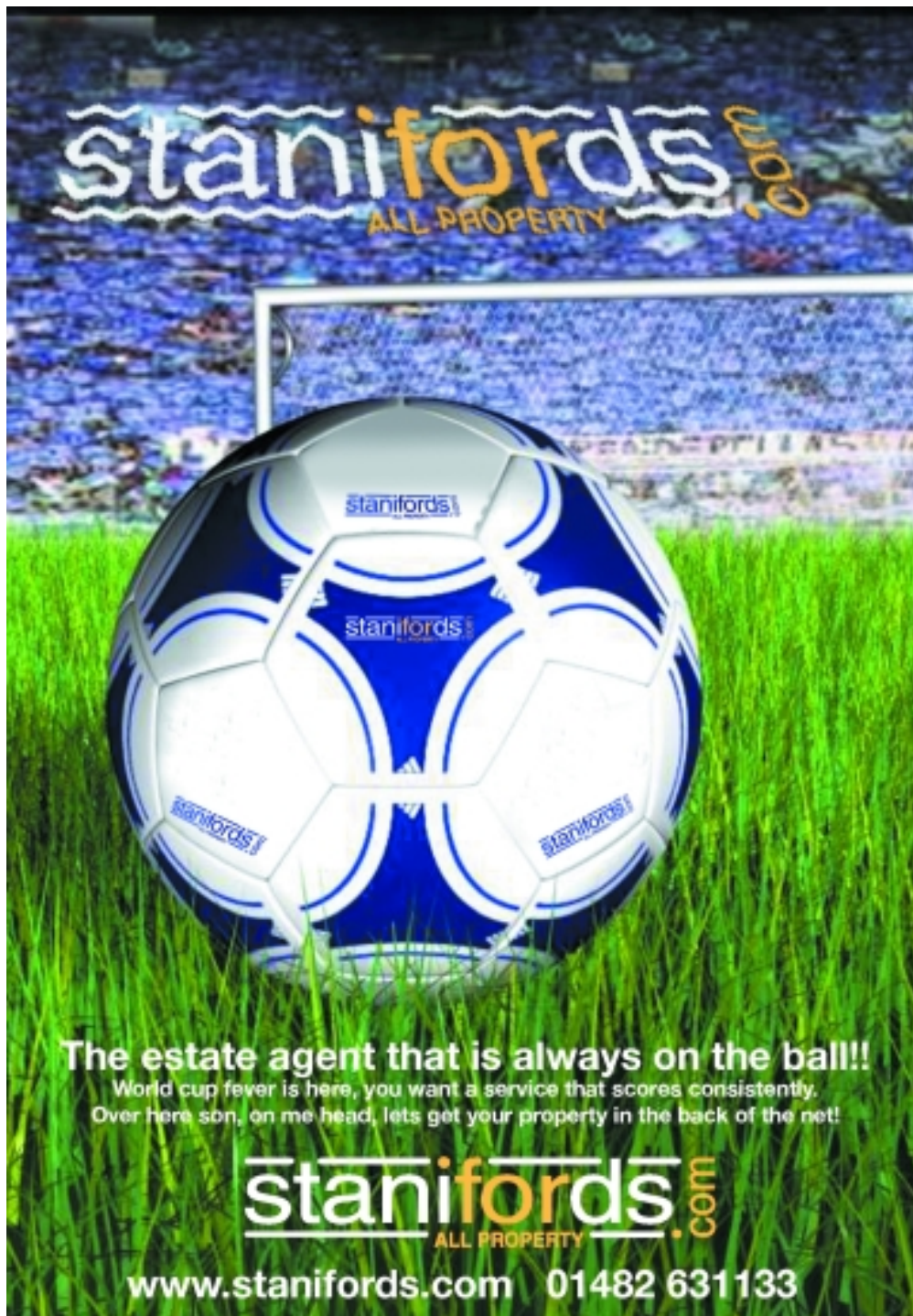
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Nancy Inn still looks good in the paddock



A TRIO of pretty East Yorkshire villages have three things in common. Bishop Burton, Burton Agnes and Burton Pidsea all have "Burton" in their names, they all have ponds and they all have connections with the world of horse racing.

That's because Yorkshire was a good place to be in the 18th and 19th centuries if you were into horse racing, as the county was a major centre for horse breeding.

But it is the Holderness village of Burton Pidsea that concerns us here and, in particular, one of its local hostelrys, the Nancy Inn. The racehorse on the sign is a bit of a giveaway, but it may come as a surprise that the small village, situated only a few miles from the sea, used to be an important centre for racehorse breeding in the 19th century.

The pretty, whitewashed pub in Church Street with its red tile roof, close to the village church, did not always have connections with the racing world, although it did have some equine links. The building began life as a blacksmith's forge and was probably built sometime in the latter half of the 18th century.

The Nancy lies in the north of the village, the area that has seen the most expansion in terms of building since the 18th century. The building later used as the Nancy Inn is thought to have originally been two houses, constructed partly with one storey and with attics.

In the late 18th century, the village boasted at least four alehouses. One of these, the Cross Keys Cottage, operated as an alehouse until its closure as a "disorderly house" in the mid-19th

century. But drinkers at the Nancy Inn must have been behaving themselves. The pub was still operating as a blacksmith's in 1852 when it was named after the renowned racehorse, Nancy, bred in the late 1840s by Burton Pidsea-based racehorse breeder Edward Baxter. Nancy won 11 races in 1851, including the Ebor Handicap and the Goodwood and Chester Cups, beating the mighty Voltigeur at York.

Baxter had the largest farm in the area and is described in the History of the County of York: East Riding as "a farmer of c. 1,500 acres and a racehorse breeder". He must have been doing well, as in about 1840 he had remodelled his house, later called – no surprises here. The Paddocks.

The above history tells us that The Paddocks is a red-brick house with a stuccoed parapet, bow windows, and a large porch supported by square pillars, which had a side wing added in the 20th century. Its outbuildings have tie beams with Baxter's initials and the date 1829.

Baxter had a farm of about 30 acres in Burton Pidsea and bought a total of another 40 acres in the 1830s. But his wealth was no doubt boosted when he inherited an estate in the village on the death of his uncle, Robert Sayle, in 1832, together with around a further 50 acres.

Clearly a man who did not like to miss a good business opportunity, in addition to being the largest landowner, Edward Baxter also owned the village mill and was recorded as a brick and tile maker from 1840 to 1858. His works were close to The Paddocks and may have been set up primarily to supply materials for that house, although the yard presumably also provided bricks and tiles for other building operations then under way in the village. There was a sound business project as, apart from the medieval church, the village is brick-built.

The inn was not the only part of the village to have been named after Baxter's prize-winning horse. In the mid-19th century, he had a house in Carr Road rebuilt as five cottages for elderly people. The terrace, now occupied as one house, was named Nancy Row.

Further mentions are made of the Nancy. In the Post Office Directory of 1857, William Rotsey had "Nancy Inn and blacksmith" next to his name, which shows he probably ran the village forge and the pub.

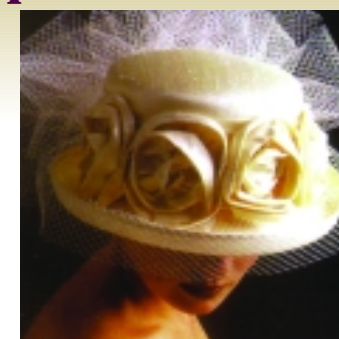


The Nancy's sign depicts Mr Baxter with his famous Racehorse.

But more than three decades later, in Bulmer's Directory of 1892, Miles Medforth is down as "victualler and shoemaker" at the Nancy Inn, with no mention made of the smithy.

They might not be shoeing horses or making shoes for people today at the Nancy Inn, but it's nice to see that, more than 200 years on, this pretty country pub is still providing refreshments for locals and visitors alike.

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SCULPTURE TRAIL

A Country House Sculpture Trail:
Burton Constable,
Burton Agnes and Sledmere

THE ARCHITECTURAL splendour of Burton Constable, Burton Agnes and Sledmere House are justly celebrated and their fine furnishings and picture collections never fail to delight. However, despite the enthusiasm of their owners, their sculpture collections are often overlooked.

A newly published guide entitled: *"The Country House Sculpture Trail"* aims to redress this situation by directing the visitors' gaze towards the wealth of sculpture at these three East Yorkshire country houses. Furthermore, as this is a 'sculpture trail' the reader is invited to journey from house-to-house engaging with the sculptural diversity and the cultural riches of the East Riding itself.

Described as the 'grandest country house in the East Riding', Burton Constable Hall houses a considerable collection of 18th and 19th-century sculpture. The main contributors were John Cheere and William Collins whose lavish sculptural decorations dominate the Dining Room and Great Hall. William Constable made significant additions to the collection during his Grand Tour of 1769-71 with copies, after the Antique, by Bartolomeo Cavaceppi and, the rather illusive, Constantino Mazzone. Surprisingly, despite his evident enthusiasm for antiquities, William Constable never amassed a collection of Antique sculpture: considered de rigueur for a man of the Enlightenment.

During the 19th century, the Clifford Constables continued to add to the collection: mainly French and Italian works. During 'improvements' to the 18th-century landscape park, they swept away a number of garden figures including a lead Mercury by John Cheere and two 'garden figures' by Francis Lamb (fl.1749-56), a little-known sculptor active in Lincolnshire. Unfortunately, they were replaced with 'artificial stone' figures of considerably inferior quality by the Parisian manufacturer and dealer Monsieur Texier.

One can only concur with David Neave's description of Burton Agnes as 'the most appealing of the East Riding's country houses'. A publication of this nature could never do justice to its 'crazily overcrowded' figurative carving but it can direct the reader to its scholarly appraisal in Art and Decoration in Elizabethan and Jacobean England (1998) by Anthony Wells-Cole. Our main focus here is the

'Constable-Moby' by Daniel-Fraser Jones, the latest addition to Burton Constable's sculpture trail.



freestanding rather than the architectural sculpture at Burton Agnes Hall, the majority of which was collected by Marcus Wickham-Boynton.

More recently, the Honourable Susan Cunliffe-Lister has also contributed to the sculpture collection through her enthusiastic patronage of contemporary British sculptors.

Despite the fire of 1911, and as a result of the sympathetic restoration undertaken by Walter Brierley, Sledmere House can still claim to be 'the best late 18th-century house in the East Riding'. It remains the 'glorious home' of the Sykes family, who have lived here for the past 250 years.

Sir Christopher Sykes, undoubtedly made the greatest contribution to the sculpture collection at Sledmere House. From 1776, he worked tirelessly on improving the house and parkland, and in 1789 employed Joseph Rose the Younger who was a key figure, not only in the decoration of Sledmere House but also in the formation of its sculpture collection. Rose was an immensely talented plasterworker, who worked extensively for the celebrated Robert Adam. However, at Sledmere he was not only responsible for the stunning plasterwork but an entire decorative scheme. This included the procurement of appropriate sculptural works from Peter Van Gelder and Joseph Nollekens R.A.

Subsequent members of the Sykes family continued to contribute to the collection, including Sir Richard who was an enthusiastic collector with an eye for a bargain. His acquisition of the full-size marble copy of the Laocöon in the 1960s for just £5 must surely be the bargain of the century!

The publication and associated events, which include an exhibition, creative workshops and associated visitors events, have received support from LEADER+, a European Union and UK Government funded initiative; the project has also been supported by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, Yorkshire and the Friends of Burton Constable Hall.

Burton Constable Hall
15 May – 31 October 2006

**Making an Impression:
Sculpture after the Antique**



From the monumental to the miniscule: an exhibition exploring the veneration of the Antique during the 18th century through sculpture, engraved gems, coins and medals.

This exhibition will be accompanied by *A Country House Sculpture Trail: Burton Constable, Burton Agnes and Sledmere*, a fully illustrated guidebook available at all three sites. There will also be a series of workshops including: Creative Writing with Dr John Clarke (Director, Beverley Literature Festival) and the Art of Sculpture with Daniel Fraser Jones. All workshops are FREE OF CHARGE but numbers are limited – so book early to avoid disappointment.

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Hidden stress can cause problems

WE must all have heard it at some time: *"We have felt uncomfortable ever since we moved into this house"; "We just can't seem to settle"; "We always seem to be arguing since we moved here."*

Even though you have possibly never heard of Geopathic Stress (GS), you may have felt the effects of it, and these effects are becoming increasingly recognised. The outcome may have been that you have moved home again. That is why houses badly affected by it come on the market more often than ones which have no or very little stress. Ever wondered why you felt uneasy when you walked into a particular room, and it always seems chilly and unwelcoming despite your best efforts to remedy it?

GS is natural radiation which rises up through the earth and normally runs in parallel bands. Through the effects of underground elements such as running water or mineral concentrations, it can often divide into several rays varying in width from 1-2 metres. Lying in a bed in a horizontal position, your body is exposed to a larger area of them than when standing upright.

Animals are particularly sensitive to GS. Cats are attracted to it, dogs don't like it. So if your dogs are often restless or bark for no obvious reason, or if your cat always sleeps in an odd place, chances are that your house of flat could have geopathic stress. Birds are thought to follow these lines of energy to navigate long distances across featureless land or oceans.

Dudley C. Taylor knows all about GS, he deals with it every day. A professional Feng Shui consultant, he regularly holds private consultations and has several estate agents on his client list who use his services to check out houses, especially 'sticking' properties which have been on the market for some time. In fact, in Germany it is now common practice to obtain a GS test as part of the house sale process.



Feng Shui consultant Dudley C. Taylor.

GS does not cause any illness, but lowers the immune system. Whilst we are sleeping the body should be at rest (over 80% of body cells are created during sleep) and it can then do any repair work on damaged cells, fight infections, and absorb nutrients from food eaten that day,

However, when we are sleeping in a GS place the body has to use much of its energy to just keep vital organs functioning correctly and therefore the immune system is lowered, we cannot absorb our nutrients or fight off infections as effectively. The most common indications of GS are resistance to treatments, feeling run down and exhausted, depression, nervousness, restless sleep, feeling cold, cramps, tingling in arms and legs, nightmares or a feeling of bad luck ("it always happens to me").

It can cause behavioural problems in children and through irritability, give rise to irrationality and spark domestic arguments.

GS is thought to be a major factor contributing to cancer. We nearly all produce cancerous cells on a regular basis, but they are continuously destroyed by the body's immune system. It is very difficult to treat cancer when GS is lowering the immune system.

Apart from using his skills to remove and neutralise GS using a specialist art of "dowsing" involving an ancient practice referred to as 'earth acupuncture', Dudley practices Compass Feng Shui, and also carries out more spiritual 'Sacred Space Cleansing' tasks, 9 Star Ki, Flying Stars and EFT when required.

Dudley C. Taylor can be contacted on 01522 856 788 and will be willing to discuss any problems you may have and work out a suitable course of remedy.



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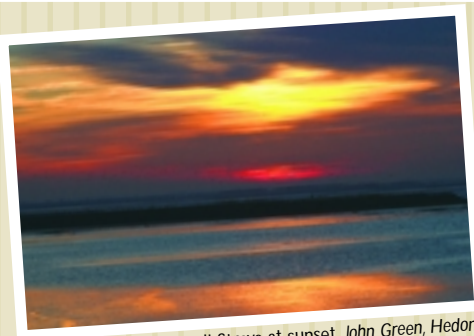


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5. This offer does not apply to any other promotional fare and no National Railcard discounts apply.
6. All travel must be completed by 8th September 2006.

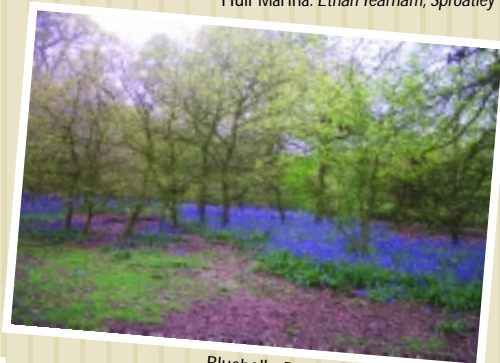
If you think In View readers would enjoy seeing a photo you may have, please send it in to us. If used, we will send you £10 on publication. Be sure to send your name and address with each image.



Hull Marina. Ethan Yearham, Sproatley



Paull Strays at sunset. John Green, Hedon



Bluebells, Burton Bushes, Beverley.
Ken Mason, Elloughton



High tide at Faxfleet.
Stanley Mason.
Newport



Lelley Mill, Winter and Summer



Sand le Mere



Zeebrugge ferry in early morning mist. K. S. Watson, Paull



The Humber Bridge. Leslie G. Watson, Hessle



River Humber, Paull. Michael Race, Hedon

A big thank you to our contributors who have sent in photographs for this gallery. Our next issue will be published early August so please send in your photos by 17th July and if printed we'll send you £10!

By post: In View Publications,
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Kingston upon Hull HU1 4BG
By e-mail: info@inviewpublications.co.uk
(good quality jpeg files only please)

Although we cannot guarantee to publish all entries in the following issue we will keep all photographs on file and they may appear in a later issue of the magazine. We will send you £10 when published.

All photographs will be returned... please be sure to send your name and address with each image!

If you would like to purchase a copy of any image published: please contact In View Publications on 01482 38 20 40

Keeping fit can be 'oh so sexy'

By Emily Mawson

WHETHER you want to give your body a total fitness work out, or learn to gyrate erotically around a pole, Pole 4 Fitness has something to offer women of all ages, shapes and sizes. Even some men are taking advantage of Pole 4 Fitness, the largest school of its kind in England.

As someone who has shied away from this kind of activity before, I thought I'd give it a go. A few weeks ago myself and a friend booked a lesson.

Let me be honest, being faced with the prospect of wiggling your bottom and shaking your hips around a pole for the first time is intimidating, to say the least! However, the instructor, Clare, helped me to feel more relaxed and within minutes inhibitions go out of the window as you find yourself 'rocking 'n' rolling' with the pole, and spinning with both legs off the ground, even managing a cute little toss of the hair as confidence grows!

So to anyone thinking of having a go at a class, and indeed, even to those of you who are thinking it's not for you, I would say 'go for it!' At just £20 for a private lesson, and £45 for a course of six weeks, there is nothing to lose. Each client has their own pole, and is taught to their requirements.

And the proof is in the pudding... after a one hour total beginners class, most of my muscles have been worked on and I feel oozing with confidence, wellbeing and even sexiness, and hey, I can now spin around a pole!

For more information, visit www.pole4fitness.com, or call 01482 503020



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Gardening In View

Chelsea show sets the trend



FROM exotic herbs to mud maidens, dusky purples to cool silvers, Chelsea Flower Show had it all.

In View's gardening expert, Doug Stewart explains how to get the look of 2006, "The most practical look for gardeners in Holderness and West Hull to come out of Chelsea this year has to be the sunken patio, which creates a sheltered oasis in which to enjoy the garden out of the cold winds that so many of us in this area suffer from. As for the plantings, perennials in cool blues, lilacs and even purples are very much the order of the day.



Meet Doug, our new gardening expert!



Doug has lived and gardened in the Hull area for over 20 years and will be familiar to many readers through his gardening talks, work with local garden centres and his Sunday Morning gardening phone-in on BBC Radio Humberside.

In View Gardening Special

Gardening Expert Doug Stewart names Enkianthus as his plant of the season

I REMEMBER the very moment when I first saw *Enkianthus campanulatus*. It was one of those perfect May mornings, birdsong filled the air, the sun was warm, and there was a new garden to explore. The winding paths at Trewithen near Truro passed Rhododendrons, Magnolias and Camellias all in full flower. A lesser followed path headed through a bluebell wood and towards a small woodland. Wandering towards the woodland lost in awe and wonder at the plants all around I came across a plant of exceptional beauty. Its flowers hung like salmon coloured pearls against the blue sky. It was love at first sight.

Enkianthus campanulatus is a member of the Heather family and its name means swollen (enkuos) flower (anthos). As well as producing a stunning show of flowers in May it also exhibits exceptional autumn colour, when the leaves turn a vivid red.

Fact file

Position: *Enkianthus* will grow well in either full sun or in light dappled shade.

Soil: Lime free acidic soil is required; in containers Ericaceous compost will be required.

Hardiness: Fully hardy.

Pruning: Almost no pruning required.

Grown for: Creamy yellow to salmon pink flowers in the spring. Vivid red leaves in the autumn.

Secret of success: Apply a mulch of leaf mould in the spring to keep the compost or soil slightly acidic.

Size: A large shrub or small tree, growing to about 2.5 meters in height.

Cost: £12 in a three litre pot.

Available from specialist nurseries and larger garden centres.

Enkianthus can be propagated by seed and by cuttings but must be grown in a lime free soil.

It does however perform well in large pots and tubs when planted into Ericaceous compost.



Enkianthus campanulatus.

SIX OF THE BEST!

6 Great Plants for a contemporary look

Black Bamboo
Cordyline
Phoenix Palms
Hardy Banana
Heuchera "Crème Brûlée"
Lavender

The 6 best patio plants for 2006

Bacopa cabana
Busy Lizzie – Spellbound
Million Bells
Nemesia "Blue Lagoon"
Surfinia "Lime"
Fuchsia "Thalia"

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Q Why did the buds fall off my Camellia this year?

A Very few plants can compete with the beauty of a Camellia in full flower; however they are very prone to this problem of dropping their flowers in the spring. As well as being upsetting, this is made doubly worse by the fact that the plant has carried the buds all through the winter only to drop them just before flowering time.

The answer to this problem is however very simple. The plant, which is probably growing in a container, has got dry during the late summer or early autumn. This often happens when we stop watering pots and tubs filled with summer bedding. The problem is aggravated by the leaves on the Camellia acting like umbrellas and shedding rainfall thus diverting it from the compost in the pot.

To stop this problem occurring again next year it is vital that the plant is kept well watered (but not over watered) during the growing season and damp (but not wet) over the winter.



Aeoniums... prone to problems of bare stems.

Q I have an Aeonium in a pot which is my pride and joy. But it's got very top heavy, with no leaves at the bottom and all the growth at the top of bare stems.

A I am afraid that Aeoniums are very prone to this problem. However it is very easy to overcome this problem as they respond very well to pruning and now is the ideal time to do this in our part of the country. Prune the plant back to leave a stump. It is a good idea to keep the plant on the dry side after pruning it, as you have removed the top growth. Before long the plant will sprout and watering can be increased slightly. You can also use the growth that has been removed to grow some new plants to give to friends and family. Remove some of the healthy leaves and let them dry out for a day or so to heal over before inserting them into a very open gritty compost.

Q Last year I bought a beautiful Clematis, which flowered very well last summer, however I have no idea how to prune it or when.

A Although some of the gardening books make Clematis pruning sound very complicated there is a very simple rule to follow that ensures success for most plants.

Clematis can be divided into three groups according to when they flower. Spring flowering ones should be lightly pruned when they finish flowering. Summer flowering ones like yours should be lightly pruned in early spring, while autumn flowering ones should be pruned to the ground in the spring, which may sound a little drastic but they have a long time to re grow before they do their party piece.

If you buy just one patio plant this year...

Make it the new trailing Busy Lizzie, Spellbound.

With several different varieties in the series this new introduction is set to be the plant of 2006.

Ten HOT new looks for 2006

- 1 Understated muted plantings of aromatic herbs will give a contemporary, healing, relaxing atmosphere to the garden, making it the ultimate chill zone
- 2 Architectural structures to create areas of shady relaxation away from the burning East Yorkshire sun are features of many of the show gardens
- 3 Oak boarding, replaces the ubiquitous decking as the material of the moment
- 4 Perennials planted within a matrix of grasses in lime greens, oranges, blues and silvers is one of the dramatic new looks for 2006
- 5 BBQs are so last year! For 2006 it's outdoor living without compromise – and that means a fully functional outdoor kitchen
- 6 Water butts are in, as is recycling grey water into the garden, and choosing drought resistant planting
- 7 Irises, Peonies and meadow plantings are used to give a contemplative romantic edge
- 8 Strong simple designs with modernist or minimalist influences create the city chic look
- 9 Romantic organic designs with distressed features such as rusted iron give a country feel
- 10 Clematis "Ice Blue" is a stunning new introduction. It is suitable for growing in containers and is in stock in larger garden centres now.

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The two hour makeover

IT'S A question that stopped me in my tracks; "if you were stranded on a desert island, and could only take one part of your garden with you, what would it be?"

To the garden lover, a question like this is like asking a doting parent, which of your children do you love the most. However an answer was required. Which area of my beloved corner of England would I take with me? The tropical border? No, a desert island would be full of lush tropical foliage providing refreshing cooling shade. The arbour was my next thought, somewhere to sit and watch the sun setting across the endless ocean; but how would the climbing rose "Gloire de Dijon" which clothes it and spreads a light delicious scent into the air cope with the new climate?

The answer came in a flash of inspiration. The one area of garden that most of us simply could not live without is the patio. It's where precious days spent in the garden start. Where friends and family meet for informal lunches that last

through to early evening and where sundowners are enjoyed as a perfect day comes to its close.

As a nation we have fallen in love with the patio. Sales of patio furniture, heaters and awnings have soared over the last few months. (Indeed an awning with integrated heating and lighting is becoming the must have garden accessory of 2006.) Our love affair with our precious patios started in the late 1960s when package holidays took us to then exotic locations of Spain, Italy and other warm lands surrounding the Mediterranean. It was on these holidays that a generation of sun lovers discovered the simple joys of sitting in a sun drenched courtyard or terrace and naturally wanted to recreate the experience at home. The ubiquitous phrase, an outdoor room was born, and with it the role of the garden designer.

However perfect the setting, it is however the plants and containers that create the style and mood of the patio, and the new designs for this gardening season could not be more different from each other. Container company APTA launched a range of traditional textured stone containers late last year and the demand was overwhelming with garden centres running out of stocks almost instantly. Planted up in a simple rustic style, they can create a look of timeless elegance. As a contrast there are the new ranges of zinc and lacquered metal and terrazzo containers which complement the most contemporary patios and look simply stunning when planted with either complimentary coloured plants such as lavenders, or for a more dramatic look architectural plants such as Cordylines are an ideal choice.

Not many years ago gardeners needed huge herbaceous borders to be able to grow plants like the huge billowing Delphiniums, whose flowers when I was a child looked as if they reached up to tickle the sky. The plant breeders have been working their magic to create new varieties of these old fashioned favourites to fit in with our more compact modern gardens. Delfix is one of the finest of these new introductions, a compact Delphinium with the



charm of iridescent blue flowers born on short spikes, Delfix at 2 foot high is ideal for growing in containers, and looks simply stunning when combined with Coreopsis "Early Sunrise" and Golden Marjoram.

Even the humble Busy Lizzie has undergone a makeover for 2006 with the newly introduced spellbound series promising to be the must have plant this year. Garden Centres across the area west have reported strong sales of this superb introduction. Called Shady Ladies by our American cousins Busy Lizzies are superb plants for both shady corners of the patio or deck and will look simply stunning tumbling down the side of a hanging basket.

Even the compost that we use has undergone a complete transformation this year, with Westland introducing a new range of compost to tempt the roots of even the most fussy perennial. Their container and hanging basket compost contains Westplus, which is based on a renewable resource and makes the compost lighter for handling, easier to wet, faster draining and promotes stronger flowers!

Best of all, after a few hours of retail therapy at the garden centre, that new contemporary look is just a couple of hours of relaxed planting away, and who knows with the right plants swaying in a summer breeze, you might even feel as if you are on your own desert island!

Secrets of success

- Make sure the container has plenty of large drainage holes
- Larger containers, which may seem more daunting, are actually easier to look after
- Fill the container with plants to give a fuller more lush appearance.
- Water once a day and feed once a week from June-October
- Encourage new flowers and keep the container looking pristine by removing dead flowers once a week

On the web...

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National Locums operates a quality management system that is UKAS accredited, which confirms the company's commitment to providing its clients with a superior level of service.



REC Accredited

The Recruitment & Employment Confederation is the trade association for employment agencies.

National Locums is proud to be one of only two healthcare organisations in the UK to achieve REC accreditation. The Audited Status serves to confirm that the company's operations comply fully with the REC code of conduct.



Commission of Social Care Inspection

National Locums is registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection, both as a nurse agency and as a domiciliary care provider.

To contact National Locums Homecare:

Please call Tracey Hassell or Tracy Kew on:

Tel: 01482 382820 • 08701 298538

Fax: 01482 382821

E-mail: enquiries@nationallocums.com

Web: www.nationallocums.com

Case Study...

The case of 'Client A' serves as an excellent example of the benefits offered by National Locums Homecare

CLIENT 'A' is a 50 year-old gentleman who suffers from a chronic debilitating condition which will become more acute with the passage of time. Before the condition developed, *Client A* was a skilled professional engineer and he is keen to maintain a degree of independence for as long as possible. He is able to do this thanks to the dedicated support he receives from family, friends and the staff at National Locums. National Locums provides a team of health care workers who tend to *Client A's* needs on a daily basis, and who accordingly have developed a good relationship with him on both a professional and personal level. In addition to assisting *Client A* with personal care, members of the team help with light domestic tasks and also spend recreational time with him; reading, watching television and films, and accompanying him outdoors; on shopping expeditions or simply into the garden to enjoy the fresh air. The homecare service provided by National Locums has made a positive impact on *Client A's* life, greatly improving its quality. *Client A* is still 'in the driving seat' in terms of how he



National Locums, offering the highest possible standards of Homecare.

manages his day, and this gives him an element of control that is vital to his morale, and so to his overall well-being. *Client A's* experience illustrates the way in which a disabled person can maintain that crucial degree of independence in their life, given professional support that is reliable, flexible and affordable.

For total reassurance, all health care workers provided by National Locums undergo a stringent recruitment selection process, and a comprehensive induction-training programme.

For further information on this service, contact National Locums Homecare.

Afon Caradog given a good send-off



ALMOST 200 people made the journey to Hepworth Shipyard in Paull on the chilly evening of April 28th to watch the launch of the newly built tug Afon Caradog.

After being lowered down the slipway by winch during the afternoon, at approx 7.30pm the vessel floated on the rising tide before being quietly towed up the river to Alexandra Dock for final fitting out and a few finishing touches.



The tug begins a short journey to Alexandra Dock for the finishing touches and sea trials.

The rising tide finally reached the Afon Caradog late afternoon.

She then underwent three weeks of sea trials in the Humber before making the journey around the south coast of England, then up the coast of Wales to Holyhead. She takes her place alongside her sister ship the Afon Braint which was built at Paull last year. Each have a 'bollard pull' of 34 tonnes and a top speed of 11.2 knots.

Although there was no dramatic cracking of champagne bottles or big splashes of water, the record crowd watched the event with interest, and there was a great sense of pride from the staff and workers at this small, but most capable local shipbuilding company.

One onlooker, Mr Kevin Barrow, from Hedon said: 'We've enjoyed it. We read about the launch in the last issue of *Holderness In View* magazine, we wouldn't have known about it otherwise.'

The next project is already under way in the fabrication shed adjacent to the slipway. This is a replacement stern section for an existing tanker barge of the Rix fleet. *In View* will keep you up to date with progress in forthcoming issues.

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Entries by e-mail will not be accepted.

Please send entries to:

**Bed Competition,
In View Publications,
The Deep Business Centre
Hull HU1 4BG**



The draw will be made first week in July and will be independently verified by The Deep Business Centre Manager.

The winner will be notified by Friday 7th July and the result published in the August issue of In View.

- 1 What was the maximum output of BBC Radio Ottringham?
- 2 How many acres of land did Edward Baxter own?
- 3 What is the maximum speed of the Afon Caradog?
- 4 What percentage of body cells are created during sleep?
- 5 How tall was Giant Bradley?
- 6 In what year did Sledmere House suffer a fire?
- 7 How many grams of potatoes for an average portion of curry?
- 8 How long does the train journey take from Newtondale Halt to Goathland?
- 9 In which century was the oldest domestic house inn Hull built?
- 10 In is the maximum speed of the Mercedes B180 CDI?

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OLD HOUSE - NEW BUSINESS



Traditional skills live on in Hull's oldest house

JOHN Charles Hampel of Thorngumbald has recently moved his picture framing business to No. 5 Scale Lane, the oldest domestic house in Hull which dates from the 15th Century.

Previously based in Hull's Indoor Market, John jumped at the opportunity to expand his business to this unique location, thus combining work with his passion for history and tradition.

John is an avid collector of items from the unusual to the bizarre, plus memorabilia and ephemera such as maps, prints, sheet music, postcards and artist's signed prints. He has built up a large library of images of Hull and the surrounding areas which are available for sale.



With an extensive range of quality mouldings in stock John can quickly undertake framing jobs large and small, from contract work for pubs and clubs to bespoke one-offs, produced to the highest level of craftsmanship at extremely competitive prices. He is delighted to offer any advice on traditional or modern styles of framing to ensure that your chosen print or work of art is displayed to its very best potential.

John Charles Hampel

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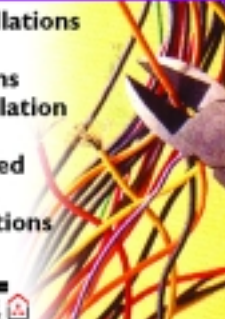
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Journey back in time...

By Jim Deighton

CALLING children of ALL ages... the age of steam is alive and well and living in beautiful North Yorkshire!

The North York Moors Railway captures all of the atmosphere, sounds, smells and visual memories... including signal-boxes, old-fashioned semaphore signals and wooden gated level crossings. Memories that will all come flooding back if, like myself, you were lucky enough to remember this magical form of transport before the changes in both technology and government transport policy over forty years ago.

Ashamedly, I had watched these trains steam by on many occasions during walking excursions through the North Yorkshire countryside, but had never taken the step of buying a ticket and taking a journey down memory lane.

This particular weekend was a 'Steam and Swing' event recreating the years surrounding World War 2, one of many themed weekends which take place throughout the season. The enthusiasts who donned period dress added to the already rich atmosphere and gave a first hand lesson to the children as to exactly how and why things were different in years gone by, and how travel had certainly become faster, but perhaps at the expense of much of its magic.

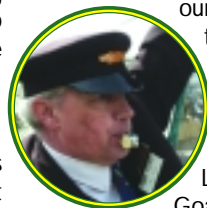
Slamming of the carriage doors followed by the shrill whistle of the station master not only sent a shiver of recollection down many spines but heralded the most wonderful 'whoosh' from our engine, the 4-6-0 'Green Knight' which was built in Swindon in 1954.

The carriages gently moved off and we began our journey from Pickering through the North York Moors towards Grosmont.

There are five main stations on the line, Pickering (where the NYMR offices are based), Levisham, Newtondale Halt, Goathland, and finally the terminus of Grosmont where you can connect for Whitby.

The start of the journey from Pickering takes you past a large modern day building where much of the line's restoration and maintenance work is undertaken, and you will pass many of the cranes, wagons and special vehicles that are used to keep the line in tip-top form. Old carriages and steam engines, wheels and rolling stock pass your gaze as if through a window of the past.

A journey of a little more than 15 minutes takes you to the first station along the line, Levisham, which has a short platform and is a typical rural station with sidings which



would previously have handled goods traffic. A further ten minutes takes you to Newtondale Halt, which also has a short platform, this time made of timber. Fairly remote, it is an ideal stop off point for walkers and ramblers to explore the surrounding part of this beautiful valley. It is possible to combine walks with train rides, as trains travel in both directions regularly throughout the day.

The next 15-minute stage of the journey takes you to Goathland. The newest station on the line, it features in the series 'Heartbeat', and several years ago this entire station was transformed into 'Hogsmead' for scenes in the first Harry Potter film. Indeed, a short walk up the hill into Goathland transports you to the very heart of 'Heartbeat' country, amongst many souvenir shops is 'Aidensfield Garage', the Ice Cream parlour (who unsurprisingly happen to sell great ice cream!) and the Aidensfield Arms, which will strike a chord with fans of the series.

Trains run hourly in each direction during peak season, which gives you ample opportunity to explore at least one of the stops of your choice. With an All Day Rover ticket you can do a little to-ing and fro-ing and still stop and enjoy a walk around Grosmont, a further ten minutes down the line, down one of the steepest track gradients in the country.

Most of Grosmont station dates from 1845 and originated during the days of Iron-stone workings on the North York Moors, a major industry in its day which is responsible for many disused railtracks, constructions and earthworks, familiar to walkers who frequent the area.

The entire line appears in excellent order largely thanks to the sterling efforts of the North York Moors Preservation Society which started back in 1967. For safety reasons you can excuse the odd colour-light signal and the almost incongruous vintage(!) Deltic engine which was in operation on the day we visited.

The luxurious Pullman carriages offer Sunday lunch throughout the operating season and at Christmas and New Year. Please note advance booking is essential for all dining services.

At £14 adult, £7 child for a Day Rover Ticket the prices are very reasonable. Concessions and family tickets are available, together with singles and returns between any individual stations.



The 4-6-0 engine 'Green Knight' at Grosmont Station.

The trains run daily from the end of March to the end of October, with extra services at half-terms in November and February.

On various weekends you will find guest appearances by such stars as Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends, Wizards, Santa himself and many others... so if you would like to give the even younger children in the family a treat check out the NYMR website or call for information.

NYMR Information Office: 01751 472508

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RECIPE

Potato Curry 'for Train Rides'



A delicious vegetarian accompaniment for barbecues or picnics

Submitted by Brian Liversedge...

"This recipe is a particular favourite of mine and has been enjoyed by my friends and family at social gatherings on many occasions."

Method:

- 1 Boil potatoes in their skins for 20 minutes until just cooked, then place in colander and run cold water over them. Peel when cool and cut into bite-size pieces.
- 2 Measure the Turmeric, Coriander and Chilli powders into a small bowl and mix together with the Ginger.
- 4 Heat oil in a large pan or wok.
- 5 Add the Cumin seeds and wait until seed splutters, but do not burn.
- 6 Turn the heat down and add the bowl of spices. Give a quick stir to release flavours. (beware... it's a good idea to open the kitchen window at this stage!)
- 7 Add the potatoes, turn up the heat to medium and stir-fry for a few minutes, until all they are well coated with spices.
- 8 Cook for a further 5 minutes on low-medium heat, stirring gently from time to time, taking care not to break the potatoes.
- 9 Add Coriander Leaves, Mango Powder, Salt, Garam Masala and mix together.

It can be used as part of a main meal, can be eaten hot or cold so is good for picnics, and absolutely perfect as a barbecue side-dish during the coming summer months.

Do you have a favourite seasonal recipe which you would like to share with other InView readers? If so, please send it in to us via post, e-mail or fax.

AS THE subject of train rides features on the previous pages of *InView*, what more fitting than a recipe warmly referred to as 'Potato Curry for Train Rides' by its original author, Yashoda Gupta from India. It was a favourite dish made by her mother during the '50s and '60s and eaten as a snack on long train journeys in India before the days of dining cars.

Quick and easy to prepare, the ingredients are readily available from continental stores or most large supermarkets. This curry can be complemented with Chopped Onions and/or a Green Chutney of your choice.

Quantities below will serve approx. 4-6 people.

For parties or barbecues, a good guide is 200g of potatoes for one average sized portion.

Ingredients:

- 1 kg (2.2lb) Potatoes
- 2 tbs Cooking Oil
- 1 tbs Ginger Pulp, or peeled/grated Ginger Root
- 2 tsp Cumin Seeds
- 1 tsp Turmeric Powder
- 2 tsp Coriander Powder
- 1 tsp Chilli Powder (to taste)
- 1 tsp Dry Mango Powder (Amchoor)
- 1 tsp Garam Masala
- Salt to taste
- 6 stems fresh Coriander, finely chopped



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Should I invest in Residential Property?

By Paul N Staniford BSc, MRICS

A QUESTION many people ask property professionals and indeed a question that many people ask themselves with the demise of the stock market, the change in organisation of pension schemes, and indeed the announcement by the government of the proposed change in retirement age, the question each and every one of us should be asking ourselves is can we actually afford to retire?

Sensational headlines such as "Property Prices Double in 10 Years" may grab your attention and may serve to shock but if you are actually honest with yourself and look at what the property market has done consistently over any 10 year period it is crystal clear for all to see that the property market doubles at this rate as a matter of course.

What sort of returns and yields can an investor expect from residential investment?

Most residential investments out perform deposit type investments in banks or building societies. With bank rates currently at 4.5% and investment yields from building societies depending on the type of investment product used, varying from between 3.5% and 5.5%, in a sweeping generalisation an investment in residential property does not have to do a great deal to prove a better return. Average yields on residential property are between 5% and 7% and in addition there is capital growth in any given financial year.

If you had secured a residential property for investment 10 years ago it is safe to say that your property portfolio would have doubled in value, and if nothing else had changed with buy to let mortgages and capital that you had invested, then you would have a hidden reserve in your property portfolio of greater than 60% of the asset value.

It makes interesting reading when you think about it. Your capital in your building society account would have increased on an annual basis by the capital growth provided by way of the yield compounded over the 10 year period but it certainly would not have doubled.

Regardless of your political persuasion it is crystal clear with the direction that the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, and who knows by the time of publication they may be one and the same, it is a fair observation to make that if you are to be financially secure in your old age then it is up to you to do something about it now, and residential investment property may be the answer.

For further details and information with regard residential investment opportunities throughout the UK please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

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GIANT BRADLEY

This giant remains among friends

ON June 2 1820 the Hull Advertiser recorded the death of William Bradley. It read:

"On Wednesday at Market Weighton, Mr Bradley, the Yorkshire Giant who measured nine feet in length and three feet across the shoulders" died.

This obituary was of course an exaggeration, but one which had dogged the man they called Giant Bradley, Britain's tallest man, throughout his short life.

The Guinness Book of Records states that William Bradley, Market Weighton's famous son, was 7ft 9inches tall by adulthood and weighed 27 stones. Almost two centuries later this man is still a giant among the market town community.

On Sunday May 28 2006, as it has done for many years before, Market Weighton celebrated his life with a Giant Bradley Festival, which culminated in a day of music, stalls and street entertainment, echoing the fairground entertainer's own life.

William Bradley was the fourth son of a family of thirteen and was born on the 10th



Despite unfavourable weather, many still made the journey to Market Weighton to celebrate Giant Bradley Day.
Top: Chris Greener, Britain's tallest man at 7'6 1/4," regularly attends this popular event.



February 1787, weighing in at 14lbs. When he was young he was tall and slender but already weighed 11 stones by the age of 11. Neither of his parents were tall, but he did have a sister who would have been tall had she not died in an accident at the age of 16.

William Bradley suffered for his height. At school he was the butt of jokes and some people were afraid of him. He attended Joseph Mosey's school in Market Weighton but was often nervous. He left school as soon as possible and began work on a farm near Pocklington to bring in money for his family. He earned the equivalent of less than 50p a week.

But in the 19th century fairgrounds were a major attraction and dwarfs, Siamese twins and giants were drawing big crowds at travelling shows. As appalling as it may seem today freak shows were the biggest attraction at fairgrounds and William Bradley joined them. It is not known how he ended up there but it is believed that his parents must have been offered good money to induce their son to join.

The size and stature of William Bradley as Britain's tallest man, made him into a prized asset and he joined another 19th century marvel, the monster Yorkshire Pig, bred at the nearby village of Sancton.

Hull Fair was just one of many at this time and it is likely that William Bradley's fame spread as he travelled across the country. It is recorded that at some point in his freak-show career Bradley parted from his minder and by 1815 he was managing himself, charging one shilling to visit him in rooms he hired in a variety of towns.

William Bradley even gained royal approval and advertised the fact that he had enjoyed an audience with "their Majesties and Royal family at Windsor". He treasured a gold watch, presented to him by King George III.

After years of travelling from town to town in caravans William Bradley's health suffered and he returned home to Market Weighton. He set up home in Northgate, which is now 89 York Road. This had been specially built to accommodate him with higher doorways and furniture.

In his final years William Bradley became a recluse suffering ill-health and it is said that he went lame and had to support his weight with an almost 7ft long crutch. Years of being an object of curiosity had also taken its toll on him mentally, and Bradley jealously guarded his privacy, hiding if people came near.

On May 30 1820, at the age just 33, William Bradley died after contracting tuberculosis. He was buried at his own request at a 5am funeral on June 3 1820 in an attempt to avoid the crowds. However, such was his fame that a large crowd gathered to watch the huge coffin being lowered into the grave at All Saint's Church, Market Weighton.

There were fears that grave robbers might try to steal the body so later William Bradley's body was exhumed and re-interred inside the church. A memorial stone can be found today at Market Weighton Church.



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Tuesday 18th July 2006
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ASA Local artist, I have found that it is very difficult to get an audience, never mind sell my work. Whilst galleries offer an excellent way to exhibit/sell my artwork, I feel that artists like myself need more opportunities to sell our artwork.

I have set up my business "The Image Parlour" in order to create and promote these opportunities. The Image Parlour identifies quality venues, organises the event and then goes on to promote and advertise the event on behalf of the artists.

When I approached artists for this event I received fantastic feedback and the general consensus is that art needs more promotion and events.

Ever since Pave was opened in 2002 by Steve Shaw and Lee Armstrong, these 2 businessmen have encouraged appreciation of the arts including artwork and the performing arts by displaying local artists work in a dedicated space and having live acts on a regular basis. This makes Pave a perfect venue to hold this event. Pave is a contemporary bar with a relaxed atmosphere and is situated on Princes Avenue, Hull.

There will be a variety of mediums such as painters, photographers, illustrators, 3D Artists, Art photographers and graphic artists. The art will include Prints, framed prints, Canvasses and 3 Dimensional pieces.

It's going to be a great night and hope to see you there.
Sue Tanzell



In View Test Drive...

Mercedes-Benz B Class

THE MERCEDES-BENZ B-Class is a compact executive estate, premium compact MPV or prestige family hatchback? Whichever one it is, Mercedes-Benz have made sure that it won't be found wanting, it is one of the best in its class. The B-class represents comfortable, safe, family transport of the highest quality.

The entry level diesel model, the B180 CDI, is available in Standard or plush SE trim, the B180 CDI features the three-pointed stars 2.0-litre 4-cylinder 16-valve common-rail injection engine it is offered with a 6-speed manual box or the new Autotronic self-shifting version. This engine is the less powerful version than found in the B200 CDI SE. It generates 109bhp compared to the 140bhp generated by its more powerful stablemate.

With a top speed of 114 mph and acceleration of 0-60 in a little over 11 secs Mercedes claim an average economy of 50.4 mpg.

The B-Class handles neatly enough, with less body roll than you may expect for such a high-sided vehicle although the ride is on the firm side. The electro-mechanical power steering feels a little strange at first, but it will direct the car accurately. The diesel engine in the B 180 CDI isn't the best its quite noisy at high revs and it vibrates a little inside but this is made up for by its performance which is more than adequate.

Standard trim features electronically heated and adjustable door mirrors, front and rear fog lamps, a rear windscreen wiper with intermittent function, a roof mounted aerial, an alarm system with immobiliser including interior protection, air-conditioning, electric front windows, a Mercedes-Benz Audio 20 radio/CD player and a multi-function steering wheel with trip computer. The SE trim includes 16-inch five-spoke alloy wheels, automatic

headlights, rain sensing windscreen wipers, a leather-trimmed steering wheel, gearshift and handbrake lever, and rear electric windows. The body trim, both inside and out, also benefits from the Mercedes-Benz Chrome makeover. Safety has always been a strong selling point for Mercedes-Benz and the B180 CDI is comprehensively equipped regardless of trim level.

Both trim levels feature driver and passenger airbags and side airbags plus curtain airbags for front and rear passengers. There are anti-lock brakes with brake assist plus an electronic stability programme (ESP) with acceleration skid control (ASR). The remote central locking comes with an automatic locking feature and crash sensor. The standard safety features of the B class are about the best in its class.

The rear seats all fold flat into the floor and the boot floor can even be raised to offer a flat loading surface. allow. The centre rear seat back can also pop forward, offering an armrest with a neat pair of cupholders when travelling with a car full. The driving position is undeniably sporty.

The B180 CDI performs and handles really well, its greatest strengths are inside the Mercedes-Benz build quality looks to be back to former glories. The B180 CDI looks expensive that 3 point star is a major mark of distinction, this car might be a little more money than others in its class but it has good fuel economy and it is definitely the star performer on this stage.

Facts at a glance

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Insurance Group: 8E
Performance:
Max Speed 114mph/0-62mph 11.3s
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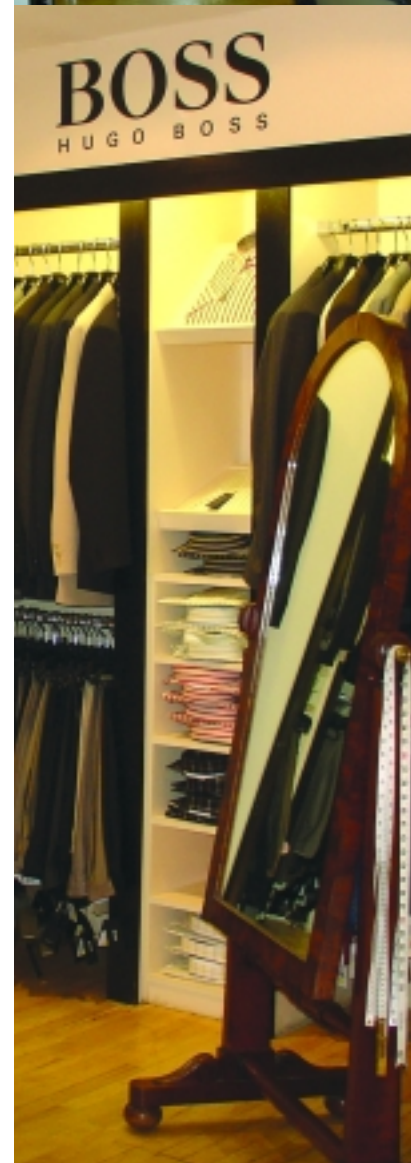
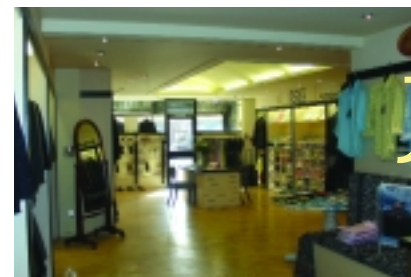
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