

GRIDLINE

The magazine for landowners

Spring 2016

Remote antidote

How a hut in the wilderness is making dreams come true

The City artisans

The Square Mile's not-so-secret craft society

Call me mister
sunshine

Inside

The town using nature to fight back against the floods

How important is it to stay in touch?

WIN a two-night getaway of your choice

Meet the man with spring in his step on a mission to brighten up our homes all year round

nationalgrid

Some useful contact numbers

The Land & Business Support team are responsible for acquiring all rights and permissions from statutory authorities and landowners needed to install, operate and maintain National Grid's electricity and gas transmission networks.

The group acts as the main interface for landowners who have gas and electricity equipment installed on their land. Your local contacts are listed below.

ELECTRICITY AND GAS

» Land teams – all regions
0800 389 5113

WAYLEAVE PAYMENTS

» For information on wayleave payments, telephone the payments helpline on 0800 389 5113

CHANGE OF DETAILS

» To inform National Grid of changes in ownership or contact details, telephone 0800 389 5113 for electric and 01926 654844 for gas, or email grantorservices@nationalgrid.com

ELECTRICITY EMERGENCY

» Emergency calls to report pylon damage to National Grid can be made on 0800 404090. Note the tower's number – found just below the property plate – to help crews locate it

ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS

» For information on electric and magnetic fields, call the EMF information line on 08457 023270 (local call rate). Website: emfs.info

GAS EMERGENCY

» 0800 111 999

DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG

» Before carrying out any work in the vicinity of gas pipelines, overhead power lines or underground electric cables, you should contact Plant Protection on 0800 688588 so that searches can be made to determine the exact position of any National Grid assets

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

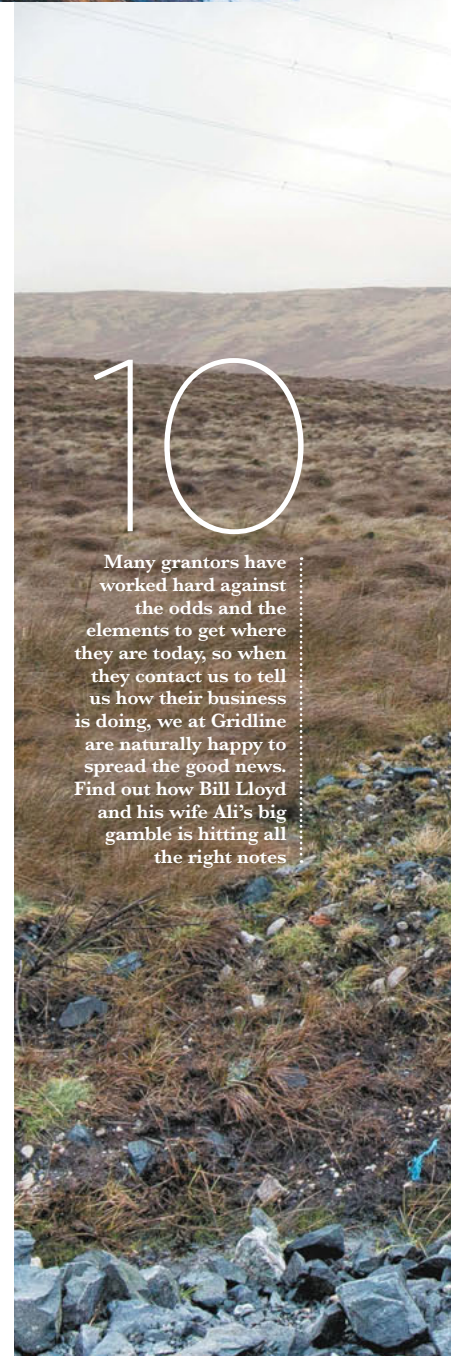
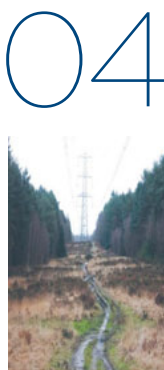
» Write to Land & Business Support, National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, Warwickshire CV34 6DA. Or email ld.customercomments@nationalgrid.com



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SONDER

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Many grantors have worked hard against the odds and the elements to get where they are today, so when they contact us to tell us how their business is doing, we at Gridline are naturally happy to spread the good news. Find out how Bill Lloyd and his wife Ali's big gamble is hitting all the right notes

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Welcome



Each time we meet to decide what's going in the next edition, I'm amazed by the diversity of grantors.

This time it was a brief email from electricity grantor Bill Lloyd, a farmer and music entrepreneur, that made us want to know more about his rather unusual business.

It doesn't make vast amounts of money but there's something quintessentially British about his and wife Ali's leap of faith.

Their gamble, to buy a small hut on a windswept Cumbrian fell and turn it into a music venue and camping barn, somehow sums up the spirit of innovation and diversification among grantors. Long may it continue.

We'd love to hear from any of you trying something a bit different on your land, so please do get in touch at gridline@nationalgrid.com

As well as venturing to the windswept fells, we're also taking a look at one of the longest established grantors in the country that goes unnoticed by thousands in the City of London every day... the Worshipful Company of Carpenters.

There's also a look at the 'detectives' in National Grid's Grantor Relations team, who spend their time matching landowners to parcels of land around the UK to ensure they stay safe and engineers can access

their land in the event of an emergency.

There are also articles on the daffodil king of England and a natural flood defence scheme bringing comfort to a Yorkshire town, so enjoy the read... and then get in touch.

Dawn

Dawn McCarroll
Editor, Gridline



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ONE-MINUTE INTERVIEW

James Roue, land officer south-west

BACKGROUND I joined the land officer team in January 2016 after 12 years as a logistics officer in the Royal Navy. Before that I completed a MSc in rural estate management and worked in the Cotswolds.

CURRENT FOCUS

Completing the Land Officer Development Programme and helping with the programme of refurbishment work in the south-west region.

LEISURE Cycling, surfing, squash, cricket and the occasional triathlon.

FIRST JOB Working in a beach cafe in southern Cornwall, serving ice cream.

FAVOURITE JOKE Why do the French only have one egg for their breakfast? Because one egg is un oeuf!

FICTIONAL HERO Danger Mouse. He's the world's greatest secret agent (so secret that even his code name is a code name!).

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW I've played cricket against, and with, former England batsman Marcus Trescothick (and may have bowled him out once or twice!).

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY South West France, for the beaches, food and wine.

IDEAL DINNER GUEST Sir Ranulph Fiennes to ask him about his various adventures and exploits.

FILM I COULD WATCH TIME AND TIME AGAIN Hot Fuzz never fails to make me laugh.

MOST PRIZED POSSESSION My surfboards.

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME Early 1900s to join the Arctic and Antarctic explorations.

Welcome cutbacks!

National Grid has pledged to make annual visits to cut back trees and vegetation under a power line crossing Esher Commons – instead of every three years – in a move that will benefit network security and the environment.

With the decline in traditional management practices, such as grazing animals and heather burning, trees like Scots pine and birch tend to grow and shade out heathland flora.

Contractor Fountains has removed trees near the 275kV power line, treated stumps to prevent

regrowth and removed scrub by ground flailing. Ângela Borges, service manager at Fountains, said: "Annual visits mean we have to remove less vegetation each time, so there is less impact from vehicle movements and CO₂ emissions, and it's more cost-effective. Frequent cutting maintains the low nutrient status of the soil vital to heathland and the diverse range of wildlife it supports."

The plan has the full backing of Elmbridge Borough Council and Natural England.

Dave Page, countryside estates officer for the council, said: "The power line corridor provides a warm, sheltered environment in summer for low-growing shrubs such as heather and gorse, as well as for reptiles like slow worms and common lizards. Ground clearance lets hidden seeds germinate and create new heath."

A proactive approach to vegetation management is helping regenerate heathland



NEWSLINE

The latest news from National Grid and its landowner partners

Power line upgrade on track

A two-year refurbishment of a 275kV overhead power line from Walsall to Derbyshire has passed its halfway point.

The £7-million project involves replacing fixtures and fittings on a 34km route between Bustleholme and Drakelow substations, with 101 pylons repaired and repainted on the 40-year-old overhead line.

Work on the line is due to finish in September, when the voltage will be increased to 400,000 volts, supplying electricity to homes and businesses more efficiently, and meeting the nation's rising demand for power.

Chris Card, project manager at National Grid, said: "We're investing heavily in the region's power network so that communities have the reliable power they need for years to come."



COUNCIL POWERS AHEAD

A solar farm owned by Wrekin & Telford Council has generated £180,000 in its first year of operation to offset government cuts.

The council became only the second in the UK to have its own solar farm.

The site, crossed by National Grid high-voltage lines, generates 3.96GWh of electricity, powers 1,000 homes and saves 2,000 tonnes of emissions compared to conventional electricity production.



Standing up for cycling

A nationwide campaign aimed at turning Britain into a cycling nation is celebrating its first anniversary.

National Grid is a founder member of the #ChooseCycling Network formed in early 2015 by British Cycling to press for cycling to be integrated into government transport investment strategy.

More than 40 companies, with half a million employees between them, have joined the organisation in the belief that more cycling will be better for staff and customers.

Chris Boardman, the former

Olympic champion heading the campaign, said: “Over the course of this Parliament, the government will invest £61 billion in transport. If just 5% of it was invested in cycling we’d see a real transformation – instead just 0.5% has been earmarked for cycling.”

The Network says the benefits would be less congestion, cleaner air and healthier communities.

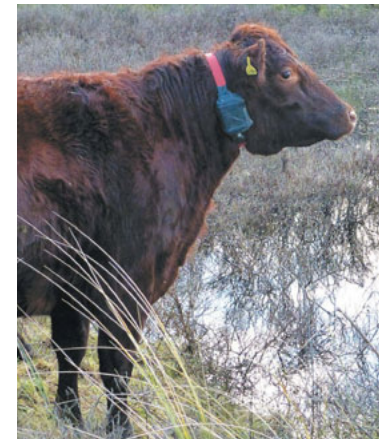
For more information visit britishcycling.org.uk/search/article/cam20140206

Campaigning---Choose-cycling-0



The campaign aims to reclaim the streets for the nation's cyclists

IT'S A FACT! BY 2030 THE UK WILL IMPORT MORE THAN 60% OF ITS GAS, MUCH OF IT AS LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG). BEFORE BEING SHIPPED FROM PLACES LIKE ALGERIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, THE GAS IS CHILLED BELOW -161°C, TURNING IT INTO A LIQUID SO IT TAKES UP TO 600 TIMES LESS SPACE THAN GAS. IT'S LIKE REDUCING THE VOLUME OF A BEACH BALL TO A PING-PONG BALL. ON ARRIVAL THE LNG IS RETURNED TO GASEOUS STATE FOR STORAGE OR ONWARD DELIVERY.



Josephine the cow and her eye in the sky

Thirty Red Poll cattle owned by grantor Huw Rowlands are enjoying a winter break on the sand dunes of the north-west coast as part of a conservation grazing project, keeping winter vegetation and scrub in check.

Josephine (above) is part of a fun project that enables the public to track the movements of some of the animals in the Ainsdale and Birkdale Sandhills Local Nature Reserve, using an app called Cow App.

In the trial by Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership, GPS collars on the animals transmit their positions on a regular basis, and the information is then fed on to mapping software to show their precise location within the fenced grazing areas in the dunes.

“Potentially, the information gained from the trial about grazing habits will enable better use to be made of native rare breed cattle in the management of valuable habitats,” said Rachel Northover, Sefton Council’s coast and countryside principal officer.

Download the free app at sefton.gov.uk/cowapp

"I am so passionate about daffodils. They are such a wonderful flower and available in so many colours, shapes and sizes"



GOLDFINGERS

DAFFODIL GROWER JOHNNY WALKERS IS A MULTIPLE GOLD MEDAL WINNER AT THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW, HORTICULTURE'S EQUIVALENT TO THE OLYMPICS

“A host of golden daffodils, beside the lake, beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze.” So wrote William Wordsworth in his famous poem about the brilliant yellow flowers that light up the landscape in spring with the promise of warmer days ahead.

Somebody who knows more about daffodils than most is Johnny Walkers, ‘the man with the Midas touch’ for his tally of 25 gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show – 22 of them back to back.

“I am so passionate about daffodils. They are such a wonderful flower and available in so many colours, shapes and sizes,” said Johnny, who runs Walkers Bulbs – the mail-order subsidiary of Taylors Bulbs in Holbeach, Lincolnshire. An expert at ‘forcing’ daffodils to flower out of their normal season, he even managed to produce blooms in June for the floral display on the Royal Barge in the 2012 Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

Johnny’s father worked as a bulb grower in Holland, moving to Britain in the 1930s to learn English. During the war he served in the Dutch Free Army, before becoming a partner in a Lincolnshire nursery.

“All my school holidays as a boy were spent handling bulbs and picking flowers, so daffodils were in my blood from an early age,” said Johnny.

After 18 years working for a grower co-operative, he decided to indulge his passion for daffodils by starting his



One of Johnny’s early successes at the Harrogate Flower Show in Yorkshire 15 years ago when Walkers Bulbs was awarded Best in Show

own mail-order business for specialist varieties in 1986.

“The timing couldn’t have been worse. There was a postal strike and interest rates doubled,” he recalled. “It was tough for a bit, but a few years later I was bought out by Taylors Bulbs and invited to take up a role looking after their mail order and quality management, and haven’t looked back.”

Around 300 acres at Washway House Farm are devoted to daffodils within a 2,000-acre mixed arable enterprise. Well-drained and yet moisture-retentive, the silt soil is ideal for growing the plants.

Taylors plants 1.5 million bulbs each year in July under glass for cut flower production between November and February, before harvesting 20 million outdoor blooms, many of which are exported.

Being a dual-purpose crop, a proportion of the daffodil bulbs are removed in August and sold just as bulbs.

Around 60 varieties of bulb are used for volume sales in supermarkets and garden centres, while no fewer than 600 varieties, grown in smaller quantities, are available from the Walkers Bulbs mail-order catalogue – including some heritage cultivars more than 100 years old.

A smaller mail-order catalogue is also produced for the



ALL-ROUND PERFORMER

Daffodils are grown in a two-year cycle. After the bulbs are planted in September, they will not be disturbed until the second spring, when cut flowers are harvested. After lifting in June/July, and being dried and graded, larger ones are selected for sale and the rest replanted for the next cycle. Because they propagate by bulb division, daffodils can flower for decades, but in practice, when cropped intensively, they become too small for commercial sale after about four years.

EASTER OR BUST!

The cut flower season for outdoor daffodils lasts from December to April, starting in the Isles of Scilly and Cornwall, then moving north to Lincolnshire, and culminating with a late crop in Scotland. The weather has a significant impact because growers need to meet demand in the peak sales times of Mother’s Day and Easter. If a hard winter delays flowering beyond then, prices collapse and crops may no longer be cost-effective to harvest. Prices can rocket in times of shortage.



SPRING SNAPS

- ▶ Daffodils are also known by their botanical name *Narcissus* and were brought to Britain by the Romans who thought the sap from them had healing powers.
- ▶ There are an estimated 40 species and 27,000 varieties of daffodil, divided into 13 divisions.
- ▶ Daffodil itch is a professional hazard for pickers, caused by an allergic reaction to calcium oxalate in the sap, which the plant uses to deter animals from eating it.
- ▶ In Greek myth, *Narcissus* fell in love with his own reflection in a pool, and unable to tear himself away, withered and died. The gods looking on turned him into a flower so he could remain by the water's edge forever.
- ▶ A substance called Galantamine extracted from daffodil bulbs is used in a drug that eases the symptoms of early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Ten tonnes of bulbs are required to produce one kilogram of the drug.

Women's Institute, with a limited but distinctive range.

Although internet orders now account for half of all Walkers Bulbs' sales, Chelsea and other shows remain a vitally important shop window because many people prefer to view before ordering online.

"The Chelsea show is also a good platform to introduce a new variety," said Johnny. "If successful, we will then sell it in the mail-order catalogue to recoup growing costs, while bulking up for mass distribution in other sales outlets."

The practice of forcing enables growers to produce early cut flowers and stretch out the season.

"The exceptionally mild weather in 2015 meant that our schedule was a month ahead of normal in January, and we were in the unprecedented position of forcing bulbs for both early and late flowering, and picking outdoor flowers," said Johnny.

Bulbs for the Chelsea show in late May are lifted the previous August and, until just after Christmas, go into temperature-controlled store at 22°C, fooling them into thinking it is still summer so they don't start growing.

Planted up in compost trays, they then spend 10-14 days at 10°C simulating autumn, where they begin the rooting process, followed by 13 weeks in a cold store at

2°C to mimic winter and three weeks in a glasshouse. "This is when I start praying because I lose control," said Johnny. "If it's too hot, there's a danger they can flower too quickly or grow too tall and straight, opening up like a buttercup – daffodils should have a nodding head."

After moving into the glasshouse, early varieties flower after about eight days – with Johnny hand-picking blooms each day until he has 100 of each variety, which are put in water and stored at 2C. From these, 2,100 flowers are selected for Chelsea (70 bowls containing 30 blooms of each variety), which are transported to London on the Sunday before the show by refrigerated lorry, along with reserves.

On arrival at 5am, his team spend the day arranging the display, which is left overnight in the refrigerated lorry, ready for judging at 8am next morning.

"It's a stressful time. I do get a bit short-tempered, so everybody is walking on eggshells," Johnny admitted.

Things don't always run smoothly. On one occasion, a shelf in the lorry collapsed and crushed six varieties. The solution was to improvise with a triangle-shaped

.....
£45 million
UK DAFFODIL INDUSTRY IS
THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD

arrangement featuring a larger number of a single variety, along with blooms salvaged by shortening the stems. "Luckily the judges thought this was all part of the design and still awarded us the gold," Johnny said.

On another occasion after breaking an ankle in 2011, Johnny borrowed a mobility scooter to continue picking his beloved Chelsea-bound flowers in the glasshouse.

He puts his success down to 'a belt and braces' attitude, and an eye for detail: "It never gets any easier. Every year brings its own challenges – it's a matter of checking and rechecking, and being ready for any eventuality."

During Chelsea, Johnny refreshes the stand twice with replacement flowers rushed from cold store in Holbeach.

He said: "My guiding mantra is that I want the general public to enjoy as good a show at the end of the week as the Queen has seen at the start."



Johnny poses for the cameras after yet another gold-medal winning display at Chelsea Flower Show

Working together

THE 'DETECTIVES' MAKING SURE YOU'RE UP TO DATE

Jackie Wilkie and her team are huddled over a map on a computer screen, like detectives piecing together clues – evidence that might reveal the identity of a mystery landowner.

The grantor's only 'crime' is failing to supply National Grid with up-to-date details about his name so they can tie it to his land.

Grantor relations officer Jackie knows this because the annual wayleave payment cheque hasn't been cashed months after it was sent. In fact, there's a chance the he might be a she.

It's Jackie's job to track down the 'missing' landowners who have pylons or lines crossing their land, a task that would have been completed by a land officer in a car in the days before the internet and computerised Land Registry records.

Around 4,000 grantors are added or modified on the team's database each year, either because of bereavement, marriage, divorce, relocation or company name change.

Every time a tranche of land has no grantor name alongside it, Jackie and the team turn detective to join the dots.

Around 63% of grantors with pylons on their land are contacted by National Grid annually to ensure their details are up to date.

"It's essential for several reasons, the main one is so that we know who to contact if we need access to their land," said Jackie. "We have to give seven days' notice so the grantors can let us know if there's anything we need to be aware of such as shoots, horses or lambing. We always try to take grantors' requirements on board."

Are your details up to date?

Contact the **Grantor helpline on 0800 389 5113** (choose option 1) or email Jackie and the team at grantorservices@nationalgrid.com



Glenn Townsend

GRANTOR RELATIONS TEAM



Jackie Wilkie



Nicky Boucher



Lisa Dugmore



Jackie Webb



Bertie Richardson



Jackie's team also work hard to ensure the payments, set by the Electrical Networks Association, NFU and Country Land and Business Association, reach their destination.

She said: "The 37% of grantors we don't contact every year have signed a legal deed of easement, meaning there is no annual payment due, so the need isn't as urgent. But it's still important for us to know who is on the land to ensure we are communicating with the right person."

Glenn Townsend, business support manager, said: "We have a safety remit, but this team's role is about maintaining grantor relations. That said, we would urge all grantors to be vigilant of safety issues around our assets and contact us with any concerns."

"In essence, we have money that we want to get to its rightful owner and we can pay it as far back as six years."

The team are assisted by a more proactive National Grid unit that works two years ahead, cross-referencing data from the Land Registry and other bodies with the National Grid database. Jackie said: "We follow-up loose threads to find the land's rightful owner to ensure time and money isn't wasted through delays when we need to access land to make safety checks or repairs."

BUY A BOTHY AND THEY WILL COME

MEET THE GRANTOR COUPLE HITTING
ALL THE RIGHT NOTES



An unforgiving gale with a windchill factor nudging minus double figures and the coldest, wettest rain dared us to leave the warm car.

But leave it we did, and in seconds we're experiencing the kind of brain-freeze usually associated with glugging an iced drink in the height of summer. It's so cold I can feel my eyeballs freezing in my head as we seek refuge in grantor Bill Lloyd's latest and, arguably, most eccentric venture yet: 1,400 ear-popping feet up on the top of Cumbria's remote Shap Fell, where the elements take no prisoners.

Bill, a former merchant seaman, horse-logger and farmer, greets us proudly at the little stone bothy he bought at auction for £16,000 five years ago. It's now the venue for one of the most intimate – and certainly the highest – live music venues in the country. And Bill is chuffed with his purchase, snapped up after he was gazumped on a plot of land days before.

What he admits may have been an act of defiance against the world was soon seen – by his and wife Ali's more honest friends – as one of madness.

After all, an isolated 12ft x 25ft stone outhouse with no running water or electricity and a leaky roof hardly looked like the most solid of investments. But for a man who once ran the eponymous Bill Lloyd's Animal Connections and sourced a mischief of 'black' rats on leads for an episode of cult comedy *Blackadder*, quirky and bizarre is nothing new.

He had a vision: that he and his wife could let it out as a camping barn while finding a home for their combined 90 years' love of music, helping new bands and having a bit of fun along the way.

Accomplished fiddler Ali, unfortunately restricted these days by a touch of arthritis, and Bill are both 64 but have a *joie de vivre* you won't find in couples half their age. As they light up the gas fire, the former BT repeater station – a kind of giant amplifier that ensured telephone signals could make it across Cumbria – is transformed into a concert hall fizzing with charm and energy.

Bill and Ali warm up their banjo and fiddle and within minutes we are lost in the magic of Bill's mellifluous voice and harmony of folk music, a genre we'd never normally listen to.

"That's the thing. There really is nothing quite like live music for stirring the soul," said Bill, celebrating the all-clear after three years of treatment for melanoma.

"Friends told us we were mad to buy the bothy, but the economy was in turmoil and we thought our £16,000 would be better used doing something



"There really is nothing quite like live music for stirring the soul... friends told us we were mad to buy the bothy"

Bothy on the fell

Clockwise from top: Bill's touring wagon bears the number plate Fleadh after his love of Irish festival music; Bill braves the -6°C windchill factor to head for the warmth of the bothy; experienced musician Ali plays a welcome tune on her fiddle



positive. If we made £300 a year from letting it out, we'd make more than if it was in the bank."

Not that money is Bill's motivator. He's nephew to one of the nation's finest composers, George Lloyd, now no longer with us, and the royalties, along with CDs of his own, provide a modest income.

"If we'd wanted to make our fortune, we'd have bought somewhere bigger, but the most we can squeeze in to the bothy's two floors is 50," said Ali, who lives in a farmhouse with recording studio eight miles away.

Like Kevin Costner, who plays the Iowa corn farmer hearing voices telling him 'they will come' if he builds a baseball diamond in hit movie *Field of Dreams*, the couple had not a second's doubt about launching the Full Moon Club.

Every phase of the moon, the place is packed with people who bring their own food and drink, and settle down with a shared love of live music. Anyone driving by on the nearby A6 hearing the strains of the Spanish bagpipes would be excused for thinking they had wandered into a dream.

Ali said: "The Full Moon Club is ultimate proof that the building or location doesn't really matter. The bothy doesn't look much from the outside, but when you're in here on the night, I hope I don't sound too twee when I say it's quite a spiritual thing."

Bill and Ali don't charge entry for their music or stand-up comedy nights but pass a hat round at the end of the night to pay the musicians. Any donations also help pay for the upkeep and repairs to inconveniences like the ridge tiles blowing off the night before we arrive, creating a small leak.

The building, which does boast a Portaloo, is used as an overnight and weekend stay for hikers and parties revelling in the sweeping scenery and a 'back to what really matters' philosophy.

Ali said: "We've had people spend New Year's Eve here and a group of four women, who not surprisingly weren't bothered



For more information and gig times go to georgelloyd.com





Ali and Bill lose themselves in the bothy's magic

The couple are doing what they love best... providing a small antidote to an increasingly anodyne world

about the fact there was no water given the fact that wine kept them going instead.”

Bill, who worked two Suffolk/Clydesdale-cross horses in his logging days in the late 70s, later managed 40 head of beef suckler cows as he took over the family farming business from his father.

“They were grass-fed with minimal input – like they’re doing on the Archers now – and we sold the beef direct to the public. Money wasn’t the main thing as long as we had enough to be comfortable,” he said.

Along with his two daughters – one has inherited her dad’s organisational skills as producer of Nell Gwynn at London’s Apollo Theatre – a partnership with his uncle George saw Bill oversee orders from around the world for manuscripts and CDs after his music was played at the Last Night of the Proms.

When George died in 1998, it gave Bill more time to tour Ireland’s music festivals (fleadh) and gigs around England in a specially adapted 26ft Mercedes van – he met violinist Nigel Kennedy at one and found he employs a jester.

Ali said: “After George died we were asked by the British Library if we would let them have the original manuscripts, but we were a little worried about the security, so they invited us down. We got there and were taken deep underground to a vault where they would be stored... next to the Magna Carta. We felt reassured.”

Now, 40 years after they met on a drama course at university, Bill and Ali are finally doing what they love best... bringing music and laughter to the masses and, as Ali says, “providing a small antidote to an increasingly anodyne world”.



BOTHY BILL'S BIZARRE FACTS

► In the 80s, bit-part actor Bill’s Animal Connections firm helped the makers of cult comedy *Blackadder* find a dozen black rats for the *Witchsmeller Pursuivant* episode in the first series.

He struggled to source them, so bought white ones and used hair dye to turn them black. But Bill’s part alongside Rowan Atkinson was written out at the last minute and replaced by a brief appearance as a rat seller... good for royalties.

► Bill’s firm was asked to find a location for a film called *Vroom*: a tale of two lads from Blackburn who hide out in a remote Lake District farmhouse. After days of searching he stumbled across an isolated cottage and called the London production team, who travelled up.

As he showed them round he opened a door and there, writ bold, was ‘Extras, Costume and Make-up’.

The producer asked whether the location had been used before, a cardinal sin in the film industry, and Bill rang the owner to ask.

He said: “He told me it had been used for a film that hadn’t been released yet, something called *Withnail and I*. I can also reveal that the stone cornices were, in fact, made of polystyrene and the cobwebs came out of a spray can.”

► Bill’s brother played keyboard for Aussie band *Icehouse*, who had a 1982 hit with *Hey Little Girl*.

HISTORY IN OUR MIDST

THE FINEST ARTISAN WOOD CRAFTSMANSHIP IS ALIVE AND THRIVING THANKS TO A GRANTOR IN THE LEAST LIKELY OF PLACES

Millions of people, most dressed in perfectly tailored suits, arrive like ants at dawn with a shared vision... to make lots of money. This is the beating heart of the City of London, where vast sums are won and lost on the press of a button and lunch is usually taken on the go.

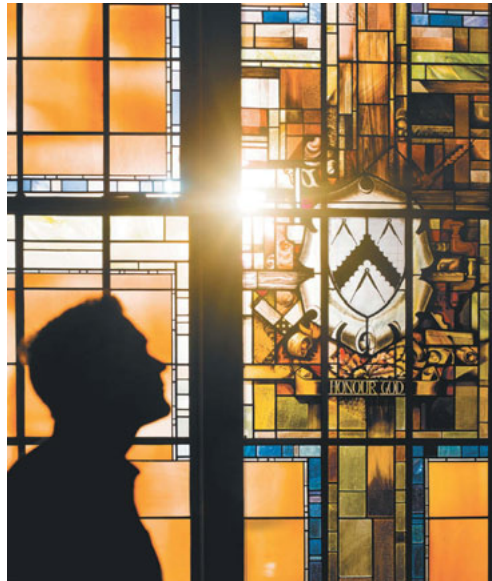
The Stock Exchange traders, economists and support workers give not a second's thought to the history they walk past in a blur.

Huge glass shrines to the Square Mile's place in the financial world have sprung up to sit cheek-by-jowl with magnificent historic buildings so easily taken for granted.

But an electricity grantor in the midst of the madness is ensuring that London's medieval past is still shaping the nation's artisan future today.

On the London Wall road, linking Aldgate with Moorgate – where the capital's Crossrail project is the catalyst for still more development – sits the Worshipful Company of Carpenters.

Its ceremonial hall has been there at One Throgmorton Avenue since 1429, although the first record of a Master Carpenter connected to the Company was mentioned in the City records as early as 1271.



The building, which survived the Great Fire of London but succumbed to a blaze in World War II, is home to fresco panels painted in 1562 by an unknown artist of Jesus, son of the Company's patron saint Mary.

Archivist Julie Tancell said: "When it started, the Company was designed to oversee the carpentry trade and look after its members



in times of need. There was also a religious element in that members often settled around a church and used to look after each other and protect each other against poverty."

Although not part of The Great 12 livery companies – the Carpenters are ranked 26th – the Company has successfully evolved with the times to remain as relevant in the 21st century

1271

Master Carpenter first mentioned in records and Grant of Arms awarded 1466



1429

First Great Hall built on the site. Below is a 19th-century image of the west wing



1607

King James I extends the Company's control two miles beyond the city walls



1666

Carpenters' opens doors to less fortunate Companies after the Great Fire





TAKING STOCK IN THE SQUARE MILE

► **110** – the number of Livery Companies in the City, including newer ones for IT and HR.

► **Immigration** – a talking point even in the Company’s early days when workers who weren’t City Freemen were seen as foreign and a source of tension.

► **Past Master** – the phrase originates from the Livery Companies when a Master steps down after his year at the helm.

► **Street stars** – Throgmorton Avenue was used as the film set for Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible 5, while some of the gilded Livery Halls double as Buckingham Palace.

► **Hail Caesar** – a Roman breastplate carved from natural lime wood by Master Carver Shane Raven in 2005 is so ornate it features harp strings.

as it was in poverty-racked London.

“We have about 150 Liverymen and 130 Freemen – City Freemen can drive their sheep over London Bridge – who sit on monthly committees to run the Company’s business, manage its property and decide on its charitable work,” said Julie.

That aspect of the Company is increasingly important in modern Britain in ensuring the ‘don’t make things like they used to’ view of craftsmen isn’t allowed to gain traction.

It might be an uphill battle, given the advent of cowboy chippies, but the Company’s ongoing financial support and governance of the Building Crafts College in east London goes some way to keeping the artisan approach alive.

“It’s recognised as a centre of excellence in construction crafts and specialist areas such as bench joinery, shopfitting, and, in particular,

heritage courses and stonemasonry,” said Julie.

The early centuries of the Company were taken up with overseeing any carpentry work carried out in the City and the Company gained several royal charters, which now have pride of place in the building’s foyer.

But the Great Fire of 1666, which destroyed most of the timber buildings in its path, was a turning point in the Company’s power base as the area was largely rebuilt in brick and stone.

Julie said: “It stopped short of the Hall because the Drapers’ Company gardens next door were a firebreak. The Company then rented the property for income during the 18th century and when values rose again a century later, the Company grew prosperous again.”

With the annually elected Master of the Company and Wardens responsible for deciding on who will be Liverymen and Freemen –

usually generational or people in the trade – the not-for-profit body still exists to provide financial aid to places like the Rustington Convalescent Home in West Sussex and to support the Wood Awards and Carpenters’ Craft Competition.

Julie said: “The Company’s first rules were drafted in 1333 to look after people in the craft and not much has changed since then.”

So the wood panelled grandeur of the Carpenters’ Hall might go unnoticed, but what happens within its walls still has the capacity to change lives... and far beyond the City now.

1750

Ornate wooden carvings decorate the Master’s chair, designed by John Linnell



1876

Extra income leads to redevelopment of the Hall and Throgmorton Avenue



1893

The Building Crafts College, still training carpenters today, opens its doors



1941

An air raid sets a gas main on fire, devastating the Hall. It took 20 years to rebuild



Fighting back AGAINST THE FLOODS

DESPITE BEING A KNOWN FLOODING BLACKSPOT,
THE YORKSHIRE TOWN OF PICKERING EMERGED
UNSCATHED LAST WINTER AFTER A PIONEERING
WORKING WITH NATURE PROJECT

Nestling at the foot of a steep gorge, the ancient market town of Pickering has been at the mercy of flash floods during times of intense rainfall on the huge expanse of the North Yorkshire Moors that looms above it.

The rivers and becks (a Viking word for stream) that drain the moors rise rapidly at such times, causing flooding downstream when the run-off from an already waterlogged terrain overpowers the natural drainage.

Floodwaters funneled down the steep-sided Pickering Beck valley into the town four times

between 1999 and 2007 – on the last occasion swamping more than 80 properties and the railway station, blocking the main A170 road and causing £7 million of damage.

But six months ago the Environment Agency completed the last phase of a project titled Slowing the Flow that now reduces the chance of flooding in any year from 25% to just 4%.

Two miles above the town, in Newbridge, a storage bund has been constructed that in times of heavy rainfall can hold back 120,000 cubic metres of water at peak flow, spilling it out into a 30-hectare area of pasture.

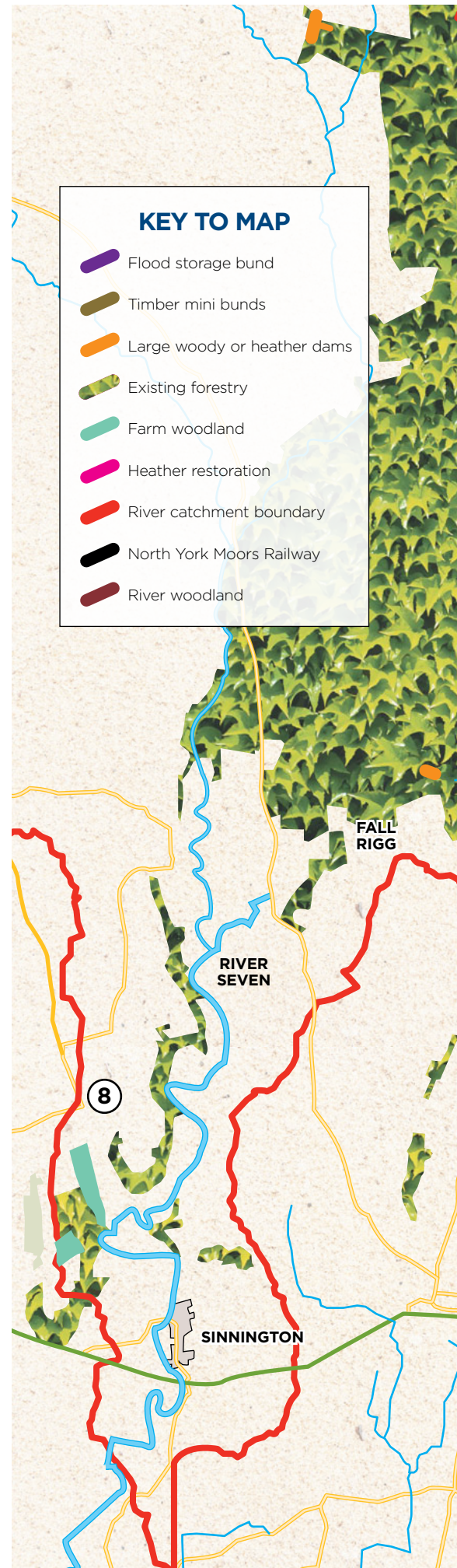
The £4-million pilot, started in 2009 with funding from DEFRA, is led by Forest Research in partnership with Forestry Commission England, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Duchy of Lancaster, North York Moors National Park, Durham University and the local authorities.

“The scheme is designed to store more water in the landscape in times of heavy rain – creating floods upstream so you can prevent floods downstream,” said Phil Roe (left), the Forestry Commission’s area forester for the North Riding region, based in Pickering.

“Delaying and slowing the passage of water and reducing the height of the flood peak reduces the likelihood of flooding.”



“We are creating floods upstream to prevent floods downstream”



BACK-TO-NATURE MEASURES



1 120,000 cubic metres of floodwater can be held back in the water storage bund built in 2015. A simple concrete culvert allows only 14.5 cubic metres of water to pass downstream before the waters spill into a 30-hectare floodplain.



2 170 'leaky' log dams, which allow water and fish to pass through in normal times, reconnect watercourses with their floodplain and increase storage by forcing floodwater up banks either side.



3 Two timber mini bunds made from felled conifers can hold back 5,000 cubic metres of water, delaying the flood peak by around 18 minutes in a 1-in-100 flood. Water behind the bund pools and spreads out over the forest floor.



4 As trees are harvested, drainage channels that run directly to watercourses are being disconnected by the Forestry Commission and replaced with upward drains that follow contours and are designed so water filters into the ground or ponds.

5 187 heather bales have been inserted into grips that drain the high moors, improving water retention in the peat and delaying the generation of flood flows.

6 Two hectares of heather habitat have been reseeded and 800 metres of footpath repaired by the North York Moors National Park authorities.

7 10-metre 'no burn' zones near moorland streams allow low-growing scrubby heather to protect the soil surface, making the peat more absorbent.



8 15 hectares of new farm woodland has been planted on sensitive soils in the floodplain of the River Seven, helping prevent water run-off from fields and slowing down its passage to streams.

9 29 acres mixed woodland planted in buffer zones bordering flood-prone watercourses, slowing the flood peak's passage.

10 The North Yorkshire Moors Railway has been severely disrupted by flooding in the past. As part of the works on the storage bund, the tracks were relaid on a new underpinned embankment.

Flood defence



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

For local people like Mike Potter the project has been well worth the wait, despite many false starts and delays over the past decade.

With climate change making extreme rainfall more likely, things looked bleak after the 2007 floods.

“The Environment Agency had abandoned plans for a concrete flood defence because too few people would be protected to meet its cost-benefit criteria,” said Mike, chairman of Pickering and District Civic Society and a campaigner for the scheme finally adopted.

“We felt a barrier through the middle of Pickering wouldn’t prevent flooding and would blight the town as a tourist attraction.”

Then a group of academics from Oxford, Newcastle and Durham Universities chose the town for a case study on community engagement around flooding issues.

“In medieval times the monks of Byland Abbey used a storage bund to hold back floodwaters and the feasibility study gave intellectual clout to ideas for some kind of upstream storage,” said Mike.

“The scheme is an environmentally friendly, low-cost alternative to hard flood defences, which tend to move water to the next bottleneck downstream where it floods again.

“These schemes could be replicated in neighbouring catchments and the effects would be cumulative for the full length of a river down to where it meets the sea.”



Clockwise from top: the water storage bund completed in 2015; the North York Moors above Pickering; the 2007 floods; one of the mini bunds doing the job it was designed for

The 66km² project area encompasses the catchments of Pickering Beck and the River Seven. The vast majority of the landscape is owned by just three landowners: the Forestry Commission; North York Moors National Park; and Duchy of Lancaster.

In the early stages, the main focus was to work with nature, adapting land use and managing the landscape in a way that naturally attenuates flood events.

Natural flood management measures included planting 40,000 trees, woody debris dams, timber bunds and heather bales to block moorland run-off channels, as well as sustainable forest drainage systems and no-burn zones. Together they contribute 10,000 cubic metres of water storage in the landscape.

“Over the years, the ability of the uplands to act as a giant sponge, soaking up rainwater and releasing it slowly has declined,” said Phil.

Tree planting has been a major focus. As well as removing water through evaporation into the atmosphere, they prevent sediment run-off, their roots breaking up compacted ground and helping rainfall to infiltrate into the soil.

Hydrological computer mapping was used to assess where dams and features would have the greatest effect, as well as physical surveys and Met Office rainfall data, which were tested against various flood scenarios.

In fact, 17 sites in Pickering Beck were identified as being best for reducing flood peak, but it was also discovered that slowing the flow at some sites in the lower catchment would have the opposite effect.

“Even before the completion of the storage bund, land management measures were reducing flood peak,” said Phil. “People commented during the November 2012 floods that Beck waters rose and fell more slowly.”

Ten water level recording stations now monitor how various features cope with rainfall. Studies are also planned on the biodiversity benefits expected from water pooling behind the dams and other areas.

“We won’t know how effective the measures are until a major weather event,” said Phil. “The scheme was never intended to remove flood risk completely, but will reduce the regularity and severity of floods. We’ve shown it’s possible to work better with nature on a catchment scale and provide real benefit to local communities.”

Helping hands for care home

Volunteers from National Grid's External Affairs team spent a day at a residential and respite care home for people with multiple physical and learning disabilities.

The volunteers built two large wooden pergolas – filled wooden planters – and spruced up a commemorative bench at the Martha House sensory garden in Kent, which is used by residents and their families.

National Grid external affairs manager Chris Isaac said: "It was a great opportunity to come together

and really get stuck in to help out such a great cause."

The care home is close to where National Grid is planning to build an overhead line from Richborough to Canterbury to provide the transmission connection for Nemo Link – a new under-sea power cable from Belgium.

If approved, construction will start in summer 2017 and the new connection will be up and running by autumn 2018.

For more information visit richboroughconnection.co.uk



HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

National Grid – making a difference



Farming Fieldings

Farming is a family affair in every sense of the word for Lancashire grantors the Fieldings, who run a dairy farm near Blackburn.

Three generations of the family work at Pulford Farm Dairies, which has been named Family Farming Business of the Year at the British Farming Awards.

Colin Fielding heads up the dairy, beef and sheep unit, assisted by his

wife Becki, who also has a milk round, helps out on the farm and does the paperwork, and their sons Ted and Sam.

Colin's sister Sally and her partner Steven manage the dairy bottling plant and run milk rounds, with the help of their sons Paul and Joe, who also help on the farm. The team are completed by Colin and Sally's mother Sandra.

Milk from the farm's herd of 140 pedigree Holsteins is bottled on-site and delivered to private addresses, offices, shops and other outlets.

Becki said: "We work as a team and try to progress together. Family farming is important in inspiring the next generation to feed the world."

The judges said: "They show determination, commitment and the ability to sustain a large family unit."



CHANGING PERSPECTIVES

An above-ground gas installation (AGI) operated by National Grid has won an award from a branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for its sensitive use of landscaping features. Prior to the construction of the Pressure Reduction Installation in 2011 there had been strong objections by some members of the community in Tirley, Gloucestershire.

The judges said National Grid "designed and implemented a major engineering installation, vital to gas distribution, that respects its landscape and has a minimal visual impact, which will diminish further as the site planting grows and matures."

The 1.3-hectare site is surrounded by five hectares of landscaping and screening using 23,000 trees and bushes.

LASTWORD



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It couldn't be easier.
Call 01926 656325 or email
gridline@nationalgrid.com

Fancy a hotel break or shopping spree?



SPRING... LAP IT UP BEFORE IT'S GONE

Claire Burgess has £150 in John Lewis vouchers to spend after sending us this shot of a lamb being bottle-fed on her farm in Farnsfield, Notts.

"Oh my word. I didn't expect that email, totally out of the blue. Slightly humbled that you picked my shot," she said.

"There were two little lambs and a goat who were being fed. The milk certainly didn't last long, so I had to move fast to get the picture!"

Thanks for sending in your entries to the 'winter wonderland' and 'first signs of spring' competition. We are working on a way of showing off all your excellent photographic skills, so watch this space.

A QUICK SNAP COULD WIN! YOU A WINDFALL

Get your cameras at the ready and look out for the perfect shot that captures the theme of 'what we do on our land'.

Send your entries, with a quick description, to gridline@madebysonder.com

We've got £150 worth of M&S vouchers to give away to the best shot.

Get your high-resolution entries in by 8 May 2016 and if your shot is selected, we'll be in touch soon after.



Q Which hit TV comedy did Bill Lloyd star in as a rat seller?

Email your answer, name and contact details to gridline@madebysonder.com or send it to Sonder Gridline Luxury Break Competition, Victoria Court, 8 Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5AE before 8 May 2016.

WIN!

TWO NIGHTS AWAY

Who doesn't need a relaxing break to recharge every now and again? Take your pick of more than 200 incredible getaways, from traditional hotels to glamping anywhere from Cornwall to Scotland.

Claire Kilkenny from Runcorn – who said 120 people made up the Royal Parks team – won last time and said: "Thank you. I've never won anything other than a raffle, so a luxury break is great."

Just answer the question to the left to be in with a chance of winning that relaxing break.

COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS TWO-NIGHT BREAK The winner will be the first entrant selected at random who correctly identifies the answer (to be featured in the next edition) and who is a National Grid grantor at the time of the draw. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Gridline reserves the right to change the prize without prior notice. The prize is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. Closing date is 8 May 2016.

PHOTO The winning image will be the one judged to be the most visually appealing, original and relevant to the theme and will feature in the next edition. The winner must be a National Grid grantor. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Gridline reserves the right to change the prize without prior notice. The prize is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. The closing date is 8 May 2016.

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