# The Mid-Elloe Villager



...exploring the opportunities within



The Free Community Magazine for Fleet, Gedney, Holbeach St. Marks & Holbeach Hurn 2025

FREE



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Ness.rector@gmail.com

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rev.paulcareyslater@yahoo.com

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tay58@btinternet.com

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01406 423934 grove@gtfarms.co.uk



### From the Editor

### Hello Everyone

Welcome to the September issue of Mid Elloe Villager.

I hope you find the articles in this issue interesting and the notices useful.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this months issue. To John for his regular article, Belfrey News and to Alan for his photographs of the Gedney Flower Festival.

The Flower Festival season has drawn to a close for this year, and what a great effort from local communities, Church by Church pulling together to give a series of spectacular events. I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did. Thanks to all those who made it happen and to our visitors too.

Moving on and looking forward it's time for Craft Fairs, giving us the opportunity to get ahead for Christmas and perhaps a chance to get something different to socks for that person who is hard to buy for. Details of dates are in the magazine.

Look out for Harvest Festival events in this issue also.

Christine

Email: midelloevillager@outlook.com

If you would like to receive the magazine by email, as well as your printed copy, please send your email address to

### Midelloevillager@outlook.com

The Magazine will continue to be available on line and delivered to your home in printed format



### **Belfry News**

### **The Bells of Crowland Abbey**

I must admit my knowledge of them is somewhat limited, this article being inspired by ringing there for a wedding, a rainy Saturday afternoon, June 19<sup>th</sup> in company with Angela, Janet, Sandie, Valerie and Luke who had organised the band. The Abbey dates back to Saint Guthlac, 699 to 714 AD and under the Benedictine Order was successful until the accession of Henry V111 when we find the Abbot writing a sad letter to Thomas Cromwell offering a gift of fish "right mekely besyechinge your Lordshippe favourably to accept the same fishe and to be gude and favourable Lord unto me and my poore House". Unfortunately his perhaps smelly gift fell on deaf ears and the Abbey was dissolved in 1539, Abbot and monks being pensioned off.

North in his 1882 book outlines some of the history of the bells. There was, for instance a central tower, and at one time "an outward tower" at the east end, presumably detached from the main building.. These towers did have bells of various sizes and names, but all have disappeared in the mists of time. However In 1485 a western tower is recorded which I imagine is the one which exists today and contains the current ring of six bells. These comprise a "mixed bag" of founders with No's 1,2 and 3 by Taylors, 1903, 1895 and 1903 respectively, No's 4 and 5 by Arnold, 1788 and 1797 with the tenor by John Danyell of London cast in 1486. This bell weighs 9 ½ cwts Of interest to Gedney residents, No 4 bell is inscribed with the name Rev. Moor Scribo, Rector of Crowland from 1767 to 1808 and formerly a native of Gedney. Their sound is not particularly inspiring, but having said this they are interesting though not easy to ring due to 90 feet of rope between ringer and bell plus the situation of the ground floor ringing room, located in the main entrance porch of the church. Wedding guests and visitors have to walk through the ringing room while the ringers are in action. The sound of the bells is deafening, indeed we could hardly hear Luke's commands, Janet afterwards commenting on how most wedding guests looked upwards as they passed, no doubt expecting to see the bells above. The tower, incidentally is a "lantern", ie one can see all 90 feet of ropes before they pass through guide holes in the ceiling to the bells, which I believe are hung directly above this floor.

Most of the Abbey was demolished after 1539, a pity as it must have been a most impressive building, the remaining nave and aisles , a reminder of what once was but went some 500 years ago.. John Bennett

### **The Great Turnip Heist**

Our village's annual Harvest Festival Supper was known for two things: Mrs. Higgins's suspiciously potent sloe gin and a fierce, unspoken competition for the best-decorated vegetable. Old Man Fitzwilliam, a retired farmer with a penchant for tiny, hand-knitted sweaters for his prize leeks, was the reigning champion. But this year, a new contender emerged: young Timmy, the grocer's son, with a monstrous turnip he'd spent all summer lovingly polishing.

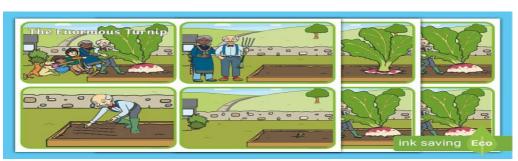
The night of the supper, the village hall was a vibrant spectacle of gourds, pumpkins, and various root vegetables dressed in miniature hats and loops of ribbon. Timmy's turnip, named "Barnaby," sat on a velvet cushion, gleaming under the fluorescent lights, casting a pallor of defeat over Fitz-william's elaborately-accessorized swede. Fitzwilliam grumbled, swirling his sloe gin with a look that could curdle milk.

Suddenly, a power outage plunged the hall into darkness. A collective gasp was followed by the sound of a stool toppling over. When the lights flickered back on, "Barnaby" was gone. In its place, a solitary, muddy potato sat innocently on the velvet cushion.

A panic erupted. Mrs. Higgins screamed, "It's the Great Turnip Heist!" Fitzwilliam, ever the dramatic one, dramatically fainted into a platter of roasted parsnips. The villagers, now armed with flashlights from their purses and pockets, began a frantic search.

The culprit was not a master thief, nor a rival farmer. It was Buster, the vicar's scruffy terrier. He was discovered under a table, meticulously gnawing on the corner of the great Barnaby. It seems the turnip's polished sheen and inviting aroma had been too much for him to resist.

The prize was awarded to a bewildered Mrs. Abernathy and her frankly-underwhelming carrot, simply because it was the only vegetable still intact. The following year, all vegetable displays were moved to a more secure location: atop the tallest shelves, out of Buster's reach. And Fitzwilliam, ever the schemer, started dressing his vegetables in tiny, dog-proof chainmail.



### Magazine Editor Christine Marchant

Copy for the magazine should be with Christine by 18th of the previous month, marked Mid Elloe Magazine

### **Advertising and Items for Magazine Contact Details**



### midelloevillager@outlook.com



07788712121



For all enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals please contact the Deanery Administrator, Caz Dennis, on 01406 423460 (office hours Mon- Thurs 9.00-1.00)

For urgent pastoral issues please contact the Rural Dean

For all other enquiries please contact the churchwardens - details are in the Mid Elloe Community magazine.

### SEE US ON THE WEB

The Magazine and details of services will be put on the new church website every month so please do check there for details of what is going on in your Parish and in the Benefice.

Fleet: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14562/

Gedney: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14564/

Holbeach Hurn: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14569/

Holbeach St Marks: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14564/



## **MORRISS & HAYNES**

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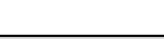
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### HELPLINES FOR SUPPORT

During these difficult times there are many reasons why people may need extra support: practical, emotional and spiritual. Many support agencies have existed for a long time, whilst in the past few weeks many other groups have been formed to support people through the present crisis. Not everyone has access to a computer or the internet, so the following may particularly be of use to those people for whom a phone call is their only means of communicating with the outside world.



PHONE: 116123

# FREE HELPLINE FOR THOSE IN EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

Particularly for those who are lonely, anxious or depressed, this is a 24/7 service. Samaritans are trained listeners and able to give comforting words, without offering advice or judging people. You can speak in confidence to someone at any time of the day or night.



This is a <u>well\_known</u> Lincolnshire charity that offers support for the terminally ill. Recently they have set up a helpline for those who are in isolation and have suffered bereavement, because of the death of a loved one during COVID 19.

The specific helpline number for this service is: 0300 303 1897

Available: Monday - Friday 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Monday and Wednesday also until 8.00 p.m.

Whilst churches are closed many are missing the comforting words and music that are so important, particularly at difficult times. There are many offerings on websites and on Facebook pages, but here is a direct phone line that has been set up to help people: 0800 804 8044



### **SAFEGUARDING IN THE MID ELLOE GROUP**

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from one of our Safeguarding Officers or if necessary report the matter to the Local Authority Social Services Care Services or the Police without delay

St Mary Magdalene, Fleet – Vacant

St Mary Magdalene, Gedney – David Smith 01406 363388 – <u>tay58@btinternet.com</u>

St Luke's, Holbeach Hurn – Jane Thompson 01406 423934 – <u>grove@gtfarms.co.uk</u>

If There Is IMMEDIATE RISK or DANGER please contact the Police on 999

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of our churches!





### 50/50 CLUB FLEET CHURCH WINNERS

JULY: £30 Gary Lamb £20 Elizabeth Snushall

AUGUST: £30 Sue Taylor £20 Nick Ross

### SERVICES AT ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, FLEET

September 7th 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

September 16th 10.00 a.m. Said Eucharist

October 5th 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

October 21st 10.00 a.m. Said Eucharist



We look forward to welcoming Fleet Primary School again on Friday, 26th September. It is always a joy to see all the children and their families for this regular monthly celebration in term time.

From January 2026, the Magazine will not be appearing in this form, as Fleet will be the only church remaining in the Mid Elloe group. However, we do hope to be able to produce a small leaflet every month to keep you in touch with St Mary Magdalene Church.

We also hope that many of you will join the 50/50 Club for 2026 – more details in the October magazine. To keep our beautiful church open and be there for regular services, as well as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, we really do need your support.

Things are going very well at St Mary Magdalene church, Fleet. We are continuing with our regular communion service, on the first Sunday of the month. And we now have a monthly said communion service on the 3rd Tuesday.

This year it has a privilege to welcome Fleet Wood Lane school as they hold their celebration assemblies with us in the church.

We are very much looking forward to our annual Autumn Craft Fayre, in **18th/19th October**, 10 am to 4pm and would really appreciate any support you can offer. We are looking for raffle prizes, and cakes to sell. **Watch our for further details and posters.** 

Once again thank you for all your support for the church, we look forward to welcoming you.



### 07806635548

### dkchimneyservices@icloud.com

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### **GEDNEY CHURCH ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL**















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Monday - Friday 7.30am to 5pm Saturday 8am to 2pm 01406 426 333

holbeach@branchbros.co.uk



### South Holland Parish Voluntary Car Service

Are you a car driver with a little spare time? Could you take people to hospital or doctor appointments?

South Holland Parish Voluntary Car Service is a great service to meet and help people in your community.

We accommodate any time and any day you wish to volunteer to help. Petrol money awarded for journeys driven.

Thank you in anticipation. If you are interested please call Sharon on 07734634336



### **GEDNEY UNITED CHARITIES**

Registered Charity No. 216410

Providing help for individuals and charitable purposes



This may include provisions such as fuel, general items and services,



respite support and annually awarded educational grants

All residents in the Parish of Gedney including Gedney Dyke, Gedney Drove End, Gedney Dawsmere and Gedney Hill may apply

The clerk may be contacted at: gedneyuc@hotmail.com or phone 07745 583605

# Holbeach Meadows



# **Open Now**

We are accepting bookings for fulltime occupancy, respite and dementia care

Facilities include:

 Cinema • Hairdressing salon • Garden room • Activities and lifestyle team









Coming from Spalding: Having come through Whaplode take the right turn down Wignal's Gate, follow the road to the roundabout and take the second exit into the Holbeach Meadows estate. Follow Daisy Road around the corner - Holbeach Meadows Care Home is opposite Jasmine Crescent.

Coming from Kings Lynn: Turn off the A17 at the Peppermint Roundabout, taking the first exit, signposted for Spalding. At the next roundabout, take the second exit, continuing towards Spalding. At the third roundabout, take the 3rd exit towards Spalding, and take the left turn down Wignaf's Gate. Follow the road to the roundabout and take the second exit into the Holbeach Meadows estate. Follow Daisy Road around the corner -Holbeach Meadows Care Home is opposite Jasmine Crescent

Coming from Holbeach Town Centre: At the main junction in the town centre, with Park Road, West End, Boston Road South, Church Street and High Street, head down Church Street. At the fork junction (before the Fire Station), turn right into Hall gate and follow the road to the roundabout and take the first exit into the Holbeach Meadows estate. Follow Daisy Road around the corner - Holbeach Meadows Care Home is opposite Jasmine Crescent.



Holbeach Meadows boasts exceptional facilities and when combined with a personalised activities programme, residents are able to maintain their independence and engage in the social occasions they prefer. At Holbeach Meadows there is something for everyone.

\*\*Tanglewood\*\*

01406 431222 info@twhealthcare.co.uk

Holbeach Meadows, Daisy Road, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, PE12 7NJ



### **TOMBOLA STALL**

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who so generously donated to the stall or who came along to have a go. You all helped to make this stall so successful.

Many thanks again for your continued support. Mandy

### **GEDNEY HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS**

October may seem a long way off but it will be here before we know it. Harvest Festival is to be celebrated at **Gedney Church on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October**. The Service will be at 6.30 pm and be followed by Harvest Supper, around 7.30 pm. As in the last few years, the catering is to be 'in house' and at the time of writing the menu is not finalised. It is thought that the price of the meal will be about £8.50.

This is a most enjoyable evening. However we shall need to know numbers for catering purposes. Please ring for further details or to reserve a ticket for your meal - 01406 363673.

# ALL SOULS SERVICE – SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER AT 4PM AT GEDNEY CHURCH

Every year at All Souls Tide we have a service where we remember those of our loved ones who have gone before us. The names of all whose funerals have been held in the last year will be read out. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in their memory.

Other names can be commemorated by signing the list in Church or writing the name clearly on a piece of paper and handing it in at the beginning of the service.

Please note the earlier start time of this service as last year which proved popular.

All are most welcome.

### HOLBEACH COMMUNITY LARDER & CAFE



**Food Bank and Cafe** 

If you are struggling to feed your family over the summer, or indeed at any time, please don't be afraid to ask for help.

We will not judge you and are here to help you. We know that times are tough for everybody and that jobs are under threat.

We will simply ask you your name, address and the number of adults and children (and their ages) in your household and any special needs or allergies.

You can get a food parcel in one of 3 ways:

- Ring or text the number below and we will deliver your parcel on a Wednesday between 12.00-1.00
- parcel on a Wednesday between 12.00-1.00
  Ring or text the number below and arrange to pick up your parcel from the Reading Rooms at 12.00
- Come in person to the Reading Rooms between 10.00-12.00, follow our Covid 19 guidelines, and we will pack a parcel for you there and then.

### We are open

Every Wednesday from 10.00-12.00
Holbeach Reading Rooms
Next door to the Old Library on Church Street

Ring or text 07511 091637

HCL - registered charity 1176177, HCC - Community Interest Company 10683575

# Friendship Club New Group beginning - Thursday 17th February 10-12pm.

Join us for Friendship club - £3.00 p/p

Are you 50+? Would you like to meet new friends, have a chat, play a game of cards or scrabble or bring your knitting.

Enjoy tea, coffee, biscuits and company with us.

Come along to - WI Hall, Park Lane - Holbeach

Every Second Thursday - 10-12pm

Book your place by calling 0345 5564 144





### **CHURCH SERVICES AT GEDNEY**

### **CHURCH SERVICES AT GEDNEY**

Thursday 4th September — Evening Prayer 6. pm.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September – Holy Cross Day – 11.00 – Communion Service

Thursday 18th September — Evening Prayer 6. pm.

Sunday 21st September - Trinity 14 - 11.00 - Morning Prayer

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September – Trinity 15 – 11.00 – Communion Service

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival – 6.30 pm

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Trinity 17 – 11.00 – Communion Service

Sunday 19th October - Trinity 18 - 11.00 - Morning Prayer

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Bible Sunday – 11.00 – Communion Service

The services at Gedney Church for June/July will be as per the table below.

The second and fourth Sundays will be Communion Services with Morning Prayer on the third Sunday led by David Smith.

Church continues to be open every day for private prayer. If you would like to be included with those who receive the pew sheet electronically then please send an email to <a href="mailto:janeandwilliamwebb@hotmail.com">janeandwilliamwebb@hotmail.com</a>

Church continues to be open every day for private prayer. If you would like to be included with those who receive the pew sheet electronically then please send an email to janeandwilliamwebb@hotmail.com

#### **GREETING CARDS**

Our organist, Peter Graper, very generously makes greeting cards for Fleet and Gedney Churches to sell to raise funds. There is a good selection of cards available. The cards are on display inside the respective churches. It is well worth a look! Peter is always keen to transform cards which you have received and unwanted cards can be left at the back of either Fleet or Gedney Churches. Thank you Peter.





### **Gedney Church Coffee mornings every fortnight**

The Coffee Mornings at Church continue to be popular. The next dates are **Thursdays 4**<sup>th</sup> **and 18**<sup>th</sup> **September. 2nd and 16th October** 

### **Prayer Service Held by David Smith**

### St Mary Magdalene Gedney Church

Evening Prayer and will be held on the same days and as Morning coffee, Those that wish to join in please do so Service starts at 6 pm.Thursdays 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>st</sup> September





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07399 527876





### TABLETALK LUNCHES

The lunch on 13<sup>th</sup> August saw twenty-four people served turkey with sweetcorn, peas and potatoes followed by fruit and meringue. The next Tabletalk Lunch is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 12.15 for 12.30. Please contact either Jill Duffey (01406 365586), or Jane Webb (01406 363673) to reserve a place

Jane Webb – 01406 363673 <u>janeandwilliamwebb@hotmail.com</u>

Jill Duffey – 01406 365586 jillduffey@argonet.co.uk

### **GEDNEY CHURCH ANNUAL FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Once again it is our great pleasure to send you a few words of sincere thanks for your help and support at our Flower Festival.

Last year, 2024, was a great success. During the last year we have been able to further improve the sound system and make some alterations to the servery.

2025 proved to be an equally spectacular success, and we are delighted to let you know that by everyone's generosity and hard work we have raised funds of £9,200. This compares most favourably with our result last year. Our many visitors marvelled at the flower displays, and enjoyed the atmosphere of friendship and happiness.

We send you our grateful thanks and are pleased to tell you that the tremendous generosity of our neighbours and visitors further afield will help us continue our programme of church improvements.

Thanks again. With our fondest wishes.

Jill Duffey William Webb



# **Gedney Victory Hall**

### **FXCFILENT VENUE FOR -**

Wedding receptions, Parties, Meetings, Clubs etc.

For more information

For All Enquiries and Bookings 07899537821

Just before Anaesthetic had been discovered

Sent in by Joan Woolard



### **OPPORTUNITIES TO SOCIALISE**

**Here-4-U** meets every first and last Monday Holbeach to the United Services Club on Church Street. The club's chief focus is Dementia Care but anyone at risk of mental illness through isolation or injury is welcome.

Sadly a similar group at Long Sutton Outreach closed due to circumstances - and dogs - beyond control. If anyone feels they could run the club which offered relaxation and friendly company for carers, especially dementia care, please call Joan Woolard on 01406 426508. Dementia is truly a modern scourge.



### WELLBEING WALKS

### **Long Sutton Strollers**

Long Sutton wellbeing walkers WE ARE A FRIENDLY, SOCIABLE GROUP FOR ANYONE 50 AND OVER

#### MEETING AT BRITISH LEGION LONG SUTTON EVERY FRIDAY AT 10.30 am

LOCAL WALKS LASTING ABOUT AN HOUR OCCASIONAL AWAY-DAYS

REFRESHMENTS AND CHAT AFTERWARDS £1.50 pp To include refreshments

#### CONTACT JULIET 07557 342725 OR JANICE 01406 366589

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OR JUST TURN Up

Do join us, we welcome new members

### Away day 18/7/25

A group of Long Sutton strollers went to Witham Country Park, Boston for a lovely walk along the river to Antons Gowt. It was a warm day but the walk has plenty of tree cover along a paved path, just have to watch out for tree roots pushing the path up at intervals. Lots of wildlife, we rescued a tiny frog and popped him back in the undergrowth by the waterside, birds in trees, cormorants and swans on the water and we spied the Boston Belle too.

The cafe mid walk by the lock gates is quirky but the food and drink was lovely.

A lovely morning walk was had by all, covering about 3.75 miles.

Walk was led and summarised by walk leader Juliet

### Louth church of St James has this fascinating, if grim reminder

### Item sent in by Joan Woolard

isitors to this church often ask 'But was it Catholic or Protestant at the time of the Lincolnshire Rising or when John Smith was here?' The truth is that between the completion of the magnificent spire in 1515 and the founding of Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, the church and all of England went through more change and upheaval than at any time before or since. In 1515, England was Catholic, the town guilds had their chapels in the side aisles of their parish church and the Vicar of Louth would climb up the stairs to the top of the Rood Screen to preach to the people on one or two days each year.

ven in 1537, when the Vicar of Louth was executed for his part in the Lincolnshire Rising against the King, the church was still a Catholic Church with the King as Head of the Church in England.

THE LINCOLNSHIRE RISING

began in this church
[st October 1536.
For his part in it, the
Vicar was hanged,
drawn and quartered
at Tyburn
25th March 1537.

hen 'God's Imp' as Henry called his son, Edward VI, became King in 1547, at the age of nine, he was already committed to a reformed Protestant Church From 1552, Thomas Cranmer's Book of Common Prayer was used for services in this and all other English parish churches. Louth received a new Royal Charter under which the grammar school, alms houses for women, and markets were to be financed by the money from the medieval guilds.

dward was only 15 when he died. The more extreme Proleaders tried to put lady Jane Grey on the throne. But I failed. Mary I took England back into the Church of Rome. years, the Catholic Mass was again celebrated in this church Protestants were persecuted, although there were no burning Many Protestants died for their faith including Archbishop T Granmer. When Mary died in 1558, Elizabeth I took the Churc England back into Protestantism.





### **ADVANCE NOTICE**



### **Gedney Harvest Festival and Supper**

As services must now be booked well I advance, the date of Gedney Harvest Festival and Supper is provisionally booked for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October. This will be an evening service at 6.30 pm followed by Harvest Supper.

### **DK Landscape & Property Services** Church End . Gednev

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### **Lincolnshire Yellerbellies**

The people of Lincolnshire are known as "Yellowbellies" or "Yellerbellies," a nickname with a long and debated history. Unlike the term "yellow-belly" which means cowardice, the Lincolnshire nickname is a point of local pride. There are several theories about its origin, and it's likely that a combination of them contributed to the term's popularity.

Here are the most common theories:

- \* Military Uniforms: One of the most popular theories relates to the Lincolnshire Regiment. Soldiers of the 10th Regiment of Foot (which became the Lincolnshire Regiment) were said to have worn uniforms with a yellow waist-coat or a yellow facing on their jackets. Officers and sergeants also sometimes wore a yellow sash in battle. This distinct uniform feature may have led to the nickname.
- \* The Fenland Environment: Many theories connect the name to Lincolnshire's historic Fenland, a vast area of marshy land that was largely undrained until the 17th century.
- \* Frogs or Eels: It's said that a species of frog or eel in the fens had a yellow underside, leading locals to be compared to the wildlife of their home.
- \* Fenland Sickness: Before the fens were drained, the area was prone to a malaria-like illness called "fen ague." It's believed that this sickness, or the opium used to treat it, could have caused the skin of sufferers to turn a yellowish colour.
- \* Fenland Mud: The yellow clay found in the fens could have stained the clothes, or even the skin, of people working or poaching in the area.
- \* Farm Workers: Another agricultural-based theory suggests that the nickname came from farm workers, particularly those who handled mustard crops, which were widely grown in the county. The yellow pollen from the mustard flowers could have stained their aprons or clothing.
- \* Linguistic Roots: A less common but intriguing theory suggests the name is a corruption of an old place name. In the Saxon era, the fenland area was known as "Elloe" and its rural deanery was called "Ye Elloe Bellie." This name is thought to translate roughly to "out of the boggy hole," a fitting description for the fen dwellers. Over time, "Elloe Bellie" could have evolved into "Yellowbelly."

The term "Yellowbelly" has been used to refer to Lincolnshire natives for centuries. While the exact origin remains unclear, the most widely accepted and celebrated theories are those related to the Lincolnshire Regiment's uniforms and the distinctive Fenland environment.



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### **Lincolnshire Whirly Cake**

The legend of the Lincolnshire Whirly Cake is a charming but rather unsettling folk tale, though the cakes themselves seem to be more strongly associated with Cambridgeshire and a specific village within the Isle of Ely, rather than Lincolnshire itself.

The story goes that in the village of Leverington, an old woman was baking cakes for a feast on what was known as "Whirlin' Sunday" (the fifth Sunday in Lent). One of her guests, however, was the Devil in disguise. He enjoyed the cakes so much that he decided to abduct both the woman and her treats, whisking them away in a whirlwind—hence the name "Whirlin' Cakes." This tradition, which involved people making and eating these cakes, was a long-standing custom. There was even a superstition attached to it: if you didn't spend a penny to buy a whirling cake on that day, you would have bad luck for the entire year. This unfortunately led to some rowdy and drunken behavior on the part of some participants.

The custom and the fair associated with it seem to have largely died out by the 20th century. While the cakes were once a popular tradition, their exact composition is not widely known today. Some accounts suggest they were simply a type of bun, with a recipe that might have included ingredients like saffron, cinnamon, and currants

### **A Very Special Occasion**

For Laurence and Christine, July 12th 2025, was most special, their 50 years marriage anniversary, their Golden Wedding. In celebration of their happiness, on Sunday August 10th they invited a group of 10 Gedney bell ringers, husbands, wives and friends to share lunch with them at The Anchor, Sutton Bridge. It was an enjoyable lunch, good food, wine and company which was appreciated by all. Our hearty thanks to Laurence and Christine and may they enjoy many more years together. John Bennett

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