

# GRIDLINE

*The magazine for landowners*

*Autumn 2020*

## Inside

**The Good:** Bracing sea air, farm life and happy campers

**The Red:** From nuclear scientist to winemaking grantor

**The Ordinary:** The family man grantor lost in nature

**The Bad:** Why not looking into easement could be a mistake

## WIN

A Fitbit health watch or a £100 shopping spree

... and the  
*ugly*

The grantor championing the cause of the nation's most unattractive veg says it's what's on the inside that counts

**nationalgrid**

## Some useful contact numbers

The Land & Acquisition Services team is 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 with 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 electricity wayleave payments, telephone the payments helpline on **0800 389 5113**

### EASEMENT ENQUIRIES

» Email [box.electricityeasements@nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.electricityeasements@nationalgrid.com)

### 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](mailto:grantorservices@nationalgrid.com)

### ELECTRICITY EMERGENCY

» Emergency calls to report pylon damage to National Grid can be made on **0800 404 090**. 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 023 270** (local call rate). Website: [emf.info](http://emf.info)

### GAS EMERGENCY

» **0800 111 999**

### DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG

» Before carrying out work in the vicinity of a gas pipeline or digging more than 0.5m in depth, contact Plant Protection on **0800 688 588** or email [plantprotection@cadentgas.com](mailto:plantprotection@cadentgas.com) – please provide five days' notice so searches can be carried out to determine the exact position of our assets and provide the required permission to safely carry out the works.

### QUESTIONS

» Any questions about our Electricity high voltage or Gas Assets call our service provider Cadent on **0800 688 588** or email [plantprotection@cadentgas.com](mailto:plantprotection@cadentgas.com) – they will provide the exact location of all our assets.

Gridline is produced by **SONDER**

Victoria Court, 8 Dormer Place,  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire  
CV32 5AE

## Put a face to the name...

### REGIONAL GRANTOR ASSISTANTS

- 1 Caroline Suttling, South
- 2 Lauren Munro, East and Scotland
- 3 Becky Kearsley, West and Wales



### CENTRAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS TEAM

- 4 Ellie Laycock
- 5 Jackie Wilkie
- 6 George Barnes
- 7 Thippapha Montorano
- 8 Palvinder Kalsi
- 9 Nicky Boucher
- 10 Deena Wood

## How to contact National Grid if you are a grantor



Land officers provide a day-to-day point of contact for National Grid grantors. You can also contact them if you have any questions about compensation, reinstatement, maintenance or refurbishment plans in your area – the team will be happy to help.

If you have any queries, please telephone **0800 389 5113** and select from the four options below.

- OPTION 1** Electricity wayleave payments and change of name/address/ownership of land
- OPTION 2** West and Wales
- OPTION 3** East and Scotland
- OPTION 4** South

### LUMP SUM PAYMENT FOR CONVERTING WAYLEAVES TO EASEMENTS

Many of National Grid's grantors currently receive annual payments in line with their wayleave agreement and the rates set by the NFU and CLA. But did you know you can convert the wayleave into an easement and receive a one-off capital payment instead? National Grid encourages you to seek professional advice from a qualified chartered surveyor or agricultural valuer. National Grid will pay reasonable agent's fees in accordance with its published Surveyor's Fee scale, together with solicitor's fees, upon completion of the easement. So there should be no need to pay an agent any of the payment rightly due to you.

If this is of interest to you, or you wish to find out more about easements and the payment which you could receive then please contact us directly or through a qualified agent at [box.electricityeasements@nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.electricityeasements@nationalgrid.com)

\* "Easement is easy" – one grantor reveals how a one-off payment made his day: P7



## CONTENTS

### NEWS AND FEATURES

- 04 The National Grid project that's changing how a community moves
- 05 How the pandemic changed our energy habits and needs
- 06 The 'Ordinary grantor' with nature's treasure trove in his back garden
- 10 Vine of the times: From nuclear scientist to sparkling rosé, one grantor's incredible journey
- 13 Landowner details under lock and key
- 14 Carry on camping. The grantor proving that location matters
- 17 Make money and get a free health check: The big win-win for many grantors
- 18 Beauty lies within: The grantor fighting the corner of the nation's ugliest crop
- 20 WIN: A Fitbit Charge 4 to keep your health regime on track



## Welcome...

**A great deal has happened since the last edition of Gridline, but it's good to see our grantors continuing to go about their business safely and sensibly.**

As a nation we're quite adept at coping with adversity, and the engineers and support staff at National Grid have also epitomised that spirit of defiance to keep the UK's energy running securely. Business as usual.

It has meant some sacrifices by our teams, who are acutely aware that without a reliable energy supply the past few months would have been even harder for us to cope with.

It's been uplifting for us to get out and visit some of the grantors going about their business in all four corners of the country. It's a tough time for many but the spirit is definitely there to come through this unscathed as possible.

From the farmer powering through the coronavirus crisis and augmenting her income by opening her land to campers in the rugged north east, to the grantor cornering the wholesale market in arguably the ugliest vegetable going, the grantors' ingenuity has been clear.

The virus has made many of us rethink our priorities. Gas grantor Alan Oastler did that years ago when he started his own vineyard to make the finest English wine.

But not all landowners are business bosses. We caught up with a self-proclaimed 'Ordinary Joe' who told of his delight when our engineers arrived to carve out a biodiversity corridor in his garden. He also had a few words of advice about easements that might put some money in grantors' pockets.

It's extremely reassuring to see life going on despite the pandemic and I hope this edition gives you a little glimmer of hope that we soon might get back to normal. Thanks for your support and enjoy the read.

**Amanda May**  
Land and Acquisitions Manager,  
Land & Property

# NEWSLINE

The latest news from National Grid and its landowner partners



Simon Irving worked on the National Grid-backed link, which includes a new river

## The path to healthiness

A new walking, cycling and riding route has brought two communities together as part of a £73 million master plan set to revolutionise a major city's travel.

The bridleway, supported by National Grid, will link into The Bee Network, former Olympic cyclist Chris Boardman's project to get Manchester moving more healthily.

The path will eventually connect Lower Bredbury by a walking and cycling route linking Brinnington and the Trans Pennine Trail with Stockport town centre.

The £400,000 scheme, which runs alongside land housing a National Grid substation, has created a brand new footpath as well as the creation of biodiverse hedgerows and grassland swathes along its route.

Once this and seven other schemes are

complete, the route will feed into the Greater Manchester-wide Network led by Andy Burnham's Mayoral Challenge Fund.

The project has come under the banner of 'Stockport Walk Cycle' and aims to make journeys on foot or by bike easier and more attractive than taking the car.

### COMMUNITY

Simon Irving of Dalcour Maclaren, managing agents for the National Grid Non-Operational Estate, said: "Wherever National Grid has assets they try to make a positive commitment to their communities, and this is no different.

"In all negotiations and consultations with local authority partners, National Grid and Dalcour Maclaren have been totally supportive and eager to ensure their proposals fit in well with existing and future infrastructure."

**\* MY 'BACK GARDEN' WILDLIFE WONDERLAND - MEET THE GRANTOR WHO LOVES THE SAFETY FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL GRID CUT - P6**

## Good moos travels fast

National Grid has set an ambitious target to reduce carbon emissions to net zero within three decades.

Bosses say that working with government and market regulators alongside every industry, workplace and home, they will hit the 2050 clean energy target.

One hoof-step towards generating and distributing clean energy is happening at an anaerobic digestion plant in Cambridgeshire... with help from cows.

Biomethane created from biodegradable matter was connected from a farm to the Gas National Transmission System (NTS) for the first time in July.

The partnership with Murrow Anaerobic Digestion Plant, run by BioCow, produces renewable gas made from manure and straw.

The gas is produced by anaerobic digestion, which involves sealing waste without oxygen in tanks for the material to be broken down by naturally occurring micro-organisms into biogas.

The pipeline will produce 15,000 standard cubic metres of gas an hour, enough for the annual consumption of 10 average households over the same time.

Ian Radley, Head of Gas Systems Operations at National Grid, said: "Alongside hydrogen, biomethane will play a critical role in the journey to achieving net zero. We've collaborated to connect the BioCow site to the National Transmission System, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy and paving the way for similar projects in the future."



## NORTH SEA LINK IN STATS:

Construction of the longest subsea power cable in the world is at the half-way stage to enable Norway's zero carbon hydro energy to be shared with the UK

8M

the number of homes it will power in north east England

720

km of cable running beneath the North Sea

1,400MW

the energy the world's longest undersea connector will carry

## Working through COVID-19

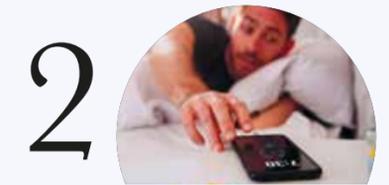
# Challenging times bring out the best in the best

## FOUR WAYS THIS YEAR HAS CHANGED OUR ENERGY USE



### TRADITIONAL TELEVISION RETURNS

'Real-time' programmes caused big spikes in energy pickup. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's speech drew 27.5 million viewers, while The Queen's address was watched by 24 million. Those viewing figures impacted electricity usage, with a 500-600MW pickup - the equivalent of 300,000 people heading into the kitchen afterwards to make a cuppa.



### LOCKDOWN LIE-INS

The morning peak moved later during lockdown. With children off school and people working from home, our morning routines changed.

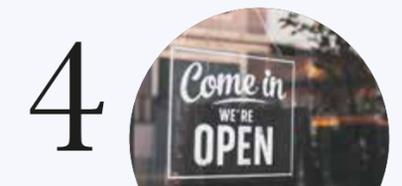
Later starts and more variation in our daily routine led to a near 18% drop in early morning demand and more even use, instead of the usual relatively steep increase between 5am and 8am.



### CLAP FOR CARERS

The weekly NHS 'clap for carers' was so popular that when we all went back indoors there was a big spike in electricity demand.

The largest peaks were the 'clap for carers' spikes on Thursday 9 and 16 April, compared to the traditional normal weekday evenings when demand is far steadier.



### RETURNING TO A NEW NORMAL

Demand for power fell by as much as 20% during lockdown, but has been slowly creeping back up towards pre-COVID-19 levels and is now only a few percentage points down on 'normal' patterns.

Demand dropped sharply after lockdown was announced on 23 March, but recovery was more gentle as restrictions were lifted in stages.



The volunteers moved away from home to stay in isolated accommodation pods on site for six-week spells, clocking up 14,000 hours over 14 weeks of 12-hour shifts day and night - each one was given their own Griddles the bear (above) as a thank you.

They stayed until the infection rate started to reduce, with Colin Benford, TNCC Manager, hailing their sacrifice: "The commitment of our volunteers has been truly admirable. Morale has remained high through this challenging time, thanks to the incredible efforts of our staff."

## YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS

As the world continues to get to grips with the impact of coronavirus, National Grid has been busy handling a new set of challenges.

An unexpected one has been the drop in demand for electricity caused by industrial and retail shutdowns, said UK Executive Director Nicola Shaw.

The UK team has worked with other networks and power generators to prepare for voltage issues caused by a result of any imbalance between lower demand and supply of electricity.

Nicola said: "It hasn't been possible for all our colleagues to work from home. So, we've been doing everything we can to keep our people safe."

Risk assessments and safe working practices

were reviewed to ensure they met government social distancing guidance.

Whether that's delivering voltage management actions to help balance demand and supply, responding to third-party and infrastructure issues or overhauling and replacing parts of the network, work has continued unabated.

Nicola added: "There's no proposed date for a return to old ways of working. Instead, we'll continue to evolve our approach as guidance changes.

"No matter what, our focus remains on keeping the energy flowing, ensuring our people are safe, supporting our communities and delivering what the system needs for the longer term."



# JUST AN 'ordinary' GRANTOR

THAT'S HOW FATHER-OF-TWO JAMES STURGESS DESCRIBED HIMSELF WHEN HE CONTACTED GRIDLINE TO SHARE HIS STORY. BUT BECAUSE NO GRANTORS ARE ORDINARY, HERE'S HIS STORY IN HIS OWN WORDS...

## EASEMENT IS EASY

James and wife Stacey are among the growing ranks of grantors who have signed up to allow National Grid permanent access to land beneath the nation's 4,500 miles of overhead lines.

They switched from a wayleave to an easement agreement when James did a little research after a legal firm's letter dropped onto their doormat.

"The solicitors were offering to get us a payment by negotiating a good arrangement with National Grid, so I thought 'how hard can it be? It must be something I can do,

rather than paying them'," he said. "As a finance person, I'm always wary of these circulars, so I did a bit of research, found the National Grid number to call and they sent me the paperwork."

He concludes: "It was all really straightforward."

## A REAL WIN WIN

National Grid needs the right from the landowner or occupier to access land to install, operate and maintain electricity equipment such as overhead lines, pylons or underground cables.

A wayleave agreement means a landowner or occupier receives an annual payment based on the type and number of assets on the land.

But an easement can be obtained for a one-off lump sum agreed between the landowner or long-lease holder that allows National Grid permanent access rights which apply even if the land changes hands.

James added: "The engineers need access to the lines and pylons, so there's no way we weren't going to agree to an easement. It was a real win win

and we paid off a decent chunk of our mortgage with the money.

"We were so pleased with the outcome we told our neighbours, who did it too."

**To convert an existing wayleave agreement to an easement or to discuss any queries, contact the Grantor Services Team:**

► **email:** [grantorservices@nationalgrid.com](mailto:grantorservices@nationalgrid.com) or [box.electricityeasements@nationalgrid.com](mailto:box.electricityeasements@nationalgrid.com)  
► **call 0800 389 5113 (choose option 1)**

“I love reading about the amazing grantors who work the land to keep the country fed and watered, but couldn't recall an article about an ordinary guy like me. So I thought I'd get in touch.

I'm 47, married, with two boys, Tom, eight, and Ethan, six. We have power lines running across the back of our house and have granted access to National Grid for maintenance and service.

That's how we discovered Gridline magazine. In a digital age when everything moves so quickly, it's lovely to have a quality publication to touch and hold. And it makes us feel part of a wider grantor family.

Living where we do brings us closer to nature and experiences that grantors working the land day in, day out, enjoy all the time. Because, for long spells each year, we have the most incredibly diverse and rich natural playground just beyond our back garden.

Once a year, around winter, it's completely stripped back by National Grid's team for obvious safety and electricity conduction reasons. That leaves us sad, but it doesn't take long for everything to start growing again and by June it's flourishing, so we get a true sense of the seasons.

I'm Head of Finance in the Research and Enterprise department at Southampton University, not far from home in Eastleigh, but I graduated with a degree in Animal Biology, so perhaps this desire to connect with nature is in the blood. >>

The natural habitat takes only a month to regrow and attract a wide range of wildlife following its annual trim



## NATURAL GRID

Scores of communities are reaping the rewards of a National Grid initiative to enhance green spaces and boost biodiversity.

The business works closely with local and national stakeholders to manage natural assets, develop ecosystems and improve the quality of nature across its UK landholdings.

Twin targets of the Natural Grid programme are to recognise and enhance the value of the company's natural assets and to drive net gain in environmental value and biodiversity on major construction projects.

The business also supports four environmental education centres which provide educational activities to more than 23,000 visitors each year.

They've been developed in partnership with environmental charities, showing how nature and communities can thrive

alongside critical national infrastructure.

Chris Plester, National Grid's Sustainability Specialist, said: "It's important we manage the land we own in ways that create the most value for our stakeholders, the wider environment and us."

"Our Natural Grid programme means we work with local communities and stakeholders to make the best of our green spaces and efficiently manage them in a way that benefits local communities and habitats."

He added: "Natural assets such as trees, water sources and green spaces are important for society and our business. We want to safeguard them for the long term, so we've developed a tool that puts a 'natural capital' value on the benefits and services our natural assets provide for us and others."

James gives six-year-old Ethan a bird's eye view of the flora and fauna (above) and the nature-loving family enjoy some time hanging out in their secret spinney

## LOOK UP TO STAY SAFE

If you spot excess tree growth or a potential hazard on or near an overhead electricity line, call the 24-hour electricity emergency helpline on **0800 404 090**

- ▶ Never approach any hazard, even at ground level – keep as far away as possible.
- ▶ Warn anyone in the area to stay away.
- ▶ Tell us where the emergency is.
- ▶ Explain what's happened and what you can see.
- ▶ Give your name and phone number.

The Energy Networks Association's Look Out Look Up campaign urges landowners to consider cables before any work. Grantors or sub-contractors felling trees where lines are within two tree heights or cutting back within two branch lengths of a line must contact their local Electricity Company

for advice before starting work. As a rule...

- ▶ Look Out, Look Up for overhead power lines.
- ▶ Always assume lines are live. Do not touch or get close to them.
- ▶ Keep five metres away from fallen or damaged overhead power lines.
- ▶ Electricity can jump gaps at high voltage, so even getting too close to overhead power lines can be dangerous.



Find out more about safety near overhead lines and underground cables at: [www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/electricity-emergencies-and-safety-advice](http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/electricity-emergencies-and-safety-advice)

The boys have it too. Once they walk through the back gate, it's like opening a magic door to another world of wildflowers, butterflies, insects and birdlife you would only usually see at a nature reserve.

The walk beneath the pylons on the school run, so each morning they have a wildlife lesson without even realising it. It just seeps into you until you realise you're living alongside a true natural wonder.

We've had peregrine falcons nesting on one of the pylons but more often it's buzzards, owls, jays, woodpeckers, bats, robins, song thrushes and even the occasional heron. We even had a deer skitting around and popping its head over our fence once.

The boys love it when I go out and leave false gems for them to find with nature-related clues. They're learning through having fun and a lot of the neighbours do the same.

## LIFE AND VIBRANCY

The 500-metre run between the pylons is adjoined by a small spinney which the National Grid team also cuts back sensitively. Although the primary objective is safety, the teams seems to genuinely care about the micro habitats that exist beneath the lines.

The team communicates really well with all the homeowners along this stretch and even trim some of the greenery hanging over back gardens when maybe they shouldn't. But it's a lovely goodwill gesture that we really do appreciate.

When I'm not with the boys I've started doing a bit of trail running along the path of the pylons which follow the M3. I'm running the London Marathon for Cancer Research UK, after my aunt died several months back, so it's lovely seeing so much life and vibrancy as I run.

It reminds me of her. But usually it's just me and the lads watching bees pollinate, insects do their work and butterflies criss-crossing this sweep of countryside on our doorstep that we're lucky to call our extended back garden."

## TOM SAID:

"We found a slow worm once, which was brilliant because we'd seen a programme on TV, so we knew it's neither a worm nor a snake but more like a legless lizard. They're quite rare in most of England. We also discovered some black alien spores at the base of a tree, but Dad told us it was just fungus so we looked it up when we got home and he was right."

## ETHAN SAID:

"We see lots of different birds and other animals, so it's always horrible when the flowers and everything gets cut back. But in a few months, it's full of them again and the trees aren't anywhere near the lines. We like that National Grid keeps us safe."



# "I started a vineyard from scratch"

WINE LOVER ALAN OASTLER WAS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS WHEN HE MADE THE DECISION TO FOLLOW HIS DREAM AND START A VINEYARD

With a job analysing nuclear reactors' safety data and a young family to help care for, Alan Oastler's vision of growing vines was always going to be a challenge.

Almost three decades and as many grown-up children later, he's retired from analysing the minute calculations of nuclear power plants to focus solely on the more sedate but no less challenging pursuit.

The five-acre terrace of sandy loam soil he bought with his sister and wife in 1990 is now the source of some of the best new wave of English red and white wines.

And even though the venture doesn't turn a big profit – enough to balance the books and the occasional holiday – Alan is content that his hobby has turned into a full-bodied blend of leisure and exercise.

"When I worked in the nuclear power industry, I was researching engineering safety of power plants like Sizewell, analysed data coming out after Chernobyl and assessed power station performance, but I always had a fascination for horticulture," he said.

"Both are very purposeful, quite scientific and need the correct components to make them work, so there's

## IN NUMBERS



5.5

Acres given to producing some of England's finest wines



6

The number of red, white and rosés currently produced



13K

Bottles of wine made from the distinctive Compton Green grapes

a connection in skills between nuclear power and growing the perfect grape that's not too acidic."

As he became one of the nation's leading experts in designing out nuclear reactor faults, Alan was encouraged by his brother-in-law to grow his own grapes as a relaxing sideline to work.

After some deliberation, he and the family took the plunge and bought a plot of land on a gentle slope of rolling Gloucestershire countryside near the Forest of Dean in Newent.

"I had a demanding full-time job and a young family, so when my sister and wife, a physicist who gave up her job to be a full-time mother, agreed and we started planting, it was hard and meant a lot of juggling," said Alan with a sweep of his arm to the rows of vines.

"We tried to buy the land at auction but it didn't happen and then a little while later got a call saying we could buy it. I told my wife 'we've just bought a future vineyard' and that was when the work began."

### INVIGORATED

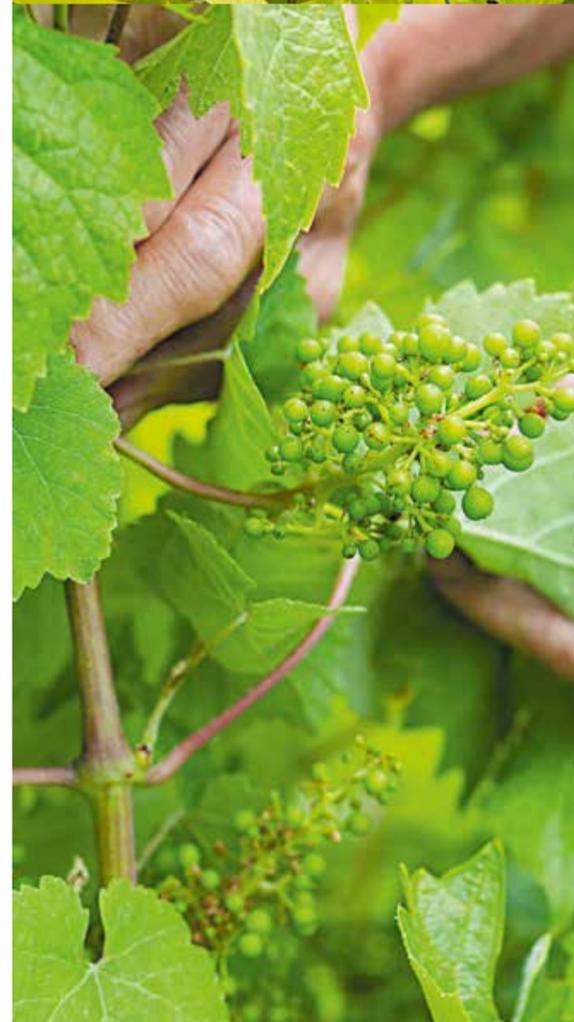
Wine pioneer Gillian Pearkes, one of the first to champion vine growing in England in the 60s, was a major influence in Alan's decision to give it a go.

He said: "I went on one of her courses in Devon to learn about soil, drainage, how to get the perfect balance of acid and sugar and the most suitable grape varieties for the English climate. That was 30 years ago and my passion for growing hasn't waned since."

He returned to his fledgling Compton Green Vineyard invigorated and planted several rows of a specific clone of Madeleine Angevine vines. The white grape is well suited to cooler climates and was growing in popularity in the south west at the time.



Perfect vintage: Alan raises a glass to the labour of love that has kept him busy and happy for almost three decades



“The first year was exceptionally good and inspired me to expand with other varieties. The microclimate is perfect here and they grow like stink once they get through the bud burst in April and fruit set in late June, slowly ripening until we pick them in September.”

He uses the word ‘we’ advisedly. Despite still taking care of much of the pruning himself – “a cathartic and becalming experience” – he works closely with the nearby Three Choirs winemaker’s picking teams.

“Mine is a small enterprise, more of a lovely hobby, and the only way to make lots of money is to increase scale, which means staff and marketing, and that’s something I didn’t really want to get involved with.”

**PERFECT FOR PAIRING**

Alongside the Madeleines, the gas grantor produces whites including an old French hybrid vine, Seyval Blanc, and floral German varieties Siegerebbe and Phoenix. The reds stable consists of a light and fruity Pinot Noir Early and the earthy cherry-tinted Regent, perfect for pairing with cheese or meat.

Alan’s agreement with Three Choirs as contract winemakers allows him to sell some of his grapes to other vineyards, but he ensures he has enough wine to sell through local outlets, including markets and food fairs, where he takes a proprietorial delight in meeting the people who will toast his labours.

In a good year, he’ll provide enough grapes for 13,500 bottles, some of which will end up in the region’s smaller supermarkets and some of the more local Waitrose stores.

So, to the 64 million dollar question. Is English wine actually any good?

“It’s slowly coming more into the general wine-buying public’s consciousness,” said Alan. “But we’re not quite there yet, and that is quite surprising because with the climate changing, English wines, and particularly the reds, are getting better all the time and there’s been a massive expansion of sparkling white production in southern counties which will eventually challenge Champagne.

“This area has great soil because it sits in a major horticulture and fruit-growing region and is within a rain shadow of the Welsh Hills, protected by the Cotswolds and May Hill. A perfect climate.”

Alan is a perfectionist, definitely an essential quality in the nuclear industry, and bemoans his failure to have the vineyard as aesthetically pleasing as it should be for our photographer.

But retirement and the perfect hobby have clearly mellowed him, and he relents: “...but in the end, I suppose it doesn’t matter what the vines look like. It’s all about the grapes.”

We’ll drink to that!



From a student of wine growing to a connoisseur of what makes a good glass, Alan admits he has never stopped learning

**ALAN’S DESERT ISLAND DRINKIES**

*We asked the Compton Green boss to share the fab four flavours he’d smuggle in...*



Again, from France the Chablis stands out but a bone dry, crisp Chardonnay is also unique.



You can’t beat a lovely fruity Loire red. The grapes are quite similar to the ones we grow here and are brought to life by the region’s rich winemaking heritage.



New Zealand had little tradition for winemaking and was where we are now in the 70s. Since then it’s brought us fantastic wines and Sauvignon Blanc is my final pick.

# THAT’S A BIT PERSONAL

THE NEW NATIONAL GRID EMAIL SYSTEM MEANS YOUR INFORMATION IS NOW SAFER THAN EVER

Landowners and grantors wary of sending personal information about their family or land can now rest easier than ever.

Every email containing sensitive and personal data from National Grid’s Land and Acquisitions team to grantors must now go through an encryption process.

So if you’re contacted regarding land matters such as easement and wayleave payments, you will be asked to sign up to the security scheme.

The data security enhancements launched on 1 May using a new software tool called Egress.

Helen McCormack, of National Grid’s Land and Acquisitions team, said: “In an era where internet security is crucial, it’s right that stakeholders should be extremely aware of safeguarding their personal information.

“Some grantors have quite rightly and sensibly questioned the origin of the emails from National Grid, so we wanted to clarify that they are genuine and part of a programme to take our security to a new level.”

In future, before grantors can open a secure email, they will need an Egress account. If they haven’t yet created one, they will need to click on a link in the initial email.

A record of each grantor’s preference will be recorded for future emails and, for landowners who do not wish to sign up, National Grid will continue to send an unencrypted version.

But if the email contains personal sensitive information it should be password-protected if the recipient does not wish to receive an encrypted email.

Helen said: “The change follows a review of the Land Right and Acquisitions team’s compliance with GDPR and existing internal data policies.

“It will safeguard the personal information of our grantor community who might need to send us legal, personal or financial information that cannot be seen by a third party. We have always been conscious of data security, but this moves it on to a new level.”

**SEVEN STEPS TO SECURITY**

1. Receive a generic notification email from Egress in your email inbox.
2. This will link to a webpage asking you to sign in or register for a free Egress account.
3. Create your Egress account.
4. Click on the “Open secure email” button to access the message.
5. Enter your Egress ID (email address) and password.
6. Once logged in, the secure email will then display within the web browser.
7. Reply securely to the email by clicking the ‘Reply’ button at the top of the message.



**THE EGRESS ENCRYPTION IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT...**

- Land access instructions and plans to an external contractor on a scheme
- Land rights documents being sent to a grantor or agent – for example wayleave or easement information
- Details of a compensation claim or financial settlement to a grantor or agent
- Information to an external land agent employed by National Grid

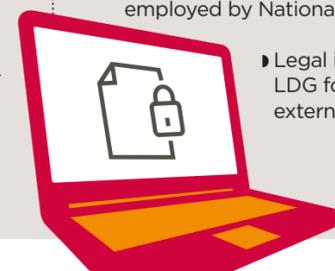
**WHAT IT PROTECTS**

**Personal data examples**

- Name
- Address
- Age
- Pay/salary
- Payroll number
- Qualifications
- Marital status

**Personal sensitive data**

- Political orientation
- Passport
- Bank details
- Religious beliefs
- Medical records
- Criminal records
- Sexual preference
- Racial origin
- Trade Union affiliation



# HAPPY CAMPERS

THE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER TEAM LIVING THE DREAM



Lesley Johnson spent sun-soaked childhood holidays in the 60s and 70s at England's Secret Coast, gazing out to sea and dreaming of one day becoming a farmer's wife. Memories of fresh salty air, castles, endless golden sand beaches littered with kelp and rolling undiscovered countryside meant her heart never really left the place.

She dreaded returning home after those trips to Northumberland's shores, whose "space, fresh air and freedom" were a refreshing antidote to life in Birmingham's suburbs.

Her father, who first brought her here, moved his family north for a better quality of life and commuted to his West Midlands metal foundry business for years until he retired to Alnwick.

Northumberland has been Lesley's home since she was 15. She married and moved into a small 1330s settlement of buildings in the shadow of Bamburgh Castle and is still blazing a trail... this time with daughter Christina. Two children and several decades later, she's part of the community and now walks her dogs along the coastline looking out to the Farne Islands, with dolphins and grey seals cavorting in between.

When she's not enjoying the spectacular scenery, she's been running the

*"We've always been busy and the nine pitches are usually booked. Since lockdown eased, the phone has been ringing off the hook"*

Lesley Johnson

family's small, but clean and tidy, farm campsite for mobile homes and camper vans, which is booked pretty much solidly from March through to October each year, since the mid-80s.

The rest of the time the site stays open for those hardy souls wishing to find tranquillity and revel in the region's bracing weather.

Return visitors and newcomers are proof that even the smallest diversification can make a difference, especially with the right location and the COVID-fuelled passion for staycations.

"We've always been busy, and the nine pitches are usually booked. Since lockdown eased, the phone has been ringing off the hook," she said: "If I leave the emails for an hour there are another 20 enquiries and we're having to turn people away."

"Location is everything with a campsite. We have Bamburgh, the castle, Holy Island, boat trips to the Farnes and even diving off the coast, so there's a lot to do here. As people are finding in the 'new holiday normal', England has a lot to offer."

## SNAPPING

Lesley, though, is always keen to stress that the family's main business is farming, with 200 acres of land that's home to 50 Aberdeen Angus cows and followers as well as a flock of pedigree Poll Dorset sheep.

Her daughter Christina, 30, runs the farm and works with her mum on the caravan site, having learned the agricultural ropes with her father.

Lesley said: "We had a herd of outdoor pigs, so in 1995 we opened a farm shop in the village, which I suppose you could say was ahead of its time too."



When she's not looking after the campers, Lesley loves to walk sheepdog Skye

## Staycation location



Get them while they're young: Christina's three children sometimes join her on the farm during breaks from the hard graft



Lesley went on a course to learn how to make ham, bacon and pies and, fuelled by tourists and locals alike, business boomed. But she added: "It proved so popular we couldn't fulfil the orders with the animals we had, so it went a bit pear-shaped."

The Johnson family are nothing if not resilient – a prerequisite with the bitter North Sea wind snapping at your ankles in winter – and not even the 2001 foot-and-mouth culling of their livestock and the



ensuing demise of their shop could dampen spirits.

Christina, described by mum as "a great stockwoman who knows her animals down to each flick of their tail" said: "We concentrate on beef cattle now, but my dad always wanted to bring the Dorset Polls up here and we established the flock in 2008.

"Our main income comes from producing high-quality

beef cattle and with the Dorsets lambing out of season, it gives us lamb for the market all year round."

### EXPANSION

The mum and daughter duo have pondered expanding the campsite, but currently it's set on the grassy farmyard, with a cosy, warm shower and toilet annexe complete with books and board games.

"Over the years we have improved the site with the addition of a toilet and separate wet room, but for those starting out, a standpipe and chemical waste facility are the basic requirements," said Lesley, who also fits in a part-time job at a chartered surveyors' firm in nearby Alnwick on top of looking after her three grandchildren.

She added: "I'd recommend it to any grantor looking to supplement their income in what might be tricky times ahead. Almost all the people who stay are lovely and we've made some good friends from all over the world."

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

▶ The Camping and Caravanning Club can issue Certificated Site (CS) assurance for up to five pitches – a good way to dip your toe in the water – while the Caravan and Motorhome Club offers a Certificated Location (CL) for five caravans or motorhomes.

▶ If you run a business, a steady stream of campers could be another useful customer base.

▶ If you want to set up a site for more than five pitches, contact your local council for advice on getting a licence.

You don't need a licence if:

- ▶ the site is five or more acres and there are three or fewer caravans there for 28 days or less a year.
- ▶ You're a member of an organisation like a caravan club and have a caravan exemption certificate.
- ▶ Your site is approved by an organisation with a caravan exemption certificate.



Visit [www.bamburgh-touring-caravans.co.uk](http://www.bamburgh-touring-caravans.co.uk)  
Also [www.caravanclub.co.uk](http://www.caravanclub.co.uk) or  
[www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk](http://www.campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk)  
for licence information

## In brief



### HAVE A FREE HEALTH CHECK

Martin Bleasby has already steered dozens of generators through the change and insists grantors would be mad not to claim what's theirs.



The Senior Manager at energy efficiency advisors EnergyForce says the legal requirement is good news.

"As well as the funding it's an opportunity for generators to have an external company check the safety and operation of their assets," he said.

"These health checks are supporting generators to improve their assets' efficiency which is a win-win scenario.

The generator is making a legally required change and also getting a health check, all effectively for free."

He added: "By becoming compliant, generators are playing their part in delivering a safe and sustainable energy network to the UK and protecting employees and stakeholders from potential enforcement measures for non-compliance. It's an absolute no brainer."

And he urged grantors to make it a priority: "It's simple, free, easy to apply and you're going to have to do it anyway. We don't know if this funding will last forever or how many companies are going to wait until the last minute, so it's better to get it done now."

Apply using the following link. It's means you can do it direct rather than paying a third party to get what is yours.  
[www.ena-eng.org/ALoMCP/](http://www.ena-eng.org/ALoMCP/)

Find out more about the ALoMCP scheme and how it could benefit you, at: <http://brws.it/lossofmains>

Note: This Programme does not apply to domestic and similar generation that has been connected under EREC G83.

It only applies to generation connected before 1 February 2018 in accordance with EREC G59.



## PROTECT YOURSELF - "IT'S A WIN-WIN SCENARIO"

### Are you an electricity generator? Don't miss out on network upgrade payments

Landowners generating electricity for the National Grid Electricity System Operator network could be in line for thousands of pounds in funding... but need to act now.

Grantors, including farmers with wind turbines and schools and hospitals with solar panels connected to the network, have until mid-November to claim compensation.

The financial incentives are part of the Accelerated Loss of Mains Change Programme (ALoMCP) which is ensuring generators have hardware upgrades to boost network resilience and allows smaller, greener generators to play a greater role in balancing the grid.

National Grid ESO is working with the Energy Networks Association, Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs) to change protection settings.

The upgrade to all pre-2018 installations must be completed by 31 August 2022, with the current funding window available until 10 November this year.

Any landowners who have not made the changes before the summer 2022 deadline may be the subject of an enforcement programme.

### GREENER SOURCES

The Programme covers every form of generation connected to the grid with a capacity of between 10kW – equivalent to a medium sized, non-domestic, rooftop solar array – and 50MW, equivalent to large-scale commercial generation.

Graham Stein, Network Operability Manager at National Grid ESO, said: "We're seeing increased levels of smaller and greener sources of power coming online to help us balance the electricity system.

"Thousands of generators across the UK have already taken advantage of the scheme, but with more funding available we're still extremely keen to hear from generation owners."

### WHY IT'S HAPPENING - IN BRIEF

- ▶ Pre-February 2018 generators connected to the grid have relays set at levels so that minor network disturbances can cause them to trip off.
- ▶ If a power line disconnects for a few seconds, the generator at the end of the line is temporarily disconnected from the wider network.
- ▶ This can be unsafe and lead to damage to the generator and anything the generator is powering, such as domestic appliances.
- ▶ Loss of Mains protection is there to make sure generators shut down safely.

### WHAT'S ON OFFER

Two levels of funding are available.

1. In most cases a simple protection device settings change is required and the generator will receive £1,500 for the first change and an additional £500 per relay after that to a maximum of five relays, totalling £4,000.
2. If relays need to be replaced, generators can receive £4,000 towards each one.

### AND...

A 'fast track scheme' has also been launched.

It pays generators meeting certain qualifying criteria, with a capacity of between 500kW and 5MW, an extra £5,000 if they can complete the work within four weeks of applying for funding.

# THE UGLY ONE

THE GOOD GRANTOR FIGHTING A HUMBLE VEGETABLE'S BAD PRESS

Third generation farmer Robin Buck loves an underdog. His trial list of niche crops includes fennel, globe artichokes, Jerusalem artichokes, the German turnip, kohlrabi, and Japanese radish, Mooli.

All have fallen by the wayside for many producers, but for almost three decades he's found success with one of the nation's most misunderstood vegetables.

Even his own website decries it as "arguably one of the ugliest going" but celeriac – triumphantly marketed by Robin's family farm in Lincolnshire as The Ugly One – is living and growing proof that it's what's on the inside that counts.

After trialling the strange-looking crop on a silt field from a root cutting his sister gave him in 1988, the semi-retired grandfather's 14-strong team now farms 400 acres of the stuff.

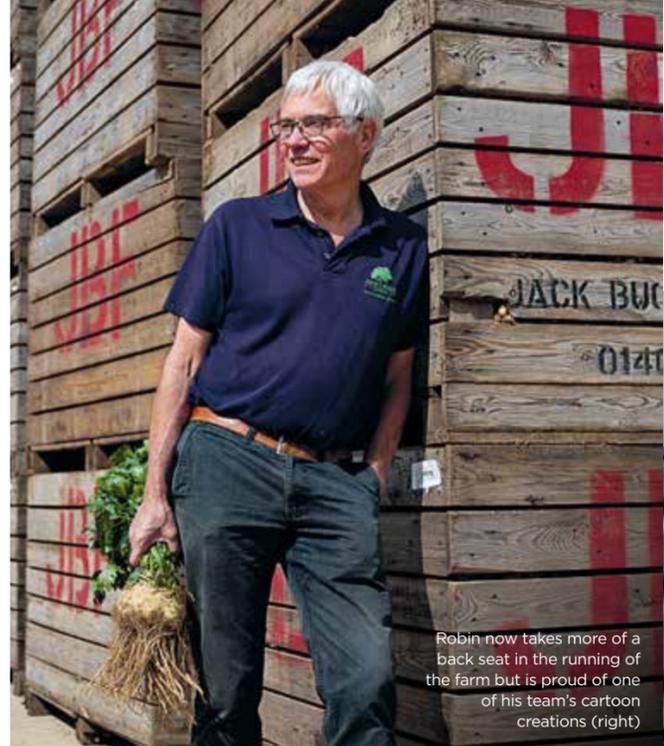
## NICHE MARKET

Robin, 72, who with his brother, David, built up the farm started by his great grandfather in the 19th century, has captured a niche market for one of the most versatile vegetables in existence.

The Jack Buck Farms website – the farm takes its name from Robin's father – features recipes galore for the high-fibre, cholesterol-free root, which comes into its own as chips lightly curried, oiled and oven baked.

"It's gorgeous boiled, mashed, grated, roasted, in soup, even raw. From a growing perspective it's difficult to store and loves to rot, so we get the temperature down quickly. We have 30 years of mistakes behind us so we know how to look after it," said Robin.

That dry sense of humour played a part in Robin's marketing of this undervalued vegetable, whose humanised cartoon image adorns many of the farm's buildings: "Most people have never tried it. We're trying to address that because when they do, most love it for its earthy taste and carrot-like texture."



Robin now takes more of a back seat in the running of the farm but is proud of one of his team's cartoon creations (right)



Robin's team grow, top, lift, wash and pack 5,000 tonnes of it a year, starting low-key picking for local markets in August and moving into fully automated harvesting throughout November.

## DELIA'S DELIGHT

"There's steady demand and we've been busy keeping up with it while continuing to invest in the business, at the same time as being environmentally aware. We're at the stage now where if you see celeriac in a supermarket, it's highly likely it came from here."

The veg is one of the three staples of the 150-year-old Spalding business alongside potatoes and daffodils, but there was a time when it briefly couldn't cope with demand.

"In the mid-90s, Delia Smith highlighted the merits of celeriac and potato mash on TV and our sales quadrupled. She certainly put it on the map, and we're pleased to say it's remained there with those in the know," smiled Robin.

Restaurants, wholesalers and culinary luminaries, including Mary Berry with her simple celeriac remoulade salad recipe, have partnered it with meat and spuds or as a low-calorie replacement for potatoes.

Robin said: "We love our celeriac character and are proud of how people are taking this ugly but delicious little thing to their hearts. Long may it continue."



SERVES 2-4

## ROBIN'S BEST

Celeriac chips with a hint of curry (by Rachel Green)

- ▶ 1 large celeriac
- ▶ 1 tbsp medium curry powder
- ▶ Olive oil
- ▶ Knob of butter
- ▶ Salt and pepper

## METHOD

Cut celeriac into chunky chips, place in plastic bag and pour in 1-2 tbsps olive oil and curry powder. Shake bag to combine ingredients. Pour into roasting tin, add generous knob of butter and roast in hot oven at 220°C-240°C for 30-40 mins. Salt and pepper to taste.

## IN NUMBERS

ZERO 41

Robin's emissions target by 2040 is helped by his annual energy audit

Acres of land given over to wildlife, flora, fauna and wild flowers

5

Acres of trees and 6,000 metres of hedging planted

300

Solar panels generate 20% of the farm's energy



# LASTWORD

Get fit and watch your steps with these two great prizes

**WIN**



## GET FIT FOR THE FUTURE WITH A FITBIT WATCH

**Health and wellbeing has become even more of a priority during lockdown.**

The Fitbit Charge 4 will make it even more fun to stay fit, with an OLED touchscreen and connected GPS that lets you see texts and calls, monitor calories burned, check sleep patterns and crucially, keep an eye on your daily steps.. For a chance to win, answer the question below. You'll find the answer in this issue of the magazine. Clue: The answer is on page 7.

### Q How many miles of overhead lines do National Grid engineers have to monitor?

Email your answer, name and contact details to [gridline@madebysonder.com](mailto:gridline@madebysonder.com) – or send your entry to **Sonder Fitbit competition, Victoria Court, 8 Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 5AE to arrive no later than 25 February 2021.**



**WIN**

**Enter our photo competition and you could win a £100 gift voucher**

**This delightful shot of a bucket of lamb in the farmyard landed Mary Heath last edition's prize.**

Want to follow her lead? Send your picture with the theme "business as usual" to [gridline@madebysonder.com](mailto:gridline@madebysonder.com) by 25 February 2021 for a chance to win a shopping voucher of your choice.

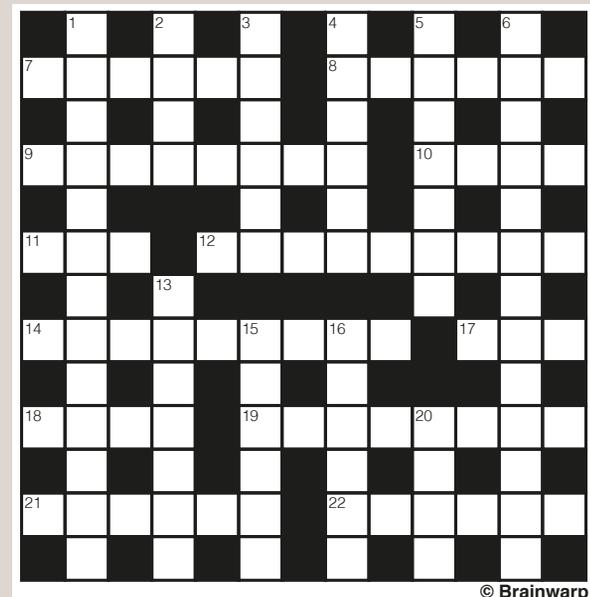
## JUST FOR FUN CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 7 Spring flower, may be yellow or purple, grown from a corm (6)
- 8 Term used for one of the many temporary homes used in Britain to house families after World War II (6)
- 9 Mixture of hydrocarbons derived from petroleum and used in the Internal Combustion Engine (8)
- 10 Region and former Kingdom of Scotland, famous as the home of golf (4)
- 11 Drink made from an infusion of malt by fermentation (3)
- 12 British island of volcanic origin in the South Atlantic (9)
- 14 Kingdom of south east Africa, bounded on the east by Mozambique, capital – Mbabane (9)
- 17 Nocturnal bird of prey, characterised by its large eyes and soundless flight (3)
- 18 Formerly, a measure for dry goods equivalent to one fourth of a bushel or two gallons (4)
- 19 Surname of the author of "Gone With The Wind" (8)
- 21 Allergic skin condition, marked by a rash and itching (6)
- 22 Plant which grows over trees, rocks etc often in very adverse conditions (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Sympathetic Franciscan in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" (5,8)
- 2 Nymph in Greek mythology who was condemned to the mountains to only repeat the last words of others (4)
- 3 The property of a deceased or insolvent person considered as chargeable for all debts (6)
- 4 A circle of society or field of activity (6)
- 5 The capital city of Northern Ireland (7)
- 6 Town in Essex which gained its wealth from wool and its crops for use in medicine and dyes (7,6)
- 13 Prophet of the Old Testament who preached the downfall of Jerusalem as retribution for the sins of Israel (7)
- 15 Mediaeval festival of harvest celebrated on August 1st (6)
- 16 Common plant which can sting and whose leaves are used in tea (6)
- 20 A term now applied to all white Rhine wines, but originally one made at Hochheim (4)



© Brainwarp

DOWN - 1 Friar Lawrence, 2 Echo, 3 Asseis, 4 Sphere, 5 Belfast, 6 Saffron Walden, 13 Ezekiel, 15 Lammias, 16 Nettle, 20 Hock  
 SOLUTION: ACROSS - 7 Crocus, 8 Pterab, 9 Gasolene, 10 Fife, 11 Ale, 12 Ascension, 14 Swaziland, 17 Owl, 18 Peck, 19 Mitchell, 21 Eczema, 22 Lichen

**COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** FITBIT: The winner will be the first entrant selected at random who correctly identifies the answer and is a National Grid grantor at time of draw. Editor's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Gridline reserves the right to change the prize without notice. It is not transferable and can't be exchanged for cash. National Grid always seeks feedback and opinions from stakeholders they interact with to better understand stakeholder requirements. By entering the competition you permit BMG Research to contact you on behalf of National Grid Gas/Electricity Transmission. Closing date: 25 February 2021. PHOTO: Winning image will be the most visually appealing and relevant to theme and will feature in the next edition. The winner must be a National Grid grantor. Editor's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Gridline reserves the right to change the prize without notice. It is not transferable and can't be exchanged for cash. Closing date:-25 February 2021. The winners' names will be published.

**nationalgrid**