

GRIDLINE

The magazine for landowners

SPRING 2015

nationalgrid

Meeting our Waterloo

A nation prepares to laud one of its greatest leaders

DON'T MESS WITH MILLY

The young farmer challenging tradition

Win

an iPad mini in our readers' survey
See page 20

Grantors' champion

Adam Henson talks exclusively to Gridline

PLUS: In search of a pint of perfection • We walk the line • The appliance of science • Win: A luxury hotel break

WELCOME TO GRIDLINE

Yet again, this edition of Gridline **showcases** the **entrepreneurial spirit** of grantors across the UK

We're absolutely delighted to have an interview with Countryfile presenter Adam Henson in this edition. His comments are a ringing endorsement of the resilience and entrepreneurial spirit of grantors around the UK.

We were flattered to see that the BBC programme's research team have also followed up on a few of the stories we've featured about grantors in previous editions - and Adam even took a few copies of the last edition for inspiration.

It just goes to show how appearing in Gridline can be a great springboard to showcasing the fantastic work your business is doing to emerge even stronger from tricky economic times.

Elsewhere in this edition we'll be explaining why it's so important for our linesmen to monitor your overhead cables and how you can work with them to make the process run even more smoothly.



We've also had a chat - unfortunately not over a pint - with micro brewery owner John Costello, who has created an award-winning and growing business based on good old traditional tastes.

If history is your thing, then take a look at the four-page

special, which celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and explores how it changed the course of European history.

Despite a formidable reputation even the Duke of Wellington might have met his match if he'd come up against Milly Wastie, a woman who doesn't mind ruffling a few feathers to make sure the public truly understands the importance of farming.

As always, I hope you enjoy the read.

Dawn McCarroll
Editor, Gridline



The National Grid Land team now have a new phone number - 0800 389 5113. This contact number can be used as a single point of contact for your regional Land team for all enquiries relating to wayleaves, easements, access to land and general enquiries. Queries regarding Electricity Wayleave Payments can continue to be made using this number. Please note that the current contact number for the South West Land team will cease as of 13 March 2015 and the South West Land team will only be contactable via 0800 389 5113; you will still be able to contact the South East, North West and Scotland, and East Land teams on their existing landline number.

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Some useful contact numbers

The Land & Business Support 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 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 654 844 for gas, or email 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: www.emfs.info

GAS EMERGENCY

➔ 0800 111 999

DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG

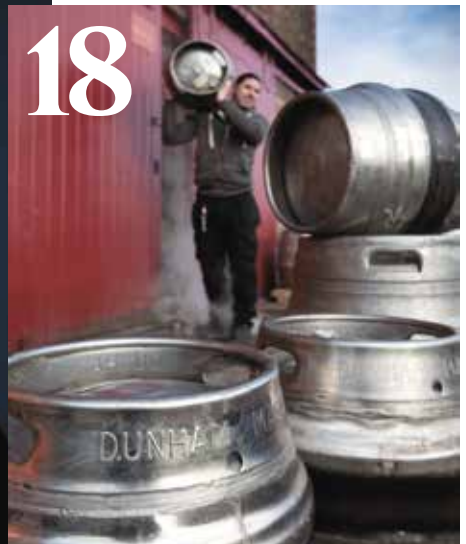
➔ Before carrying out any work in the vicinity of gas pipelines, overhead power lines or underground electric cables, you should contact Plant Protection on 0800 688 588 so that searches can be made to determine the exact position of any National Grid assets

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

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



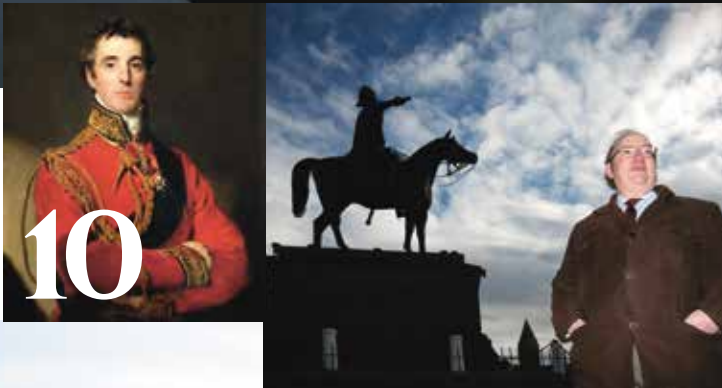
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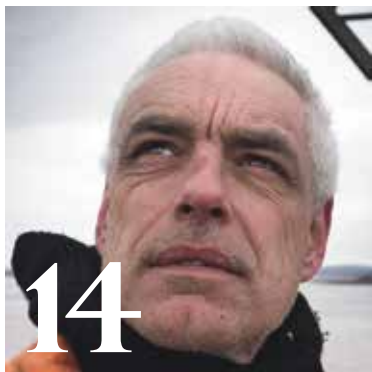
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New year,
new start

Colin Parsons captured the theme perfectly with this beautiful image to win a £150 spending spree. Fancy a shot? Turn to page 20.

The latest news from
National Grid and its
landowner partners



(l to r) David Smith, National Grid's investment delivery engineer, Andrew Shaw and Fiona Draisey, both park rangers (and in the background park ranger Gordon Danks)

Helping hand to protect precious moorland

NATIONAL GRID has made a donation to the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) to help it tackle disruptive moorland fires.

The company, which has recently replaced cables inside the Woodhead Tunnels, stepped in to help after learning how much

harm moorland fires can do to the local environment and wildlife.

Since 1976, there have been over 350 reported incidents of wildfires in the park, commonly started by arson, discarded cigarettes, barbecues and campfires. Some have been serious and lasted several days.

National Grid's donation has been used to purchase a new set of wheels for the team's Argo Centaur all-terrain vehicle, which is invaluable to access fires in remote areas, as well as a trailer to help transport the vehicle by Land Rover and two portable water containers.

Keeping the hive alive

National Grid has underlined its commitment to reversing the decline of the honey bee by becoming a corporate member of the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA).

The company has been working with the BBKA to provide secure sites for beehives and now has more than 30 beehives on 13 sites.

National Grid has signed up to the BBKA's Friends of the Honey Bee campaign, which aims to build a better future for

honey bees by planting more pollen-rich environments and funding research into the varroa mite that has decimated colonies.

It is hoped that National Grid land can become part of a natural grid - providing valuable platforms for biodiversity in the countryside.

Last year, National Grid was named Responsible Business of



the Year by Business in the Community (BITC) in recognition of its outstanding integration of responsible practice throughout its operations.

Group are putting the brake on cycle incidents

It's a sobering thought that cyclists are involved in around 19,000 road incidents each year, resulting in about 3,000 being killed or suffering life-changing injuries.

One woman who is determined to do her bit to change this statistic is Antonia Dennis (near right), an innovation analyst in National Grid's Gas Distribution business, who runs courses for employees on how to improve their cycle safety.

"Road positioning, hazard perception, defensive cycling, confidence and visibility are all key issues for cyclists developing a safe riding strategy," said Antonia, who represents the employee-run Two Wheel User Group (TWUG).

To date, more than 100 employees have been trained. TWUG has also successfully campaigned for cycle-friendly road improvements in the Warwick area.

Antonia is a member of the company's Cycle Safety Steering Group, which won a National Grid Chairman's Award last year for its continued promotion of cycle safety.

National Grid's own fleet of large vehicles have been fitted with safety innovations, such as bigger mirrors and sensors, to make it easier for drivers to detect cyclists.



First champion of the year

ROBERT WILLIAM JONES, of Lower Argoed Farm, near Builth Wells in Powys, has become the first winner of the NFU Cymru/NFU Mutual Livestock Champion of the Year Award.

The farmer, who is the son-in-law of National Grid gas grantor Ieuan Evans, was presented with a cheque for £300

and an engraved crystal trophy at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Winter Fair in December.

After leaving school and working on the family farm, Robert moved to Lower Argoed in 2003, where he and his wife focus on sheep, cattle

and grassland, along with arable crops to support the livestock enterprise.

Having the right livestock-handling procedures and equipment in place provides a safe working environment for farm workers, and are vital for animal welfare reasons.

"Robert's recognition and respect for health and safety is second to none," said Lyndon Edwards, chairman of NFU Cymru's Livestock Board.

The judges also praised his work coaching young farmers in livestock handling, passing on the key skills of an expert stockman.

Among those who have benefited is his own son Rhodri who, for the second year in succession, came first in the Jacob Sheep Society's prize for the best small flock, aged just 11.



Robert (right) receives his award at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society Winter Fair from Lyndon Edwards, Chairman of NFU Cymru's Livestock Board; (inset) Rhodri with his prize-winning sheep



One-minute interview



Tim Dulson, land officer south-west

BACKGROUND: I joined Land & Development in December last year, having spent four months as a sales representative for Würth Group.

CURRENT FOCUS: Liaising with grantors about gaining access for scheduled maintenance work on overhead power lines.

LEISURE INTERESTS: I'm keen on sport, and a lot of my free time is spent playing football or cricket, or at the pub with friends.

GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE: Sports equipment, such as cricket bats and football boots, as well as club membership fees.

IDEAL DINNER GUEST: Winston Churchill. I love reading about World War II and would ask him how he kept the country so united through the dark days.

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW: I used to play semi-pro football while still in the sixth form.

THE FILM I CAN WATCH TIME AND TIME AGAIN: Cool Runnings or Billy Elliot – both brilliant films that show you can do anything if you put your mind to it.

PRIZED POSSESSION: My under-13s league cup winner's medal and two cricket trophies for winning leagues 4 and 5 in the Gloucestershire County Divisions.



Steve Holliday (far right) with Prince Charles at the exhibition's official opening

Sparking the imagination at the Science Museum

NATIONAL GRID is among the principal sponsors of a three-year exhibition at the Science Museum in London, designed to inspire and engage young people about the exciting world of engineering.

Steve Holliday, CEO of National Grid, said: "Engineering is creating the future. The internet, the tablet computer, space rockets, the electricity grid that supplies your homes, were all designed, built and maintained by engineers. If creating the things that are going to shape all our futures excites you, then wouldn't you want to be an engineer?"

Discovery

It's hoped that up to three million visitors a year – mainly of school age – will discover some of the fascinating stories of the men and women who work in engineering today.

Visitors to the exhibition, which has no admission fee, are encouraged to test their problem-solving skills in a number of high-quality interactive games and digital experiences. For example, in one game they can design their own vehicle to move across an alien

landscape, competing with other player's rovers, while also 'managing' the flow of electricity through a transmission grid, driving a train through a railway network or running an airport baggage handling system.

Skills gap

Over the next decade, the UK needs 1.8 million engineers to enter the profession. There are

currently only 21,000 on engineering degrees and the number of apprentices qualifying in Science, Technology Engineering and Maths needs to double to avoid a huge skills gap.

For more information...



... go to sciencemuseum.org.uk/engineeryourfuture



Solar eclipse didn't put us in the shadows

The effects of a total solar eclipse on power grids were successfully managed by National Grid, despite the increasing amounts of solar power connected to the network.

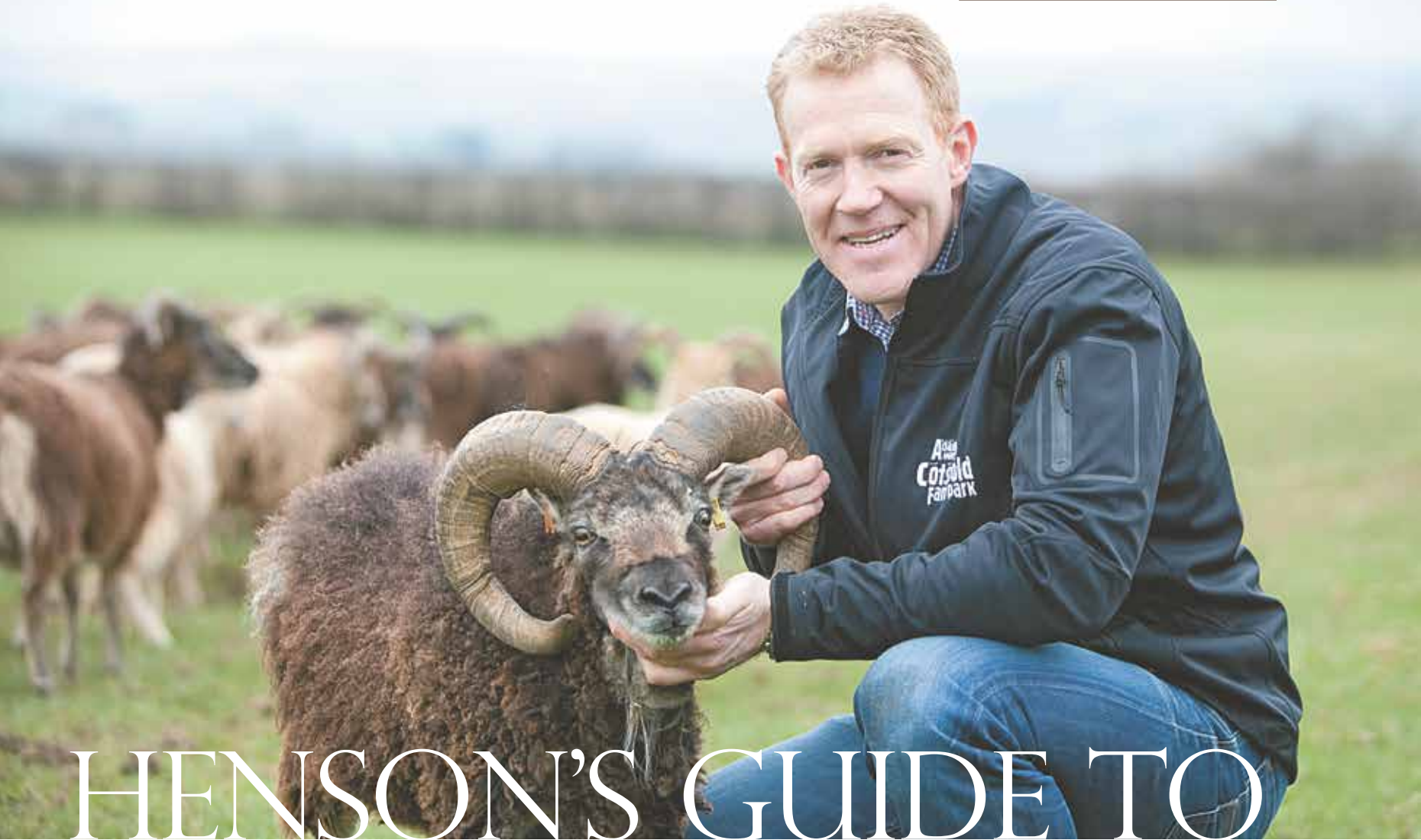
The month's solar eclipse was the first major event in Central Europe since 1999.

During the previous solar eclipse, the main challenge arose

from the surge of power after the event, rather than the loss of power during it.

The event saw one of the largest demand dips ever on the system of 2200MW, and a pickup of 3000MW, which is still the largest surge in the UK to date.

"There was less interest in this eclipse, as it wasn't as dramatic," said Jeremy Caplin, energy forecasting manager at National Grid. "As anticipated, the drop in demand resulting from people watching the eclipse was partially offset by the loss of photovoltaic generation, which made our lives easier in the control room. Even if it had been the sunniest March day on record, we would have had sufficient reserves in place to manage the swings in demand and photovoltaic generation."



HENSON'S GUIDE TO HAPPINESS

The **friendly face** of Sunday night **television** speaks to Gridline about the harsh **reality** of farming, his **pride in British agriculture** and why it's vital to **love what you do**

Adam Henson is well aware he's a very lucky man, but not for the reasons his eight million weekly viewers might think.

Outwardly, the astute, PR-savvy prime-time television presenter has it all - a thriving business, a compelling media presence and the rugged charm that comes with working the land. But you have to look a lot closer to home to find out why the 48-year-old Countryfile host is truly content with his seemingly hectic lot.

"I have a lot of commitments in terms

of filming and media, but the work on the farm and my family keep me thoroughly grounded, and that is vitally important," he said.

"You can diversify from your core business or commercial activity, but the most important thing is that you have to be happy with what you are doing. If not, what's the point?"

Down-to-earth, affable and kind probably sum the father-of-two up. What you see on television is pretty much what you get. And that, he modestly supposes, is why the public have warmed to his Sunday night slot.

But there is a gritty, astute side to him too ➔



“There’s a new generation of farmers coming through who realise they have to innovate and take the occasional risk to be successful”

that undoubtedly tempts the watching millions to tune in and learn about the myriad of opportunities the countryside has to offer.

He said: “I think I bring honesty and integrity. I’m happy to talk about the downside of what farmers do and the challenges they face because that is the reality. It’s often very tough.”

Fascinating

Adam’s father Joe opened the Cotswold Farm Park, near Stow-on-the-Wold, in 1971. It was revolutionary then and Adam inherited it in 1999, two years before he broke into television.

“My dad was the pioneer for making a visitor attraction out of farming and conservation, and showed you can make your business pay for your hobby. He was ahead of his time in bringing the public closer to and raising awareness of the countryside, and I still turn to him for advice now,” Adam said.

“The foot-and-mouth epidemic in 2001 put the countryside on the news every day and



Adam attributes his success and that of Countryfile to growing awareness of rural issues among the British public

made people think more about where their food came from. Nowadays, the care of food and its provenance is a key selling point.”

But Adam insists it is the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit that crises like that and the recession spark among farmers large and small that sets British agriculture apart.

He said: “Around 55% of farmers have a second job, either through necessity or interest. That’s what makes them so fascinating and what makes my job on Countryfile so easy.

“I applaud diversification spotlighted by magazines like Gridline because it shows that farmers are overcoming pressures created by weather, animal and plant disease, as well as economic and political factors.”

Adam’s rise to the position of countryside champion is built on hard work, but also owes much to the gradual growing awareness of all things rural in the British public.

“People are a lot more in tune with where their food comes from now and have greater



According to Adam, mission, vision, proposition and having fun are the keys to diversification

knowledge of the work that goes into getting it to the farmers' market or butcher," he said.

"There's a new generation of farmers coming through who realise they have to innovate and take the occasional risk to be successful, but if you have a business head or surround yourself with people who do, those risks become minimal. Gone are the days when if you drank cider and could use a scythe you were a farmer."

Try something new

Adam's farm, which boasts 50-plus rare breeds of pigs, sheep and goats, has grown to a near year-round operation run by 60 people and welcoming 100,000 visitors each year: "I couldn't do it without the team around me, and that is critical if you want to diversify and try something new.

"I have come back from a shoot with a great idea and put it to the team, who understand business, sales and marketing, and they've said 'no Adam, it doesn't fit with what we want to achieve', so I disappear off until my next idea."

The entrepreneur, who revealed talks have been held over a Gordon Ramsay-style farm troubleshooter programme, believes landowners looking to expand from traditional farming need to come at the project from a different angle: "Often they have the idea and then decide how to do it, but I've learned from people around me that you first need to have a mission statement, a brand vision and corporate proposition, and work back from that.

"You also need to react quite quickly if things aren't working like you thought they would. We've had projects that weren't performing, so we shelved them and looked for another angle, but I'm glad to say the ale brewed from Maris Otter barley grown on the farm is doing very well."

He believes anyone deserves the right to thrive in the countryside, even the growing ranks of new arrivals leaving the cities to set up smallholdings: "When my dad tried to open the farm, locals launched a petition to stop it because of fears about the traffic. But anything that boosts the rural economy has to be applauded, which is why it's positive that businesses like National Grid are supportive of grantor enterprises."

Passion for and pleasure from his job shine through in Adam's zesty approach: "You have to love what you're doing or see it purely as a means of diversifying to increase your opportunities to be happy with your lot. But surely the worst outcome is never to have tried."



From little acorns...

➔ One firm showed Adam Henson how the smallest low-risk diversification can snowball into something big and worthwhile when he visited Dartmoor-based Lily Warne Wool, where owner Paula Steer's Grey Faced Dartmoor sheep produce some of the nation's finest wools.

Adam said: "To celebrate the 100-year anniversary of WWI, the shop asked local ladies in Devon to use their wool to crochet scarlet poppies. They produced thousands and gave £1 from each sale to the British Legion. They sold out very quickly."

The enterprise earned the company, set up by Paula's great-great-grandmother Lily, a place on Countryfile and raised money for charity. Adam said: "It shows that diversification doesn't have to be on a large scale and can unite communities."

For more information...



... visit www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk
– Adam's Cotswold Farm Park is open from 14 February to 20 December 2015

1815: A MONUMENTAL YEAR IN HISTORY

A massive equestrian statue of the **Duke of Wellington** is among a host of **memorials** sharing the spotlight, as the **bicentennial anniversary** of the **Battle of Waterloo** approaches

Arm outstretched, directing troops into battle, the giant bronze figure of the Duke of Wellington is an imposing sight on its hilltop position.

The impressive structure in the garrison town of Aldershot, Hampshire, is among 734 scheduled monuments on land owned by the Ministry of Defence - one of National Grid's biggest grantors.

Scores of memorials across the country bear silent witness to the outpouring of national pride that followed Wellington's great victory over Napoleon Bonaparte on 18 June 1815.

Despite this, for many people today, Waterloo means little more than the name of a railway station. So the 200th anniversary of the battle in June provides a unique opportunity to remember the event's historical significance and how it acted as a catalyst for change.

A seismic event in European history, the Battle of Waterloo ended more than 20 years of bloody conflict with France, and ushered in a half century of relative calm.

Peaceful

Waterloo became, in Victor Hugo's words, 'the tomb of France', derailing Napoleon Bonaparte's quest for continental domination and clearing the way for Britain to build an empire. Significantly, the two powers would never again cross swords.

The Wellington statue in Aldershot has stood peacefully on Round Hill, behind the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints, since 1885. But this was only its final resting place in a journey that had started in controversial circumstances.

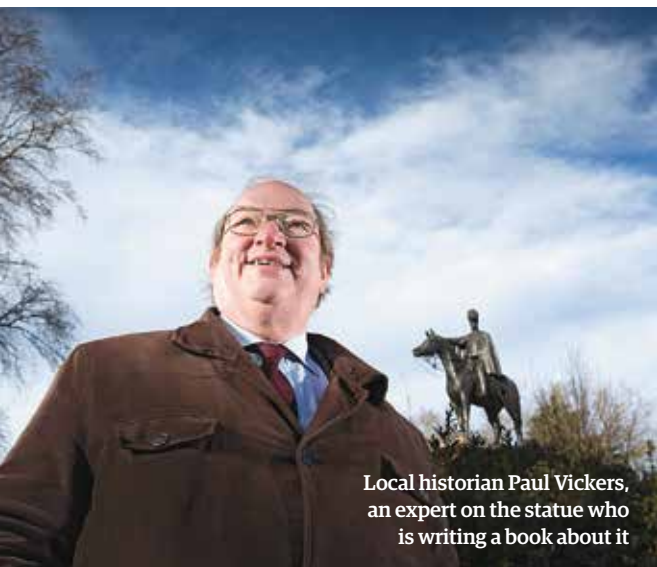
Local historian Paul Vickers, who works as an information services specialist at the Army's Prince Consort Library nearby, has been giving talks about the statue for the past 20 years, and is writing a book about its fascinating history.

The origins of the statue go back to the years that followed Waterloo, when a number of triumphal projects were begun, including Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square and the victory arch at Hyde Park Corner.

In 1837, a committee led by the Duke of Rutland began raising £30,000 by private subscription for Matthew Cotes Wyatt to design the largest equestrian statue ever seen to that point, weighing 40 tonnes and standing 30ft high. "It was an astonishing piece of engineering," enthused Paul. "The sculpture was cast in eight pieces, using two great furnaces, and took 30 men three years to complete. Some of the bronze was taken from melted down French cannons, most notably for Wellington's head."

On its completion in 1846, the statue was controversially hoisted to the top of the unfinished victory arch, close to the Duke's London residence, where many people thought it looked out of proportion to the arch. A government vote to take the sculpture down was defeated after the Duke let it be known to his 'friends' that such a move would be 'in the highest degree offensive, if not an indignity'. By the time of his death in 1852, the public had become used to the statue.

It was eventually removed in 1883 when the arch was repositioned to accommodate a road-widening scheme.



Local historian Paul Vickers, an expert on the statue who is writing a book about it



(left) Closing the Gates at Hougoumont by Robert Gibb. Defenders hold back the French onslaught at a critical juncture of the battle; (below) The statue in its original location on the Wellington Arch in London



(left) An information board on the site of the statue; (right) The statue after its removal from the Wellington Arch



MOVING THE WELLESLEY STATUE, HYDE PARK COSSER (SKETCHED APRIL 24)

After further heated debate lasting a year, it was decided to move the sculpture to the garrison town of Aldershot, where the Prince of Wales said it would be 'highly valued by the army'. It was moved in six pieces during August 1884 by Pickford & Co, the largest sections on a special trolley pulled by 16 horses, and installed on Round Hill in August the following year.

"I'm often asked why it is not in a more prominent position, but at the time, it was at the centre of the army camp, with troops passing it every day on their way from barracks to training areas," said Paul.

Pristine

In 2004, working parties of troops, in partnership with local conservation groups and volunteers, cleared vegetation from the site, and professional restorers cleaned and re-bronzed the sculpture back to a pristine state.

Since that time, a watchful eye has been maintained by the Friends of the Aldershot

"It's fitting that the largest equestrian statue commemorating Britain's greatest general is based at Aldershot, 'home of the British army'"

Military Museum group - which Paul is a founder member of. Spotlights and information boards have been installed, and there are plans to restore the original paths and railings.

"The statue remains a highly valued symbol of the town's pride in its military heritage," said Paul. "It's fitting that the largest equestrian statue commemorating Britain's greatest general is based at Aldershot, the acknowledged 'home of the British army'"

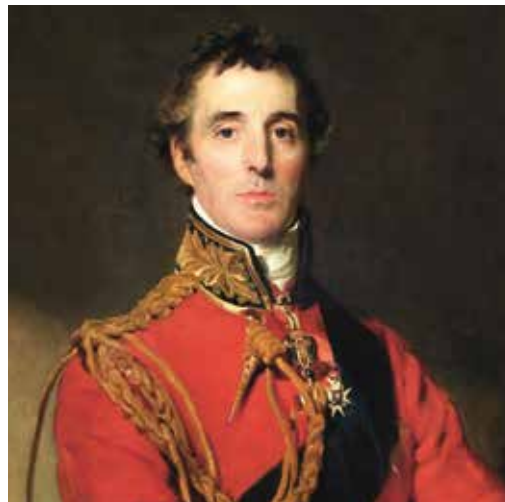




A near run thing

Having escaped from the Isle of Elba in spring 1815, Napoleon (above) raised an army of 120,000 soldiers, and advanced into what is now Belgium, hoping to crush the armies of Wellington and the Prussians, under Field Marshall von Blucher, piecemeal before they could unite.

After initial successes, he was defeated at Waterloo, 10 miles outside Brussels, where the balance was tipped by the arrival of Prussian reinforcements. The battle lasted 11 hours and involved 200,000 men, 60,000 horses and 537 guns on a patch of land just five miles square. There were nearly 50,000 fatalities - a density of killing that exceeded that of the Somme in 1916. "I always say that next to a battle lost, the greatest misery is a battle won," said the Duke.



The Iron Duke

Considered one of the finest military commanders in British history, Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington, took part in more than 60 battles.

After Waterloo he returned to Britain a hero and a grateful nation presented him with an estate in Berkshire (Stratfield Saye), purchased for £263,000 (equal to more than £18 million today). He later served two stints as prime minister, where his opposition to parliamentary reform made him unpopular with the masses.

The Duke retained considerable influence as an elder statesman right up to his death in 1852, aged 83, at Walmer Castle, his official residence as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

He was given a state funeral at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

It's a fact

➔ Wellington is probably the most painted and sculpted individual in British history, with 339 images of him in the National Portrait Gallery alone.

➔ The Duke of Wellington's nickname the 'Iron Duke' refers to the iron shutters installed on the windows of his London home after they were smashed by mobs protesting against his opposition to the Reform Bill.

➔ Wellington boots were named after him, but his boots were made of leather, not rubber. A cut-down version of the existing Hessian boot, they quickly gained a strong following in fashionable circles.

A summer of commemorations

Waterloo 200, the government-backed charity co-ordinating the commemorations, is working with schools to encourage pupils to learn about the battle and its impact, and has launched a website with an online exhibition of 200 battle artefacts - visit www.nam.ac.uk/waterloo200/

Other events

5 JUNE Battle of Waterloo 200th anniversary concert, Royal Albert Hall.

10-11 JUNE Beating the Retreat - Waterloo Remembered at the Horse Guards Parade, London.

18 JUNE Service of National Homage at St Paul's Cathedral, attended by a senior member of the Royal Family, descendants of combatants and representatives from regiments.

21 JUNE The New Waterloo Despatch (re-creation of the journey of Wellington's victory despatch in 1815 by carriage to the Prince Regent, in London).

17-21 JUNE The battlefield of Waterloo, Belgium

Two major historical re-enactments are planned featuring 5,000 participants, 300 horses and 100 cannons.



Wellington's homes

STRATFIELD SAYE

Still the Wellington family home, the permanent exhibition includes the Duke's 18-tonne decorated funeral carriage, while his favourite stallion, Copenhagen, is buried in the grounds.

APSLEY HOUSE

Managed by English Heritage, the Duke's London residence is today a treasure trove of paintings, silver and porcelain. Reopens in April with new displays for Waterloo200.

WALMER CASTLE, KENT

It became the official residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports (pictured above). Wellington held the post for 23 years and the armchair in which he died can still be seen.

Victoria Gallery and Museum, Liverpool

(5 JUNE - 24 OCT)

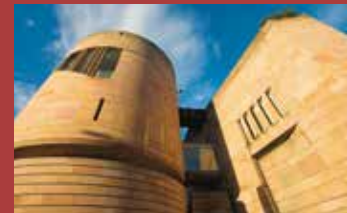
See the Eagle standard of the French 105th regiment captured at Waterloo, along with the macabre 'Waterloo teeth', plucked from the jaws of the fallen and sold to dentists.



National Museum of Scotland

8 MAY - 20 SEPT

Displays explore the legacy of the battle within Scotland 'from public celebrations to political unrest, the celebrity of veterans and the birth of battlefield tourism'.



The National Portrait Gallery

UNTIL 7 JUNE

Trace Wellington's journey from military hero to unpopular PM in 59 portraits, revealing the 'man behind the myth'.



The British Museum

UNTIL 16 AUGUST

An exhibition exploring how Napoleon's career was viewed in the caricatures of great satirical artists such as James Gillray and George Cruikshank.



The Royal Green Jackets Museum, Winchester

25 MARCH - 30 SEPT

A fine collection of artefacts from the period 1797-1815, including a miniature battlefield with 30,000 model soldiers and horses.



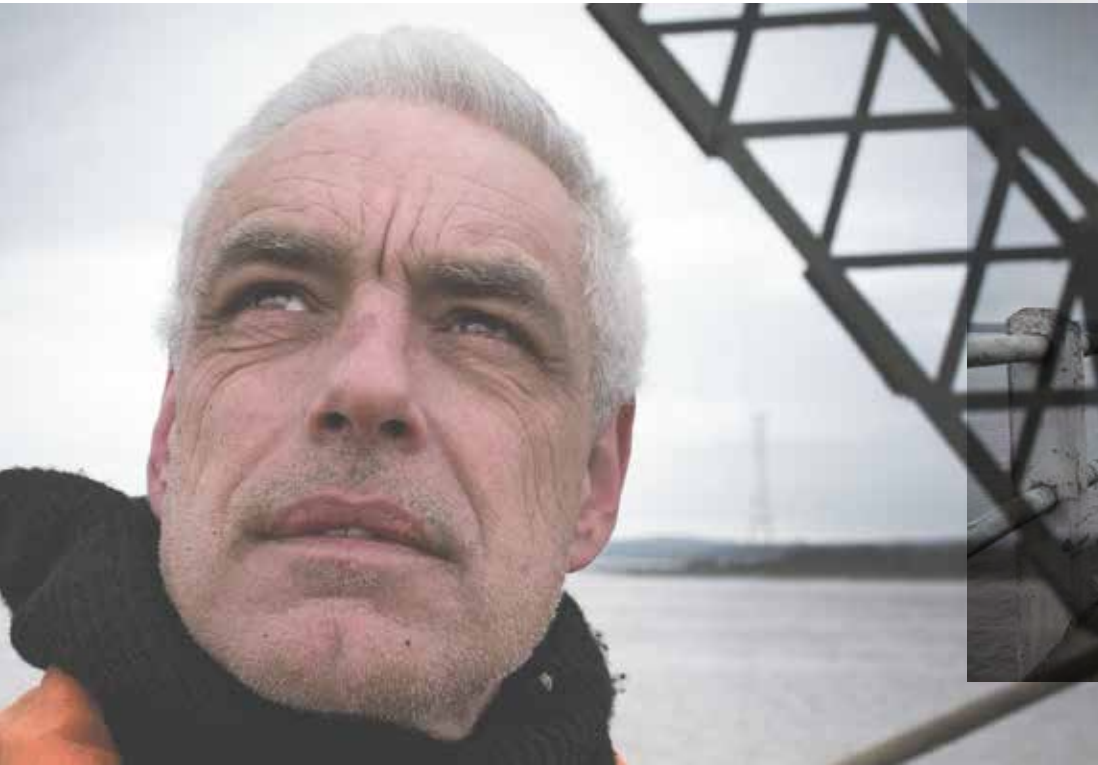
Windsor Castle

UNTIL 13 JAN 2016

Tour the state apartments to view a display of prints, drawings and archival material, including the beautiful red cloak belonging to Napoleon, presented to the King by Field-Marshal von Blucher.



Image credits:
 Closing the Gates at Hougoumont - National Museums Scotland
 The photo of the sculpture on the Wellington Arch - English Heritage
 Picture of statue being moved - Illustrated London News
 Portraits of Wellington and Napoleon - English Heritage
 Photos of Walmer Castle - English Heritage



WALK THE LINE

There's **no substitute** for getting a **close-up look** at our **overhead lines**.

National Grid land officer Catherine Price and linesman John Jones **explain why**

Gridline: Why are these patrols needed?

Catherine: We have a legal duty to monitor and risk assess the condition and safety of overhead lines and access rights are embedded within wayleave and easement agreements with grantors. The checks are vital to ensure both security of supply and the safety of the line.

John: All lines are inspected on foot annually, backed by visual condition monitoring patrols by helicopter. Occasionally, we may have to climb a pylon to check on its condition, but much of this work is done by helicopters with high-definition cameras.

Gridline: Why can't helicopters do all the inspections?

John: Helicopters are very efficient, capable of inspecting up to 200 spans during a single flight. We also use them to carry out annual thermal imaging surveys in winter with infrared cameras to check for 'hot spots' that could indicate faulty equipment. However, they can't be used in some built-up residential areas or close to airports and, in some cases, grantors request that we

don't fly over areas where there are young or skittish animals, such as horses.

Gridline: When do foot patrols take place?

Catherine: The vast majority are from September and March, prior to the main planned outage season in the spring and summer, when power on certain lines is switched out for maintenance. While the winter may not be the ideal time of year for walking, a high proportion of livestock will be indoors and many crops are dormant, so impacts on landowners will be minimal.

Some older lines, those with known defects scheduled for repair, and lines that are subject to extra wear and tear from high winds or corrosion, for example,

The linesmen keep an eagle eye on trees that could affect safety clearances, pylon damage and birds' nests



At 514ft, the pylons that carry electricity cables across the Severn Estuary are the second tallest in the UK. The location is patrolled on a regular basis by National Grid linesmen, reflecting its important role supplying power to south-west England



may be visited more frequently. Also visited more frequently are those pylons deemed to be at a higher risk because of their location near, for example, a motorway, rail or river crossing.

Gridline: How much notice is usually given?

Catherine: Letters are normally sent out to affected grantors indicating a six-month time frame within which visits will be made. We can't guarantee an exact date because of variable weather conditions and other factors that can impact schedules.

Gridline: Who carries out the inspections?

John: We have linesmen based at 12 substations around the country. Normally, a single person

“It's important to tell us about any potential hazards that need to be considered on the day, including any animals, such as bulls, in a field, any planned shooting activities or crop spraying”

will walk along the line between each tower. Between 10 and 15 towers can be surveyed in a typical day, depending on the weather and terrain. The inspections are visual checks - no heavy equipment or vehicle access is required.

Gridline: How are the checks carried out?

John: High-powered binoculars are used to assess the condition of the towers, insulators, conductors and fittings. We're looking for a variety of things, such as trees that impinge on safety clearances, damage to anti-climbing devices, cracks in footings and the presence of bird nests.

All observations are entered into a handheld device and the

reports fed back to the Condition Monitoring department, which communicates with field engineers who fix the defects.

Gridline: How can grantors help?

Catherine: It's important to tell us about possible hazards on the day, including any animals, such as bulls, in a field, planned shooting activities, crop spraying, or the presence of electric fencing. We need to know as soon as possible if biosecurity measures need to be taken in areas with livestock or crops. Landowners should also advise us if we need to liaise with tenants or land managers - and, if necessary, we can collect keys from a nominated person if there are locked gates for security purposes, such as at forestry sites.

Gridline: What else are the patrols looking out for?

John: The inspections are an opportunity to identify risks to spans and towers that could arise from new land uses or other activities in the vicinity. This might include a new building or road, the building of a haystack that infringes safety distances from power lines, or the introduction of fishing at a lake crossed by conductors.

Catherine: We follow up any reports that identify a new risk by contacting the grantor and, if necessary, will carry out a site assessment to help the landowner mitigate risks and implement safety precautions.

Contact Gridline



It's important that accurate records are kept of contact details so that we can provide safety information and contact you when maintenance work is needed. To update us with changes call 0800 389 5113 for electric, 01926 654 844 for gas, or email grantorservices@nationalgrid.com



BE AFRAID!

Inspirational Milly's all set
to **challenge** the **establishment**





She's earned an ovation from hard-bitten farmers, she's silenced chattering male landowners and she certainly isn't afraid to speak her mind.

Not yet 30, but with a precocious ability to cut through jargon, it's a good bet the agricultural industry will see - and hear - a lot more of Milly Wastie.

Remember the name. She's determined to follow in the bootprints of countryside pioneers like Kate Humble to bring the importance of farming to the masses.

She makes no bones about being a thorn in the side of the establishment for the benefit of British farmers and the families they serve.

"I want us to focus on what really matters and that's raising public awareness of where food actually comes from," she said.

Her campaign appears to be working. She's just picked up an accolade for her advocacy work from the Inspiration Awards for women, battling away prejudices in a predominantly male profession wary of change.

"I want us to focus on what really matters and that's raising public awareness of where food actually comes from"

She said: "There are a lot of preconceived ideas among the agricultural fraternity and yes, there is still the belief that only men should guide policy.

"But more noticeable is the view that because you are young, you can't speak with authority about agriculture. I think I do, but in a jargon-free way the public would understand, that's all."

Milly, whose full-time job for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution revolves around welfare for farmers' families beset by tragedy, has emerged through the ranks of the Young Farmers Association and is active on social media.

The young grantor exudes boundless energy and enthusiasm for the task - just as well given the fact that she also mucks in at her fiance's

Northamptonshire cattle farm whenever she can.

"There has been a step change in getting more women involved in the industry, but there is still discrimination. I've made friends in the right places to overcome it, but I'm also not averse to asking for help."

Triumph over adversity

Affable and refreshingly blunt, business and management graduate Milly suffers none of the stage fright that comes with challenging an establishment steeped in tradition for one so young.

Bullied for 'being different' at her school on the outskirts of Oxford because of her rural bent, she has used that determination to triumph over adversity to convince even her harshest critics that her vision for British agriculture means as much as that of the next man.

"I gave a speech at a Young Farmers dinner and a group of older chaps just started chatting amongst themselves. I stopped talking and invited them to come up and have the conversation over

the microphone or learn some manners," she said.

"It was nerve-wracking at first, but the organisers emailed me after to thank me. I care passionately about

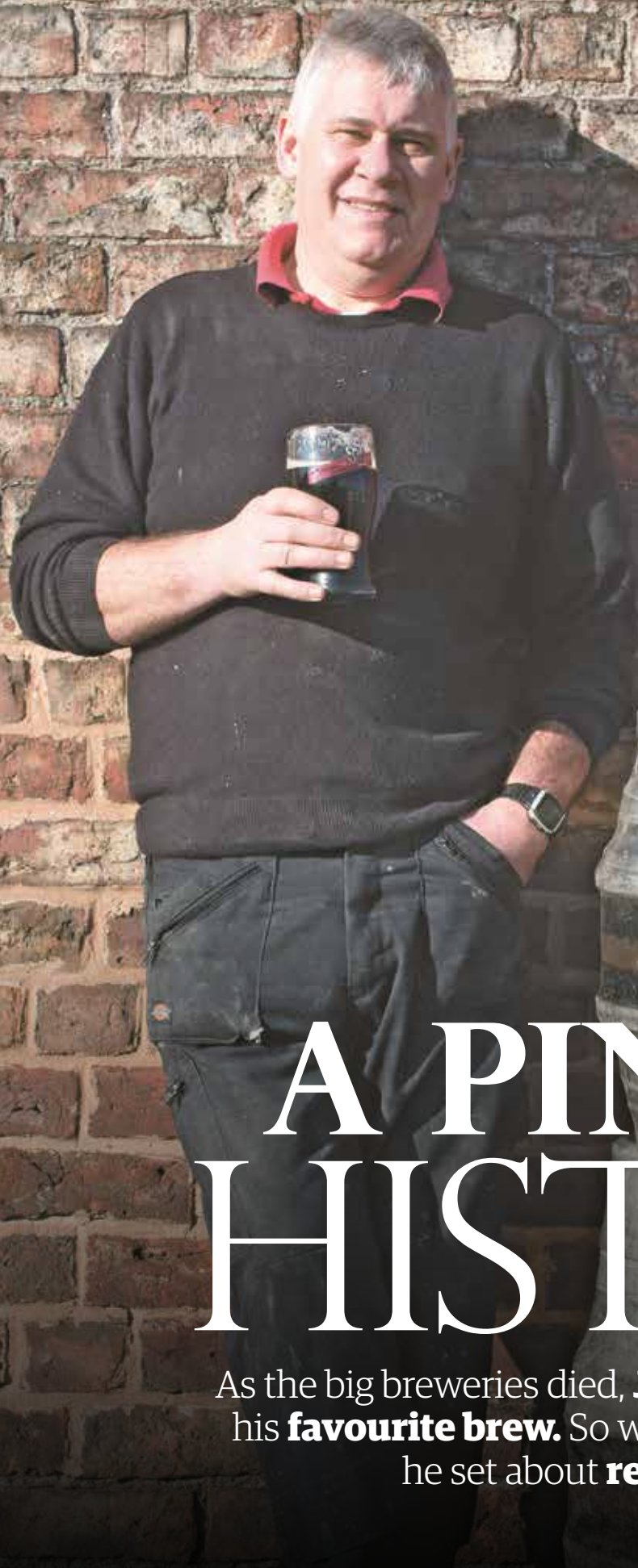
raising awareness among the public of where food actually comes from and how it's produced, so I don't worry too much if I upset people.

"There needs to be more collaboration within the industry to educate people not to take food for granted, that we need farmers three times a day, for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We have lost the real connection with our food."

Milly, who put her campaigning work on hold during lambing at the 360-acre farm just off the M6, wants to be seen as the modern, slightly edgy face of farming in the years to come.

She wants to challenge the prejudice that you need 30 years plus of agricultural experience to know what you're talking about... and anyone who doesn't listen risks a flea in their ear.





A PINT OF HISTORY

As the big breweries died, **John Costello** hankered after his **favourite brew**. So when circumstances changed, he set about **recreating history**

Like pilgrims heading to a promised land, walkers on the National Trust trail are constant visitors to John Costello's tiny brewery.

They share tales of their favourite local brews with messianic zeal, debating the merits of hoppiness, maltiness and aftertastes of their favourite tipples.

It means that the passion for something a little different is alive and well... and that's good news for John and his family.

Growing up, he was always partial to a drop of mild, as a cheaper alternative to more established beers. Then, in common with many men and increasing numbers of women, John broadened his tastes.

His love for a traditional pint never left him after he fell in love with the brews of long since defunct north-west names like Boddingtons, Walkers and Tetley's.

The demise of the latter, where the former marine engineer had worked his way through the ranks, prompted him to think about starting his own brewery. But the combination of a big mortgage, young children and sensible wife - she now looks after the bottling and labelling - forced him to stick to a secure salary.

But then redundancy from his next job, reduced home repayments and the need for a fresh challenge meant Dunham Massey Brewery was about to take flight.

Now, eight years on, a disused grain barn in a picturesque hamlet on the edge of the National Trust's beautiful Dunham Massey estate is home to 23 traditionally brewed beers, all produced from local malt and hops.

Inspiration

"I wrote to the National Trust and they offered me the barn. We needed good drainage, electricity and clean, easy to wash walls, and this place had none of them," he laughed.

Helped by friends and his two sons, Anthony and Jason, now 29 and 26, John turned the former Quaker meeting house into a small but viable base for the fledgling business.

Within months, his first batches of Deer Beer and Big Tree Bitter, both named after estate landmarks, were picking up plaudits from the Campaign for Real Ale, which has gone on to award the family a string of accolades. John said: "My background taught me a lot and was my inspiration to recreate some of the great beers from the north-west."

"We've kept the actual brewing operation small, but used it as the base for expanding into other things. I'm now employing around 40 people and boosting the local economy, and I'm very proud of that"

Back then he had just one mash tun - a container where the malt is initially mixed with water or liquor - one copper to heat the ingredients and two fermenting vessels, where the mix turns to alcohol before being cooled and eventually bottled.

The operation has since trebled output, with seven fermenting tanks, but is still small enough to be contained in the barn and to produce a manageable 1,500 barrels a year... that's a lip-licking 432,000 pints.

Passion and pursuit of perfection are core to the family brewery's ales, which include pale bitter Little Bollington - a nod to Boddingtons and the nearby village of Bollington - and the award-winning Chocolate Cherry mild.



"Brewing is an exact science, so if the acidity of the malt changes in a new season, it will affect the taste. That's why we occasionally tweak the quantities to ensure that we get the best quality every time," said business management degree graduate Jason.

"Marketing is all word of mouth and reputation. We don't deliver further than 15 miles and keep favourites like Big Tree on all year round. Sensible prices ensure a loyal following keen to back their local beer."

Price and quality

Around 150 pubs and specialist beer outlets take the Dunham Massey ales. John has also leased two pubs of his own and has opened a second brewery in nearby Lymm.

He said: "We've kept the actual brewing operation small, but used it as the base for expanding into other things. I'm now employing around 40 people and boosting the local economy, and I'm very proud of that."

While admitting 'anyone could brew' he says finding the perfect blend of character-giving malt and bitter-creating hops is an art refined through countless trials: "We focus on price and quality. There are lots of small breweries, but many offer an average product."

John, a cask ale and white wine lover, is delighted when he's approached by visitors to the estate looking to take home a couple of the 52,000 bottles produced on-site each year.

He said: "When they tell us about their local ales, you feel their passion. We're maintaining tradition and creating a base for my lads to take the business forward if they want to."



The perfect pint

1. **Mashing** - milled grain and hot water (liquor) are added to the mash tun, allowing the malt enzymes to break down the starch in the grain to form a malty liquid called wort.
2. **The Copper** - the wort is boiled in a heated tank or copper for 60 to 90 minutes to bring out the flavour and bitterness of the hops. The liquid temperature is then reduced and the yeast added in the next stage.
3. **Fermentation** - the liquid is pumped into fermentation vessels, where the yeast converts the sugars from the malt into alcohol or beer before dropping to the bottom of the tank, where it is harvested to be reused.
4. **Cask conditioning** - the unfiltered and unpasteurised beer is transferred to a clean cask, where it is conditioned and then sent on to pubs.

Lastword

Your chance to enter three great competitions



Photo competition

Congratulations to Colin Parsons, our 'new year, new start' photo competition winner, for this stunning picture taken while on a walk near his home in Hawkshead. Colin said: "The weather was pretty horrible and the snowdrops were the only sign of new life. When I read what the theme was, this photo sprang to mind."

WIN! A spa hotel getaway for two

GET AWAY FROM THE CROWD and spoil yourselves with a luxury spa break for two with our new Gridline competition.

The retreat package includes a night's accommodation in a stylish room for you and one other person, as well as access to a luxurious spa and a delicious breakfast in the morning.

The break can be booked from a range of different locations across the UK, whether you like city, country or coast, so there's sure to be somewhere near you.

Whatever your preference of place to stay, there is something for everyone, from boutique hotels to historic halls and peaceful country retreats.

If you're feeling energetic and the hotel has a gym, you can also access the workout facilities during your stay.

For your chance to win, all you have to do is answer this simple question. The answer is elsewhere in this edition.



Q How many visitors does Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park receive a year?

Send your answer, name and contact details to Summersault Gridline Spa Break Competition, Victoria Court, 8 Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5AE or email them to gridline@summersault.co.uk. **Closing date is 18 May 2015.**

COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS
LUXURY 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 18 May 2015.
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 18 May 2015. Prints cannot be returned.



WIN!

AN IPAD MINI

Help us to make Gridline even better by filling in a simple online reader survey for a chance to win an iPad mini. It will only take a minute or so and will help us understand what you like and don't like about the magazine. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/Gridline2015 to enter. The winner will be chosen from online entries on 18 May 2015.



WIN!

A £150 M&S SHOP SPREE

Banish the winter blues with Gridline's photo competition and a chance to win a £150 M&S voucher? Send your shot on the theme 'darling buds of spring' to Summersault Gridline Photo Competition, Victoria Court, 8 Dormer Place, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5AE or email it to gridline@summersault.co.uk. Closing date is 18 May 2015.

Only National Grid grantors can enter and regrettably prints cannot be returned.

Contact Gridline



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www.nationalgrid.com

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