



# Harrowing Times

May - June 2016

## Wait a Mo! Keep your envelope!

It has got your NSTG Membership Number on it.  
It is on the Address Label!

If every Member of NSTG knows their own **MEMBERSHIP NUMBER** it will be so much easier for everyone. *Keep it safe - please. Write it on the back of your NSTG Membership Card.* It will be pre-printed in future. If you are reading H.T. in PDF format then see the **NAME** with your email address.

### In This Whitsun Issue:

- TEN<sup>th</sup> Annual Show - Plucky the Chicken will be there!
- The 5 Winners of the competition for tickets to EAGCF.
- Smallholder Sid: Whose Ditch is that by Richard Barr.
- Cider making, Spinning & Carding, Sheep Husbandry Courses
- Classified Ads! Appear on TV? Get paid for writing?
- Introduction to Hedgelaying Course report.
- Recipe - Apricot Slice. Children - Colour & Cut Out!
- New Advertisers. Changes to List of Discounters
- Articles: WWOOFers & WWOOFing. AND Hatching Eggs.
- & There's a Vacancy arising at H.T. HQ .

Next Print Deadline is: 16th June 2016

Visit our website at: [WWW.NSTG.ORG.UK](http://WWW.NSTG.ORG.UK)

## Smallholder Sid: Whose Ditch is that?

*By Richard Barr*

Some weeks after his close encounter of the hen kind, Smallholder Sid was back in the snug at the Cowpat & Fly. He had recovered his composure and was in full fighting form again. Farmer Fred and Allotment Holder Alice had got there first. They were having an altogether peaceful discussion about which types of radish were best. They had just narrowed the choice down to Cherry Belle or Early Scarlet Gold when the door to the snug flew open and in stumbled Smallholder Sid. They exchanged glances, realising that all talk of radishes was now at an end. Judging from the expression of Smallholder Sid's face they were in for another long evening.

His problem this time was that he was in the midst of a boundary dispute with his neighbour – all over a ditch.

“You see its like this” he said. The others peered into their glasses of Old Fart and tried to think of radishes and other things but Smallholder Sid was not having any of it.

It was a long time in the telling but Smallholder Sid has a ditch running between him and his neighbour. There is a hedge on the other side of the ditch (away from Smallholder Sid) and Smallholder Sid not only believes that he owns the ditch and hedge but he also wants to grow watercress.

Smallholder Sid's neighbour disagreed.

The little group was then treated to a rich description of the shortcomings of Smallholder Sid's neighbour and then a lesson from Smallholder Sid on the law relating to boundaries, hedges and ditches. Three pints later he concluded “so you see, the ditch is mine and I can do what I like with it”.

Farmer Fred had been asleep for many minutes by the time Sid had reached this conclusion. Nudged by Allotment Holder Alice he sleepily murmured his agreement, whereupon Alice had a sudden urge to water her non-existent geraniums again and, helping Fred to his feet, they both left Sid staring into his glass and dreaming dreams of becoming a water cress millionaire.

Smallholder Sid was so adamant that he decided that he would go to court for a declaration that he was right. Fortunately perhaps for him his solicitor (Sue Grabbitt of Fleecem Fleecem and Screwem, solicitors of the supreme court) knew a little more law than he did and pointed out that the general rule where you have a hedge and a ditch is that the person who owns the hedge also owns the ditch. There was no further evidence one way or the other so Smallholder Sid had to start being nice to his neighbour again and apologise for the poison pen letters he had shoved through the letterbox at the dead of night. It cost many pints of Old Fart to get the pair back on speaking terms again. The only problem is that the ditch is so polluted that

## Smallholder Sid: Whose Ditch is that?

no water cress will grow in it. All Sid has to show for his efforts is a large solicitor's invoice and a big bar bill at the Cowpat and Fly.

**Serious legal note.** Sorting out boundary problems is a headache. The deeds are often unhelpful. Even Land Registry plans are not conclusive as to boundary ownership. The general rule about hedges and ditches is that the owner of the ditch would have stood on the boundary facing towards his own land, dug the ditch on his land, piled the soil on his home side to form a bank and planted a hedge on the bank. That is only a presumption and other evidence can mean that the boundary is in a different place. If you have a query about your boundaries the last thing you should do is race off to law. Disputes between neighbours are often more bitter than divorces and it is far better to meet your neighbour over a pint of Old Fart first and sort out the problem amicably.

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By Richard Barr

For more of what he writes log onto [www.richardbarr.org](http://www.richardbarr.org)

Watch out for "*Smallholder Sid and the Case of Wind*" in the next July August 2016 edition of The Harrowing Times!

### NSTG Stands at Shows in 2016

### Volunteers Please!

Promotion & Marketing  
Committee Member

Roy Keasley

By email on

[pmo@nstg.org.uk](mailto:pmo@nstg.org.uk)

Thank you to those members  
who responded to the calls for  
the

recent **Spring Fling**.

### NSTG Stands at Shows in 2016

The next show is:

#### ***South Norfolk On Show***

Long Stratton

on Sunday, 17th July 2016  
11.00am - 4.00pm.

Have a look at this website:

<http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/leisure/7488.asp>

There is FREE entry to this show,  
so if you come along then call at  
NSTG's stand say hello.