

# John v Thom Round 29 ... Scarecrows

You can read all about the previous rounds at [www.bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk](http://www.bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk). This week, with Flamborough Scarecrow Festival fast approaching, John and Thom had to make scarecrows of each other. Find out how they got on when they received a cheeky approach from the organisers to...

## ...Get stuffed!

**CHALLENGE 29:** Scarecrow making  
**VENUE:** A lovely Flamborough garden  
**MENTOR:** Scarecrow festival organiser Julie Sanders and neighbours  
**RESULT:** Judges voted 12-11 for John  
**JOHN v THOM SCORE:** John leads by 16-13



Elvis is in the building – well, the garden actually – with Cindy Kolter, Julie Sanders, June Parry and Jack Buck, aged six.

IN A WEEK or so, Flamborough will be home to all sorts of famous people. Marilyn Monroe, Prince Charles and Camilla, Simon Cowell and Britney Spears are just some of the celebrities who will be taking up temporary residence in the village.

Locals are hard at work making A-list scarecrows, because the theme of this year's festival is 'famous people'. With the mistaken belief that maybe they were famous enough to gatecrash the festival, John and Thom's challenge was to make scarecrows of each other.

First stop was Oxfam in Bridge Street to pick up clothes and accessories to try to recreate their rival. After fleeting visits to other shops to pick up weird and wonderful items including a clock and a leek, they were ready to start work.

It was the first time a John v Thom challenge had been held in Flamborough, and it was certainly different.

With an audience of three women, one child, seven chickens, a dog called JJ and a scarecrow Elvis, they could have been forgiven for having Suspicious Minds about the whole thing. And it was certainly going to be Heartbreak Hotel for the loser.

Making a proper standing scarecrow, with a papier mache head



Real John, Scarecrow John, Scarecrow Thom and Real Thom – just in case you couldn't tell the difference between them.

would take days, so John and Thom had to sit the scarecrows on garden chairs, fill the clothes with newspaper, use a balloon for the head and then do what they could to make the best lookalike of each other as they could, using only basic equipment such as string, a needle and thread and a felt pen.

The four judges then marked their final creations out of five, with John edging the result 12-11.

Julie Sanders, one of the scarecrow festival organisers, said: "I think they are brilliant considering the amount of time you had and you weren't sure what equipment you had to use."

"But you did the right thing by going to the charity shop, although I'm a bit worried your balloon heads might not last long."

"You never know, maybe John and Thom will draw the crowds to the scarecrow festival."

### FACTfile

Regional dialect names for scarecrows include mommet (Somerset), murmet (Devon), hodmedod (Berkshire), tattie bogle (Scotland) and bwbach (Wales).

**In the Wizard of Oz, the Scarecrow needs a brain when he heads off with the Tin Man, the Lion and Dorothy.**

As well as the more famous villains like the Penguin and The Riddler, The Scarecrow is also a Batman baddie and he tackles the caped crusader in the original comics, as well as in the film Batman Begins.

**Why are crow's feathers black? According to Greek mythology Apollo was so angered when a white crow told him his pregnant lover had had an affair, he turned the crow's feathers black and then killed his love rival Ischys.**

In the United States it is legal to hunt crows in most states usually from around August to the end of March and anytime if they are causing a nuisance or health hazard but in the UK it is illegal to kill or take a crow from the wild.

**FLAMBOROUGH Scarecrow Festival starts on Saturday, August 18 and the winners will be announced at the RNLI Fun Day at South Landing on Monday, August 27. Trail maps, priced £1, are available from shops, pubs and cafes in the village. All proceeds go to Flamborough RNLI.**

## Ee-by-Gummidge! Final straw for Thom

WE did this challenge on Yorkshire Day, and it involved scarecrows, how could I resist the headline above?

I deserve an extra John v Thom point just for that, although I'm happy enough with the one on offer in this week's challenge.

Shopping for clothes was tough, Thom's clothes just blend into the furniture, nothing with character or distinction which I could try to copy. It's a good job he wears glasses so I could get a bit of likeness. Scarecrow-making itself was good fun, messing about in a garden for a couple of hours while the sun shone.

Thom was really trying hard, stitching the shirt to the trousers, the arms to the shirt - in fact he was doing so much sewing I thought he

was looking for a job at Mike Baldwin's knicker factory.

His biggest blunder was buying a short-sleeved shirt in Oxfam, which meant the John scarecrow was in danger of looking like he had lost half his arms in a previous John v Thom accident. And I never wear short-sleeved shirts anyway!

While he spent ages trying to solve that, there was time for me to sit around and enjoy a cup of tea, just like the John scarecrow, so at least he got that bit right.

When the verdict was announced, the scowl on Thom's face proved I had got the expression on his scarecrow spot on. It was enough to scare away anything, never mind the crows.

I WALKED into work last Wednesday with a smile on my face., feeling sun-kissed, young, and beautiful.

But by the time the evening came, I was shattered and weeping uncontrollably, with all my illusions about myself in pieces.

This was because, apparently, not only does John believe that I look like some kind of cross between Dr Evil and Casper the Friendly (or angry?)Ghost, but three out of four scarecrow experts in Flamborough agree with him!

This was the greatest John v Thom injustice since round two, when John won the piano competition by pressing the same key for about five minutes.

Forget about the great TV phone-in swindle, forget about West Ham and Carlos Tevez, never has anything demanded a greater sense of outrage than John's victory in this challenge.

While I stitched my work together carefully, with different parts and pieces sewn into one another to make a full and interesting scarecrow, John balanced a balloon and a can of cheap lager on top of a pile of newspaper, and was declared the winner.

In my rage (I'm not a good loser, as you may have noticed from this column), I thought about destroying John's 'effort', but then realised a slight breeze would do that work for me.

With his balloon-head bobbing in the breeze John's scarecrow (The Invisible Man? The Hunchback of Notre Flam?) appeared to be mocking me in defeat.

Our little helper Jack said: "You should have made Spongebob Squarepants." For all I knew, John might have done.

I don't know if I was suffering from over-confidence but John certainly knows how to bring a man down.

### John's guide to

Most expensive item out of the £10 budget – £3.99 glasses. Not sure how much Thom's actual glasses cost but you can barely tell the difference.

Four days' worth of stubble and a miserable face, like when he has just spoken to someone frustrating on the phone.

A can of cheap lager. Trainees are always pleading poverty so I bought the cheapest booze I could find in the shop.



### Scarecrow Thom

Clock set to 9.10am because Thom is notoriously late rolling into the office

Not particularly exciting shirt, but I sat on it for half an hour beforehand to make sure there were plenty of creases for Thom's 'don't own an iron' style.

Tie, plain, drab and loosely tied, hanging halfway down chest instead of smartly around the neck with top button fastened

### Thom's guide to

Note the tidily drawn on hair, drawn on strand by strand and carefully put into place. Hmm, actually that's not very accurate, is it?

John is a thoroughbred Welshman, as he is only too happy to point out. It's only right that he should be waving leeks around like Morrissey with daffodils.

John has a large collection of ties. At the last count he had over 100. He actually has more ties at home than he does items of Wrexham football club paraphernalia on his desk – and that is a lot of ties.



### Scarecrow John

Note the jolly smile on John's face – he must have just fluked another John v Thom victory.

Another day, another variation on a black shirt for John. Scarecrow John keeps up that summer feel by modelling a long-sleeved item.

9.03am, 9.06am, 9.09am: All are times when John can be found by the kettle. Only when he pops out to buy milk is he neither drinking nor making a brew.

You can suggest challenges by sending a text starting BFPEDITOR followed by a space, your challenge idea and name, to 81800, or by e-mailing [newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@bridlingtonfreepress.co.uk)