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Our Customer Service Centre is open to answer your calls from 8am to 6pm, Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays). Limited services are also available on Saturdays from 9am to 4pm.

Extended phone hours for individual services, if available, are shown at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/contactthecouncil

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Visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/callconnect or call 08452 343344 (for Welland CallConnect, covering the Stamford and Peterborough areas, call 08452 638153)

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including museums, heritage attractions and archives

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Visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lifelonglearning or call 01522 782011

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• Adults – visit www.mychoicemycare.org.uk or call 01522 782155

• Carers Team – visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/carers or call 01522 782224

• Emergency out of hours – 01522 782333

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TRANSLATION SERVICE

Available on the county council numbers listed and includes an interpreter if needed

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Visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/localdemocracy or phone 01522 782060

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countynews

SPRING 2014

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Microbrewers craft perfect pint

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Help available to young and old

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Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
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spring 2014



Leader's welcome...

After a long, stormy winter, it's always lovely when spring arrives and we can look forward to (hopefully!) calmer weather ahead.

I feel sure that positive outlook also applies to the improving economic climate, despite all the challenges that still lie ahead.

As we explain on the opposite page, this council's budget for the financial year starting on 1 April has frozen our share of the council tax for a record fourth successive time.

We're also continuing to protect essential services and invest for the future in major capital projects such as the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and superfast broadband.

Despite that, we're on track to save £148m over the four years to March 2015, and are looking to find future savings through a fundamental review of our services.

In other words – and although times remain difficult – it's a case of "so far, so good" for this council as we adapt to the new financial realities.

Still on a positive note, I'm delighted that this County News highlights the wonderful work of Lincolnshire's 85,000 unpaid carers, both young and old.

They're all deserving of both our recognition and support, with more help than ever before now available through the Lincolnshire Carers and Young Carers Partnership – please see our centrespread for more details.

Elsewhere in this spring edition, we meet a foster couple whose lives changed for ever when they gave a loving home to four siblings. We also meet a young girl thriving at school after being helped to overcome hearing loss.

For adults, County News looks at the opportunities offered by lifelong learning to residents wanting to add a new interest or skill to their lives. With Adult Learners' Week approaching, what better time to enrol on one of the many courses on offer?

Finally, as we all start to get out more, County News celebrates the ongoing popularity of the Wolds Walking Festival, now in its 10th year, and meets two museum officers behind a fascinating exhibition at The Collection in Lincoln.

We also invite you to join the council at our stand at the 130th Lincolnshire Show, with four family tickets up for grabs in our fabulous prize draw.

Mark J Hill

Cllr Martin Hill OBE
Leader of Lincolnshire County Council

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Contact information

EDITORIAL

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Front cover: The famous Lincolnshire botanist and explorer Sir Joseph Banks is the subject of a new exhibition at The Collection in Lincoln. Portrait by Benjamin West, photographed by Neil Lamont.

MORE INFORMATION

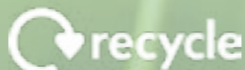
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Sustainability: County News is printed on paper from responsible or well-managed sources. Please recycle the magazine when you have finished with it.



Lincolnshire news round-up

Council tax frozen again

There was good news for Lincolnshire residents when the county council froze its share of the council tax for a record fourth year running.

The freeze came despite the need for additional savings of £80-90m at the authority in the years ahead, on top of the £148m it has already found.

Council leader Cllr Martin Hill said: "We felt it was important we did this for our residents, as we know many are struggling to balance their own household budgets in these difficult economic times."

The freeze has been made possible by a government grant made available for that purpose, as well as the council's plan to draw sensibly on its reserves this year and next.

As well as pegging council tax, the authority's budget again protects frontline services, particularly those that ensure public safety, such as fire and rescue, winter gritting and road maintenance,

and child protection.

There will also be continued investment in major capital projects, such as the Lincoln Eastern Bypass, the Grantham Southern Relief Road and the roll-out of superfast broadband.

For the future, Cllr Hill said: "We're looking again at services to find new ways of making each pound of taxpayers' money go further and achieve more – both on our own and with others."

"It's by finding imaginative solutions that we'll ensure we can continue to provide essential services for all Lincolnshire's 718,000 residents."

i For more information on the council's finances, please visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/finance.

Editor's note: Although Lincolnshire County Council has frozen its share of the council tax, the total amount you pay will depend on the levels set by your district and parish/town councils, as well as the police.



School admissions update

Is your child starting school for the first time or transferring to secondary school in September 2015?

If so, from 1 May, you can see the admission arrangements that affect your application at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/admissionsconsultation.

Parents have a legal right to object to the schools adjudicator if they believe any arrangements are unlawful – this is explained on the website.

i For more information, email schooladmissions@lincolnshire.gov.uk or phone 01522 782030.

Don't lose your vote!

Lincolnshire residents are being urged to ensure they are registered to vote in the European elections.

They take place on Thursday 22 May, along with any other elections needing to be held on that day.

All households received registration forms between October and December last year, which should have been completed and sent back to your local council.

Alternatively, a registration form is available on the Electoral Commission website at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

The deadline for registering is Tuesday 6 May. For organising a postal vote, it is Wednesday 7 May, while for proxy votes it is 14 May.

Please call your local authority for further information:

City of Lincoln Council	01522 873439
Boston Borough Council	01205 314220
East Lindsey District Council	01507 601111
North Kesteven District Council	01529 308238
South Holland District Council	01775 761161
South Kesteven District Council	01476 406080
West Lindsey District Council	01427 676628/676575



Changing young lives

Young people are being invited to sign up for a life-changing Prince's Trust course.

Run locally by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, it offers people aged 16 to 25 a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop essential skills.

Team members enjoy a 12-week personal development programme, involving action-packed outdoor activities like caving and climbing, team challenges, community work, a job placement and careers guidance.

Many participants come from disadvantaged backgrounds and the course helps turn their lives around. Almost three-quarters of those taking part go on to jobs, training or education within three months.

For full details, including how to apply, visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lfr or call 01522 582285.



Your help is needed for a project remembering lives lost to war.

Lincolnshire has thousands of war memorials. We pass them every day but sometimes know little of the sacrifices they represent, the people and stories behind the names, or the impact their loss had on our communities.

Now, the Lincolnshire Remembrance: Memories and Memorials project is working to ensure these monuments – and the lives they honour – aren't consigned to history. But it needs your help.

"We need people with local knowledge to research and tell us about the memorials they see. These monuments come in all shapes and sizes and we'd like to hear about any type and for any conflict," says project officer Cathryn Pike.

The information you collect will help create a searchable online database and interactive map of memorials' locations, names and stories.

Visit www.lincstothepast.com/warmemorials or contact warmemorials@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Who's your local hero?

There's still time to nominate your "unsung heroes" – those local volunteers who are always helping others, without ever seeking recognition for themselves.

But please hurry: the closing date for nominations for Lincolnshire County Council's Good Citizens Awards is Friday 25 April.

As always, we're inviting entries for Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year (aged 18 or below) and Community Group of the Year.

For the first time, we also have a category for the Couple / Pair of the Year, recognising the achievements of "dynamic duos"!

The winners will all be treated to a VIP day at the Lincolnshire Show, together with a guest, as well as a cash prize and a framed certificate.

For more information, or to make a nomination online, visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/goodcitizensaward.

Alternatively, send your contact details and those of the person you're nominating, along with a description of the voluntary work they've done, to:

Lincolnshire County Council
PDP 17 – Communications
Freepost RSTY-UXJB-ARHK
County Offices, Newland, LINCOLN, LN1 1YL

More information is available on 01522 552118.

Could you be a Dementia Friend?

"Dementia is just old people losing their memories and there's nothing we can do to help ..." – right? Wrong!

That's just one of many myths about dementia that Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Carers and Young Carers Partnership (LCYCP) are keen to combat.

Together, they are backing Dementia Friends, an Alzheimer's Society initiative to raise awareness and improve the quality of life for those with dementia.

A Dementia Friend is someone who attends a free, one-hour information session – run locally by the LCYCP – and then turns their understanding into a practical action, however small, that could help someone.

Workshops are also being held to bring carers together with professionals on a social basis, sharing information and concerns.

For details of Dementia Friends, including helpful videos, visit www.dementiafriends.org.uk or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/dementia.

To find out about the workshops, contact clive@lincscarerspartnership.net or phone 01522 846911.

Prestigious awards celebrating activities that help the local environment are up for grabs again this year.

The Lincolnshire Environmental Awards were originally launched by Lindum Rotary Club and are also supported by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

They aim to improve and protect the environment of the county (including North and North East Lincolnshire) and raise awareness.

The adult competition has three categories – Community, Business and Agriculture/Rural Enterprise – all open to individuals or groups. There is also a Young Environmentalist Award for children aged 13 or under.

For more information, and to submit your entry online, please visit www.lincsenvironmentalawards.org.uk, but please note the closing date is 30 April.

Entries will be assessed by an expert panel, and finalists will be invited to the main judging event, held at the Bentley Hotel in Lincoln on Thursday 3 July and led by environmentalist Dr David Bellamy. The awards will be presented at a gala dinner that evening.

For more information, visit the website, email rogerpavey@yahoo.co.uk or phone 01673 885516.

Help for rural areas



Lesley and John Berry received an £8,000 grant towards the fit-out of Berry's Farmshop, Burton Coggles.

The loss of essential local services can have a devastating impact on people in rural areas.

That's why Lincolnshire County Council offers help to communities keen to revitalise or create vital services like a village post office or shop.

The cash support – known as a Rural Gain Grant – can pay for all kind of business improvements or innovations.

They include things like new lighting, refrigeration or shelving, or perhaps internet facilities or local produce counters.

Grants can also help businesses

diversify – for example, into home deliveries – or to improve their security or energy use.

The scheme is open to rural retail businesses and community groups based in Lincolnshire villages and towns with no more than 5,000 people.

Grants are between £250 and £10,000, up to 50% of the total cost, for projects improving access to vital local services.

For more information, call 01522 782070, email Transportation_group@lincolnshire.gov.uk or visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/ruralgainingrant.

Honouring environmental excellence



Speciality lettuce producer J.E. Piccaver & Co, from Gedney Marsh, won last year's Rural Enterprise award.

Take to the sea with the RSPB

What could be better than a boat trip to spot all kinds of different birds and wildlife?

That's what's on offer again from the South Lincs RSPB, who have lined up 14 birdwatching cruises into the Wash estuary and River Welland.

Each cruise aboard the Boston Belle leaves Boston's Grand Sluice Lock, returning four or five hours later.

In 2013, more than 105 different species of bird were seen, an average of 64 per cruise. Seals are also visible on most cruises on the exposed mudbanks.

This year's sailing programme starts on 25 April and continues until 16 October.

The cost for RSPB members is £17-50 (under 16s £9-50), with non-members paying £20 (under 16s £10-50). Refreshments and toilet facilities are available.

Further details are available at www.rspb.org.uk/groups/southlincolnshire. Tickets for each cruise are essential – the agent is the South Holland Centre in Spalding on 01775 764777 or visit www.southhollandcentre.co.uk.



Not sure – don't open the door!



With spring now here, Lincolnshire Trading Standards are reminding residents to be wary of unexpected visitors offering home improvement services.

Principal trading standards officer Lisa Foster said: "Not all doorstep sellers are bogus, but some can be unscrupulous.

"I'm urging everyone who knows or cares for a vulnerable or elderly person to make sure they are aware of their rights when it comes to doorstep approaches.

"No-one should feel pressured into making a rash decision. If in doubt, take time to research the company and think about the offer. Above all, never be afraid to say no."

If you, or someone you know, has been approached by a doorstep seller offering to carry out work you think is suspicious, contact the Citizens Advice Bureau on 08454 04 05 06.

If you feel threatened in your home, call Lincolnshire Police on 101 or, in an emergency, 999.

i For tips on tackling doorstep crime, visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/doorstepcrime.



New councillor elected

Liberal Democrat Lesley Rollings has joined the ranks of Lincolnshire County Council after winning the Scotter Rural by-election.

It was held following the death of former councillor Chris Underwood-Frost, who served the area for 12 years. Cllr Rollings attracted 726 of the 1,486 votes cast. The turnout was 22.7%.

Lincolnshire County Council has 77 elected members – 35 Conservatives, 12 Labour, 10 UKIP, seven Lincolnshire Independents, six UKIP Lincolnshire, four Liberal Democrats and three Independents.

i To find your local councillor, visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/localdemocracy or phone 01522 782060.

NOTICE OF MINIMUM NUMBER OF THE ELECTORATE REQUIRED TO PETITION FOR A REFERENDUM FOR AN ELECTED MAYOR

Under the Local Government Act 2000 and under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, one of the things we have to do by law is let people know about their right to ask for a referendum if they want an elected mayor to manage their council. We also have to tell you the numbers needed for a valid petition.

If 5% of the number of people on the local electoral register submit a petition asking for a referendum for an elected mayor, then the local council must hold a referendum in their area. We have listed the numbers of people the 5% equates to in each council district in Lincolnshire, as well as the total for Lincolnshire County Council – these figures apply from February 2014.

	5% (rounded)
a. Boston Borough	2441
b. East Lindsey	5282
c. City of Lincoln	3203
d. North Kesteven	4228
e. South Holland	3491
f. South Kesteven	5405
g. West Lindsey	3695
h. Lincolnshire	27745

These figures will be used to check the validity of any petition received between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015 or any earlier date required by Government Regulation.

Every year we publish the 5% figures and remind you of your right to tell us in a petition that you would like a referendum.

The petition must be signed by the correct number of people (using the 5% figures for your district listed above) and delivered to a council's 'principal office'.

Do not forget that in Lincolnshire you have two 'principal offices' – your local District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. If you want a referendum for both, petitions need to be completed and sent to both.

The addresses for the Councils in Lincolnshire are:-

- Boston** – Chief Executive, Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincs, PE21 8QR. Tel: 01205 314200 (www.boston.gov.uk)
- East Lindsey** – Chief Executive, East Lindsey District Council, Tedder Hall, Manby Park, Louth, Lincs, LN11 8UP. Tel: 01507 601111 (www.e-lindsey.gov.uk)
- City of Lincoln** – Chief Executive and Town Clerk, City of Lincoln Council, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln, Lincs, LN1 1DD. Tel: 01522 881188 (www.lincoln.gov.uk)
- North Kesteven** – Chief Executive, North Kesteven District Council, Council Offices, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7EF. Tel: 01529 414155 (www.n-kesteven.gov.uk)

- South Holland** – Interim Chief Executive, South Holland District Council, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding, Lincs, PE11 2XE. Tel: 01775 761161 (www.sholland.gov.uk)
- South Kesteven** – Chief Executive, South Kesteven District Council, St Peter's Hill, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 6PZ. Tel: 01476 406080 (www.southkesteven.gov.uk)
- West Lindsey** – Chief Executive, West Lindsey District Council, Guildhall, Marshalls Yard, Gainsborough, Lincs, DN21 2NA. Tel: 01427 676676 (www.west-lindsey.gov.uk)
- Lincolnshire** – Chief Executive, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, Lincs, LN1 1YL. Tel: 01522 552222 (www.lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Tony McArdle
Chief Executive
Lincolnshire County Council

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A perfect match

A foster couple gave a loving home to four siblings – and life was never the same again!

"Fostering is a lifestyle – not a job," says John Eedle, who, with wife Helen, has been fostering for over 10 years, providing a home for 25 children.

At the start, although they had been working towards becoming foster carers, they put it on hold when Helen became pregnant.

However, when asked if they'd consider fostering a group of two sisters and two brothers, they agreed – and life was never the same again!

John, from Alvingham, near Louth, explained: "Having a large sibling group suited us. We recognised the bond they have. They'd been split up before, and it had a big impact on them.

"Also, Helen and I enjoy a busy family life. When everyone gets involved it creates a spirit of unity – it's a wonderful thing."

Since then, they've had four children of their own and fostered

several others. The four siblings went on to live with them for 10 years.

One of the sisters was Theresa Doughty, aged 11 at the time. John said of Theresa: "She'd been through a lot and felt responsibility for her brothers and sister. We had to bring her back to enjoying her childhood."

Theresa, now 22, has just graduated in Early Childhood Studies and found a secure job as a pre-school supervisor. She also rents her own home, close to the couple she still calls "Mum and Dad".

She credits them with a lot of her achievements, saying: "When I went to live with them, I was starting secondary school but found it very difficult. I was diagnosed with dyslexia, but they supported me and made

sure I got a lot of additional help.

"I caught up at school, and they fought for me to get support to do my GCSEs. I passed 11, including 10 with A to C grades."

During college and university, Theresa remained with John and Helen, thanks to the Staying Put scheme, piloted in Lincolnshire, which enables young people to continue in foster care until 21.

"It was ideal for me to stay at home," said Theresa. "It meant I didn't have a lot of upheaval, and I was able to volunteer at a nursery, which really helped with my course and future job prospects."

"Being fostered by John and Helen was the most positive thing that could have happened to me. They matched us up perfectly, and they are my family."

i For more about fostering, visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fostering or call 0800 093 3099.

JUMPING FOR JOY: Helen and John Eedle, second and third left, with foster children Ray, Duncan and Theresa (fourth sibling Kathryn couldn't be there on the day).



The right care at the right time

A major review is underway in Lincolnshire to find better ways of providing essential health and social care services, closer to your home

Imagine having one local health and social care team to support you when and where you need it, with no more being passed from pillar to post. Too good to be true? Don't be so sure!

The idea is being seriously considered as part of a wide-ranging review of services currently underway in Lincolnshire.

Under the concept, "neighbourhood teams" would be set up in local areas, bringing together professionals such as social workers, GPs, therapists and community nurses.

That would be much better for residents, who would get the right care at the right time, and be less likely to need a stay in hospital.

A more co-ordinated approach could also ease pressures on busy A&E departments, which have been struggling to cope with levels of demand.

Local partnership

The Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review (LSSR), launched last year, is being driven by a local partnership including GPs, community services, hospitals and social care leaders.

It is looking at a range of ways to co-ordinate and improve services for the future, and bring them closer to the county's 718,000 residents.

The review also aims to ensure that services are sustainable in the years ahead – a time when demand will be increasing as a result of Lincolnshire's growing elderly population.

Director of public health Dr Tony Hill says: "We have a unique chance to create together a system that really works for local people.

"In many cases, that could mean residents with health needs being treated locally and then supported to return home, rather than being passed between agencies and perhaps ending up in hospital.

"This common-sense approach – based on 'prevention is better than cure' – is not only good for local people, it also makes financial sense."

Different approach

Lincolnshire currently has a high rate of long-term conditions like heart disease and cancer, putting a real strain on healthcare services. A recent national report into hospitals also showed we need to do things very differently to meet people's needs.

Only eight months after it started, the review has progressed far enough to start looking in detail at how improved arrangements could work across our large rural county.

Over the coming months, there will be further engagement with the public on any proposals. Decisions on the way ahead could be reached before the end of 2014.



Neighbourhood teams

One of the ideas emerging from the review involves new neighbourhood teams, bringing together professionals such as social workers, GPs, therapists and community nurses.

The benefits of having a neighbourhood team in your local area would be:

- You would get co-ordinated support in the local community – when you need it.
- There would be less need for stays in hospitals, freeing them up to deal with serious accidents, emergencies and specialist services.

About the review

- The Lincolnshire Sustainable Services Review is a radical review of health and social care in the county.
- The initiative is being driven by professionals across the county in consultation with the public.
- It aims – through a more co-ordinated approach – to achieve better health and social care services, closer to residents' homes.

Having your say

As detailed proposals from the review are developed there will be opportunities for people to give their views.

i To find out more or to get involved, please email lssr@lincolnshire.gov.uk or phone 01522 718051.

Poppy is blooming!

A little Grantham girl is overcoming hearing loss to thrive at school, thanks to specialist support

Lincolnshire County Council has always ensured that all children can fulfil their potential – including those with hearing or visual impairments.

Last year, it increased the budget for the Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) by 30%. It now employs 22 members of staff, all committed to giving the right support as early as possible.

One child who has benefited is five-year-old Poppy Smith, from Grantham, who was diagnosed with moderate to severe hearing loss at just four weeks old.

Despite that, she took the big step last year of starting at Harlaxton CE Primary School – a proud moment for mum Katy!

She said: “Poppy has worn hearing aids since she was four months old, and now tries to put them on herself in the morning. She has sparkly ones with hearts on, and loves to show them off!”

SESS peripatetic teacher Sally Malloy was with the family when they received Poppy’s diagnosis and has worked closely with them ever since.

Katy said: “Sally visits regularly and is always on the end of a phone. She

suggested activities to help Poppy’s development – for example, playing with soft farm animal toys and encouraging her to make the right noises.”

Sally and a specialist teaching assistant worked with Poppy for two sessions a week when she started school, helping her adapt to life in the playground and classroom.

They also suggested practical measures the school could put in place, such as reducing background noise and amplifying her teacher’s voice.

Katy said: “Poppy is progressing so well at school that Sally feels she doesn’t need the additional sessions any more. She will continue to monitor Poppy’s progress and, if any issues arise, quickly step in to help.”

She added: “It is lovely to feel we have people to lean on. We’ve had so much support. Without it, Poppy wouldn’t be so confident. She wouldn’t be who she is.”

“We’ve had so much support. Without it, Poppy wouldn’t be so confident. She wouldn’t be who she is.”

i Besides SESS, Katy was supported by Sensory Impairment Lincolnshire County Services (SILCS), which helped the family find social activities. To contact SESS, phone 01522 553368. For SILCS, call 01522 848295.

The family have also set up a group called **Hear 4 Kidz**, in Bottesford, for families with hearing impaired children aged up to 12. They meet regularly, enjoy outings, have guest speakers and are affiliated to the National Deaf Children’s Society. Search for Hear 4 Kidz on Facebook.

Bringing the past to life

Ancient artefacts and modern masterpieces are all part of daily life for The Collection’s Andrea Martin and Dawn Heywood

Located at the very heart of Lincoln’s cultural quarter, the award-winning museum and art gallery attract about 120,000 visitors each year.

And it falls to Andrea and Dawn (pictured left and right) to take care of the many items on display, as well as creating exciting exhibitions to keep people coming back.

Most recently, the two collections access officers helped stage the current major exhibition celebrating the great Lincolnshire explorer, naturalist and botanist, Sir Joseph Banks.

The show is run in partnership with the Sir Joseph Banks Society, which approached Andrea with the idea last year.

“People often don’t realise how much work goes into putting on an exhibition of this size,” she said.

“The first stage is to create a plan of how you’re going to lead visitors through the story, what you’ll need in terms of exhibits, and where everything will go.

“And then you need to find the funding to make it a reality.”

The museum successfully bid for £140,000 of Heritage Lottery funding, which helped pay for the specialist display cases needed for the more fragile exhibits and the cost of transporting items to Lincoln.

The exhibition centres on Benjamin West’s portrait of the explorer surrounded

“There was the added pressure of having Sir David Attenborough opening the show!”

by artefacts he brought back to England after he’d accompanied James Cook on his first Pacific Ocean voyage aboard the Endeavour between 1768 and 1771.

“One of the hardest parts was bringing together exhibits from all around the country,” added Dawn.

“Much of the material will rarely have been seen in Lincolnshire before, and it is a great privilege for us to borrow objects and drawings from many museums across the country, including the British Library,



the British Museum and the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford.

“Examples include a cloak from New Zealand and a headdress from Tahiti, along with original drawings by artists of the people, plants and animals they saw on the journey.

“Then, before you can put anything on display, you have to go through the process of preparing the exhibition space, installing display cases and temporary walls, and writing the text to go alongside the objects.

“It’s always tense in the run-up to opening, as you rush to get the finishing touches done in time.

“And this time there was the added

pressure of having Sir David Attenborough opening the show!”

“Joseph Banks, A Great Endeavour: a Lincolnshire Gentleman and his Legacy” runs at The Collection until 11 May, and is complemented by a series of family activity days and lectures.

i For more on offer at The Collection – which comprises both an award-winning archaeology museum and the Usher Gallery – please visit www.thecollectionmuseum.com.

A behind-the-scenes interview with Dawn about the latest exhibition is available to view at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside.

More support for carers

A new-look service is giving a voice to Lincolnshire's 85,000 unpaid carers, both young and old

Adults and young people caring for loved ones are being encouraged to ask for a whole range of help and advice now available.

One carer who has benefited is Terry Hill, from Holton-le-Clay, who has looked after wife Pat since 1998, following her treatment for cancer and a heart attack.

He had struggled on without help for many years while living in Wales and Cyprus – partly, he now admits, because of pride.

Then, on their recent return to the county, Terry realised that the Lincolnshire Carers and Young Carers Partnership (LCYCP) offered all kinds of support. That has enabled him to help Pat, 70, even more effectively.

"I didn't realise what support was out there," said Terry. "But life has been much easier since I discovered the LCYCP and had an assessment.

"It's a fantastic one-stop shop for any problem or query, and their emergency plan gave us priceless peace of mind."

Terry, 66, adds: "I've also joined carers' working groups – talking to others in a similar boat has been so helpful."

It's predicted that, over the next 30 years, three in five people will be carers during their lives, with many treated for stress and other mental and physical conditions.

With that in mind, the LCYCP has been re-launched with a new board and staff to ensure it is really run "by carers, for carers".

As well as providing advice and putting on events, it is gathering carers' views to help shape the service for the future.

Getting involved

"The only way to predict the future for Lincolnshire carers is to create it" – that's the message from the LCYCP as it invites carers to local events, including:

- **Lincolnshire's Inaugural Carers Conference** on 30 May at The Showroom, Triton Road, Lincoln. Of 150 places, 100 are open to carers. Organisations providing support will also be there.
- **Mental health workshops** across the county from March to September. Carers are invited to have their say, helping increase professionals' understanding of the importance of good mental health for carers and improved referrals.

i For information and to book places, e-mail info@lincscarerspartnership.net or call 01522 846911.

Further details are at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countynews.



Helping through hindsight

A former carer says others can benefit from her experience after she was made an MBE for services to carers.

Pauline Mountain (left), from Timberland, near Woodhall Spa, is chair of the LCYCP, which leads a number of help and advice networks.

Until his death in 2008, she cared for husband Gordon, but admits she "just got on with it".

Now Pauline says: "I wish I'd known then what I do now. That's why I've dedicated my time since my husband's death to helping carers find support – they need it to continue caring for their loved one to the best of their abilities."

She adds: "It's a precious gift to care for someone, but sometimes we need a little support as well!"

Young Carers Count!

Across Lincolnshire, young carers are helping to look after loved ones, often juggling family responsibilities with school or college.

Estimates suggest there are 6,000 in the county, who often take on practical or emotional support normally associated with an adult.

Lincolnshire Young Carers Count is a service provided by charity Spurgeons, which supports young carers and young adult carers up to the age of 25 through funding from the county council.

They include Jess, 11, (above) from the Lincoln area, who regularly attends one of the young carer groups offering support, friendship and activities.

Jess helps look after mum Liz, who suffers from sclerosis of the spine and other physical ailments.

With dad Ian often working long hours to support the family, Jess measures out medication, cooks meals, helps her mum get ready for bed and listens out in the night.

Jess explains: "Caring for my mum can sometimes be hard but being able to speak with Spurgeons whenever I need has really made a difference.

"The group with other young carers is also really fun and it's good to get out. It's definitely helped make my life a bit easier."

i For more about Jess's caring role, visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countynews.



How to get support

i Adults

For general information, including details of support groups, courses and events, email info@lincscarerspartnership.net or phone 01522 846911.

For an assessment or informal chat, email carers_team@lincolnshire.gov.uk or phone 01522 782224.

i Young carers

Please visit www.spurgeonsyc.org or phone 01205 331322.

Learning for life

Don't let young people have all the fun – learning is for everyone!

Whatever your age, you're never too old. Whatever your goals, you can achieve them.

That's the message from Community Learning in Lincolnshire in the run-up to Adult Learners' Week, which takes place this year from 17 to 23 May.

As always, a wide range of activities at libraries and other venues will be inspiring people to return to learning and improve their lives.

But why wait until May? All kinds of opportunities are available now at daytime and evening courses across Lincolnshire.

What's more, depending on the course and your circumstances, there may even be financial help for things like equipment, transport and childcare.

The council's deputy leader, Cllr Mrs Patricia Bradwell, who has responsibility for lifelong learning, says: "Everyone has their own reason for thinking about returning to learning.

"Some people want support with English or maths, or to be able to help their children with their homework.

"Others are keen to update their skills or have a career change, or perhaps just to meet people and enjoy a new interest.

"You can get whatever you want out of learning – at whatever age you choose – so why not find out what's on offer in your area?"

i For detailed information about all the lifelong learning opportunities in Lincolnshire, or to download the current Learner Handbook, visit www.2aspire.org.uk.

You can also follow us on Twitter @learninglincs, or call the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782011.

Life after "brain mush"!

One resident who has really benefited from further learning is single mum Polly Jackson, 29, from Lincoln.

She gave up full-time work as a support worker for autistic adults following the birth of her son, Matthew, now six, followed by daughter Esther, two.

"I loved being at home with the kids, but there was never anything for me as an adult," Polly (pictured right) recalls. "I felt my brain was going to mush!"

That's when Polly began to balance family life with further learning, starting with an Open Door confidence-building course.

Then – making the most of free childcare and family-friendly times at local children's centre – she took Healthy Living, Seasonal Crafts and Understanding Child Development.

Polly has now joined the parents' forum at Lincoln Central Children's Centre, helped by a course in committee work, which is also useful to her as chairperson of the local NCT.

For the future, Polly wants to encourage others to make the most of learning, and plans to enrol in an Introductory Teaching course at Lincoln College.

She says: "I'd really advise people to make the most of courses in their area. For parents, the ones at children's centres are great because they're in school hours."



HIGH FLIER: Cllr Marc Jones is fundraising for the Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial.

Making his Marc

Within a year of joining Lincolnshire County Council, Cllr Marc Jones was back-up to the leader on a range of important issues

I am a firm believer in taking action if you want to see improvements in your local community, which is why I stood for election to Lincolnshire County Council in May 2013.

A previous spell on City of Lincoln Council had prepared me to a certain extent for what to expect, but the challenge of dealing with issues from across the whole county is a big difference.

Despite that, the most important things are still the same – the bottom line is that, as a councillor, you are elected to represent people in your division, not to sit in meetings.

I am the support councillor for the county council leader, Cllr Martin Hill, and this has been a very interesting area of work. Finance is a key part of his portfolio and covers all services, so this has given me a good understanding of how the council

operates across the board.

These tough economic times have led public sector organisations – councils, health organisations, the police and so on – to work harder at delivering services together. I believe this will leave us all in a stronger position now the economy is picking up.

I spend roughly half the working week on council matters, which include a lot of reading, attending briefings, meetings and, of course, dealing with local issues. I juggle these responsibilities with running my own business advising people on property issues.

In addition to spending time with my wife, Rachel, and my five-year-old daughter Tabitha, who I take to school every day, I like to play a part in community issues.

I am a governor at two local schools, including one for children with behavioural

challenges, and I enjoy visiting Strut House (for children with a disability) where I am the visiting member for the county council.

Outside work, I have signed up for Tough Mudder, a 12-mile charity assault course in London at the end of April. Proceeds will go to the Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial fund.

To support this cause, please text 70070 LBCM55 £ with the amount you wish to donate, or visit my online justgiving page <http://www.justgiving.com/Marc-Jones11>.

i Marc represents Lincoln Bracebridge on Lincolnshire County Council and, in addition to being the leader's support councillor, sits on the planning and regulation committee. To contact him, call 07818 508106 or email cllrm.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



VIGILANT: Mablethorpe NCI station manager David Wisdom, left, and watchkeeper Arthur Abbey.

Lincolnshire lifesavers

Dedicated Coastwatch volunteers are the eyes and ears of two local communities, protecting both human and marine life

Lost children, dangerous floating debris, stranded sea creatures and injured holidaymakers – these are just some of the many incidents dealt with by the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI).

Volunteers at Lincolnshire's stations in Mablethorpe and Skegness ensure that these are dealt with swiftly by reporting them to the Coastguard, emergency services or other organisations.

The vital role that our local watchkeepers carry out was recognised last year with the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Skegness station manager Steve Atkins explained: "Over the years, all manner of marine emergencies have been reported, including alerting the Coastguard to inflatable beach dinghies and airbeds blowing out to sea, swimmers in difficulty, capsized jet skis and vessels in distress.

"As well as reporting lost children and calling ambulances for injured people, we report incidents concerning sea creatures such as

stranded seals and injured birds rescued from the beach. Sometimes dead seals or porpoises are washed up and the carcasses are clearly a public health hazard. We inform East Lindsey District Council who arrange for removal from the beach.

"Also, significant beach debris, munitions, and dangerous chemical containers washed ashore have been reported to the authorities for specialist disposal."

Lincolnshire's coast has enjoyed an NCI presence since 2005 when a group of volunteers opened the Old Coastguard Watch station at Ingoldmells Point.

This was closed in 2009 when volunteers relocated to their present building, the former Coastguard lookout at Winthorpe, near Skegness.

Around this time, some of the Skegness volunteers decided to open an NCI branch in a beach chalet at Mablethorpe. After a year of battling the elements, including one of the coldest winters in 10 years, a state-of-the-art

watch station was set up, thanks to a lot of hard fundraising.

Mablethorpe NCI's press and publicity co-ordinator, Keith Arthey, said: "Both Skegness and Mablethorpe are lucky and grateful to have very supportive communities, who generously donate whenever we have fundraising collections.

"Our volunteers are from a variety of backgrounds and we are always looking for more. Training is given on the job, and volunteers are provided with uniforms."

i Mablethorpe www.nci.org.uk/mablethorpe 01507 441221
Skegness www.nci.org.uk/skegness 01754 881256

Around the country There are currently 50 NCI stations, manned by more than 2,000 volunteers, keeping watch around the British Isles.

Around 200,000 hours of coastal surveillance were completed in 2013 alone, all at no cost to the public apart from their generous voluntary contributions.

Cheers to county beers!

Beer has been one of the nation's favourite tipples for thousands of years. Today, 11 microbreweries in Lincolnshire keep the age-old drink going, each with a special focus on quality



So-called because of their small size, microbreweries tend to punch well above their weight when it comes to crafting the perfect pint.

Lincolnshire's 11 are no different. Between them, they brew more than 75 regular ales using traditional techniques and the finest ingredients, many of which are locally sourced.

Their colour, aroma and taste are almost as varied as the names they're given – everything from Frightened Pheasant and Hop-a-doodle-do to Magna Plum Carta and Wobble Gob!

But the breweries do have one thing in common – a passion for making the very best beer. It's a smart ambition, with consumers rightly becoming more and more selective over what they eat and drink. Quality is king.

Cllr Colin Davie, Lincolnshire County Council's executive member for economic development, said: "Besides tasting so great, many of Lincolnshire's local brews scoop top industry awards.

"And that's no mean feat, considering the competition from brewing giants and the fact that microbreweries can often start life as a hobby in a spruced-up garden shed."

Ironically, cottage-industry origins stand microbreweries in good stead, adding to their appeal and acting as a mark of homemade magic.

For Lincolnshire's prosperity, the growing popularity of microbreweries can only be a good thing, with 21 jobs

Lincolnshire's microbreweries

- * **Blue Bell Brewery** Spalding www.bluebellbrewery.co.uk
- * **Brewsters** Grantham www.brewsters.co.uk
- * **Cathedral Heights** Lincoln www.chbrewery.co.uk
- * **Fulstow Brewery** Louth www.fulstowbrewery.com
- * **Grafters** Willingham-by-Stow www.graftersmoonlight.co.uk
- * **Newby Wyke** Grantham www.newbywyke.co.uk
- * **Oldershaw** Grantham www.oldershawbrewery.com
- * **Poachers** North Hykeham www.poachersbrewery.co.uk
- * **Riverside** Wainfleet www.wainfleet.info
- * **8 Sail** Heckington www.8sailbrewery.co.uk
- * **All Saints** Stamford www.allsaintsbrewery.co.uk

estimated to be created by a single brewer.

The beers themselves are sold mainly to local pubs and can be enjoyed the length and breadth of the county.

Some are even making it countrywide, combining with delicious produce such as sausages, chine and Poacher cheese to put Lincolnshire firmly on the map for taste.

Around the UK, beer is enjoyed by 32m adults, contributes £19bn to the economy, and helps to create around one million jobs.

Lincolnshire County Council – Scheme of Elected Members’ Allowances

Lincolnshire County Council has adopted a scheme of Members’ Allowances in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

Councillors agreed the scheme at the Council meeting on 21 February 2014, having regard to recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, whose members have no connection with the County Council.

In the event of one councillor holding more than one specified post, only one Special Responsibility Allowance shall be paid.

Responsibilities and allowances within bands 1-10 in the table below are ‘Special Responsibility Allowances’.

Band	Responsibility	Allowance
-	Basic Allowance	£10,100
1	Leader of the Council	£32,000
2	Deputy Leader of the Council	£21,000
3	Members of the Executive	£18,000
4	Chairman of the County Council Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire Chairman of the Audit Committee	£12,120
5	Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee Leader of the Opposition Chairman of the Pensions Committee	£9,090
6	Executive Support Councillor	£8,000
7	Minority Group Leaders Chief Whip	£5,000
8	Vice-Chairman of the County Council Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub Committee	£4,040
9	Vice-Chairmen of the Scrutiny Committees Vice-Chairman of the Planning & Regulation Committee Vice-Chairman of the Pensions Committee	£3,030
10	Vice-Chairman of the Definitive Map & Statement of Public Rights of Way Sub-Committee Member of the Shadow Executive	£1,010
-	Childcare and dependants’ carers’ allowance <i>The Monitoring Officer has discretion to increase the rate in particular cases of need.</i>	An hourly rate equivalent to the National Minimum Wage for the time being
-	Co-opted Member	£750

Travelling & Subsistence and Other Allowances

Public Transport

Travel by public transport should be made at the lowest rate available for the journey(s) in question.

Air travel, foreign travel and, in exceptional cases, travel at rates higher than lowest available fares should be approved in advance by the Democratic Services Manager.

Travel costs will be reimbursed at the actual cost incurred with claims supported by receipts.

Members are encouraged to order tickets for travel by public transport through their administrative support, who will use the County Council’s travel procurement arrangements to secure good value for money. Payment will normally be made direct by the County Council.

Private vehicles and car parking

Rates payable for travel by a private vehicle used by a Member and for official passengers will be those equivalent to HM Revenue & Customs Approved Mileage Rates for the time being. Rates and changes in rates will be notified to Members.

Members are responsible for ensuring that private vehicles used by them comply with all relevant legislation for the purposes for which they are used including safety, taxation and insurance.

Car parking will be reimbursed at the actual cost incurred with claims supported by receipts.

Taxis

In cases of urgency, or where no public transport is reasonably available, Members may travel by taxi and claim the amount of the actual cost incurred, supported by receipts.

Subsistence Expenses

In cases where the County Council provides a meal or a voucher for a meal, no other meal allowance will be paid. On County Council meeting days Members will be provided with a buffet lunch in the County Restaurant and will consequently not be entitled to claim expenses.

In other cases, the County Council will reimburse reasonable costs of meals incurred whilst undertaking approved duties except that subsistence expenses will not be paid for ‘County Councillors’ activities within their Division including surgeries, meetings of any relevant Parish Council, Residents Association or similar organisation’.

Claims must be for actual costs incurred supported by receipts.

Overnight accommodation should be booked in advance on behalf of the Member by their administrative support, using the County Council’s standard procurement arrangements to secure best value for money. Payment will normally be made direct by the County Council.

In cases where a Member incurs reasonable costs for overnight accommodation, it will be reimbursed at actual cost incurred with claims supported by receipts.

Copies of the scheme and the detailed records of payments made may be inspected free of charge during normal office hours at the address below. The records are also available at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk> – just search for councillor allowances.

Lincolnshire County Council,
County Offices,
Newland,
Lincoln LN1 1YL

Tel: 01522 552840
Email: nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Working for a better future



Festival is 10 years young!

The Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival is celebrating a milestone year with a fabulous programme of events

The popular Wolds Walking Festival is 10 this year – and organisers are promising a host of activities worthy of the occasion!

The festival started in 2005 with 56 walks but has now become one of the biggest of its kind in the UK, with 120 walks planned for this year.

The celebration starts in style with an energetic launch on Saturday 17 May at Healing Manor, near Grimsby, offering lots of fun activities as well as great walks.

Visitors can also experience a guided cycle ride and try out a hi-tech Geocache treasure trail – just two of many activities for families.

The festival finale, hosted by newly-formed Horncastle Walkers Are Welcome, is also “going large” this year.

A weekend of events will include an open day at Snipe Dales Country Park and a craft fair and evening charity barbecue at the Sir Joseph Banks Centre on Saturday 31 May.

They will be followed by the now traditional finale on Sunday 1 June, which consists of working up an appetite on a good walk and celebrating with cake at the end!

As ever, the festival will offer a varied programme of walking opportunities, ranging from hour-long town tours to this year’s big walk – a rigorous ramble taking four days!

And because the festival is not just a great way to discover new places, but also a fabulous way of meeting people, there’s a Lincolnshire Speed Dating Walk for the first time!

Describing the programme, organiser Nicki Jarvis said: “Of course, the festival is best known for delivering no-nonsense fantastic walk experiences, led by friendly capable guides.

“Whether you are a regular walker keen to explore new terrain, want to learn more about the history of this beautiful landscape or are looking to challenge yourself to walk a bit

more, then the festival has walks just for you.

“Some of our walks are suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs, and information about accessibility is provided in the brochure and on the website.”

As reported in the last edition of County News, the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty also has a celebration this year, as it marks 40 years of achieving its AONB designation in 1974.

To request a brochure or find out more about the Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival, visit www.woldswalkingfestival.co.uk or phone Heritage Lincolnshire on 01529 461499.

Lincolnshire Wolds
Walking
Festival

THE LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW 2014

18TH & 19TH JUNE

We'll see you there!



It's Showtime!

General show enquiries

For more information about the 130th Lincolnshire Show, including ticket details, please see the advert on the opposite page.

From wartime nostalgia to a giant talking book, there's something for everyone at the council's Lincolnshire Show area

Whether you're looking for facts or fun – or the perfect mixture of both – we'll have the lot at our stand at the 130th Show!

As usual, you'll find us at 10th Avenue, Row B, where we've lined up displays and attractions for visitors of all ages.

Events manager Mark Stoneham said: "The Lincolnshire Show is a wonderful day for the whole family, and we're delighted to play our part in making it such a success.

"This year, we've got displays and information highlighting just some of the things residents and community groups do to make the county such a great place.

"As 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the First World War and 70 years since the

D-Day landings in the Second, we're also exploring Lincolnshire's involvement in both conflicts."

For residents wanting to find out more about the many services the council provides, there could hardly be a better opportunity, with knowledgeable staff available to answer your questions.

You can even arrange to meet your elected councillor over a hot drink and discuss any local concerns you may have.

i For details of the council's area, phone Mark Stoneham on 01522 552118, email mark.stoneham@lincolnshire.gov.uk or follow us on Twitter @Lincolnshire CC.

Our highlights

Top attractions of our wartime theme include:

- A two-seater simulator of a Second World War aircraft cockpit, perfect for children wanting to let their imaginations soar!
- 1940s nostalgia with military and civilian costumes from a bygone era, as well as heart-rending songs by Heather McHale.
- Children can dress up as wartime evacuees, complete with suitcases and name tags, leaving their homes in the cities to escape the bombing.
- Small models for the visually impaired of a Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane, so you can feel your way back into the past.

Bringing you back up to date with the 21st century, we highlight:

- The vital work of Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue, including details of the 2FAST2SOON initiative supporting young drivers.
- Ongoing efforts to help you stay safe on the county's roads, courtesy of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.
- The joy of reading, with a giant talking book for youngsters called Flick!

WIN Lincolnshire Show tickets

Four lucky families can enjoy a free day at the Lincolnshire Show, courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council.

To enter our free prize draw, send your name, address and daytime phone number to County News Show Draw, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL.

Free draw rules: Only one entry per person; entrants must be aged 18 or over; there is no cash alternative to the prize; each ticket is valid for either day of the Show – but not both.

Alternatively, email your details to countynews@lincolnshire.gov.uk – and please put Show Draw as the subject.

The closing date is Friday 23 May. The winning entries will be the first four names drawn out of the hat after that date.

A family ticket, costing £47 on the gate, gives admission to two adults and three children aged under 16.

Advanced ticket prices

Adult £18 Child £6 Family £38
Young Person £16 Groups £16
Membership from £53

For more information and advanced tickets...
www.lincolnshireshow.co.uk



LINCOLNSHIRE SHOWGROUND

Out and about

The essential guide to what's on in Lincolnshire for spring 2014



FIRST WORLD WAR

Until October, Wed to Sat
10.30am – 3.30pm

Boston Guildhall, South Street, PE21 6HT. Temporary exhibition using artefacts from museum collections. Free. 01205 365954, www.bostonguildhall.co.uk.

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

Throughout the summer

More than 60 beautiful Lincolnshire gardens open for charity this summer, many selling plants. Look for distinctive yellow leaflet or visit www.ngs.org.uk.

TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS

4 April, 7.30pm

Caistor Town Hall. Townsend Productions presents play set in 1834 following the extraordinary story of George Loveless, leader of six Dorsetshire farm labourers condemned to transportation for forming a union. www.lovecaistor.co.uk.

BELTON INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

4 – 6 April

Incorporating Grantham Cup and run this year with the National Trust. For the first time, entry includes access to beautiful grounds, adventure playground, shop etc. www.belton-horse.co.uk.

DAMSELS AND DARK KNIGHTS

7 April

Gainsborough Old Hall, Parnell Street, DN21 2NB. Family craft workshop. 01522 782040.

HARDY PLANT SOCIETY

10 April, 7.30pm

William Farr CE School, Lincoln Road, Welton, LN2 3JB. The Lincolnshire Group starts its spring programme with celebrity speaker Jaime Blake talking about famous father-in-law Alan Bloom. £5, incl. refreshments. Doors open 6.30pm. For details of this and other events, phone 01427 668412.

LINDUM SPORTS

11 – 12 April

St Giles Avenue, Lincoln. Friday 11th, from 3pm – official opening ceremony/celebration for new artificial grass pitch for Lincoln Hockey and Lincoln Roses Hockey Clubs, and The Minster School. Saturday 12th – Open Day. Opportunities for all to experience a sport and see local teams. Details in local press.



1914: A NATION AND A COUNTY GO TO WAR

12 April, 10.30am – 3pm
Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln, LN2 5AB. To mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War, this exhibition features fascinating material about themes such as military recruitment, underage soldiers, propaganda, the naval war and the Christmas truce. 01522 782040 or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting.

LOUTH PLAYGOERS RIVERHEAD THEATRE

14 – 19 April, 7.30pm

"If I Were You" by Alan Ayckbourn. £7.50. Box office 01507 600350.

ART ON THE MAP SPRING EXHIBITION

14 – 26 April (open 10am – 4pm, Mon to Sat)
Carre Gallery, 29 Carre Street, Sleaford, NG34 7TR. Preview of artists' work prior to the Open Studio season in Lincolnshire from 3 – 11 May. Admission free. Visit www.carregallery.co.uk or www.artonthemap.org.uk, or phone 01529 415056.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

18 April, 10am – 2pm

Kirton Methodist Church. Bring lunch.

KNIGHTS OF SKIRBECK

18 – 19 April, 10.30am – 3.30pm
Boston Guildhall, South Street, PE21 6HT. The Knights of Skirbeck bring the medieval history of Boston to life through demonstrations and re-enactments. Free entry. 01205 365954, www.bostonguildhall.co.uk.

ALFORD CRAFT MARKET

18, 19, 20, 21 April, 10am – 4pm
Corn Exchange, Market Place, Alford, LN13 9EB. Easter event to celebrate 40 years of the market. Free admission. Egg painting for children in the afternoons, refreshments available.

EASTER EGG HUNT

18, 19, 20, 21 April, noon – 3pm
Easter fun at Hartsholme Country Park. Find hidden treasures left by Easter bunny! £2.50 per child, booking essential. Children must be accompanied. Meet 12 noon at Visitor Centre, Hartsholme Country Park, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, LN6 0EY. For details, call Park Rangers on 01522 873735 or email hartsholmecp@lincoln.gov.uk.



LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS RAILWAY EASTER STEAM GALA

19, 20 and 21 April
Visiting steam locomotives and special events, with trains running 9.45am to 4.45pm each day. Sunday 20th – Easter Bunny Run with Easter egg for every child; Monday 21st – Heritage Steam Day.

CREATING A SCENE

Until 20 April

National Centre for Craft and Design, Sleaford. Peek into the secret world of backstage. 01529 308710 / www.visitlincolnshire.com.

CLASSIC CARS

26 April, 11am – 4pm
Gainsborough Old Hall, Parnell Street, DN21 2NB. Over 40 classic cars on view in the grounds. 01522 782040.

FLOWER FESTIVALS

26 April – 4/5 May
St Mary and the Holy Rood, Donington. Theme "Food around the World". Until 4 May, 10am – 5pm. 01775 821515 or email ch27753@aol.com.

St Mary's Church, Sutterton.

Includes scarecrow displays. Until 5 May, 10.30am – 5.30pm.

St Peter and St Paul Church, Gosberton, PE11 4EW. Until 5 May, 10am – 5pm. On theme of children's storytime. www.gosberton.org.

SPALDING MODEL ENGINEERING AND HOBBY SHOW

26 – 27 April, from 10am
Springfield Events Centre. Planes, boats, radio-controlled vehicles, robotics display, and more. Admission fee. 07443 524260 / www.spaldingshow.com.

LINCOLN LIONS CYCLE CHALLENGES

27 April / 25 May
"Three Twenties" for young people (11 to 18) on 27 April – cycle 20 miles around RAF Scampton and raise £20 in sponsorship for Children with Cancer. "Three Fifties" for adults on 25 May – 50-mile ride through villages around Lincoln to raise £50 for Breast Unit or Cardiac Centre at Lincoln County Hospital. Visit lincoln-lions.org.uk or e-mail carole.hughes@btconnect.com for Three Twenties and don.barbara1@hotmail.co.uk for Three Fifties.

ALFORD REMEMBERS WW1

1 May

Official opening of displays in Alford Manor House and Hackett Barn Museum by Air Marshal Sir John Sutton KCB, running until December. Plus, 25 June, "Edwardian Alford" – talk by local historian Peter Criddle on Alford in summer 1914.



BOSTON MAY FAIR

3 – 10 May (closed on Sunday 4th)
Fun for all the family! Come to the town centre and enjoy fairground attractions, including thrill rides, children's rides, food stalls etc. Opened by Mayor of Boston at midday on 3 May.

GRAINTHORPE MAY DAY FAIR

5 May, 10am – 4pm

Venues in Church Lane, LN11 7JR. Great display of old agricultural machinery and implements at annual Vintage Agricultural Machinery Fair. Also, craft stalls in the barn and village hall. Refreshments available. Admission £1.50 for adults, under 16s free. Free parking.

A NIGHT AT THE PICTURES

10 – 11 May

Gainsborough Heritage Centre. Join costumed staff for living history weekend set in 1940. The builders have completed the town's first purpose-built cinema – The State – and it's opening night! £3 (£1.50 for members).

MEMORIAL SERVICE

11 May

Market Rasen Station Adoption Group memorial service at railway station to mark 50th anniversary of crash of Valiant WZ363, which went down nearby with loss of all crew on 6 May 1964. To attend, email marketrasensag@btinternet.com.

LOUTH PLAYGOERS RIVERHEAD THEATRE

14 – 24 May, 7.30pm

"Me and My Girl" by L. Arthur Rose and Douglas Furber. Tickets £9.50. Box office 01507 600350.

DAWN CHORUS

17 May, 6.30am – 9am
Chambers Farm Wood, Wragby, LN8 3JR. Early morning walk, followed by bacon butties and hot drinks. £5, booking essential. Call 0774706452 or email jenny.boatwright@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

WOODHALL SPA COUNTRY SHOW

18 May, 9.30am – 5pm

Green Lane, Woodhall Spa, LN10 6QY. On the theme of oil. Adults £6, children (5-16) £3, under 5s free. Free parking. Well-behaved dogs welcome on lead. www.woodhallspashow.co.uk, info@woodhallspashow.co.uk or 0781 114 5052.

LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS WALK

21 May, 1pm – 3pm

Chambers Farm Wood, Wragby, LN8 3JR. Guided walk to learn about wildlife, conservation management and the wood's history. Free. 0774706452 or jenny.boatwright@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

TATHWELL 26TH ANNUAL FINE ART EXHIBITION

24 – 26 May, 11am – 5pm
St Vedast's Church, Tathwell, Louth, LN11 9SR. With paintings, books, postcards, woodwork, ceramics and plants. Also, see artists, an upholsterer, walking stick maker and wool spinner at work, admire agricultural machinery models, and join our walks on 24th at 11.30am and 25th at 5pm. 01507 602869.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL FLIGHT

25 and 26 May, 10am – 5pm
Dogdyke Road, Coningsby, LN4 4SY. The Visitor Centre – normally open only on weekdays – welcomes weekend visitors to enjoy its memorabilia, exhibitions and shop. Hangar tours to see the historic aircraft, including a Lancaster, Spitfires and Hurricanes, are available 10.30am to 3pm. Admission to centre is free but charges apply for tours. 01522 782040 or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/bbmf.

1,000 YEARS OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

31 May – 1 June, 10am – 6pm

The grounds of Lincoln Castle will be filled with craftspeople demonstrating traditional skills from blacksmithing and pole lathe to willow weaving, jewellery making and silversmithing. £6.50 adult, £5.20 concession, £3.90 child, £16.90 family. www.visitlincolnshire.com/1000years.aspx.

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF SWANHOLME LAKES SSSI

8 June, 1pm – 3pm
Guided walk of 3 miles / 2 hours along paths which can be muddy. £2.50, booking essential. Children must be accompanied. Meet 1pm at Visitors Centre, Hartsholme Country Park, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, LN6 0EY. 01522 873735 / email hartsholmecp@lincoln.gov.uk.



WARTIME FARM AND FOREIGN FIELDS

8 June, 10am – 4pm (last admission 3.30pm)
Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln. Living history day featuring 1940s entertainment inspired by wartime Lincolnshire farm life. Includes outdoor concert, working military camp and demonstrations. Admission free. 01522 782040 or www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting.

DALESMEN MALE VOICE CHOIR

14 June, 7pm

St Helen's Church, Mareham le Fen. Return visit by popular Derbyshire Dales choir. 01507 568467.

OPEN GARDENS AND SCARECROW WALK WEEKEND

21 – 22 June, 11am – 4.30pm

Mareham le Fen. Enjoy gardens and scarecrows, stalls and refreshments. £3 admission (accompanied children free). Parking on village green, Horncastle Road, PE22 7QN. 01507 568723.

GLOW WORM WALK

27 June, 10pm – midnight
Chambers Farm Wood, Wragby, LN8 3JR. Annual walk in search of glow worms. Please bring torch. Booking essential, 07747006452 or jenny.boatwright@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

SO FESTIVAL 2014

28 June – 6 July
Across East Lindsey. Annual celebration of arts, culture and sport – one of a number of events for East Lindsey Live. For full programme, visit www.eastlindseylive.org.

EVENT PUBLICITY

To submit details of an event for a future edition, please email countynews@lincolnshire.gov.uk at least three months before it takes place. Due to the volume of requests, we cannot guarantee inclusion, so please make other publicity arrangements.

You can also publicise events on Lincolnshire County Council's website. Visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/whatson, email events@lincolnshire.gov.uk or call 01522 552868.

MORE INFORMATION

Whatever you like to do, there is something for everyone in Lincolnshire. For information, including details of beaches, walks and council heritage sites such as Lincoln Castle, Gainsborough Old Hall and The Collection, go to www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting. Visitor information is also available at www.visitlincolnshire.com.

Lincolnshire Rural and Community Touring brings professional theatre, dance and music to village halls from September to June each year. A brochure is available from libraries and other community outlets, or at www.lincsruraltouring.co.uk.

PLEASE NOTE: The information on these pages is correct at time of going to press. However, you may wish to confirm details with event organisers before starting your journey.