



March 2017

Welcome to the third edition of 'Higher Ground', the new bulletin from the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Chalk Streams Get

A Spring Clean

The Lincolnshire Chalks Streams Project has entered its final year of the WREN project.

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for communities, conservation and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC

Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund. This is match funded by one of our partners, Anglian Water.

Two remaining enhancement projects have been delivered during February and March this year to help improve the habitat on our chalk streams.

The first project to get started was in Asterby along a tributary that feeds into the River Bain. Here we worked with the landowners to tidy up some of the hawthorn along the bank and cut back an overgrown hedgerow shading the bank.





The second project we delivered was on the River Rase in Tealby. Here we worked with the estate to gain control of scrub that was choking the channel.

From right at the start of the river channel hawthorns and brambles have grown right across the channel from bank to bank preventing from sunlight getting the river bed which means there are no aquatic plants for invertebrates and fish.

We have worked with contractors to open up the channel and to repair a cattle drink that has caused significant damage to the bank. The work has gone well and we are continuing to work with the estate to help deliver further improvements next year with additional funding from the Lincolnshire Chalk Stream Project partners.

Please visit our website for more [information www.lincolnshirechalkstream.org](http://www.lincolnshirechalkstream.org)

Quilts In The Wolds

Lindsey Patchworkers are holding their 4th patchwork and quilting exhibition, 'Quilts in the Wolds', at Ludford Village Hall on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June 2017.

The demonstrations have proved very popular with many of our visitors in previous years and there will be some new ideas for everyone to see this year.



We hope to encourage people new to sewing to see what they can do with a few pieces of fabric and a needle and thread.

It's an ideal way to spend a summer's day with us in the Heart of the Wolds.

Two traders will be selling patchwork and quilting supplies. Lindsey Patchworkers will also be selling items made by group members.

There is to be an inspirations tombola and a raffle, the proceeds going to the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance and Louth Women's Refuge.

Entrance £4 including homemade refreshments. 10am – 4pm

Ludford Village Hall, Playingfield Lane, Ludford LN8 6AJ

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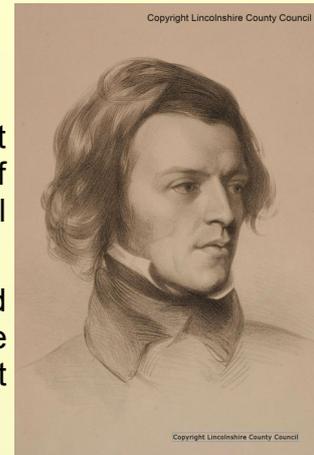


A View From the Wolds

By Debbie Jenner,

I consider myself extremely fortunate to be living in the midst of the countryside that was home to, and inspired many of the early works of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. This pretty, tranquil little pocket of the Wolds is almost frozen in time.

Born in 1809 in the rectory, now Somersby House, Alfred lived much of the first twenty-eight years of his life here wandering the lanes, reciting his poetry as he went, often at night.



One of my favourite walks is a circuit that starts at Bag Enderby, follows the well trodden footpath to Stainsby, and then joins the lanes leading around to Somersby before returning over fields or leafy lane to the starting point.

To start the walk head for the graveyard exit near the noticeboard, pass Ferndale Manor previously a Rectory, and then Skeltons Cottage, and you will come to the thatched mud and stud cottage named Ivy House Farm.

Take the footpath to the left in front of the cottage and stop at the gap about fifty metres down on your right for your first glimpse of Somersby.

Carry on down the path through Paradise Holt and cross over what is known as the brook. It is actually the River Lymn, but is known locally as Tennysons 'babbling' brook.

Walk on through the farmyard of Stainsby House with its mix of ancient barns and modern barns and reach the signpost. Here you could turn left and follow the path to Hagworthingham with its steep climb, but spectacular views as you ascend Mount Pleasant.

However my particular walk takes me right at the signpost. Along this stretch you must stop and take in the panoramic landscape with views to Fulletby, Tetford Hill, Somersby and Bag Enderby and around to Hagworthingham.

On reaching the lane turn right towards Somersby. As you progress do stop at the top of the first hill and take in those views before dropping down into the valley.

Turn right at the junction and carry on down to the bridge over the brook. This bridge was built in 1827, the year Alfred started at Cambridge.

As you walk up the hill past Brook Cottage which was once a farmhouse, you will come to the cream-coloured Somersby House, Tennysons birthplace. It is now a private home, but does open its doors or garden to the public on the occasion of fundraising events.

To return to Bag Enderby you can either follow the leafy lane, or take the footpath at the White House Farm across the fields and over three stiles. A map for this can be found on the new Wolds Walks leaflet, 'In the Footsteps of Tennyson'.

Debbie Jenner, leads Tennyson-themed walks for groups and schools and can be contacted via www.tennysonsbirthplace.co.uk.



These Wolds were made for Walking!

The Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival is fast approaching, and the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service, in partnership with Heritage Lincolnshire, is gearing up for a fabulous 16 days of walking from Saturday 20 May.

Now in its 13th year, the festival will offer over 100 guided walks, led by experienced volunteers, across the length and breadth of the Lincolnshire Wolds, and a bit further besides. Whether you want to get out for a morning leg-stretcher, work off your lunch with an afternoon walk, pack a bag for an all-day stomp or make a date with friends for an after-work evening walk, the festival has it all. You can even experience the Wolds by moonlight if you join one of our night walks.

Walking is a great, low-impact, way to exercise. Good for a positive spirit as well as a healthy heart. No worry if currently you don't get out much. We have gentle walks, starting at one mile (with lots of stops) as well as challenging strides pushing up to 20 miles. Many of our walks offer something extra too. Why not join an experienced guide to discover more about the wonderful Lincolnshire Wolds landscape, the East Midlands' only nationally designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. You can learn about our industrial past, historic canals, archaeological remains, beautiful churches, deserted medieval villages, farming practices and local flora and fauna. There is plenty for families to enjoy too, with fun outdoors events happening all through May half term.

Have we whetted your appetite? To find out more about the festival, check out individual walks or download a brochure, just click [here](#). Alternatively, look out for a brochure in your local library, Tourist Information Centre and other venues around the Wolds. We look forward to seeing you in May!



Enjoy West Lindsey Churches Festival



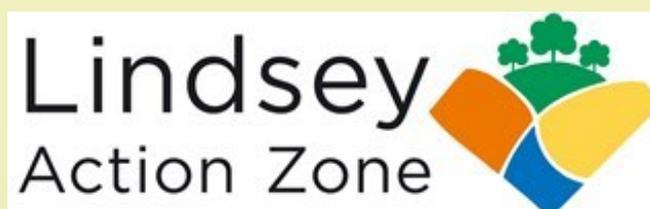
A wonderful celebration of rich architecture and heritage, of beautiful tranquillity and spirituality, and a warm welcome from all participating churches in this, it's 21st year!

Over the two weekends of 13 & 14 May and 20 & 21 May, our churches invite you to explore some of our best treasures. Many have organised exhibitions and concerts for your enjoyment – along with ensuring that you will be well nourished over the two weekends, with many providing light refreshments throughout the day.

If you want a bit of time to relax in the quiet of a spiritual building, then make sure you choose one of the self-nominated 'quiet' churches. All the details of the events and activities can be found in the Festival Brochure.

For more information and to request a brochure: 01427 811573 www.churchesfestival.info
www.facebook.com/WestLindseyChurches

Lindsey Action Zone – Grant Funding Still Available...



The Lindsey Action Zone (LAZ) is still open for business supporting a wide range of rural development projects that can help support and diversify the local economy.

Grants awarded to date across the LAZ area have totalled £253,303, supporting a total of nine projects with a further £894,939 currently earmarked through approved expressions of interest. This still leaves a further £1.08 million for new projects.

The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB is within the LAZ operating area and Judy Bell (Judy.Bell@lincolnshire.gov.uk) continues to welcome fresh enquiries from potential applicants.



Going Underground...

A trial of a new tree planting additive is underway in the Lincolnshire Wolds. A small area of tree planting has been carried at South Thoresby Warren Local Nature Reserve. The trees have been planted to study the effectiveness of biochar as an 'amendment' to the soil when planting new trees. An area known for its poor & free draining soil was selected for the planting and equal numbers of Hornbeam, Oak and Rowan have been planted, 50% have been treated with Biochar.

It is hoped that the inclusion of the biochar will help the young trees establish more quickly, with the biochar soaking up and storing water and water-borne nutrients for



the times the tree need them most i.e. during drought. The trees will be monitored over the coming years and should the trial prove successful we will consider using biochar more widely in our tree planting schemes.

So what is Biochar?

Biochar is a charcoal-like substance created by pyrolysis (high-temperature, low-oxygen burning) of green waste, biochar is a desirable material due to its ability to attract and retain water. This is made possible by its very porous structure and very high surface

area. Pre-Columbian Amazonian's are believed to have used biochar to enhance soil productivity, researchers discovered dark, charcoal-rich soil (known as Terra preta, or black earth) that supported productive farms in areas that previously had poor and in some places, toxic soil, the biochar seems to have been produced by smouldering agricultural waste in pits or trenches.

Our Mailing Address is:

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