



## *Welcome to the e-newsletter from the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service*

**April 2022**



### **Wolds Women of Influence**

Lovers of Lincolnshire history now have a wealth of new stories to discover - online and on foot - as the award-winning Market Rasen Heritage Tour and Website expands from 14 stops to 20, this April.

This has been made possible by the addition of six new stories focusing on “Wolds Women of Influence”, taken from an exhibition of the same name which proved a great success when launched in 2018. The women featured are from all walks of life, from landed gentry to publicans, headteachers to shop owners. Each have left their mark. Some locally, some nationally and some even globally.

Also included in the update is a fascinating 12-minute video that reveals how local woman Louisa Boucherett helped many children from the Caistor Workhouse, making her, perhaps, one of Lincolnshire’s most unsung heroes. View the video here on YouTube. The website can be found at [www.marketrasenheritagetour.co.uk](http://www.marketrasenheritagetour.co.uk) where visitors can explore

a vintage map of the town and (from April onwards) find the women’s stories by clicking on blue bonnet icons.

Six new plaques have also been placed in and around the town at locations connected to the women, to give a companion walking tour. The plaques all have QR codes linking them to the story pages of the website. They join 14 existing plaques in the town, which means Market Rasen now has a 20-stop heritage tour to satisfy even the most ardent history buff.

The enhanced website and tour will be officially launched on Saturday April 16th at a Pop-Up Market in Market Rasen, with Gail Dennis of the Lindsey Rural Players dressing up as Louisa Boucherett, the woman she portrays in the video created for the project. The original Market Rasen Heritage Tour and Website was launched in 2014 and picked up three heritage and tourism awards at that time. The original Wolds Women of Influence stories come from a highly successful exhibition of the same name, that made its debut in 2018. Funding for this new development, which sees both projects combine, comes from Lincolnshire County Council's Community Collaboration Fund.

"The existing Market Rasen Heritage Tour is an ideal platform for the Wolds Women of Influence stories," explains project manager Nicola Marshall, "giving them a permanent home online and giving visitors another reason to come to Market Rasen and explore its heritage by finding the plaques about town. We are grateful to Market Rasen Community Partnership and Lincolnshire County Council for supporting and funding this development, and the many other people and organisations who have helped us research and record these women's stories and preserved them for the future."

Stephen Bunney, West Lindsey District Councillor for the Market Rasen Ward, commented: "The inclusion of the 'Wolds Women of influence' plaques greatly enhances the already magnificent experience gained by those who undertake the Market Rasen Heritage Trail. As they follow the trail, either on foot or virtually via the web, participants gain a fascinating insight into the social history and architecture of this small gateway Market Town on the western edge of The Lincolnshire Wolds. It is highly recommended by visitors and thoroughly deserves its award winning status."

### **Download Even More History**

The website also offers PDF versions of each story that can be downloaded, to share or display offline.

Teachers can download educational resources from the website too, in the form of a 38 slide PowerPoint that offers a range of activities to engage Key Stage 2 children in the women's stories. Activities include holding a vote in class, trying your hand at typography, performing hit songs from 1944 and 1976 and guessing which inventions have saved the most lives.

### **Building on the Success of the Original 2018 Exhibition**

The Wolds Women of Influence original exhibition was held at Market Rasen's Old Police Station in the summer of 2018 and went on to tour the county in 2019. Nicola Marshall explains the teamwork behind this first event: "It was a wonderful collaboration of women with a wide range of skills, including Dr Caroline Mogg, independent women's historian, Angela Wilson, volunteer local history researcher, Beka Smith, freelance researcher and members of the Lincoln Branch of the Fawcett Society."

There were also many organisations involved from the start, with the Town Council, Rase Heritage Society, Fawcett Society and University of Lincoln supporting the Wolds Women of Influence project back in 2018. Angela Wilson, Anne Egglestone and Angela Stubbs of the Fawcett Society undertook all the research for the posters on the life of Jessie Boucherett, helped with information from the book "Timely Assistance" by Ellen Jordan & Anne Bridger.

Researcher Angela Wilson recalls how well the women's stories were received from the start: "The original Wolds Women of Influence project was very successful. In 2019 we took the exhibition, with a supporting talk, to Woodhall Spa Museum, Spilsby's Franklin Hall and Caistor Plough Hill in addition to the original exhibition and talks at Market Rasen Old Police Station. All these events had a brilliant reception and interest from a wide range of people."

## New Video Reveals an Unsung Lincolnshire Hero

One of the most exciting aspects of Lincolnshire history that the project has brought into the spotlight focuses on the real-life Victorian children from the local workhouse and the woman who helped them, Louisa Boucherett of Willingham House, a grand country house that once occupied Willingham Woods but was demolished in the 1960s. The video can be viewed on the Market Rasen Heritage Tour's YouTube Channel at this link <https://youtu.be/R6DE8q-lj3o> or by searching YouTube for 'Louisa Boucherett and The Caistor Workhouse Children'.

This story was uncovered through the original PhD research of Dr Caroline Mogg, for the Wolds Women of Influence Exhibition in 2018. In the video, the part of Louisa Boucherett is played by volunteer actor Gail Dennis of the Lindsey Rural Players, who reads through original letters and papers to tell the story in Louisa's own words.

But the video also brings the past to life with help of modern-day local children, who lent their faces to the project so the workhouse children could be fully represented.

"The scheme pioneered by Louisa to help these children was called Boarding Out, and she was among the first people in the UK to try this approach," explains the video's creator Angela Montague, of Market Rasen based production company Push Creativity. "Boarding Out is a forerunner of the foster care system that is used worldwide today, so we were very keen that the importance of Louisa's work and the workhouse children's stories are known by a much wider audience. But, because these were extremely poor children from the 1860s, we did not have any photographs of them to use in the video. So, we ran a competition, through the Market Rasen Community Partnership and the Market Rasen Mail, to ask local children to 'lend their faces' to children from the past."

Many local children rose to the challenge and sent in photos of themselves posing as workhouse children. "We saw lots of flat caps and lace collars, faces with smudges and sad eyes! We were so impressed with the efforts families went to, I am glad the winners were chosen at random as it would be impossible to pick the best," added Angela.

The winner's photos were transformed into illustrations using Photoshop and appear in the video alongside Louisa's descriptions of the workhouse children they represent, with ten of the 25 children Louisa worked with are featured in the video, five girls and five boys.

Through using wording from Louisa's actual letters, the new video gives glimpses of the hardships the children went through and the opportunities that the Boarding Out scheme gave them, such as the description of Jane Hustle who "is still so small and short owing to a natural defect, as to make it necessary to continue the allowance for some time longer; but as she has improved considerably of late in strength and stature", and the assessment of Samuel Ensor: "nine years of age at John Bray's, labourer of Tealby, doing well at school, and will go to work this summer."

Dr Caroline Mogg added her thoughts on the project: "Louisa Boucherett provides an excellent example of a local propertied woman who used her considerable power and influence to improve the lives of those less fortunate than herself. Through her pioneering work on the promotion of the boarding out scheme Louisa intervened in the wider public debate about the plight of England's workhouse children. Louisa Boucherett's achievements deserve to be celebrated and I am delighted that the Market Rasen Heritage Tour and Website has brought her story to life in such a creative way."

The Wolds Women of Influence project also has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/woldswomenofinfluence](http://www.facebook.com/woldswomenofinfluence)





**Come and See Us!**

[The Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival](#) is a new event taking place in and around the Lincolnshire Wolds, an Area of Outstanding Beauty, this Spring.

This nationally important and cherished landscape has so much to offer, so many great outdoor activities, things to do and places to explore that we thought it was time to celebrate it all!

So, come and discover some of the many activities that help make the Wolds such a wonderful place to be; from cycling, fishing, golf, water sports and high ropes to navigation, dancing, crafting, gliding and much, much more!!



## Churches Festival is a Go!

The message is clear: welcome back to this year's Churches Festival, and what a glorious celebration is on offer as the people who care for these churches come together after two years of absence due to the pandemic.

The year 2022 sees the Queen's platinum anniversary and in celebration, four churches in week one are holding exhibitions in honour of this wonderful achievement. Holy Trinity, Swallow will include personal reminiscences and souvenirs of the Queen's seventy years reign and at St John's, Southrey, which was built by the villagers during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year, a celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee with a red, white and blue themed flower display. At Middle Rasen, the theme of St Peter & St Paul's is 'The Queen - Service before Self' and Nettleton St John the Baptist have chosen 'Anniversaries' as the theme with flowers and exhibits on view.

Other exhibitions to take note of during both weekends are: St Andrew's, Apley, which is celebrating 25 years of this West Lindsey Open Churches Festival with a special flower display. Stainfield, St Andrew have a theme of 'Consider the works of our hands', celebrating local craftspeople and their skills and St Peter & St Paul, Owmbly by Spital have a similar display. Reepham St Peter & St Paul focus on 'Past, present and future' with an archive of the village as will All Saints, Upton cum Kexby.



A new stained glass window commemorating all who have served at RAF Scampton over the last 100 years takes pride of place in the church's 'Allies in the Air' exhibition.

The history of these Lincolnshire churches spans back to those first Christian saints. Visitors can follow in the footsteps of St Oswald from Rand, via Stainfield with its connections with the Benedictine nunnery, to St Lawrence church, Bardney. Here they can also explore the connection between Venerable Bede, St Oswald and Bardney Abbey. There really is 1400 years of English history in this one building!

Every one of these churches is waiting to share its story with you. And the organisers promise there really is a different story in each, and challenge visitors to find out the importance of Henry Dudding of St Edmunds at Riby, or Anne Ayscough of St Mary & St Nicholas at South Kelsey!

Whichever churches you visit, you will be guaranteed a warm welcome.

Organiser Linda Patrick sums up the feelings of many involved: "The last two years have been most difficult. Churches were closed for long periods of time and unable to raise income from their many activities, including normal collections and the hiring out of buildings. So please join in and celebrate this festival and support as many churches and chapels as you can over the two weekends. Not only will you be supporting our church heritage, you will also be supporting many of our small villages, helping to ensure that the lovely community spirit that binds these rural Lincolnshire towns and villages together stays forever."

The festival's website can be found at <https://www.churchesfestival.info/> where every church has its own page. Details include where lunches are being served and where organ recitals can be heard, along with the facility to download a 50 page PDF of the event brochure.

The festival is active on Facebook and Twitter, and asks visitors to share their images using the hashtag #LoveLincsChurches throughout the two weekends.





### **Well Blow Me!**

A blow well is an artesian spring, of a type seldom (if at all) found across the British Isles except for the coastal margins of Lincolnshire. The particular geological configuration needed exists between Louth and Barton-Upon Humber.

Rainfall on the chalk of the Lincolnshire Wolds can reappear as chalk streams, particularly along the natural spring line at the foot of the western chalk scarp, but towards the Humber Estuary, groundwater is confined by a consistent cover of quaternary (glacial) clay. The water here is therefore under greater pressure (artesian) and where there is an opening in the clays from the chalk to the surface and there is enough pressure the groundwater emerges – termed a ‘blow well’.

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) were awarded grant funding in August 2021 from Natural England’s East Midlands Seedcorn Fund for a ‘Lincolnshire Blow Wells – a part of our Nature Recovery Network’ project. The LCSP used the funds to employ a geological specialist to survey 17 known blow well sites for their potential to be designated as Local Geological Sites.

The LCSP worked closely with partners from the Blow Wells Working Group, in particular, Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, Environment Agency and North East Lincolnshire Council to present these sites to a panel of expert geologists. There was a great outcome of 4 new designated sites, one location encompassing 4 blow wells.

In addition, the funding has helped to train 14 volunteers on a new blow well monitoring project developed by the Blow Wells Working Group partners. The newly trained citizen scientists will be collecting site specific information that will help inform how these incredibly rare and valuable habitats can be protected and improved to help with our of nature recovery.

Our thanks go to the landowners who engaged with us during this project and to Natural England for the funding. For more information, please visit the [website](#).

## A View from the Wolds

Steve Scoffin, Project Officer for the Lincolnshire Wolds 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' Programme

Actually, it's two views. They say that every picture tells a story but, just occasionally, you have to tell the story of the picture and of how a fairly simple picture can contain much more than what may at first seem to be apparent.



The first view is of the landscape itself, shaped by geology and centuries of farming and other industries leading to being declared an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty nearly 50 years ago. The second is my view that farmers and landowners are central to how an agriculturally productive landscape like the Wolds adopts the new more environmentally based Government policies. Many are already actively responding to that challenge.

National Parks and AONBs in England, as 'Protected Landscapes', are delivering support for this change, helping to deliver against the Government's Agriculture Transition Plan through the 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' (FiPL) programme. Running until March 2024, it is a programme of funding from Defra for one-off projects, not an agri-environment scheme. For the AONB, it is being managed through the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service.

Through the programme's four themes of Climate, Nature, People and Place, farmers and land managers can access funding to carry out projects that support nature recovery, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage, or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.

And so to the view. Taken after a recent visit to a potential FiPL applicant, it captures much of the essence of the Wolds around Scamblesby. Looking north from Rowgate Hill, most of the undulating landscape is arable but with some areas of sheep grazing and woodland; in the foreground is a chalk stream that feeds into the Bain near Goulceby, while there is a blush of red chalk on the lower slopes of the steeper land towards Stenigot.



As such, a typical Wolds view. But the untold story is of farmers and landowners integrating the aims that FiPL is built on into their management of the land. Just within the area of the view, there has been interest in increasing biodiversity through providing kestrel and owl boxes, management of hedgerows, trees and watercourses, helping pollinators and developing ways of monitoring which species use which plants and crops, developing buildings to support camping and glamping and to house a small centre for training in rural skills, and working with an existing cluster of farmers to not only share good practice but to further manage the land to support carbon sequestration, soil health and increasing biodiversity, and do it on a landscape scale.

FiPL is different. As a competitive grant programme, applications must meet national and local priorities and show they provide value for money. Importantly, they need to demonstrate how the application will make a difference to the AONB, so the critical part is not buying a piece of equipment or a service but how it will be used and taken to a wider audience. I said earlier I felt that farmers are responding to the challenges set under the Agriculture Transition Plan. From the evidence so far from FiPL on the Lincolnshire Wolds, that's certainly the case.