



**March 2018**

**Welcome to the sixth edition of 'Higher Ground', the newsletter from the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service**

### **The New Management Plan is Nearly Here!**

Many of you have 'had your say' and told us what you thought are the issues facing the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC - AONB Partnership) would like to thank everyone who took the time and trouble to respond during the initial questionnaire survey and also those who met and spoke to us directly during our summer events. There has been a great deal of work since then and the draft Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 went out for public consultation, which ended on 31st January 2018.

We are looking at everyone's comments and input in scrutinising the draft documentation, helping to shape the final Strategy and Action Plan for the nationally protected Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. Following forthcoming endorsement from the Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and Natural England, the Management Plan will be sent through to our relevant local authorities (LCC, ELDC, WLDC and NELC) for its formal adoption. We look forward to working with everyone to help protect and enhance the Lincolnshire Wolds, crucially promoting and aiding delivery of the many actions and aspirations within the Plan. A copy of the final published Plan will be available shortly.

Stuart Parker, Chairman - Lincolnshire Wolds Joint Advisory Committee adds, "we are working towards a final Plan that will be endorsed by the AONB Partnership and duly adopted by all of our relevant local authorities. It is a Plan for everyone, and the evidence, aspirations, policies and targets set out in the documents will provide a very important tool for informing and guiding the future management of this very special landscape."

Thank you again to those of you who read the draft Management Plan and submitted comments.

## Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival 2018



The Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival returns for its 14<sup>th</sup> year offering 16 days of great walking across the East Midlands' only Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

With over 100 walks on offer, the festival remains one of the largest, and best-attended, events of its kind in the UK, and with walks ranging from 0.5 miles to 76 miles there really is something for everyone!

The varied programme provides a great way for everyone to explore a beautiful landscape and experience its culture and heritage, whilst enjoying some healthy exercise in good company. Discover the history of an area with a guided talking walk, try something new with a themed walk, enjoy an energetic ramble, relax with a short stroll, or experience the Wolds in a different light with one of the night walks on offer.

Many walks are family friendly and feature fun activities such as shelter building, bushcraft, treasure trails, bug hunts and more, so there is plenty on offer to keep the little ones busy during the May half term. The packed programme also feature walks which are suitable for wheelchair users and accessible with pushchairs.

The festival will commence on 19<sup>th</sup> May with a launch event in the Lincolnshire Wolds village of Nettleton and, after 16 days of walking and family fun, it will conclude with a finale event in the picturesque village of South Elkington on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

For more information go to [www.woldswalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.woldswalkingfestival.co.uk) or pick up a festival brochure.



## West Lindsey Churches Festival 2018



Once again West Lindsey is staging its annual Churches Festival. And what a festival it will be this year! One hundred churches have come together to open their doors to celebrate their rich diversity.

We have churches of all sizes and denominations, some are simple churches serving small hamlets, others are buildings of larger stature, serving our market towns. But all share one thing in common – a warm welcome to everyone over the festival weekends.

This year the festival is commemorating two significant dates in West Lindsey. Firstly it is 100 years since the formation of the Royal Air Force. West Lindsey is an area with a rich aviation heritage and a strong association with the RAF. During WW2 there were 13 airbases in the district, although only one now remains active - at Scampton.

But there is plenty of evidence of the RAF's existence and none more than in our churches. In particular pay a visit to Brookenby St Michael & All angels. This church was created out of the former unmarried sergeants' accommodation. The weekend will feature various displays from both World Wars as well as a heritage trail directing visitors to other heritage sites in Brookenby including a replica Lancaster cockpit.

It is also 100 years since the end of WWI. And there is much to be found in our churches to commemorate the brave servicemen who went to war. Be it plaques, stained glass, gravestones or war memorials..... it will be hard not to be humbled as you witness these.

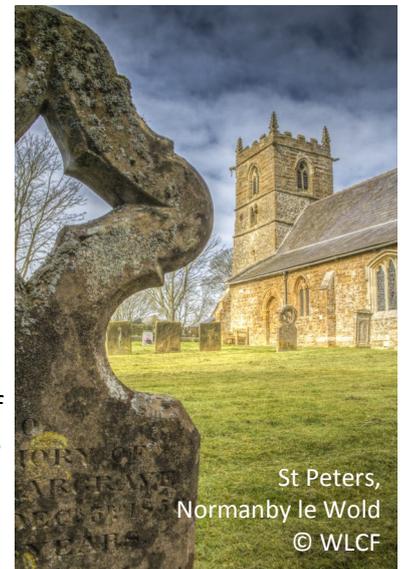
Cabourne St Nicholas church, with its Saxon tower, will be holding an exhibition of photographs of the war graves in France. And Caistor St Peter & St Paul's is inviting you to make a poppy sculpture and share in the remembrance "Lest We Forget."

Over half our churches are commemorating the end of WWI or 100 years of the RAF and all details can be found within this year's guide book. We have also created a new symbol "War Art" to help you easily identify these churches as you read through the book. This symbol also covers remembrance to WWII.

Other exhibitions will also be in full swing over the weekend: visit Rothwell St Mary Magdalene to see their Wedding exhibition, or learn about local history at Wickenby. Or, enjoy the display of hats and flowers at Walesby St Mary.

Once again you will be well nourished at many of our churches as they put on a fantastic feast of refreshments and lunches to whet your appetites. Ranging from tea, coffee and biscuits to Ploughman's lunches, bacon butties, even full cooked English Breakfasts, there is surely something for everybody!

More details on the 2018 West Lindsey Churches Festival brochure can be found on [www.churchesfestival.info](http://www.churchesfestival.info)



## **FREE family events this Easter with the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project**



Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Lincolnshire County Council the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project have organised several free family events over the Easter holidays and May half term:

### **Easter**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** – Children can come and learn a Play in a Day with Rhubarb Theatre at Tetford

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April** – Come and join Rhubarb Theatre for an interactive storytelling event at Laceby

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April** – Join the community of Scamblesby as they help maintain their chalk stream

### **May Half Term**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May** – More storytelling adventures from Rhubarb Theatre at Hubbarbs Hills in Louth with a bit of stream dipping after

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May** - Children can come and learn a Play in a Day with Rhubarb Theatre at Broadbent Theatre in Wickenby

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June** – Join the community of Skendleby as they help maintain their chalk stream

For full details and to book your place please contact the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project –

01522 555780 or [chalkstreams@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:chalkstreams@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

More details available at [www.lincolnshirechalkstreams.org](http://www.lincolnshirechalkstreams.org)

or their Facebook page: @LincolnshireChalkStreams

## 'Lincolnshire: Bastion in the Air, 1915-18'

**This is a major project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and local councils. It highlights Lincolnshire's contribution to the development of British aviation and the nation's air defences in the First World War. Running to April 2020, it includes static exhibitions at RAF Scampton and The Collection in Lincoln, as well as travelling exhibitions at venues throughout the county.**

The world's first powered aircraft flight took place in the USA in 1903; the UK's first powered aircraft flight occurred in 1908, funded by the War Office. Oddly, the War Office saw little military potential in aircraft and withdrew funding. By 1911, the Germans were developing military airships, the French developing aircraft, and the Italians using aircraft against Turkish troops in Libya.



Above: A Sopwith Gunbus being prepared for flight at West Common, Lincoln 1915

Britain was still ill-prepared for aerial conflict when the first German bomb fell on Dover in December 1914. The German Army and Navy each had airships as well as aircraft. With their long ranges, airships could attack distant targets. Their first airship attack on Britain occurred at night on 19/20 January 1915, when bombs fell on Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn and Norfolk village, killing four and injuring 16 people.

Lincolnshire's well-established agricultural manufacturing industry soon converted to aircraft production, becoming one of the world's largest aircraft manufacturing centres: the county produced over 3,700 aircraft by the war's end.

Strikingly, large numbers of women played a vital role in aircraft and munitions production, as well as in other areas of the war effort.

Nationally, the public demanded better air defences and these were dramatically improved by mid-1916. In Lincolnshire, RFC home defence aircraft flew regular anti-airship patrols, and RNAS and US Navy aircraft escorted convoys and flew anti-submarine patrols.



Above: Women at Robeys factory, Canwick Road (now Jacksons Buildbase)

In 1917, the Germans introduced large bomber aircraft for short-range attacks on southern England, and they continued airships attacks throughout 1917 and 1918. British defences did score some successes against the attackers.

On 1 April 1918, the RFC and RNAS were amalgamated into the Royal Air Force (RAF) to rationalize British airpower. When hostilities ceased on 11 November 1918, the RAF had become one of the world's most powerful air forces.

For more information, visit: [www.aviationheritagelincolnshire.com/](http://www.aviationheritagelincolnshire.com/)

# **A View From the Wold**

**By Pete Ashmore (Viking Pete),**  
**Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival Volunteer Organiser**

I start the day with coffee and cake or full English breakfast at the Caistor Arts & Heritage Centre on Plough Hill in Caistor. There is lots to learn about the area here.

Loaded with calories I head south along the Viking Way, almost immediately passing Pigeon Spring on Horsemarket and the old fire tender shed built into the hillside, then carefully crossing the A46 Lincoln to Grimsby Road, through a couple of fields to the church of St John the Baptist in Nettleton, mostly built in late Saxon times.



Leaving Nettleton village behind, I continue south along the Viking Way into Nettleton Valley, following Nettleton Beck, into open countryside. It's hard to believe this was an area of busy mining, feeding the Scunthorpe steelworks 30 miles away as recently as the early 1960's. You could be a million miles from anywhere enjoying the peace and tranquillity of this beautiful area.

Whatever time of day you go, a different atmosphere greets you. Eerie dewy mornings, lazy afternoons or romantic evenings. Don't forget to look back at the fantastic scenery as you pass through the valley.

I've done this walk several times, alone (with me), with God, with mother nature, and with the lovely Zuzana. Each has its own benefits, each equally rewarding. Stop, look around, listen to the birds. Each season is different too.

Climbing the gentle slopes up to the lane that leads to Acre House with the "Golf Ball" radar station rising from the horizon like a giant white planet, I am close to the highest point in the Wolds at 168 metres, the trig point can only be reached with special permission from the landowner.



Here I take different routes, one takes me left to Rothwell, but this time I'm going further along the Viking Way to Normanby Le Wold, a sleepy hamlet with the magnificent St Peter's church, a grade 2 listed building, an ideal place to stop for lunch and listen to the birds chattering away.

From here I drop down the steep hill, sometimes called cardiac hill if you are going the other way, into Claxby, passing the Viking Centre and along the Lindsey Loop (a long distance path connecting several market towns in East and West Lindsey) back through Nettleton to Caistor.

Stop and enjoy the water feature garden on Cromwell View and the Syfer Spring on Fountain Street near to St Peter & St Paul's Church.



SIR JOSEPH BANKS  
*Society*

*Working towards 2020 commemoration*

Sir Joseph Banks 1743 - 1820 was one of England's most influential figures in the Georgian period. He sailed with Capt. Cook on HMS Endeavour bringing together a team who collected plants, fish, birds, animals and insects as the ship sailed round the world. He was a personal friend of King George III and with his patronage he turned the leisure gardens at Kew into a scientific botanical garden which was famed across the world. He was President of the Royal Society for 42 years and sponsored and promoted many scientific projects which influenced the development of countries across the globe.

Sir Joseph Banks was a scientific giant who spent his childhood roaming his father estate at Revesby. Following his attendance at Harrow, Eton and finally Christ Church Oxford he inherited his father's estates. He developed a passion for the natural world but specialised in botany and much of his life was devoted to understanding and harnessing natural resources.

In adult life he visited the county annually in the autumn until gout prevented him from travelling. This was just three years before his death. In Lincolnshire he owned 400 tenanted farms and thousands of acres. He was proactive in the development of canals and field drainage which improved Lincolnshire's infrastructure and increased economic wealth in the county. In Horncastle he established a dispensary which benefited those who could not afford medical treatment. He also successfully petitioned government to introduce licenses for those wishing to become doctors. On his estates he increased the acreage of woodland which he managed on a rotational system. The result was a timber that sold at premium prices.

In addition to dealing with estate matters and the many community responsibilities he accepted he also organised events that became important dates in the social calendar. The Fishing Parties lasted three days and sailed from Dog Dyke to the Grand Sluice in Boston. The invited guests would stop at Anton Gout where the servants organised a picnic serving them the fish they had caught en route. A Ball at the Bull Hotel took place each year to raise money for the dispensary and the Revesby Fair was a festive day for his tenants and their friends.

Sir Joseph was a gentleman with a reputation and influence that spanned the globe - yet he is a neglected figure in our history. The Sir Joseph Banks Society was formed ten years ago with the sole objective of raising his profile and promoting his achievements. In 2020 it will be the 200th anniversary of his death and the society is planning a number of events to celebrate his life. Our programme already includes other societies and organisations but we would be delighted to welcome others. With your help we can make 2020 a very special year focusing on Lincolnshire and a very remarkable past resident.

NB Please contact Jean by emailing [jean.shaftoe@gmail.com](mailto:jean.shaftoe@gmail.com) as she would be thrilled to discuss the celebrations with you. Keep an eye out for special events and walks during 2020.

Jean Shaftoe, Vice Chair, Joseph Banks Society

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