

Higher Ground



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March 2019

Welcome to the news bulletin from the
Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



These Boots Are Made For Walking

The popular Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival returns this May, offering over 120 walks, events and outdoor activities.

Full details of what's on offer can be found in the festival brochure which is out now! Download your copy from the website (www.woldswalkingfestival.co.uk) or pick one up at your local garden centre, tourist information centre, library or visitor attraction.

With walks ranging from 0.5 to 17 miles there is something for all ages and abilities, including routes which are suitable for wheelchair users and accessible with pushchairs.

Cont'd....



The action packed programme features relaxed strolls, challenging hikes, activity walks, themed walks, tours and taster sessions.

To celebrate its 15th anniversary, this year's festival also includes a range of outdoor activities, as well as over 50 fun-filled family events!

Festival Co-ordinator, Natalie Lunt, said:

“From stream dipping to shelter building, bug hunts to bike rides and treasure hunts to trains there is plenty to keep the little ones busy during the May half term!”

The festival, which remains one of the largest and best-attended events of its kind in the UK, starts on 18th May with a launch event in Legbourne and concludes with a finale event at Scrivelsby Estate on 2nd June.

A New Churches Festival for the Wolds and Coast

Save the date: 31st August & 1st September and 7th & 8th September!

The first ever Lincolnshire Wolds and Coast Churches Festival is set to take the area by storm later this year as 200 churches are invited to participate.

Over the last year, the National Churches Trust has been working with 45 churches in the Horncastle Deanery, on a project that has helped and encouraged these churches to open their doors and promote their heritage via their website:

www.explorechurches.org



Project Manager, Linda Patrick, has been overjoyed with how the year has gone:

“We have seen such wonderful enthusiasm from all the churches who have embraced the project. Many church wardens and volunteers have attended training courses that have ranged from offering a church welcome to learning how to take appealing photography, from understanding how to interpret the magnificent treasures in their church buildings to getting to grips with the latest IT skills and creating enticing posts on social media.”

Cont'd...



We now have churches open at weekends inviting all to enter, where once they were locked. We have churches providing refreshments for travellers who happen to pass by on a much loved walk. We have uncovered amazing stories waiting to be told and new interpretation material is being created to tell these tales. And for two years the Deanery has held its own Churches Festival in September.

And all this enthusiasm is catching!

So much so, that churches in the Lincolnshire Wolds and stretching to the coast are busy working together to create a larger Churches Festival spanning the first two weekends in September.

It is going to be a celebration that joins all the Wolds and coastal villages together. A celebration that invites holidaymakers to visit our rural hamlets and rolling hills. A celebration that shares the rich heritage with all, as families are encouraged to become treasure seekers. Using magnifying glasses and binoculars we will invite all to get close up to these mini museums and explore deeper into their history.



This is a wonderful community project which is seeing many partners come together to benefit the communities of the Lincolnshire Wolds and the coastal strip. The festival is being developed through a partnership between National Churches Trust and National Churches Trust Heritage Services in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council, East Lindsey District Council, Lincolnshire Coastal BID and of course lots and lots of churches!

“We are still seeking funding to secure additional elements of the project,” said Linda, “so watch this space for more announcements.

For further details contact: Linda Patrick, Church Development Officer at linda.patrick@nationalchurchestrust.org

The National Churches Trust is the charity for people who love church buildings, supporting places of worship of historic, architectural and community value used by Christian denominations throughout the UK.





A View from the Wolds

Steve Scoffin, Project Officer with the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project

One of the best ways to appreciate the link between the chalk of the Wolds and the chalk streams is to find where they first emerge into the landscape. A circular walk from Tealby up onto Caistor High Street and then down to Kirmond le Mire takes in some of the headwaters of both the River Rase and the Waithe Beck on either side of the chalk watershed.

At over 145 metres above sea level at the route's high point, the distant view to the west takes in Lincoln Cathedral on the skyline with the infant Rase much nearer to hand, while the eastern view picks up one of the streams at the start of the Waithe's 16-mile journey towards Tetney and the sea. At this stage both are very small and in dry weather may run intermittently or not at all. However, in just over a mile, the Rase has already picked up more water to become a significant stream as it reaches Tealby.

But there's more to this than just chalk streams. In a landscape of arable fields, the steeper slopes of the Waithe Beck are grazed by sheep determined to approach, hoping a person is a source of food only to lose their nerve at the final moment. The lumps and bumps in the field north of the main street of Kirmond le Mire are all that's left of what is considered to be the lost medieval hamlet of Beckfield with the remains of tofts, enclosures, a hollow way and agricultural terraces known as strip lynchets.

Uphill, the more recent Grade II listed parish church of St Martin's dates from the early Victorian period and is the latest in a line of churches on this site starting in 1086, with some fixtures and monuments dating back to the 19th century. Between the church and the medieval hamlet is the Model Farmstead, also dating from the mid-1800s which is tied to the Manna House, sadly no longer in use. Cont'd...



Heading back towards Caistor High Street, with buzzards soaring over the fields and woods, there was time to muse on the layers of cultural history in the area with place names from both Danish and Norman times and the remains of a Roman villa somewhere in the dip to the north. The walk to this view was to take in the chalk streams near to their source. The real source was evident in the landscape with light patches of chalk showing through the young crops in the far fields. In places, and a feature of geology of the Lincolnshire Wolds, this changed to the older red chalk on the surface of the track under my feet.

A friend who works for Dartmoor National Park Authority came out with the classic comment about Lincolnshire being flat when he found out that I was working here. The suggestion was that there would also be little to see compared to the wealth of cultural heritage of Dartmoor. On the basis that this walk climbed to take in the watershed on top of the Wolds, revealing the changing history of that landscape over time, I'd beg to differ.

Hedge Laying Training at South Thoresby



In February 10 people got to learn the ancient craft of Hedge Laying at South Thoresby Local Nature Reserve.

Staff from Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service and Lincolnshire County Council teamed up to train local people how to manage a hedge, using hand tools such as billhooks, axes and bow saws.

Despite driving rain for half of the day, more than 50 metres of boundary hedge were 'laid' by cutting into individual stems just enough for them to be pushed over and then secured with stakes and binders (see photo).

Although the work looks drastic, it 's actually better for wildlife as the hedge becomes more dense and the plants become one linear boundary rather than a line of trees that out compete each other.

Environment and Community Projects Officer Matthew Davey said, "The trainees learnt the basics and some of them are going to have a try at laying their own garden hedges. It's hard work but it is well worth the effort."

For further information on hedge laying you could visit the National Hedge Laying Society's website at: www.hedgelaying.org.uk





Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project Volunteer Opportunities

Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project - Conservation Volunteer Day - Swallow Beck

10th May 2019 - 10.30am – 3.00pm

Join the LCSP Conservation Group to help maintain this previous restoration site on Swallow beck near in Cuxwold. No experience necessary just a love of the outdoors and a willingness to get stuck in to some serious practical work!

Meeting place is on site – Grid Reference - TA 17350 00994.



Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project - Conservation Volunteer Day - Waithe beck

19th July 2019 - 10.30am – 3.00pm

Join the LCSP Conservation Group to help maintain this previous restoration site on Waithe beck near Ashby cum Fenby. No experience necessary just a love of the outdoors and a willingness to get stuck in to some serious practical work!

Meeting place is on site at Moorhouse Farm – Grid Reference -TA 24121 01595.

Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project - Conservation Volunteer Day - Great Eau

11th October 2019 - 10.30am – 3.00pm

Join the LCSP Conservation Group to help maintain this beautiful previous restoration site at Belleau with the local fly fishing syndicate. No experience necessary just a love of the outdoors and a willingness to get stuck in to some serious practical work!

Meeting place is on site at Belleau – Grid Reference - TF 40316 78376.

Full details and directions for all the above projects can be found here:

<https://www.lincswolds.org.uk/chalk-streams/upcomingevents>

or contact: william.bartle@lincolnshire.gov.uk for more information.



Binbrook Reading Room

The Reading Room



"Supporting our community"

The Reading Room started life as the meeting place of the Foresters Friendly Society in the 19th century. Over the years, it has had many uses, serving as a Men's/Boys Club, Reading Room, lecture room for the Workers Educational Association and a meeting room for numerous village societies. It was extended in the 20th century but because of a gradual decline in use, the building had fallen into a poor state of repair.

A generous grant from the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service has allowed a programme of regeneration to be started to restore this historic building and to date the following has been achieved:

- new heating/air conditioning system
- exterior painting
- metal windows refurbished and secondary double glazed
- essential damp proofing of one side of the building.

The Reading Room is now warm, dry and a pleasure to use and serves as the headquarters for Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and a meeting place for the Art Group, Garden Club, Craft Club and occasional lectures by the local ornithologist.

The Reading Room is a registered charity and the Trustees and Management Committee are dedicated to refurbishing the room to a good standard. In a rural community such as this where isolation can be a problem the need for amenities for social and educational activities, particularly for young and senior citizens is of paramount importance for the well-being of the residents to enable the village to function as a living thriving community.



Binbrook lies in a beautiful part of the Wolds, popular with cyclists and ramblers. The room is available for hire at a charge of £7 per hour, £15 for 3 hours and a negotiable rate for a day's use. Groups organising races and events in the Wolds are welcome to hire the room, which has toilet facilities and a small kitchen area.

Bookings can be made at: <http://binbrook.scoutsites.org.uk/>

or 0191 6645 9050



Spirit of Sutterby – Worm Charmers!

*“Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
The droghte of March hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour;
Thanne longen folk to goonworm charming...”*

(General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales with apologies to Chaucer)

Worm charming? What possible benefit could there be in recording and researching worms? Who would want to do it? Who would benefit?

Here beginneth chapter 102 of the ongoing saga of the Spirit of Sutterby project.

Heritage is a somewhat nebulous word meaning different things to different people. For some heritage is mired in the past - ripe for academic discussion, with little or no relevance to the now. But past or even underground happenings can shed light and knowledge on the now. Worms being a case in point.....



Worms have been under our feet for millennia but in recent times they have been gaining in importance and relevance especially in the world of agriculture. Soil health is a term close to all our hearts, but what factors contribute to good healthy soil? There are obviously a myriad of factors, but one of them is proven to be worms. Worms - benefitting the soil, working the soil, a whole eco structure busily toiling away under our feet .

As an interested gardener one might be casually interested in getting to know worms better, but for farmers the difference between a well wormed field and one lacking in worms can be significant. But how do you know what you have got? How do you encourage worms?

Step forward the Sutterby Lumbricites - a diverse cross section of people, with obviously nothing better to do. Keen to discover the Wonderful World of Worms but lacking a leader. Step forward Dr David Sheppard of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, who has agreed to lead this merry, if challenging, band and encourage the development of the fundamental skills of worm identification - there are only 27 different types of earthworm in England. How difficult can this be?

We will be surveying and recording 2 fields and comparing and contrasting the data. Our results will be fed (not literally!) straight to Kevin the Farm Manager and this cross fertilization of knowledge from soil to agrarian framework has the potential to be of practical use in terms of farming the land.

For more information please contact Spiritofsutterby@gmail.com

The Spirit of Sutterby Project www.spiritofsutterby.co.uk has recently been Commended in the National Heritage Angels Award Scheme.

Walkers Are Welcome — Spilsby



"Walkers are Welcome" is a national scheme where towns or villages that feel they have something to offer to walkers can put themselves forward for membership.

Spilsby and Hundleby, on the southern edge of the Wolds, and in the Character Area of the AONB, joined forces and got their accreditation in early 2017. Since then they have offered public guided walks in the local area every month, ranging from one mile historical town walks to ten milers for the avid Rambler.

In 2018 alone, over 330 walkers joined them, showcasing the delights of this part of Lincolnshire, and contributing to the local economy by the amount of tea and cakes consumed afterwards! In 2018 a new Trail was created in Spilsby, exploring the town's links with Sir John Franklin, the Arctic explorer, and in 2019 a further countryside trail in his name is being re-launched.

The team also look after local footpaths and take part in the LWWF. For further information see their website or facebook page: Spilsby and Hundelby Walkers Are Welcome.

Stephanie Round, Spilsby Walkers Are Welcome 2019



Save the Date

LWCS staff will be busy attending a number of events this year.
We hope to see you there!

Countryside Lincs	14 April
West Lindsey Churches Festival	11-12th & 18-19th May
Lincs Wolds Walking Festival	18 May – 2 June
Farm Walk	3 June
Open Farm Sunday	9 June
Lincs Show	19-20 June
Lincs Wolds Churches Festival	31 Aug-1 Sept & 7-8 Sept
Heritage Open Days	13 – 22 Sept
Outstanding Week	21 – 29 Sept

For more information please get in contact at the address below or check out our [events](#) page for further details

Our Mailing Address is:

Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service

Navigation Warehouse

Riverhead Road

Louth, Lincs, LN11 0DA

United Kingdom

T. 01522 555 780

E. aonb@lincswolds.org.uk

W. www.lincswolds.org.uk

