

Parish Update

May 2014



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Gravity Fields Festival opens for business

It's back! Gravity Fields Festival is under way for September following its outstanding success in 2012. The festival runs over five days between September 24 and 28, with an exciting programme of events in Grantham and Stamford including:

- Science shows from the Science Museum and the National Space Centre.
- Exhibitions including the Royal Photographic Society.
- Leading scientists including Festival Patron Professor Val Gibson
- Chris Lintott (BBC Sky at Night) and Professor Mark Miodownik (BBC Science Club).
- Arts Shows - leading arts companies from around the

country and abroad.

- Outdoor events and fun for everyone.

Two of our most popular entertainers from the 2012 festival are back by popular demand.

Actor Michael Imerson and tightwire performer Alana Jones enjoyed a wonderful week as Floggit and Skarper in the Apothecary Shop and around the town's streets in 2012.

Since then the dynamic duo have been all over the world as Dizzy O'Dare with their contemporary circus and street theatre shows.

Come September, let their new show 'The Wonderful World of Mr E' take you on an adventure into imagination itself - travelling through imagination, meeting unusual creatures never seen before and visiting strange new lands in Mr E's converted steampunk caravan - just one of the amazing events in the Gravity Fields programme.



A mesmerising mix of juggling and theatre, inspired by the work of Pina Bausch, SMASHED is a series of nostalgic filmic scenes exploring conflict, lost love and quaint afternoon tea.



Volatile Light is a mesmerising light and sound environment for the whole family.

Event detail and ticket sales on www.gravityfields.co.uk
Box offices ticket sales from:
Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham
01476 406158
Stamford Arts Centre (for Stamford events) 01780 763203

Bring your empty property back into use with an owner incentive grant

SKDC is renewing efforts to bring empty homes back into use by giving landlords and owners an incentive grant to help them re-let their properties.

Over 400 addresses in the district have been identified as long term unoccupied at a time when there is increasing housing demand nationally and locally.

In support of the government's initiative to tackle the shortfall, SKDC is currently undertaking a review of homes registered as empty to help owners get them back in use.

The authority is aware that some properties will require a considerable amount of work in order to develop them into a habitable condition.

However the cost of undertaking this work can either place a heavy strain on finances or prove unaffordable to undertake.

Owners may be entitled to the grant of up to £5,000 per property to help them bring the property into use.

The council will be writing to owners about details of the grant and directing them to register their details online to be eligible for the scheme.

To update details on an empty property, owners need to enter the pass-code and property reference number contained in the correspondence they receive on the web form at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/skemptyhomes

The form has been created by SKDC and CapacityGRID who are working with the council to make owners aware of help available.

Currently landlords and owners pay nothing towards council tax for the first month that the property is empty.

For the next five months they pay 75% of the charge and for the following 18 months 100%. After two years the amount goes up to 150%.

If the property is undergoing major structural repair the charge is 75% for



the first 12 months followed by 100% over the next year. After two years it rises to 150%.

SKDC's portfolio holder for housing Cllr Teri Bryant said the drive will help meet housing needs and improve the district's neighbourhoods.

He said: "Bringing empty homes back into use can have a number of benefits. For the owner it can mean improving the condition and value of the property and, if the property is then let, generating income for the owner.

"For the community, an occupied property is generally preferable to having a neighbouring property empty and the likelihood of squatting, fly-tipping, vandalism or anti-social behaviour centred on the property is reduced.

"There are good reasons why a

property might be empty in the short term but our initial research confirms that many long term empty homes, right across the district, need not be empty and could be brought back into use, helping to meet housing need and playing a useful role in the community."

In order to qualify for the scheme, the property must have been empty for a minimum period of six months and owners must agree to charge rent that does not exceed Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates for a minimum period of three years.

The property must be brought back in to use within 12 months of work commencing and the grant does not cover fees, drainage, works already completed or repairs to outbuildings.

If owners need any help completing the online form or exploring the options of the grant please telephone CapacityGRID on 0845 241 9565.

Boost your business at a thriving SKDC market

Fancy opening your business up to a new client base? Then look at setting up stall at one of SKDC's thriving markets.

The summer months are the perfect time to trial being a stall holder at one of our busy market days on Thursdays in Bourne, Fridays in Stamford or Saturdays in Grantham.

The warmer weather attracts

residents and visitors from outside the district in their droves to see what unique and quality products, produce and services local traders have to offer.

In May, prospective new traders took advantage of our Love Your Local Markets campaign, grabbing a stall on the markets in Bourne, Stamford and Grantham for just £10 over the campaign's fortnight.

There are also the popular Farmers' Markets held in Stamford on Saturdays every fortnight. Why not pop along on July 4 and 18, August 1, 15, 29 or September 12 and 26 to see for yourself the diversity of the market and what it could offer you.

Then there's Grantham's Farmers' Markets held once a month, come along on July 12, August 9 or September 13 to see for yourself why the events work so well for local producers and customers alike.

Average household saved £186 with Lincolnshire Energy Switch Scheme

The Lincolnshire Energy Switch Scheme is helping householders save money on their gas and electric bills - an average of £186 for those who switched in the first offer which finished in March.

The latest scheme was launched on Tuesday, April 15, and already 642 households have registered.

It is easy to register - all you need is a recent gas or electricity bill which shows your current tariff and your energy consumption.

Then visit www.southkesteven.gov.uk/switch to register your details. Alternatively you can call on 01529 301990 between 9am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

There is no obligation to switch so there is nothing to lose by registering.

Once the registration period deadline has passed on Monday, June 9, the energy companies are invited to offer a competitive tariff. The lowest tariff will be offered to

households in personalised emails or letters. Residents will then have four weeks to decide whether or not to Switch.

It is a simple process that could result in substantial savings on household energy bills. So don't delay, register today. Visit www.southkesteven.gov.uk/switch

SKDC's Operations Director Ian Yates said: "We are encouraging as many people as possible to register with the Lincolnshire Energy Switch scheme - it only takes a few minutes but could result in substantial savings on your energy bills.

"The biggest savings are likely to be achieved by people who have either never switched, or not switched for a long time."

A similar switching scheme for small and medium businesses (SMEs) is also available using the same website address.



For more information call 01476 40 60 80 and ask to speak to our markets and events team to find out more.

Bag it & bin it for free

Responsible dog owners can clean up after their pets for free

Dog owners are getting a helping hand from SKDC with free dog poo bags available from all four customer service centres in Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and Market Deeping.

The council hopes that by providing the new green bags it will encourage even more dog owners to bag it and bin it.



sw!tch

If you don't register in time further schemes will be available later in the year.

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/switch

District rockets into the top 10 best rural places to live

South Kesteven is one of Britain's top 10 best rural places to live – soaring up the list from last year!

Residents now enjoy an even better quality of life, according to a national survey by the Halifax, which ranked the district 10th out of 119 rural local authorities.

The survey tracks where living standards are the highest in Great Britain across a range of factors from health, life expectancy, earnings, house prices, employment, weather, traffic flow and even broadband internet access.

Cllr Linda Neal, SKDC Leader, welcomed the results, saying:

"Last year we were delighted to be named in the top 50 so it is fantastic news to make it into the top 10 and have confirmed nationally what we have known for sometime – South Kesteven is a great place to live.

"Our district has so many good points, not only for residents but investors as well, including our excellent transport connections to London, our historic market towns, great schools and beautiful countryside. With all this going for it, South Kesteven can only grow in popularity."

The East Midlands and the East of England secured six of the top

10 places and included overall winner Uttlesford along with South Northamptonshire, East Hertfordshire, Rushcliffe, South Cambridgeshire and South Kesteven. The remaining four all came for the South East.

There was a 12-way tie for the local authority district with the lowest CO2 emissions per person (all 1.9) and South Kesteven was one of the dozen.

Mrs Neal added: "It's very encouraging to know that in terms of personal wellbeing and quality of life, South Kesteven residents score among the highest in the country."



CCTV installed at countryside lay-by

CCTV poles have been installed at a countryside lay-by to deter fly-tippers from dumping waste in the area.

In conjunction with mobile cameras, these will now monitor the lay-by on the A52 near Swaton following increased littering of domestic and commercial waste at the site.



Up to 20 fly-tipping incidents a year have occurred at the location in the last three years, costing SKDC thousands of pounds in clear up costs.

The authority also deploys mobile CCTV cameras which operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SKDC's portfolio holder for healthy environment Cllr John Smith said: "We're aware of the volume of commercial vehicles that use the lay-by and that the majority of motorists take their litter with them.

"We continue to educate our residents and visitors to the district on using our Household Waste and Recycling Centres in Grantham and Bourne and our bulk item collection service.

"However the increasing number of clear ups our waste and recycling team have had to address in recent

times at the lay-by means we have not hesitated to take action to increase enforcement.

"The message is clear, dump waste at this location or anywhere in South Kesteven and where possible we will prosecute."

Anyone who witnesses fly-tipping or littering in the area should call SKDC on **01476 40 60 80**

Lots happening in The Deepings this summer

There is something for all the family this summer in the Deepings.

The Rose and Sweet Pea Fair

Saturday 28 June, 1-4pm
Priory Church Hall Gardens,
Church Street

This event has taken place for over 100 years and is part horticultural show and part summer fête.

Lions and Rotary Deeping Carnival

Sunday July 6, 11am
Leisure centre car park

The summer parade returns for the Lions and Rotary Deeping Carnival with a theme of 'Tour de Deeping'. This year entries are welcome for decorated bikes.

A steam roller, vintage tractor and a penny farthing will be joined in the parade by tandem bicycles, vintage fire engines and a Bentley motor car or two. This event is sponsored by Terry Wright's cycles, unusual and vintage vehicles. The parade will weave through the streets finishing at John Eve Field where there will be children's rides, music and cream teas.

Love Where You Live

Sunday July 13 between
10am-12pm

Love Where You Live will be the

theme of Deepings' first Litter Pick organised by McDonalds in conjunction with South Kesteven district councillor, Judy Stevens. Treats and prizes for volunteers will be supplied by local takeaway and food outlets.

'A Bark in the Park'

Sunday July 20 1-4pm
Jubilee Park

At the Deeping Dog Show there will be an agility demonstration from First Class Dog Training and 10 classes in the show including a prize for the Deepings' Most Talented Dog. There will be a variety of stalls, children's games and food. More than 100 dogs competed in 2013, with entries from as far away as north London. The show is organised by the Friends of Jubilee Park.

The Rugby Club Beer Festival

July 25 and 26
Deepings Raft Race
August 3

Hundreds flock annually to the River Welland and this year the event has a Rock and Roll theme.

Stamford Town Council Summer Events 2014

Recreation Ground

Saturday 21 - Sunday 22 June
 Stamford Festival

Brass Bands playing in the Bandstand

Sunday 22nd June - Stamford Brass Band- 3-4.30pm

Sunday 6th July - Melton Brass Band- 3-4.30pm

Sunday 21st Sept - Stamford Brass Band- 3-4.30pm

The Meadows

Saturday 7 June to Sunday 8 June - Stamford Burghley Rotary Club Victorian Cricket

Monday 21 July - 07 August
 Festival of Fun

Sunday 24 August - Stamford Classic Car Show

Friday 29 - 31 August - Field Dog Antique Fair

Sunday 14 September - Pet and Companion Dog Show



SKDC Council Meetings

June

17 Tuesday 1pm
 Development Control Committee
24 Tuesday 10am
 Scrutiny Committee
26 Thursday 2pm
 Governance and Audit Committee

July

3 Thursday 2.30pm
 Communities Policy Development Group
4 Friday 10am
 Licensing Committee and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee
7 Monday 11am
 Cabinet

8 Tuesday 1pm
 Development Control Committee

10 Thursday 2pm
 Full Council

17 Thursday 2.30pm
 Engagement Policy Development Group

22 Tuesday 2pm
 Governance and Audit Committee

24 Thursday 2.30pm
 Resources Policy Development Group

29 Tuesday 1pm
 Development Control Committee

August

1 Friday 10am
 Licensing Committee and

Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committee

4 Monday 11am
 Cabinet

19 Tuesday 1pm
 Development Control Committee

26 Tuesday 10am
 Scrutiny Committee

September

1 Monday 11am
 Cabinet

4 Thursday 2.30pm
 Communities Policy Development Group

5 Friday 10am
 Licensing Committee and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment

Licensing Committee

9 Tuesday 1pm
 Development Control Committee

11 Thursday 2pm
 Full Council

18 Thursday 2.30pm
 Engagement Policy Development Group

22 Monday 10.30am
 Constitution Committee

25 Thursday 2pm
 Governance and Audit Committee

30 Tuesday 1pm
 Development Control Committee

