Fly a flag for the Commonwealth

To celebrate Commonwealth Day West Lindsey District Council is taking part in flying one of 500 Commonwealth flags. The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Irmgard Parrott, will be raising the flag at 10am on Monday 10 March 2014 at the front of the Guildhall in Gainsborough.

For the first time ever, local authorities and civic dignitaries, community groups and charities throughout the British Isles are coming together in local flag raising events and ceremonies of dedication to mark Commonwealth Day.

A specially written Commonwealth Affirmation will be read out by the Chairman before raising the flag.

Flags will also be flown at many national locations of special significance. An interactive map that shows where these events are taking place can be found at: [www.esriuk.com/flyaflagmap](http://www.esriuk.com/flyaflagmap)

Cllr Parrott is pleased that West Lindsey is taking part in this commemoration. She said: “I hope that this will encourage not only adults but also the younger people and children to gain an understanding of our connection with other countries around the world.”

Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mr Tony Worth, said: “For the first time, 65 years after the founding of the Commonwealth in 1949, Commonwealth Flags will be flown by all Local Authorities in Lincolnshire and throughout the British Isles as a public expression of commitment and appreciation of the values that the commonwealth stands for.”

Charity teams will mark the day by taking Commonwealth Flags to the top of the UK’s four highest National Peaks and use the occasion to raise funds for their worthy causes: Cancer Research UK - Scafell Pike, England; Help for Heroes - Ben Nevis, Scotland; Walking with the Wounded - Mount Snowdon, Wales; and Fields of Life - Slieve Donard, Northern Ireland.

“This will be the largest, single, raising of the Commonwealth Flag in the history of the Commonwealth”, said Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, Pageantmaster and originator of Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth.
“The success of this year’s event bodes well for 2015 and the future as we extend the invitation to participate and involve all 53 countries of the Commonwealth and UK overseas territories, to make this the largest-ever annual occasion involving local communities throughout the worldwide Commonwealth family.”

His Excellency Kamalesh Sharma, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth said: “Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth is a most imaginative way for people in local communities – wherever they live, learn or work – to join together with others in a spirit of respect and understanding to celebrate the variety and unmatched diversity of our global family. I welcome and commend it.”

ENDS

Caption:
Lord-Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mr Tony Worth, hands over the Commonwealth flag to Chairman of the Council, Cllr Irmgard Parrott

NOTE TO EDITORS
For further information
Please Contact:
'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth': Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR,
Pageantmaster
Tel: 07737 262 913
Email: pageantmaster@mac.com

Names of Local all Authorities and others taking part:
See pages 7 through to 12 in the Guide To Taking Part by going to:
www.flyafлагforthecommonwealth.com

Official 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth interactive Map:
Please visit: www.esriuk.com/flyafлагmap

Commonwealth Secretariat: David Banks
Tel: 0207 747 6130 - 07770 400 031

The Virdee Foundation: Peter Virdee, Chairman of the Virdee Foundation:
0207 629 33 66 - 07770 400 031

Esri UK: Sarah Webb
Tel: 01296 745 500
Email: swebb@esriuk.com

Cancer Research UK: Lizzie Fenton
Tel: 0203 469 8735.

Help for Heroes:
Shaun Pickford
Tel: 01725 514 105
Fields of Life:
Helen Keon
Tel: 02838 390 395

Walking with the Wounded:
Alex Rayner
0207 422 8260

For further information contact:
Shelley Knowles, Communications Officer, on (01427) 676512