SKtoday

for residents of South Kesteven Spring 2023





Welcome

Here is the latest issue of SKtoday, packed full of news and updates from South Kesteven District Council. Did you know ... ? You can read SKToday online by visiting

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sktoday



If you have any feedback about the magazine or any content you would like to see in future issues please get in touch.

For even faster news and updates why not follow us on social media? We're on all the popular platforms, including Twitter and Facebook. Find them all at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/getsocial









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Council offices

Grantham (head office)

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South Kesteven Community Point Abbey Road, Bourne PE10 9EF

You can now apply, pay, report and contact us on our website for a range of services and find the latest NHS and Government guidance.

www.southkesteven.gov.uk



Nice to know

- SKtoday is printed locally in Bourne by Warners Midlands Plc
- It is printed on paper produced by well-managed forests
- Alternative formats are available: audio tape, CD, large print and Braille
- The South Lincolnshire Blind Society distributes SKtoday to all of its members



Front cover: Rachael Bradley stands proudly by our new pink freighter carrying life-saving advice right across the District.



District and Parish elections

District and Parish elections take place on Thursday 4th May - find out all you need to know to ensure you can cast your vote.



Inspirational Women

Film commemorates women who made their mark on history.

Bin Collection Calendar

Your guide to waste collection dates for March-November 2023.



22-24

What's On

Check out the live entertainment lined up at our fantastic arts centres and other arts venues.

Our Corporate Plan clearly sets out how South **Kesteven District Council intends to help fulfill the** District's promise and potential. Look for the icons to see how we are achieving on our priorities:



Housing that meets the needs of all residents



Growth and our economy



Healthy and strong communities



Clean and sustainable environment



High-performing Council



Council Chairman Cllr Helen Crawford pictured at the opening of SKDC's new office with Cllr Kelham Cooke



Meeting with the Leader of Rutland County Council, Cllr Lucy Stephenson, discussing partnership working

Continuing to reform South Kesteven

eing elected Leader under four years ago was one of my proudest moments, as South Kesteven is where I grew up, went to school and where my friends and family also live. This is my home, which means that what happens here resonates on a very personal level.

We set out our Corporate Plan three years ago to deliver for our towns, villages, and, ultimately, for our residents and businesses. But because the world is a very different place compared with 2019, there is now much more to consider and there are additional issues to tackle.

Among the key ambitions set out four years ago were:

- A commitment to reduce the council's carbon footprint
- Delivery of the St Martin's Park redevelopment project in Stamford
- Building high-quality homes of all types

In 2021/22, the Council's own CO2e emissions were down 14.23% on the baseline figure from 2019.

A big part of that is electricity use, which saw our CO2e emissions fall 33.60%. We secured £1.2m to deliver energy efficiency upgrades to targeted homes and, in addition, upgrades were made to over 150 Council properties

By Cllr Kelham Cooke, Leader of South Kesteven District Council

through Green Homes grants.

Work is progressing well to regenerate the former Cummins factory site in Stamford, now known as St Martin's Park. This will ultimately bring jobs and homes in a high-quality development to be proud of.

We have worked hard to build quality homes for those who need them most, at Kinoulton Court and Earlesfield Lane in Grantham; Meadow Close in Bourne; and Trinity Road in Stamford; with more to come at Swinegate, Grantham.

In addition to the work we planned, SKDC and its staff have stepped up to support residents at times of need, such as the Covid pandemic, and responding to cost of living pressures.

Following a very successful Covid-19 recovery plan for business, we continue through Government support to improve the Grantham High Street with £5.56m through the Future High Street Fund and £1.25m from the Heritage Action Fund, and the wider District with a £3.9m UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant.

This is all alongside our regular duties as a leading social landlord; collecting the bins; running a well-organised green waste collection service; ensuring our streets are clean and tidy; and our local planning responsibilities, to mention just a few of our services.

I was also delighted to see the Council recently move to new offices – a modern, open plan area on the top floor of Grantham's cinema complex.

The move into The Picture House from St Peter's Hill will improve business efficiency and working conditions, and save taxpayers more than £300,000 a year in running costs.

Throughout the pandemic the Council showed that it could operate in a more agile way and no longer required such large premises, with a blended approach of home and office working seen as the most effective way forward.

The move allows us to make best use of a Council-owned asset, eliminate the significant annual costs of the former office and enable a private sector led regeneration project.

Crucially, there will also be a further reduction in our carbon footprint – a key priority for us.

Our agile council innovates and moves with the times, and we are well-placed to continue to drive forward our growth and Corporate Plan ambitions.



A vision in pink hits road for **Breast Cancer Awareness**

An unmissable pink refuse freighter has joined the Council fleet to carry vital health messages on its rounds across the District.



Alastair Hawken hands over special pink ribbon-wrapped packets of Hawken Gingerbread to Rachael Bradley at the launch

outh Kesteven District Council has launched a new refuse collection freighter to take cancer charities' call to Wear It Pink to another level.

The bright pink lorry underlines the messages from October's Breast Cancer Awareness Week and Wear It Pink Day is already out spreading the word.

It reflects continuing backing for the cause and, specifically, support group Breast Friends Grantham. formed by breast cancer survivor and SKDC employee Rachael Bradley.

Open to men and women, the group now has 120 members from across the District, many of whom were at the launch.

Lorry supplier Dennis Eagle filmed a time-lapse video of the paint job (see link above right) and were at the launch.

Support messages were sent from the NHS and Breast Cancer Now, and there was a personal note to Rachael from TV personality Julia Bradbury, herself a breast cancer patient.

Rachael said: "This lorry is beyond amazing, and it's going to make a real difference. I am absolutely over the moon to think that we will have this incredible vehicle spreading such a vital message day in and day out, and I am so grateful to the Council.

"I know first-hand what it's like to suffer this dreadful disease. and I have lost friends and family to it. The more we can do to raise awareness of what to look for and the urgency of taking action, the





This is a supremely distinctive way of taking vitally important messages to residents right across the District and we are proud to see such a flagship vehicle on the road. Our new freighter is the ultimate in wearing it pink, all year round, carrying advice that can literally save lives.

Cllr Kelham Cooke, Leader of South Kesteven District Council



The freighter collection crew in Bourne; Alan Cunnington, Danny Yates and Steve Ward, with SKDC Street Scene operational supervisor Alice Sneath (centre) and Rachael Bradley

better our chances are of helping others." Diagnosed with breast cancer at the start of the Covid pandemic in March 2020, Rachael is now in remission and works tirelessly to help other sufferers.

Her story, covering the loneliness of battling cancer during a global pandemic; 18 months of treatment; surgery; chemotherapy; radiotherapy and hormone treatment, are captured in an emotional video. (See link right)

Rachael's work to help others through Breast Friends Grantham led to a role as a batonbearer in the Queen's Baton Relay through Grantham before the summer's 2022 Commonwealth Games. https://bit.ly/BCnowcheck **Contact Breast Friends** Grantham at https://bit.ly/ **GranthamFriends**



Rachael shows off her gifts sent from Julia Bradbury

Elections approach across District

nly a few weeks remain before the District goes to the polls for the 2023 local elections – and SKDC staff are working hard to make the process as easy and accessible as possible for everyone who wants to play their part.

More than 109,000 residents are registered to vote on Thursday 4th May, and 18,000 are registered to vote by post.

In South Kesteven there will be elections for all 56 seats in 30 District Council wards, as well as all town and parish councils across our 365 square miles.

Returning Officer Karen
Bradford, who is SKDC's Chief
Executive, said: "People voting in
the local elections will be making
a decision on who will run their
services and who will work to
improve the local economy and
the area where they live. It is
important to ensure you can have
your say on polling day."

To be eligible to vote people must be on the electoral register and aged 18 or over on polling day; a British citizen; a qualifying Commonwealth citizen; or a



citizen of the Irish Republic or EU. This time, and at future elections, you will also need photo ID.

The deadline for registering to vote is on Monday 17th April. You can register here:

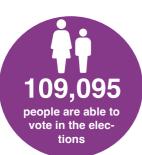
www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

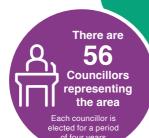
If you have thought about standing for election to become a Councillor, the nomination deadline is 4pm on Tuesday 4th April. More details on this process can be found here: www.southkesteven.gov.uk/democracy

GRANTHAM

There are different ways to vote. You can visit your local polling station on election day, apply for a postal vote, or get someone to cast your vote for you. Details on all of these methods can be found online at: www.southkesteven.gov.uk/postproxy

If you have any questions or need assistance please contact our Elections
Team on 01476 40 60 80.





There are around 66,500 households in the District

SOUTH KESTEVEN

365sq miles 113
polling stations are being used

• BOURNE

MARKET DEEPING
STAMFORD

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR PHOTO I **THURSDAY**

New system in place at polling stations

big change will be in place for this year's local elections, taking place on Thursday 4th Mav.

For the first time in the UK, voters will be asked to show photo ID at polling stations before being given a ballot paper.

The Government introduced this law in the Elections Act 2022. which will take effect for the first time in England in May, when all 56 South Kesteven District Council seats will be contested.

The new rule affects all those who will vote in person or by proxy.

Voters will be required to show a single form of photo ID, but it must be the original version not a copy.

Those attending polling stations can use any of the accepted forms of photo ID (see right).

If you have a form of accepted photo ID that is out of date, you can use it to vote at a polling station if the image is still a good likeness.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, or are not sure whether the photo is still a good likeness, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 25th April, but you should apply as soon as possible online at https://voter-authoritycertificate.service.gov.uk

You can also apply in person or by completing a paper application form. To request a form or to make an appointment to apply in person contact SKDC's Elections Team on 01476 406080, or email elections@ southkesteven.gov.uk

You will need to provide a passport quality photograph, your National Insurance Number and date of birth.

When you arrive at the polling station, a member of staff will:

- Ask for your name and address so they can find you on the electoral register
- Ask for your photo ID, and check it is acceptable
- If it is acceptable, they will give you your ballot paper and direct you to complete it in a polling booth as usual

If you have chosen to vote by post nothing will change. Voter ID has no impact on postal voting, only voting at polling stations.

For more information on the May local elections, visit: www.southkesteven.gov.uk/ democracy





Forms of ID you can use to vote





Driving & Parking Driving Licence (Including provisional licence); Blue Badge



Local Travel Certain concessionary travel cards



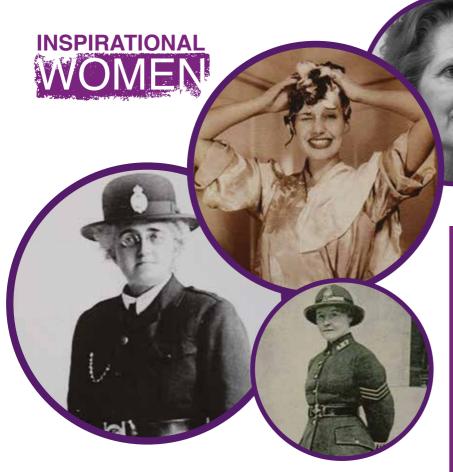
International **Travel Passport**



Proof of Age Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)

Other Government **Issued Documents**

Biometric immigration document Defence Identity Card National Identity Card



Shining light on women who made a lasting impact

A film has been produced commemorating inspirational women associated with South Kesteven whose impact was felt by the military, royalty, theatre, politics, nursing, philosophy and policing.

he film will be premiered at Grantham's Guildhall Arts Centre on Wednesday 8th March, International Women's Day.

Alongside the screening, South Kesteven District Council is calling on residents to explore the lives of other local women, past and present, who have left their mark locally, nationally, and internationally - and share the stories on social media using the hashtaq #SKInspirationalWomen

The film highlights ten women and features four modern experts. including British historian, TV contributor, author and

archaeologist Dr Elizabeth Norton.

Sister Mary Kenefick speaks as a member of the Congregation of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, an international congregation of Catholic religious women, founded by Venerable Mother Magdalen Taylor.

Detective Chief Superintendent Kate Halpin, now retired from the Metropolitan Police, is a modern advocate for women in the police force, while Baroness Sarah Hogg, Viscountess Hailsham, politician, businesswoman, TV presenter and journalist was the first woman to chair a FTSE 100 company.

In the spotlight are:

The film is available to watch after 8th March: https://youtu.be/ qjRU1WuCOT4

- Margaret Beaufort the most influential and powerful Englishwoman of her time
- Harriet Arbuthnot at the centre of British political life in the mid-1800s
- **Mother Magdalen** (Frances Margaret Taylor) - a Crimea nurse volunteer who took vows and supported London's poverty-stricken women and children
- Victoria, Lady Welby-**Gregory** – philosopher who defined use, meaning, interpretation and evolution of language
- **Lady Angela Forbes** (St Clair-Erskine) - a campaigner for the military in WW1 prompted by the plight of soldiers
- Edith Smith a vocal campaigner and the first policewoman in Britain to be given powers of arrest
- Lilian Wyles a campaigning and successful career policewoman
- **Dame Felicity Hill** military pioneer and first female Air Commodore
- Judy Campbell a theatrical luminary, actress and playwright
- **Baroness Margaret Thatcher** – Britain's first female Prime Minister

Action to prevent homelessness with support from Government grant

outh Kesteven District
Council has been awarded almost £730,000 over the next two years to continue its homelessness prevention work.

The Homelessness Prevention Grant enables SKDC to support vulnerable people across the District who are homeless or at risk of losing their home.

The funding can be used to provide temporary accommodation; help those in danger of become homeless; pay deposits on new accommodation; and provide mediation between tenants and landlords to avoid evictions.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Property, Cllr Robert Reid, has stressed the importance of working together to prevent rough sleeping and homelessness: "SKDC is committed to working alongside partners to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping and I am delighted funding has been

approved to continue this vital work.

"These services reach every corner of South Kesteven and support some of the most vulnerable people in our communities."

Elsewhere, a partnership led by SKDC to help prevent rough sleeping continues to provide vital support to those who need it most.

Change4Lincs was formed in October 2020 by SKDC in partnership with North Kesteven, West Lindsey and South Holland district councils.

Staff from each district work together to identify and engage with rough sleepers. They help by sourcing accommodation and providing intense support, giving people a chance to escape homelessness and transition into safe and secure long-term accommodation.

If you are facing homelessness or you are already homeless, you can contact SKDC's Homeless



There is no question that Change4Lincs provides a vital service, supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Cllr Robert Reid, SKDC Cabinet Member for Housing and Property

Prevention Support Officers. They can provide housing advice; work with you to create a tailored housing plan; and refer you to specialist support services.

Contact them online at www. southkesteven.gov.uk/homeless or call 01476 40 60 80.

If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough, you can contact Change4Lincs on 01476 40 60 80 provided they are aged over 18. If they are younger than 18 or you believe they are in immediate danger, please call 999.



Spring is here – so be sure to join SKDC's garden waste scheme

Sign up for Council's service is an easy way to save time, money and hassle, with no need for trips to the tip or to mess up your car with bags of garden waste.

ortnightly collections for South Kesteven District Council's 2023/24 Garden Waste Collection Service scheme start on Monday 3rd April, which means it is almost time for existing customers to renew and for those new to the scheme to sign up.

In 2022/23 more than 31,000 residents joined the scheme, paying by card or direct debit to secure the service at www.southkesteven. gov.uk/greenbin

Flowers, plants, leaves, hedge trimmings, grass cuttings, bark, weeds, twigs and small branches can all go in the green bin, which makes it a convenient and cost-effective way to recycle garden waste.

The annual charge for the service is £49 which, with 23 collections per year, works out

at just £2.13 for each one.

SKDC Cabinet Member for Waste Services and Climate Change, Cllr Mark Whittington, said: "Now is the perfect time to sign up to ensure you get all of your collections.

"Our service is more comprehensive than many other councils, with collections running all year round - the frequency reduces but they do not stop altogether in the winter. "We empty garden waste bins every other week except for the short winter period, which is due to operational reasons and a lack of customer demand.

"It's easy to join online or by phone for a service that represents great value for

"It's a quick, efficient and environmentally friendly way of clearing green waste without having to go to the trouble of taking it to the tip, burning it or chopping it up.'

Those new to the service also buy their bin, and everyone pays the annual fee. More than one bin can be requested for an additional charge.

The collected garden waste is taken sent to a specialist facility where it is shredded and composted and the resulting material is used on farmland as a soil improver and fertiliser.

PER COLLECTION £49 a year Quick, efficient and environmentally friendly www.southkesteven. gov.uk/greenbin Green Wheelie Bin **Garden waste** Your garden waste is composted in Lincolnshire **NO BAGS** Additional waste to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Flowers and Grass cuttings Hedge trimminas plants /cuttings Twigs and small Leaves and bark No thanks Soil Food waste

Plastic bags

Animal waste

Your bin collection dates for 2023



Find your bin collection day

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/bincollectionday



Black/Silver bin collections 2023

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Bank Holiday no collection Collections 1 day later

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Green bin garden recycling collections 2023

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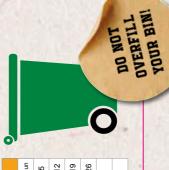
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CARDBOARD BOXES ARE BIN DAYS. GLEAN BAGS, COLLECTED ON BLACK CARRIER BAGS AND

SILVER BIN DAYS.



what can resteven gov.uk/whichbin What can I put in my bin?

Please put your bins out on the edge of your property by 7.30am on the morning of collection, and help our waste and recycling teams by putting the bin handles facing the road.

For any enquiries please call 01476 40 60 80.

Council Tax – a guide for householders

It's that time of year again. In the next couple of weeks, Council Tax Bills for 2023/24 will be landing on the doormats of households across South Kesteven. But what is Council Tax and why is it so important? Which organisations does it help fund, what is it used for and what can you do if you're struggling to pay it?

What is **Council Tax?**

Introduced in 1993 as a replacement for Community Charge, Council Tax is a system of local taxation collected by local authorities. It is a tax on domestic property and is paid by households to contribute towards the costs of providing services in the local area.

Why is it so important?

Council Tax is one of the main sources of funding for councils across the UK. It helps the different tiers of local government meet the costs of the services they provide. In this area services such as education, social care and transport and highways are provided by Lincolnshire County Council. Services including refuse collection and recycling, street cleaning and CCTV are provided by SKDC. The provision of community facilities in villages such as village halls and play areas, are often funded by town and parish councils. Part of your Council Tax is also used to fund Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service (through the county council) and Lincolnshire Police.

14% District Council (inc SEA*) Lincolnshire **County Council** Parish

Police and Crime

Commissioner for Lincolnshire

South Kesteven

and Town

Councils

*SEA Special Expense Areas are a mechanism to charge elements of Council Tax to a specific area

Where does it all go?

Collected by South Kesteven District Council, 75% of your Council Tax is passed on to Lincolnshire County Council and 14% to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire. SKDC keeps around 9% of what it collects. A small amount is also passed through to your town or parish council (if you have one). This is illustrated in the pie chart above.

What determines how much I have to pay?

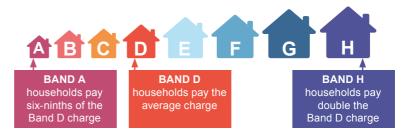
There are several factors that will affect how much Council Tax you will pay. These include:



The Council Tax band your property is in. The Valuation

Office, an executive agency of HM Revenue and Customs, has given each property a valuation band,

between A and H, according to its market value in April 1991. If your property was built after April 1991, it will be valued as if it had existed then. Band D is the average charge. All other Council Tax bands are expressed as a fraction of a Band D. So, households in Bands A, for example, are charged six-ninths of the Band D rate. Households in Band H pay eighteen-ninths (twice as much as Band D). Most properties in South Kesteven are in Bands A or B.





Where you live. Town and parish councils precept their local

communities to cover the costs of services provided in a particular area. These vary across the district - reflecting the services provided in the locality and the number of properties in your town or parish.



Who you live with. You can get a 25% discount on your bill if there is only

one person aged 18 or over living in your home. People under 18, or who belong to specific groups, are **NOT** included for Council Tax purposes. These include most full-time students, student nurses and some apprentices; people who are long-term patients in hospital or who live in care homes; and people who are severely mentally impaired. For a full list of who isn't included for Council Tax purposes please go to:

https://bit.ly/CTguide2023

What choices do I have about how to pay my Council Tax bill?

The quickest and easiest is by setting up a direct debit for either the 1st, 11th or 21st of the month. Payments will be taken automatically. When we recalculate your bill for the new year, you don't need to do anything

- we will send you a bill with the new instalments and your direct debit will automatically be changed. You can pay online at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/ paymycounciltax by phone on our automated payment line **0330 088 6753**, or by post. You can go to any AllPay outlet and make a payment there (outlets include Post Offices, petrol stations and shops).

How do I find out if I'm entitled to a discount or an exemption on my Council Tax bill?

You may be able to get a discount if no one lives in your property. The discount on furnished properties, which are no one's sole or main residence, is 10%. A discount of 100% will be awarded for one month on any unoccupied and unfurnished property, followed by a 25% discount for a further five months. After this a full 100% charge applies if it remains unoccupied and unfurnished. Certain types of property (known as classes) are exempt from Council Tax. These can be either empty or occupied, and include properties owned by a charity or held for a minister of religion or UK Armed Forces accommodation. For more information, please go to: https://bit.ly/CTguide2023

What if I need help paying my

Council Tax?

Please contact SKDC straight away if you are finding it difficult to pay your Council Tax. There are lots of things we can do to help. These include giving advice on any benefits you may be entitled

to, putting you in contact with other agencies that may be able to offer support or setting up an arrangement to pay off regular amounts of arrears.



Council Tax Support Council Tax Support is a scheme operated by

SKDC, which helps low-income households meet the cost of their Council Tax.

To apply please go to: www.southkesteven.gov.uk/ **Benefits-And-Support**

Agreeing a payment plan Please contact the

Council's Revenue and Benefits Section on 01476 40 60 80 press 3 and choose option 1 to discuss your circumstances if you find yourself in arrears. It may be possible to agree a payment plan with the Council - an arrangement where you agree to pay regular amounts towards any arrears outstanding.

Other agencies that may be able to offer support

Advice on managing debt is also available from other agencies including Citizens Advice, National Debtline and the StepChange Debt Charity. **South Lincs Citizens Advice** can be contacted on: 0808 278 7996 or via its website at www. citizensadvicesouthlincs .org.uk

StepChange Debt Charity offers help and advice online. Contact StepChange www.stepchange.org/contactus.aspx or by phone: 0800 138 1111

National Debtline can also be contacted by phone: 0808 808 4000 or you can webchat with an advisor via its website at

www.nationaldebtline.org

An increase of £5 a year is proposed for Band D households in South Kesteven (9.6p a week). The increase for Bands A. B and C would be less than £5 (6.4p a week for Band A), while those in Bands E, F, G and H would see an average increase of more than £5 - but no more than £10. The proposal was being considered at a Full Council meeting on March 1st.



Market Place, Grantham



Kings Walk, Grantham



Jo Gregory has joined SKDC as Grantham Engagement Manager

Partners work together to drive town forward

new initiative launched by SKDC will give residents, businesses and key stakeholders the chance to play their part in promoting Grantham.

More than 30 representatives from the community, businesses, and local government will form the Grantham Town Team.

They include Members and Officers from SKDC, as well as representatives from the Grantham Charter Trustees and Lincolnshire County Council.

The team:

- Act as ambassadors for Grantham
- Provide new ideas and concepts on how Grantham can develop in the future
- Support the development of a continuous programme of events and promotional activities
- Provide a sounding board

- for new policy and strategy to develop and regenerate Grantham
- Help generate funding and sponsorship for events and promotional activities

The Leader of SKDC, Cllr Kelham Cooke, said: "Enhancing and driving the growth of our economy is a key priority.

"Having been shortlisted in the 2022 Urbanism Awards for our work in Grantham, it is clear that efforts to shine a light on Grantham are being wellreceived.

"I am delighted that an engaged and active team has come together to focus on the positive development of Grantham and ensure a successful and vibrant future for the town."

Working alongside the Grantham Town Team is Grantham Engagement Manager Jo Gregory, who said: "The Grantham Town Team provides a unique opportunity to be inspired by those who live, work and visit the town.

"We're keen to work collaboratively with the local community on new ideas, support the development of events, and help generate funds for events and promotional activities."

The Grantham Town Team is currently funded by the Council as its contribution to the £5.56 million. Future High Street Fund awarded to SKDC to support the Council's priority of driving economic growth, developing the District's four town centres in Bourne. Grantham. Market Deeping and Stamford and, specifically, the regeneration of Grantham town centre.

The Grantham Town Team can be contacted by emailing townteam@investsk.co.uk





Investment planned for all corners of District thanks to £3.9m funding package

ommunity grants, climate change initiatives, and arts, culture and health events are lined up for South Kesteven, as the District benefits from the first series of investment from a £3.9m funding package.

The grant was secured from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), part of the Government's Levelling Up commitment to meet priorities of communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills.

Investment will reach all corners of South Kesteven, including the District's many rural communities. The grant is boosted by a further £540,460 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Future investment will include; public Wi-Fi in Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and Market Deeping to enable a major CCTV upgrade; funding for arts and heritage initiatives; marketing to attract tourists, business and



Government support for our plans will help SKDC meet its ambition to support and improve on a raft of positive projects across our communities. It will also set up some long-lasting initiatives to leave a tangible legacy for our part of Lincolnshire.

Cllr Kelham Cooke, Leader of South Kesteven District Council

investment to South Kesteven; and support for the Council to plan ahead to access further funding.

The Leader of SKDC, Cllr Kelham Cooke, said: "We are very pleased to be custodians of this funding pot, released as part of the Government's Levelling Up commitment.

"To unlock UKSPF funding,

SKDC was asked to complete an investment plan, setting out how we intend to use and deliver that funding.

"Government support for our plans will help SKDC meet its ambition to support and improve on a raft of positive projects across our communities.

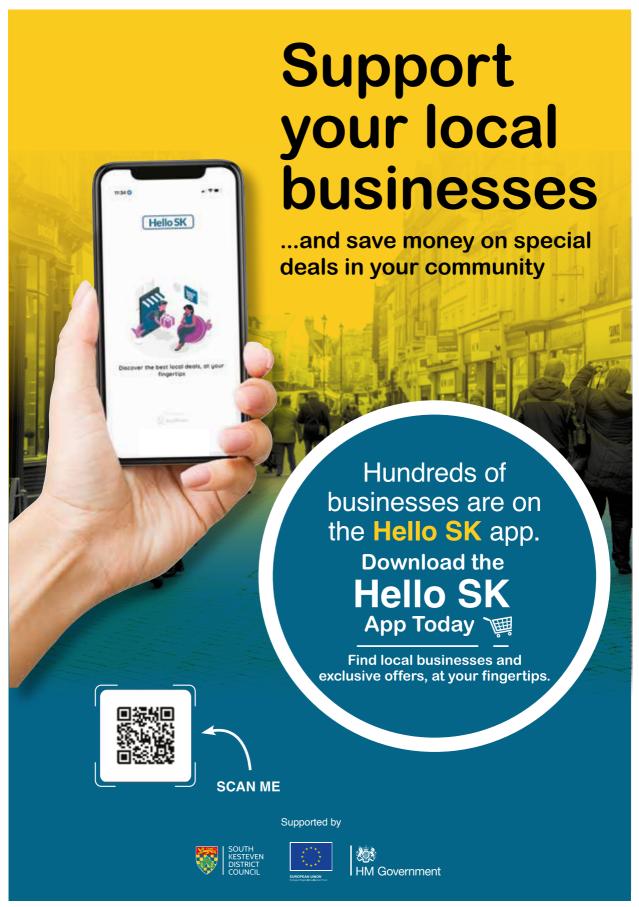
It will also set up some longlasting initiatives to leave a tangible legacy for our part of Lincolnshire.

"We aim to build on our strong cultural offer to bring something for everyone, from local people and businesses to visiting tourists.

"For our four market towns, consultation identified key areas to stimulate further economic benefit and visual improvements to our local communities and places. We also have plans to bolster community safety initiatives to target known issues and further protect our residents."







Partnership working in place to help cope with financial squeeze

NDC is playing its part in helping people face up to challenges posed by the increased cost of living.

Expert advice is available on benefits, housing matters and Council Tax, and our Officers can point people towards partner organisations offering additional practical help.

An online hub has been created on the SKDC website, which is refreshed regularly with all the latest updates and links to useful web pages: www.southkesteven. gov.uk/costofliving

There is information on where to find Warm Welcome spaces. plus advice on food banks, debt, and how to manage household bills. Local support services are also highlighted to point people in the right direction for support on money matters, and no cost or lowcost tips on improving health and wellbeing.



SKDC Cabinet Member for People and Communities, Cllr Annie Mason, said: "Our Members and staff hear first-hand from people whose finances are stretched, whether they have got in touch through our housing services, our benefits department



The Council is working with partners to support the financial wellbeing, physical wellbeing and mental wellbeing of residents and our staff are ready to offer real help when and where it is needed the most.

Cllr Annie Mason, SKDC Cabinet Member for People and Communities

or through the many local groups we work with.

"It can be a huge burden and a lot can be done to signpost people towards the best support services for them, whether that helps with their finances, gives a little boost to physical fitness or removes some of the mental stress of worrying.

"The Council is working with partners to support the financial wellbeing, physical wellbeing and mental wellbeing of residents and our staff are ready to offer real help when and where it is needed the most"

There is also a Lincolnshirewide service online, Connect to Support Lincolnshire, which is an information and advice library and community directory.

It is for adults who want to find out about local groups, activities and services within the community and can be found at

https://lincolnshire.connect tosupport.org







To find out where help is available and who from see pages 18 and 19

Cost of living – help at hand for households

DEALING WITH DEBT



Support available from various voluntary sector providers

Citizen's Advice South Lincs:

- 0808 278 7996
- www.citizensadvice southlincs.org.uk/

Money Advice and Pension

- Service: 0800 138 777
- www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en Step Change:
- 0800 138 1111
- www.stepchange.org/settingexpectations.aspx

MAXIMISING YOUR INCOME



Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit

- 0800 328 5644
- www.gov.uk/universal-credit/ how-to-claim

If you're on the minimum wage, check your pay

www.gov.uk/am-i-gettingminimum-wage

IF YOU'RE **UNEMPLOYED** OR ON A **LOW INCOME**



Apply for New Style Jobseekers Allowance

www.gov.uk/jobseekersallowance

Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit

- 0800 1448444
- www.gov.uk/universal-credit/ how-to-claim

HEALTH & WELLBEING



Support available from various voluntary sector providers

Connect to support:

lincolnshire.connectto support.org/

Mencap:

www.mencap.org.uk/help-withfood-energy-and-money

NHS Lincolnshire Partnership:

www.lpft.nhs.uk/contact-us/need-

NHS Prescriptions and health costs:

www.gov.uk/help-nhs-costs

Wellbeing Lincs:

- 01522 782140
- www.wellbeinglincs.org/

IF YOU CARE FOR SOMEONE



Check if you're eligible to claim a carer's allowance

www.gov.uk/carers-allowance

IF YOU'RE **MARRIED**



Check that you're claiming the Marriage Tax Allowance

www.gov.uk/marriage-allowance

PAYING YOUR RENT. MORTGAGE OR COUNCIL TAX



PAYING YOUR RENT, MORTGAGE OR **COUNCIL TAX**

Check to see if you're eligible for SKDC's Council Tax Support Scheme

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/ Go to "apply for it" and "housing benefit and support"

Check if you're eligible for a payment from the Household Support Fund

- www.southkesteven.gov.uk/ Go to "Household Support Fund" Use a benefits calculator to see if you can get help to pay your rent AgeUK:
- www.ageuk.org.uk/informationadvice/money-legal/benefitsentitlements/benefits-calculator/ Better off calculator:
- mww.betteroffcalculator.co.uk/login Citizens Advice:
- www.citizensadvice.org.uk/ benefits/benefits-introduction/ what-benefits-can-i-get/

Entitled To:

- www.entitledto.co.uk/ Turn2Us:
- ♠ www.turn2us.org.uk/ Check if you can claim Support for Mortgage Interest
- www.gov.uk/support-formortgage-interest

CHILDCARE COSTS



15 or 30 hours of free childcare per week for children aged 2,3 and 4 (dependent on eligibility)

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/earlyyears-education/help-childcare www.childcarechoices .gov.uk/

Claim tax free Childcare

- www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare **Child Benefit:**
- © 0300 200 3100
- www.gov.uk/child-benefit

IF CLAIMING **UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

Check if your child can get **Free School Meals**

- O1522 782030
- www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolpupil-support/apply-free-school-

Access to free activities and food during school holidays if eligible for free school meals

Holiday Activities and Food programme:

 www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schoolpupil-support/holiday-activitiesfood-programme

Check if you're eligible for **Healthy Start Vouchers:**

- 0300 330 7010
- www.healthystart.nhs.uk/ Check if you're eligible for the

Sure Start Maternity Grant

- 0800 1690140
- www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternitygrant

IF YOU'RE ENTITLED **TO BENEFITS**



Cost of Living Payment

(if you claim certain means tested benefits)

Guidance on getting an extra payment to help with the cost of living if you're entitled to certain benefits or tax credits.

www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-ofliving-payment

Cold Weather Payment: (only available in specific circumstances) You may get a Cold Weather Payment if you're getting certain benefits or Support for Mortgage Interest

- www.gov.uk/cold-weatherpayment
- www.gov.uk/cold-weatherpayment/eligibility

Check to see if you can get any help

Help to Save is a type of savings account. It allows certain people entitled to Working Tax Credit or receiving Universal Credit to get a bonus of 50p for every £1 they save over 4 years.

www.gov.uk/get-help-savingslow-income

Check to see if you're eligible for a **Budgeting Loan**

www.gov.uk/budgeting-helpbenefits

Discretionary Housing Payments:

www.southkesteven.gov.uk/ Go to 'Council tax and benefits" Go to "Discretionary housing payments" Check to see if you're eligible for cheaper phone & broadband

Compare the market:

www.comparethemarket.com/ broadband/packages/broadbandand-phone/

Money Supermarket:

www.moneysupermarket.com/ broadband/packages/broadbandand-phone/

U Switch:

www.uswitch.com/broadband/ broadband-and-home-phone/

IF YOU'RE LIVING WITH HEALTH **CONDITION OR DISABILITY**



These vary according to an individual's circumstances

Attendance Allowance:

- 0800 731 0122
- www.gov.uk/attendanceallowance

Disability Cost of Living Payment -£150:

 www.gov.uk/government/ news/150-disability-cost-ofliving-payments-begin-thismonth

Employment and Support Allowance:

- 0800 055 6688
- www.gov.uk/employmentsupport-allowance

Personal Independence Payment:

- 0800 917 2222
- www.gov.uk/pip

IF YOU'RE A **PENSIONER**



A Pensioner Cost of Living Payment An extra £300

www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-ofliving-payment#pensioner-costof-living-payment

Winter Fuel Payment:

The full amount of Winter Fuel Payment you will get for winter 2022 to 2023 depends on your circumstances

www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-ofliving-payment#pensioner-costof-living-payment

Pension Credit:

- 0800 731 0469
- www.gov.uk/pension-creditcalculator

Free TV Licence: (Over 75's)

- 0300 790 6117
- www.tvlicensing.co.uk/check-if-youneed-one/for-your-home/aged-74and-over-aud3

Free Bus Pass: (if over state pensionable age)

www.gov.uk/apply-for-elderlyperson-bus-pass

Entitled To:

A Bus Pass - Entitledto **Housing Benefit:**

- www.gov.uk/housing-benefit
- www.southkesteven.gov.uk/

Go to 'Council tax and benefits" Go to 'Housing Benefits and support'

HEATING YOUR HOME



Check to see if you're eligible for a Warm Home Discount of £150

The Warm Home Discount Scheme for Winter 2022 to 2023 will open in November 2022

www.gov.uk/the-warm-homediscount-scheme

0% VAT on energy saving materials

How to account for VAT if you're a contractor or subcontractor installing energy-saving materials and grantfunded heating equipment

www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-onenergy-saving-materials-andheating-equipment-notice-7086

Check to see if you are eligible for a **Help to Heat Energy Grant**

Find out if your property is eligible for Help to Heat funding

www.gov.uk/government/ collections/find-energy-grants-foryou-home-help-to-heat

Boiler Upgrade Scheme

The government is providing grants to encourage property owners to install low carbon heating systems such as heat pumps, through the Boiler Upgrade Scheme (BUS). These grants can help property owners overcome the upfront cost of low carbon heating technologies.

www.gov.uk/guidance/checkif-you-may-be-eligible-for-theboiler-upgrade-scheme-fromapril-2022

Energy Bill Discount of £400 to all households with a domestic electricity connection

Households will see a discount of £66 applied to their energy bills in October and November, rising to £67 each month from December through to March 2023

www.gov.uk/government/ news/400-energy-bills-discountto-support-households-thiswinter

Check to see if you're eligible for support to pay your water/gas bill You can have some of your bills (including rent, services charges, fuel or water bills) paid directly out of your benefits payments if you're having difficulties

www.gov.uk/bills-benefits



Riverside improvements set for summer completion

A major project to protect and preserve the environment by regenerating the River Witham and its banks through Grantham reaches the final stages.

n ambitious nature improvement programme along the River Witham is scheduled to finish in June this vear.

As part of the £1.29 million Blue Green Corridor scheme. ten different projects have transformed aspects of Grantham's river corridor from Dysart Park through to Belton Park, via Wyndham Park and Queen Elizabeth Park. Improvements have also been made along the River Slea in Sleaford.

South Kesteven District Council is working in partnership with North Kesteven District Council, the Environment Agency, and National Trust, with funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

The result is a linked series of green spaces with formal parks. sweeping meadows, wetlands and wooded regions, connected by a species-rich, healthy and vibrant river corridor.

The Leader of SKDC. Cllr. Kelham Cooke, said: "We are lucky to have this incredible river corridor through Grantham, which is a superb amenity for dog walkers and cyclists and for children's play, as well as being



New berm installed on the left hand bank by volunteers in Wyndham Park





a typical in-channel

the River Witham in

Queen Elizabeth Park

berm created on

great for fishing and walking.

"Thanks to this project it has become an even greater asset. We must do all we can to protect and restore nature, and the sheer diversity of what's been achieved is remarkable.

"Post-Covid, outdoor spaces for meeting, exercising and socialising have become invaluable."

The project has planted trees. created artificial berms to slow water flow and added gravel to reinstate more natural processes and improve and create water quality and habitats.

Work is also in the pipeline

For more information visit: www.withamslea bluegreencorridor.co.uk

to create new wetland, and reconnect the flood plain within the Belton House parkland.

New wildflower meadows will provide an invaluable source of food for pollinating species. adding to the overall benefits to wildlife.

The project, which started in 2019 but was delayed by Covid restrictions, has been benefited from work by volunteers.

Information boards explain the work through Queen Elizabeth Park, where visitors might be lucky enough to see otters, water voles, kingfishers, grey wagtails egrets.

IN-CHANNEL WORKS UP TO WEIR















Volunteers working on a new berm in Queen Elizabeth Park

what's on

Arts across South Kesteven

Enjoy live events at our fantastic arts centres and venues. With something for everyone, now is the perfect time to support and take part in the arts across the District.

Concessionary prices in brackets.

DIARY EVENTS MARCH to APRIL 2023



THE ELLIOTT MORRIS BAND **THURSDAY 9TH MARCH 7.30PM** Guildhall Arts Centre Theatre **MUSIC**

Elliott is joined by his brilliant band of equally hard-working musicians and will be playing music from right across his repertoire, including from his recently released third album, Something Worth Fighting For.

■ TICKETS: £16 (£14/£10)

UNKNOWN REALMS. ACE DANCE AND MUSIC CO

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH 7.30PM Stamford Arts Centre Theatre **DANCE**

An all-embracing, multi layered production that celebrates sheer mortality, perseverance and hope overcoming adversity.

■ TICKETS: £5/£3 for groups of 10+

THE TELL TALE HEART, RUMPUS THEATRE COMPANY

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH 7.30PM Guildhall Arts Centre Theatre **DRAMA**

The supernatural murder mystery The Tell-Tale Heart is based on Edgar Allan Poe's classic Victorian chiller.

■ TICKETS: £16 (£15)

PURPLE ZEPPELIN

SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 7.30PM Bourne Corn Exchange

Featured in the BBC TV documentary The Joy of the Guitar Riff, Zeppelin are proud to pay tribute to the two greatest rock bands of all time, Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin.

■ TICKETS: £20

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VALLEY OF FEAR

THURSDAY 30TH MARCH 7.30PM, FRIDAY 31ST MARCH 1.30PM Stamford Arts Centre Theatre **FAMILY**

Crammed full of adventure, mystery and, of course, one or two rather brilliant deductions, The Valley Of Fear is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's thrilling final Sherlock Holmes novel brought to life in this spectacular new stage adaptation.

■ TICKETS: £16 (£15) Schools £9 with every 11th ticket free

JACQUIN TRIO

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL 7.30PM Stamford Arts Centre Ballroom

Part of the classical season, Jacquin Trio perform pieces by Schumann and Brahms.

■ TICKETS: £20 (£18)

THE MYSTERIOUS MANSION OF MYSTERY. THE NOISE NEXT DOOR

WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL 2PM Guildhall Arts Centre Theatre

Who knows what lurks in the curious corridors and bizarre boudoirs of this ancient manor house? You do! What you say goes in this hour of anarchic entertainment that is fun for literally everyone.

A little bit spooky, a little bit stupid and a whole lot of funny.

■ TICKETS: £8 (£7) Family of four





ANIMAL CLUB, ANIMAL HANDLING SESSIONS

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 10AM AND 11.30AM

Stamford Arts Centre Ballroom **CHILD WORKSHOPS**

Animal Club will come with the all the crew from jumpy stick insects, to calm pythons, friendly bearded dragons, fluffy bunny, curious guinea pigs and many more. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

■ TICKETS: £5

GHOST DANCES, CHANTRY DANCE

TUESDAY 25TH AND WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 3PM WORKSHOP 6PM **PERFORMANCE**

Guildhall Arts Centre Theatre DANCE

Ghost Dances is an innovative dance-theatre performance set to the 1988 suite by Nicholas Maw. In this dance workshop you will explore the themes of dreams and memories.

■ TICKETS: FREE

Guildhall Arts Centre

St Peter's Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ

www.guildhallartscentre.com

2 01476 406 158

Stamford Arts Centre

27 St Mary's Street, Stamford Lincs PE9 2DL

www.stamfordartscentre.com

2 01780 763 203

Bourne Corn Exchange

3 Abbey Road, Bourne Lincolnshire PE10 9EF www.ticketsource.co.uk/bournecorn-exchange

2 07464 764670

MACBETH, DICKENS THEATRE CO **THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 1.30PM AND 7.30PM**

Guildhall Arts Centre Theatre DRAMA

DTC has been successfully staging classic English literature texts for the UK stage since 2015. As part of their Revision on Tour Macbeth entertains and educates.

■ TICKETS: £14 (£13) Schools £8.50 with every 11th ticket free

JAZZ UP THE 80s WITH THE JAY RAYNER SEXTET

FRIDAY 28TH APRIL 7.30PM Stamford Arts Centre Ballroom **MUSIC**

Restaurant critic Jay Rayner, undoubtedly the best jazz pianist in Britain of all the judges on MasterChef, leads an ensemble of top flight musicians through a vivid night of the very best of song-writing and jazz.

■ TICKETS: £25

WHEN YOU'RE SMILING (NEIL SANDS PRODUCTION)

MONDAY 22ND MAY 2PM Guildhall Arts Centre Theatre

MUSIC

Neil Sands and his wonderful West End cast are back with a brand-new spirit lifting afternoon of marvelous musical memories described as like a ray of musical sunshine spreading enough happiness and joy to lift the spirits of the nation.

■ TICKETS: £14 (£13)



Visitor treasures open for the spring

Wyndham Park 3 Hill Ave, Grantham, NG31 9BA Wyndham Park lies on the banks of the River Witham just to the north of Grantham town centre. It offers a wide range of facilities for all ages with fun and exciting events for everyone and proudly holds the Green Flag Award.

www.wyndamparkgrantham. org.uk

Bourne Heritage Centre Baldocks Mill. 21 South Street Bourne, Lincolnshire

A heritage centre, museum, and shop is open 2pm - 4pm Saturday and Sunday, and Bank Holidays. Admission is free of charge.

www.bournetown.co.uk **1** 01778 422775

John Clare Cottage Museum Clare Cottage, Woodgate, Helpston, Peterborough, Cambs, **PE67ED**

The historic cottage near Stamford is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am - 3pm. You can contact them to visit on another day or attend an event.

www.clarecottage.org

Stamford Sights and Secret Tours Stamford Town Centre

Enjoy a guided walk around this historic market town. Tours take place every Wednesday and Saturday at 11am from 19 March - 28 September 2022. Stamford Sights and Secrets Tours

> www.stamfordsightsand secretstours.com









Instagram: @discoversouthk Twitter: @discoversouthk Facebook: Discover South Kesteven TikTok: @discoversk discoversouthkesteven.com

'LOV' YOUR VENUE!

SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS TO CELEBRATE

STAMFORD & GUILDHALL

ARTS CENTRES

AND THE LINCOLNSHIRE ONE VENUES NETWORK



Stamford Arts Centre Fri 3 March 5pm-8pm



Guildhall Arts Centre
Thurs 23 March
5pm-8pm



Join us for outdoor performances from Local and professional groups, VR Performance Experience, Children's Theatre, Illuminating Artwork, ALL FREE!







SOUTH KESTEVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL







