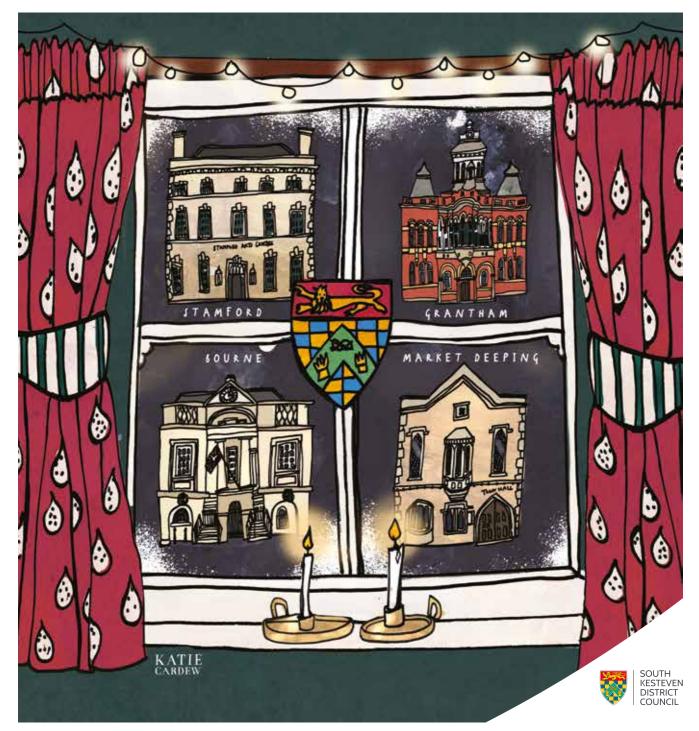
Skitcher for residents of South Kesteven Winter 2022





Welcome

Here is the latest issue of SKtoday, packed full of news and updates from South Kesteven District Council.

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



SKtoday editorial pr@southkesteven.gov.uk

General enquiries 01476 40 60 80

Council offices Grantham (head office)

St Peter's Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ

Bourne 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: Illustration by Katie Cardew www.katiecardew.com @katiecardew



4-7 Cost of Living help for householders

Four pages of expert support and advice in the face of increasing household bills.



8-9

Join #TeamSK

There are some great career opportunities available at your local Council.



11-13 Christmas and New Year bin collections

All the details of changes to waste collection dates over the holiday period.



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

2 SKtoday Winter 2022 www.southkesteven.gov.uk



This is an extremely important evening to celebrate what you have achieved, and we thank you for your support for your military communities. All award winners are exemplars and role models in the many ways that you make a real difference. We live in uncertain times and societal support to all levels of the military is vital. Major General Marc

South Kesteven House presentation cabinet

Golden presentation recognises Council support for the military community

nouth Kesteven District Council has been presented with a prestigious Defence **Employer Recognition Scheme** Gold Award at a high-profile military ceremony.

Council representatives attended the Ministry of Defence awards night at the National Memorial Arboretum remembrance site in Staffordshire.

They joined other 2022 Gold Award recipients from the East and West Midlands in recognition of exceptional levels of advocacy recognition by the MOD of an and support for the Armed Forces.

Awards were presented by Major General Marc Overton. Assistant Director of Defence Staff (Reserves and Cadets).

He spoke of the value of the UK's 140.000 cadets and the enhanced skills they gain and the talent and additional abilities that Reserves deliver for emplovers.

SKDC is one of 12 Gold Award holders in Lincolnshire among just 643 in the entire country.

The scheme encourages employers to support all aspects of defence and inspire others to do the same.

The Gold Award is public employer's efforts to pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to its armed forces community.

Letters of congratulation were received by SKDC from Leo

Docherty MP, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence People & Veterans, and the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Toby Dennis.

Overton

The selection procedure was rigorous and conducted at the highest level within the Ministry of Defence and Cabinet Office.

It recognised SKDC's achievements in celebrating and investing in local military heritage: support for military events such as Remembrance and flag-raising ceremonies; and close engagement with the Army **Training Regiment at Prince** William of Gloucester Barracks in Grantham.

Cost of Living - help for households

Are you in financial hardship? Are you just about managing? Has your income decreased or changed, and are you not sure what to do?

here are a number of schemes available for eligible residents struggling with cost of living challenges.

There are also support groups and reliable experts you can contact to see what changes you can make to ease the burden of increased living costs.

We realise some households will be struggling financially,

Dealing with debt

Support available from various voluntary sector providers including StepChange and Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire emotionally or because they need practical advice and help.

On these pages we outline some key information about what support is available and how to access it. Don't assume you're receiving all that you are entitled to – always check, and if you're struggling or in doubt, get in touch.

On page 7, we list telephone numbers for those without online

Maximising your income

- Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit
- If you're on the minimum wage, check your pay to make sure you're getting the rate you're entitled to, and your tax code is correct

access, or for those who can't easily navigate the internet.

South Kesteven District Council is working with our partners to do all we can to give residents up-to-date information and support during what we know will be a difficult period for many. **Visit:** www.southkesteven.gov.uk/

costofliving OR scan this QR code.



If you're unemployed or on a low income

- Apply for Jobseekers Allowance
- Check if you're eligible for Universal Credit



Your energy bills

- Energy Price Guarantee. The government is limiting how much energy companies can charge. This means a typical household on average usage would expect to pay around £2,500 per year and the guarantee is in place until April 2023
- Energy Bill Discount of £400 available to all households with a domestic electricity connection
- Check if you're eligible for support to pay water/gas bills



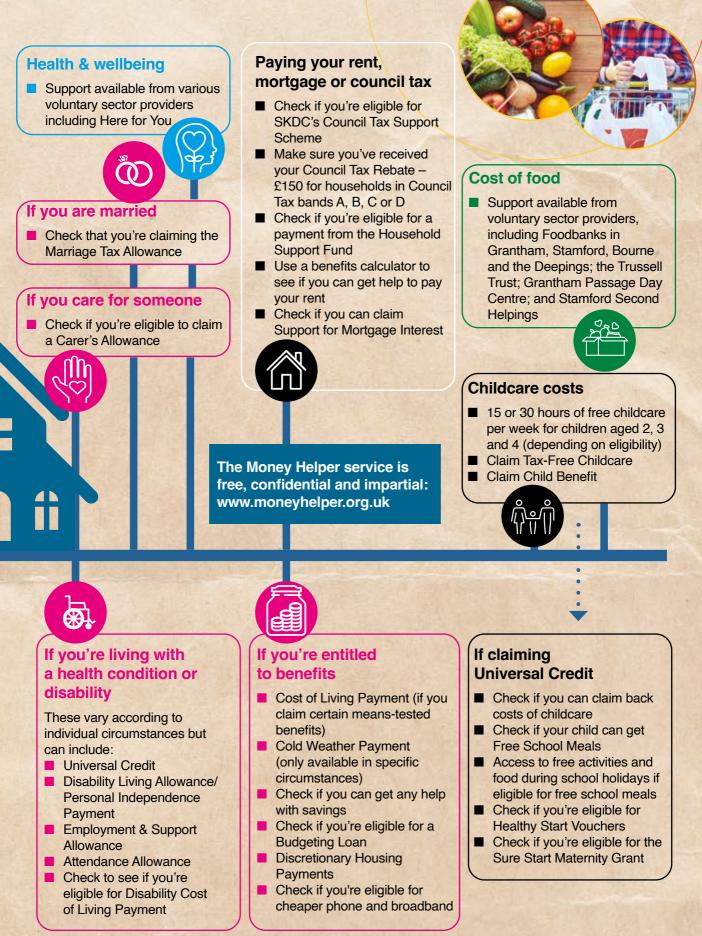
Heating your home

- Check if you're eligible for a Warm Home Discount of £150
- 0% VAT on energy saving materials
- Check if you're eligible for a Help to Heat Energy Grant
- Check if you're eligible for help replacing your boiler under the Boiler Upgrade Scheme

If you're a pensioner

- Pensioner Cost of Living Payment (if eligible for Winter Fuel Payment)
- Winter Fuel Payment
- Check if you're eligible for Pension Credit
- Check if you're eligible for Housing Benefit
- Free TV Licence (over 75s)
- Free bus pass (if over state pensionable age)

Information and links for all your Cost of Living enquiries: www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk



Help at hand to meet Cost of Living challenge

A n online information hub has been launched by South Kesteven District Council to help households tackle the pressure of rising living costs.

To ensure that residents have access to all the information they need, SKDC is sharing facts and pointers on a wide range of help and support available that could benefit them, a relative, friend or neighbour.

It is part of the Council's co-ordinated response with its partners to help residents tackle rising costs and can be found at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/ costofliving

Claire Moses Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Service, said: "SKDC is doing all it can to help people cope with the pressure on domestic budgets, which will intensify as the weather turns colder and heating bills rise.

"We totally understand that many people either will be, or are already, struggling with rising living costs.

"We will work to help residents receive the benefits and other support they are entitled to such as Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments and Discretionary Council Tax Payments, by collaborating with stakeholders and voluntary sector partners."

Details on these and other payments, support and advice, can be found on these pages, with telephone numbers to call on page 7 for those who don't have online access, or find it tricky to navigate the internet.

Lincolnshire councils, alongside stakeholder groups including the Integrated Care Board, health and care providers, faith and community groups, charities and local businesses are working together to help support residents as we enter the winter months.

Connect To Support Lincolnshire – an online information and advice library, community directory and marketplace for adults across the county – will also be regularly updated and can be found at https://lincolnshire. connecttosupport.org



We will work to help residents receive the benefits and other support they are entitled to such as Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Discretionary Housing Payments and Discretionary Council Tax Payments, by collaborating with stakeholders and voluntary sector partners.

Claire Moses, Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Service



Pence



www.southkesteven.gov.uk/costofliving

If you are not online or are unable to navigate the internet, on this page we are sharing some useful telephone numbers to get you started with finding the right support for your individual circumstances. Some are local groups, others are run by the government – but all can find a pathway to valuable support when you need it.

FINANCIAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Citizen's Advice South Lincs: 0808 278 7996

Confidential and impartial advice on debt and budgeting. Can also support in the early stages of a Universal Credit claim, from application through to first payment

Lincolnshire Credit Union: • 0330 004 0842

Credit Unions help people save money and can offer affordable loans as an alternative to loan sharks and pay-day lenders and can help avoid financial problems

Money Advice & Pensions Service: 0800 138 7777

Government funded debt advice, budgeting tools and money advice offering free, impartial help with money matters

StepChange debt advice: **0800 138 1111**

Help with money worries offering free, confidential debt advice and money guidance, helping find the best solution or service for your circumstances

Universal Credit support: 0800 144 8444

A payment to help with your living costs



PAYING YOUR RENT OR COUNCIL TAX

South Kesteven District Council: • 01476 40 60 80

Check if you're eligible for help with your rent or council tax. Contact SKDC for more information.



Grantham Food Bank: (1-2 Greyfriars): O7816 872 561 Stamford Food Bank: (27 West Street): O7570 583 799 Bourne Food Bank: (United Reformed Church Hall, Spalding Road): O1778 782 365 Deepings Food Bank: (63 Hereward Way,

Deeping St James): • 07516 717 346 Trussell Trust food bank network: • 0808 208 2138

Free School Meals: © 01522 782030

Children in low-income households may be entitled to free school meals

Healthy Start Scheme: **0** 0300 330 7010

Pre-paid card for pregnant women and parents of children under four to help buy milk, fruit and vegetables



SUPPORT FOR PENSIONERS

Pension Credit: • 0800 99 1234

Can provide extra money to help people of State Pension age and on a low income with living costs and housing costs such as rent or service charges

Age UK: 🕙 03455 564 144

Free and confidential support to older people, their families and carers on housing, money, benefits, health and wellbeing, loneliness



WELLBEING

Wellbeing Lincs: • 01522 782140

Supporting adults to achieve confident, fulfilled and independent living and offering help through life's changes, such as ill health, disability, new financial circumstances, medical needs or isolation

Connect to Support Lincolnshire: 0300 303 8789

(Monday to Friday 2pm to 7pm) Information and advice library and community directory for adults, with signposting to groups, activities and support in local communities.

Here For You: 0800 234 6342

Mental health and emotional wellbeing advice line for young people, parents and carers



HEATING YOUR HOME

Simple Energy Advice: © 0800 444 202

"Empowering millions of householders every year to make better energy choices"

National Energy Action: **0800 304 7159**

Offering a new Warm and Safe Homes Advice to end fuel poverty. Also webchat online www.nea.org.uk/webchat



Opportunity knocks for Council careers

ur aim here at South Kesteven District Council is to provide quality, value for money services for our residents and businesses - and our committed staff are continually striving to achieve that.

From the teams that empty the bins, to those who process planning applications, every member of #TeamSK plays a vital role in the services we deliver.

More than one million people in England work in Local Government, over 500 of whom are right here at SKDC, and there are regular openings for rewarding careers.

Shaza Brannon, Principal Planning Policy Officer, said: "My career at SKDC is incredibly rewarding. I can see how the work of the Council improves local communities."

Sam Fitt, who joined the Council on a six-month contract in 2012 as a Customer Services adviser, is now Corporate Project Officer.

He said: "Since joining #TeamSK over ten years ago, I've had the opportunity to work across a number of areas and have a real insight into how SKDC delivers services for the District.

"Although every day is different, you can always count on working alongside a great team who are all passionate about making a difference."

With so many services to provide, a career at SKDC offers the opportunity to progress. Training and development equips staff with the skills and experience to move between different departments, as well as into senior roles.

The Council is moving from its premises at St Peter's Hill early next year into new open plan offices on the top floor of the Savoy Cinema building in Grantham. Since joining I've had the o of areas and SKDC delive Sam Fitt, Co

Employees Sam Fitt and Shaza Brannon make use of open plan and collaborative spaces, working alongside colleagues from across the Council.



Shaza Brannon talks to Fran Beckitt about how staff enjoy hybrid and flexible work practices to prioritise their wellbeing and work/life balance

#TeamSK over ten years ago, popportunity to work across lots have a real insight into how ers services for the District. poporate Project Officer

> HR Manager Fran Beckitt said: "Throughout the Covid pandemic, the Council showed it could operate in a more agile way and no longer required such large premises and a blended approach of home and office working is seen as the most efficient way forward.

"The office move is an opportunity to rationalise the Council's operations against the backdrop of continued financial challenges and is expected save taxpayers an estimated £300,000 a year in running costs and allow staff to balance working from home with days in the office."

No matter what qualifications you hold or the experience you have, there are career opportunities for all. SKDC is committed to supporting current and former Armed Forces personnel. Earlier this year, the Council gained the Armed Forces Covenant Gold Award as part of the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

As one of only 12 organisations across Lincolnshire to hold this status, SKDC provides flexible and accommodating employment, offering support to those who are currently serving, or have served in the Armed Forces, as well as their families.

Through supportive staff policies and additional paid leave, adult cadet force volunteers and reservists are able to balance civilian work alongside their volunteer roles in the Armed Forces.

ov.uk/jobsandcareers

SCAN ME



Operation Clean Sweep tackles waste crime



Making checks for Operation Clean Sweep

he Neighbourhoods Team from South Kesteven **District Council played** a major part in a large-scale waste crime initiative, working alongside partners from the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Police, HMRC and the DVSA.

Operation Clean Sweep was designed to disrupt and intervene against waste crime.

It took place in the Grantham area, where 24 vehicles were stopped on the A1 at Great Gonerby and checked to ensure no illegal waste activity was taking place. Ten waste sites were also visited to ensure they complied with the regulations, with one found to be storing thousands of tyres illegally.

Advice and guidance were given by SKDC and the Environment Agency to several carriers with follow-up enquiries made to ensure compliance. Actions included:

- Four Fixed Penalty Notices of up to £300 each issued to unlicensed waste carriers
- Four prohibition notices issued
- Further enforcement action planned by SKDC and the EA
- Vehicles illegally carrying hazardous waste, scrap

metal, waste white goods, green waste and end-of-life vehicles were also stopped Ayeisha Kirkham, SKDC's Public Protection Manager and Chair of the Environmental Crime Partnership for Lincolnshire, said: "We work with our enforcement partners on a regular basis to call a halt to illegal waste activities and remain committed to preventing and disrupting fly-tipping, largescale waste dumping and illegal waste sites.



Checking loads for Clean Sweep

"South Kesteven District Council's Neighbourhoods Team is involved in prevention and advice work to combat these illegal activities, which are a blight on our countryside.

"Illegal dumping is also a potential danger to public health, a source of pollution and potential danger to local wildlife. As well as being a crime, it costs the taxpayers of South Kesteven thousands of pounds each year to clear up."

Incidents should be reported on 01476 40 60 80 or on the 'Report It' page at

www.southkesteven.gov.uk

Ayeisha said: "Operation Clean Sweep is a great example of agencies joining forces to tackle and reduce fly-tipping in our beautiful county.

"We continue to drive forward this commitment through the Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership - protecting our environment by working together to effectively tackle waste related crimes."



If a waste carrier dumps a customer's waste illegally the customer can also be fined. Avoid this by following the SCRAP code:



Christmas and New Year bin and bag collections

Don't get caught out – check to see when waste crews will be calling.

he Christmas period and its annual Bank Holidays means some changes are being made to our normal waste collection schedules.

Don't get caught out – please check to see when waste crews will be calling during the holiday fortnight in order to get your bins out on the right day.

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, which means our scheduled collection for Monday 26th December will be carried out on Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve. All collections for the rest of the week between Christmas and New Year will be carried out one day later than usual, up to and including Saturday 31st December.

For the first week of 2023, because there is a Bank Holiday on Monday 2nd January, all bin collections will take place one day later than usual, up to and including Saturday 7th January.

We have tried to keep our changes to a minimum during this period and thank residents for their co-operation. Please leave bins or bags at the edge of your property by 7.30am on the right collection day for where you live. Please check on the accompanying table to see when your collection days will be. The scheduled changes apply to all black and silver bins, plus pink and clear bags.

The first green garden bin collection day after Christmas is Monday 9th January for those who have bins emptied on the green week and Monday 16th January for yellow week. These are also the weeks to leave your real Christmas tree out for free collection, even For more information go to www.southkesteven. gov.uk

if you're not a subscriber to the garden bin scheme.

The Deputy Chief Executive of SKDC, Alan Robinson, said: "Our hard-working waste crews deserve a proper Christmas break which is why we are rearranging the schedules slightly. Please support them by taking note of the collection changes and leaving your bins out accordingly."

Thank you for your co-operation.



Christmas and New	Year 2022/23
Original Collection Date	New date
Monday 26 December	Saturday 24 December
Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December
Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December
Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December
Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December
Monday 2 January	Tuesday 3 January
Tuesday 3 January	Wednesday 4 January
Wednesday 4 January	Thursday 5 January
Thursday 5 January	Friday 6 January
Friday 6 January	Saturday 7 January

Your bin collection dates for 2022/23



www.southkesteven.gov.uk/bincollectionday Find your bin collection day

Black/Silver bin collections 2022/23

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BIN DAYS. GURAN BAGS, CARDBOARD BOXES ARE COLLECTED ON BLACK CARRIER BAGS AND PINK BAGS ARE SILVER BIN DAYS. COLLECTED ON



26th December collection moved to 24th December

Bank Holiday collection

KEY

moved to 24th December

Bank Holidays.



the morning of collection. Please help our waste and recycling team Please put your bins out on the edge of your property by 7.30am on For any enquiries please call 01476 40 60 80 by putting the bin handles facing the road.

Green bin recycling collections 2022/23

DUE TO THE KING'S CORONATION CALENDAR DETAILS FOR 2023 FOR THE REST OF YOUR

SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE

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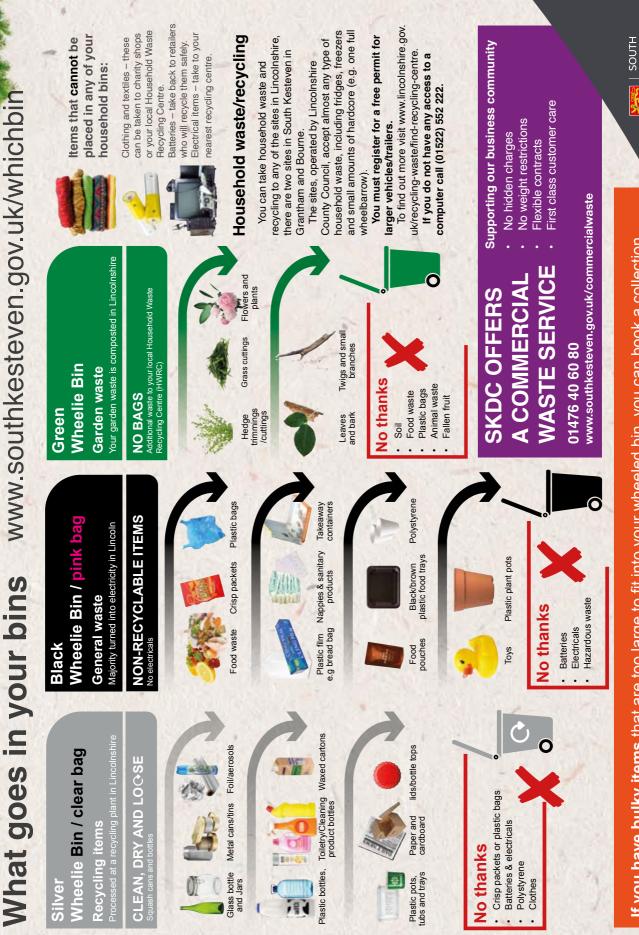
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Sun



Recycle your tree

waste collection day for your street even if you don't Don't forget that you can put your real Christmas tree out for recycling on the usual January green subscribe to the service.



If you have bulky items that are too large to fit into your wheeled bin, you can book a collection (charges apply) online at www.southkesteven.gov.uk/bulky

| South Kesteven District Council



Best Schools Green Project Award Deeping St James CP School

Upp

Good Neighbour

Award Gary Gooch

Five Hundral Plands Drig

Business and the Community Award Laura Edwards Happy Tails





Wellbeing Award Susan Swinburn Once again the sheer variety and scale of contributions to our many different communities is unbelievable, and we have been blown away by the young people put forward in many of our categories.

We know that all those nominated and our award winners do not seek public recognition but it is important to recognise the immense contribution that they make in support of one another.

Alan Robinson, SKDC Deputy Chief Executive

€50000



and the winners are

South Kesteven's community champions have been celebrated at a special evening to recognise individuals who go above and beyond to help others.

special awards night at Grantham's Guildhall Arts Centre shone a light on the winners and all those shortlisted in South Kesteven District Council's SK Community Awards 2022.

Winners included animal lovers raising more than £17,000 for charity; a young Army cadet who played a vital role in saving a road crash victim's life; and a friendly neighbour who people simply can't do without.

Also recognised were a team of school carbon ambassadors; the founder of a community support network; a tireless British Legion stalwart; and a schoolboy helping boost others' self-esteem.

Awards included the Green School Award for schoolchildren, with sponsor Upp Broadband providing a £500 first prize.

Elected Members, a previous winner and an award sponsor

decided which nominations should go forward to the presentation event.

For the Neil Smith Beyond the Call of Duty award, Neil's widow Candice helped decide the shortlist for an award that carries the former SKDC employee's name in recognition of how he saved their son Tommy's life using CPR.

Award winners took home engraved crystal trophies and runners-up were presented with certificates.

School Green Award: Deeping St James Community Primary School pupils raised awareness of key environmental issues including reducing litter, cutting electricity use and increasing recycling.

Business and the Community

Award: Dog walker and pet sitter Laura Edwards' Happy Tails Pet Service in Market Deeping for

fund-raising and readiness to help in a crisis.

Good Neighbour: Grantham's Gary Gooch, hailed as "the most helpful neighbour I have ever had."

ing Award: Health and Well Susan Swinburn, the driving force behind the Grantham BHive Community **Inspirational Young Person:** Ben Pennycook, for establishing a Build Your Confidence club fellow pupils at Bourne Grammar School. Lifetime Communit

Champion: Grace Knightall, for 30-plus years as district organiser for the annual Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. **Neil Smith Beyond the Call** of Duty Award: Bourne Army Cadet William Craft, who saved the life of a motorcyclist following a serious road accident.







Beyond the Call of Duty Award Villiam Craft

Neil Smith

Recognis eptional co hal peo

Find your Councillor

Iected Members of South Kesteven District Council play a key role in serving residents across the District. Depending where they live, residents are represented by one, two or sometimes three councillors.

Often the first point of contact in their communities, our councillors offer advice and can raise issues of concern within council debate and the decision-making processes.

Eight key councillors are also members of SKDC's Cabinet.

Each Cabinet member has specific areas of responsibility, such as housing, growth, finance or planning, and they meet regularly to ensure timely decision-making.

Graham Watts. Head of Democratic Services. said: "Our councillors play a vital role in ensurina local views are reflected in local decision-making.

"I would urge anyone who needs advice or has a question about our services to contact the councillor representing their ward."

For more information and councillor details please visit www.southkesteven.gov.uk/ councillors



GRANTHAM ST WULFRAM'S

LOVEDEN HEATH

VIKING

Meet the Cabinet

Casewick



Cllr Kelham Cooke T: 01476 406 400 Leader of the Counci



Cllr Adam Stokes M: 07974 342 648 Deputy Leader, Finance and

Leisure





Cllr Annie Mason M: 07852 976 392 People and Safer Communities

Grantham Barrowby Gate



Cllr Mark Whittington E: mark.whittington@ southkesteven.gov.uk Waste Services and Climate Change

Bourne Austerby



Cllr Robert Reid T: 01778 395 562 M: 07802 354 498 Housing and Property

Belmont



Cllr Linda Wootten T: 01476 400 183 M: 07534 778 090 Corporate Governance and Licensing



DEEPING ST JAMES

Independent

- Labour (unaligned and not a political

Alliance SK

Cllr Nick Robins M: 07785 987 112 Planning and Planning Policy



Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew T: 01778 560 634 Culture and Visitor Economy



T: 01476 572 092

M: 07855 236 686

T: 01476 405 011

M: 07858 707 888

T: 01476 574 748 M: 07398 156 296



Toller

VACANT



Cllr Jane Wood T: 01400 282 223 M: 07423 063 234 Cills Baul Wood

Clir Paul Wood T: 01400 282 223 M: 07769 038 693 For more information and councillor details please visit www.southkesteven.gov.uk/councillors

New faces elected to Council

South Kesteven District Council has welcomed two new Members after well-fought by-elections on 10th November. Cllr Mary Whittington, who held Grantham St Wulfram's Ward for the Conservatives, takes her seat in the chamber with Cllr Julia Reid, the successful candidate in Bourne East Ward, which was also a Conservative Hold.

Grantham St Wulfram's Ward Elected: Mary Whittington



Cllr Whittington has been a local resident for most of her life and most recently worked as a care worker

in the private sector. "If elected I will ensure that residents' voices are heard and that the council supports Grantham as a great place to live and work," she said.

Bourne East Ward Elected: Julia Reid



passionate about Bourne and community; with time and energy I can stand up for Bourne

"ľm

to ensure we get our fair share of funding. Using my knowledge of local government I will be standing as a local voice on local issues."

Anyone for tennis? Public courts set for makeover

wo public tennis courts in Wyndham Park, Grantham, are to be refurbished thanks to a £57,000 grant from the Lawn Tennis Association.

Through upgrades to the playing surface, nets and security, South Kesteven District Counci and LTA aim to support the next generation of tennis players and revive public use of the courts.

Due to their age and condition, the tennis courts are underutilised and could be at risk of closure without intervention.

Karen Whitfield, Assistant

Director of Culture and Leisure said: "The refurbishment work will make grass roots tennis affordable, engaging and accessible for more people."

SKDC will work in partnership with Grantham Tennis Club who will manage the courts and provide additional activities, including coaching.

The Council hopes to secure further investment next year when the LTA will review funding arrangements. A further £26,000 may be provided to refurbish the tennis courts at Dysart Park, Grantham.



SKtoday Winter 2022 www.southkesteven.gov.uk 19



Ropsley villagers Alwyn Sentance, Margaret Rowbotham, Barry Buxton and Jenny Leslie with Karen Whitfield and Steffie Shields



Welby parish clerk Roel Van Aken and resident Liz Whittington with Karen Whitfield and Steffie Shields

Community effort strikes gold

G old-coloured litter bins are being installed in two villages after their success in the council's Best Kept Village awards.

Ropsley and Welby scored top marks in their respective large and small village categories.

Allington was second in the large village category, with Barrowby third. Stubton took second place in the small village awards with Witham on the Hill third.

Winning villages receive £400 for the top award, £300 for second and £200 for third, and proud parish councillors gathered at Grantham's Wyndham Park Visitor Centre to receive their commemorative certificates.

SKDC Assistant Director of Culture and Leisure Karen Whitfield said: "We all know how much our villages contribute to the character and colour of this beautiful district.

"They are a credit to their communities and we really appreciate the hard work that goes into the results that our judges see when they tour the district, and then face the hard task of deciding winners.

"The judging is getting ever harder as standards continue to rise, and that's a direct tribute to the local community spirit and pride that we are delighted to recognise with these awards."

Awards were presented by Karen Whitfield and Steffie Shields, Chairman of the Lincolnshire Gardens Trust, who helped judge the final stages.

Judges assessed more than 100 villages, looking at street scene, front gardens and evidence of community pride.

The two competition categories are judged on large villages with 501-5000 residents and small villages with between 100-500 residents.





Allington councillors John Plummer and Mike Mould with Steffie Shields and Karen Whitfield



Karen Whitfield (left) with Stubton open space gardener Lynn Crooks and husband Richard

Download our app for all the latest offers



Shopping for Christmas and looking for the very latest deals in your nearest town? To help you track down that perfect gift why not download the new HelloSK app?

More than 170 businesses are sharing their special offers via the app, which buzzes in your pocket to let you know what's new.

As well as exclusive offers, users are also the first to know about shows, events and concerts, so they can be first in the queue for tickets.

If you've not yet signed up, download HelloSK from your usual app provider and join the 600-plus users who already have.

Paul Green, InvestSK Business and Skills Officer, said: "Supporting our business community is a key priority identified in our Corporate Plan. The HelloSK app is an exciting new way of boosting local businesses, helping high streets across the District and encouraging residents to shop locally.



Download the Hello SK App Today

Access a huge range of exclusive local rewards

"There are some fantastic businesses in our District and this app is another incentive for people to shop local and take advantage of what they have to offer."

Tourism officer Jade Newby said: "At the moment the HelloSK app is packed with exclusive Christmas shopping offers and a seasonal events diary.

"It's not just for the retail industry as there are deals on nail bars and beauty, health suppliers and even professional services like estate agents and lawyers.

"It's growing all the time and is constantly being updated – so always quickly check the app if you're going out into town, as you might be able to get a free coffee with your lunch, which is always a bonus!"

HelloSK is supported by the Government's Welcome Back Fund which means it's free for residents, businesses and visitors to use. It works out where you are and alerts customer to the deals in their area to make it relevant all the time.

It is backing local independent business as they continue to recover from the continuing financial impact of the pandemic.



It's vital that we're supporting our local businesses, particularly during this increasingly challenging time. *Paul Green, SKDC Business and Skills Officer*



A local initiative encouraging residents to shop locally in Stamford is welcoming the boost to their highstreet.

Shop Stamford began in 2018 as a collective campaign by local, independent retailers to promote what the historic market town has to offer.

Having started online, Shop Stamford now distributes it's own 'Little Book of Stamford' as well as hosting Shop Stamford Saturdays, helping to attract customers into the town.

Sarah Sewell, the founder of Shop Stamford, said: "Independent businesses draw people into the town so when they thrive, everyone benefits. Without them, we'd lose our vibrant high street which would be a real shame."

> #Shop Stamford



Cheers! Cellar Bar reopens following full refurbishment

A popular bar is once again hosting live entertainment ranging from music, to comedy and poetry.

Located in the heart of Stamford Arts Centre, The Cellar Bar reopened after refurbishment in October with a special performance from traditional folk band Frumenty.

The reopening was part of Stamford's Annual Apple Day celebrations held earlier in the day in the arts centre ballroom. Frumenty continued celebrations into the evening by performing songs about harvest, love, apples - and cider.

Substantial investment in the arts centre has seen a new slate roof installed and, more recently, the audience toilets have undergone a full refurbishment to improve the visitor experience.

Stamford Arts Centre is open six days a week and hosts a range of events, workshops, and performances. Its 166-seat theatre also converts to a cinema where Hollywood blockbusters and much-loved Arthouse movies are screened.

The ballroom regularly hosts a range of concerts, as well as being a beautiful venue available for hire for weddings and other special occasions.

Over the Christmas period, the centre will become a hub of festive entertainment.

Sam Folcroft's 'Rules for Living' shows a comedic descent into chaos on Christmas Day, while Five Star Swing Band perform Christmas songs on Friday 16th December and Polka Dot Pantomime return with Aladdin in the new year.

Information about upcoming shows is available at www.stamfordartscentre.com/ whats-on or by calling the box office on 01780 763 203.



SCAN ME



Visitor treasures open for the winter

Mannakin – Brant Road, Fulbeck Lowfields, Grantham, NG32 3JD Looking for something a little different? Mannakin host unusual events and offer interesting photography and videography opportunities. Check them out online at:

J and J Alpacas – Meadow Farm, Clensey Lane, Dry Doddington, Newark, NG23 5HT

November to March opening hours are Wednesdays to Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is £5 for adults, £2 for children under 14 and under 3s are free! You can book an experience online at:

Bourne Corn Exchange – 3 Abbey Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 9EF

There are lots of exciting events happening at Bourne Corn Exchange this winter, such as the Sleeping Beauty panto in December and a talent competition in January. To learn more, check out their Facebook page facebook.com/

bournecornexchange/

Belton House and Gardens – Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 2LS

The mansion is open Thursday-Monday, 11am-3pm. Features of the many rooms will be brought to life with different themes, helping to create magical memories for you this winter.

Other Strate Nationaltrust.org.uk/belton-house



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 DEC 2022 to MARCH 2023

FIVE STAR SWING AT CHRISTMAS FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2022, 7:30PM

As featured at London's Leicester Square Theatre and BBC Children in Need. Enjoy all your favourite Christmas songs with the dynamic swing band treatment from Glenn Miller, Sinatra, Basie, Nat King Cole – jazzing up those Jingle Bells! Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford, PE9 2DL

■ TICKETS: £20 (£18)

RAPUNZEL AND THE TOWER OF DOOM SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2022, 11AM & 2PM

Tangles? Split Ends? Frizzy? Flyaway? It's bad enough having a bad hair day but pity poor Rapunzel spending her life in a tower with some strange woman using her captive's locks as a step ladder! What sort of damage is that going to do to your hair?

Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford, PE9 2DL

TICKETS: £10 (£8) £24 family of four



THE JIVE ACES SATURDAY 28TH JANUARY 2023, 7:30PM

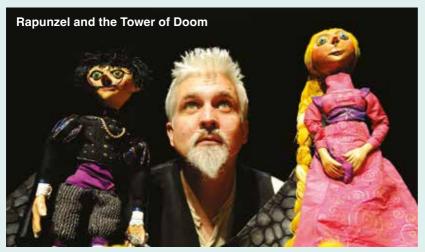
The Jive Aces are renowned for their high-energy swinging music and spectacular live show and have toured in over 40 countries worldwide. They strive to spread smiles and cheer with their swinging music and classic vintage style from crooning smooth ballads to blasting honking rhythm and blues.

Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham, NG31 6PZ

TICKETS: £23 standard

GARY DELANEY: IN PUNDERLAND WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2023, 7:30PM

Get ready to dive into a rabbit hole of the best jokes in the world – star of Live at the Apollo and longstanding





Mock the Week special guest, Gary has been through the laughing glass and he's ready to bring you a brand new show with hit after hit of oneliners. Including support. Ages 16+ *Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham, NG31 6PZ*

TICKETS: £20 standard

PURPLE ZEPPELIN SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2023, 7:30PM

They blow the roof off every time we have them, so we couldn't wait to invite them back again! Featured in the BBC TV documentary "The Joy of the Guitar Riff" (alongside Brian May, Tony Iommi and Dave Grohl) Purple Zeppelin are proud to pay tribute to the two greatest Rock Bands of all time, Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin!

Bourne Corn Exchange, Bourne, PE10 9EF

Tickets can be purchased from TicketSource or on 07464 764 670 TICKETS: £20 standard



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

www.stamfordartscentre.com
01780 763 203

Polka Dot Pantomimes in association with Guildhall Arts Centre & Stamford Arts Centre present

3 - 31 DECEMBER 2022 GUILDHALL ARTS CENTRE St Peter's Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ Box Office: 01476 406158 www.guildhallartscentre.com

GKETS

RESTOVE DISTRICT

A Tangled Tale

ALADDIN

FRI 6 JAN: 10.15am, 1.15pm, 6.30pm | SAT 7 JAN: 11am, 2.30pm, 6.30pm SUN 8 JAN: 11am & 2.30pm SAT 14 JAN: 11am, 2.30pm, 6.30pm | SUN 15 JAN: 11am, 2.30pm

Adults £15 | Concession £14 | Family of Four £50 | Schools £7.50 | Groups of 10+ £12

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stamford arts centre 27 St Mary's Street, Stamford, PE9 2DL Box Office: 01780 763203 | www.stamfordartscentre.com