Welcome from the CEO

Finally spring is here! Somebody tell the weather man that it’s time for the temperature to rise so we can all get out in the fresh air and explore!

I was delighted to meet Prince Charles during his visit to Boston in March. He was very impressed by our restoration of 116 High Street and wished us every success with our next conservation project at the Old Kings Head at Kirton. It is fantastic to gain this recognition for our work as a charity.

Saving the Old King’s Head

The Heritage Lottery Fund has offered us £1,987,300 for the conservation of the Old King’s Head. Our ambitious plan is to rescue this historic building at risk and bring it back into use as a community café and B&B.

Kirton’s oldest secular building has been at the heart of the community for over 400 years, but as a historic building at risk, before our intervention, it was on the brink of being lost forever. With over 25 years experience of saving historic buildings at risk from dereliction, we are definitely up for the challenge – the Old King’s Head is set to be our 9th project. Look inside to read more about what we have been up to since the last newsletter.
Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival Offers Fun For All The Family

The festival returns on 19th May for its 14th year, in the East Midlands’ only Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Many walks are family friendly and feature fun activities such as shelter building, bushcraft, treasure trails, bug hunts and more, so there’s plenty to keep the little ones busy during the May half term. This year, there are over 100 walks, ranging from half a mile to 76 miles!

Download your copy from our website or pick one up at your local garden centre, tourist information centre, library or visitor attraction. The packed programme also feature routes suitable for wheelchair users and accessible with pushchairs.

Walking Festival Co-ordinator Natalie says:

“The festival offers a great way for everyone to explore a beautiful landscape and experience its culture and heritage, whilst enjoying some healthy exercise in good company. You can discover the history of an area with a guided talking walk, try something new with a themed walk, enjoy an energetic ramble, relax with a short stroll, or experience the Wolds in a different light with one of the night walks on offer.”

The festival starts on 19 May with a launch event in Nettleton and, after 16 days of walking and family fun, concludes with a finale in South Elkington on 3 June. For more information go to woldswalkingfestival.co.uk.

Layers of History: Landscape Archaeology in the Community

Our Layers of History team are preparing for a busy year ahead with potentially five study sites! These sites will be Hackthorn, South Ormsby, Southrey Woods, Hainton Estate and Aslackby (pending funding). Two more online courses (Medieval Settlements and Military Landscapes) are currently being tested and will be available in April. Email layers@heritagelincolnshire.org to find out more.

You’re Invited to the Layers of History First Birthday Party

Join the project’s 1st birthday celebrations in Lincoln with TV presenter and archaeologist Mary-Ann Ochota and Storyteller Jason Buck on the evening of the 22nd April. Mary-Ann and Jason will also be running a storytelling workshop during the afternoon before the performance. Full details in our ‘What’s on’ section on our website.
Castle Studies Trust

We are delighted to announce that in May we will be starting a new research project at Bolingbroke Castle! We are grateful to The Castle Studies Trust who share our enthusiasm for learning more about castles and are funding this project. The archaeological activities will further advance the understanding of one of England’s most important castles, and the birthplace of Henry IV.

Whilst much is known about the castle itself, this work will concentrate on helping to reveal the connections and mysteries of the surrounding areas, including Dewy Hill and the Rout Yard. Dewy Hill is currently thought to be the site of a fortified hall and pre-cursor to the castle, whereas the Rout Yard is assumed to have been a site used for containing stray livestock. This fascinating work will help to guide our understanding, and may unfurl the mystery of these connections.

If you want to get to know this exceptional castle, get in touch to see if we still have places volunteer on this exciting research project. Research will be happening over schools’ half term, so aspiring archaeologists are welcome. Our family Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th showed that this castle is still a wonderful gathering place for the community. The site is currently open for the public to explore all year round.

Highlighting Bourne Town Hall

Our Heritage at Risk Solutions Officer had been busy supporting community groups and local authorities across the county. We are really excited to be working with Bourne Town Hall Trust as they start a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Architectural Heritage Fund. We are helping them work out options for Bourne Town Hall which will bring it back into use for the local community through a series of training events and providing mentoring support. If you have a project that could use our support please get in touch.
Old King’s Head Update

Following our Crowdfunding campaign where we successfully raised £5526, we are delighted to receive such a fantastic response from the local community to our campaign. A summary of our campaign has been included in local circular, Kirton News www.kirtonnews.co.uk/feature.html. Here are some highlights:

Saving the Old King’s Head from dereliction after our purchase of it in 2016 we have developed a repair programme, business plan and fundraising strategy.

While emergency repairs were carried out in the autumn of 2017, after weeks of fixing and clearing, the Old King’s Head was happily water and wind tight for winter 2017. But there is still such a long way to go! Full refurbishment of the entire building is set to start this year if the full £2.4 million can be secured. This ambitious project will bring vitality and interest back into the centre of the village. The café, B&B and tourist destination will provide 14 local jobs, sell local produce, encourage tourists to stay longer in the area, and bring business to the rest of the village.

Heritage Lincolnshire were extremely lucky that the historic property deeds were gifted to the charity with the purchase of the property. The deeds contain information about the inn starting from 1599. Throughout 2017 a team of volunteers with an interest in researching the inn have been sorting through these documents. These volunteers have given the charity an insight to the of stories of the Kirton citizens behind the names on the deeds, and the more the volunteers uncover about the Old King’s Head the more fascinating the stories become.

Tours of the building have been offered to over 200 visitors and will continue to be offered as the building is conserved and reopened.

If you would like to support Heritage Lincolnshire and really make a difference to this project, please get in touch via htladmin@heritagelincolnshire.org, 01529 461 499. We are still receiving donations for the Old King’s Head via our fundraising platform, take a look at our bespoke prizes: Heritagelincolnshire.org/okh

South Lincolnshire Walking Festival

The South Lincolnshire Walking Festival will return in the autumn for its 4th year, offering walks for all ages and abilities on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 29th September and 28th October.

If you or your organisation are interested in leading a walk for the South Lincolnshire Walking Festival, your business would like a walk to start or finish at their premises, or you would like your business to feature in the brochure please get in touch by email at slwf@lincsheritage.org or phone 01529 461499.
Archaeological Project Services

APS is gearing up for a busy year ahead, with several community projects already planned. The Heritage Lottery Funded Townscape Heritage project in Wisbech will see members of the local community take part in a test pit dig at the rear of Fenland & District Museum during May 2018.

As part of the Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership programme, we are also looking forward to running a series of training sessions for residents of Belton, Haxey and Owston Ferry over the summer, as part of Heritage Lincolnshire’s ‘Presenting the Past’ project. There will be opportunities to try fieldwalking, topographical and geophysical survey, along with metal detecting. More information about these courses is available at www.heritagelincolnshire.org/take-part/presenting-the-past

Work is also continuing on the Lincolnshire Long Barrows project with an ongoing programme of geophysical surveys and limited excavation of a small number of barrows is planned for the autumn. The fieldwork will conclude by the end of the year with the report on the results due in spring 2019.

Conservation Volunteering Opportunity Coming Soon!

We are delighted to announce a new project to establish a conservation focussed volunteering team. Heritage Lincolnshire already have a fantastic volunteering community, supporting the organisation and the various exciting projects taking place. Charlotte Davey (Project Officer – Historic Sites and Projects) is planning to deliver this new initiative to create a skilled team of conservation and collections volunteers.

These volunteers will have the opportunity to be trained in some practical heritage conservation skills alongside professionals and others with a passion for conservation of our heritage.

Heritage Lincolnshire are currently responsible for a wide variety of sites and projects across the county, we would like to establish and train a team to be skilled and ready to act on remedying the ongoing conservation needs of these sites.

At the moment we are still developing the offer, to ensure we design and deliver the most engaging experience, however early expressions of interest would be very much appreciated.

Please get in touch Charlotte.Davey@heritagelincolnshire.org if you are interested and we will ensure you are kept up to date with this exciting new volunteering experience in 2018.
Get your diary!

What’s coming up in 2018…
For more information get in touch or take a look on our website

Bolingbroke Easter Egg Hunt .......................... 8th April .......................... Bolingbroke Castle 11 – 4pm
Grow Course: Introduction to .......................... 19th & 26th April .......................... Grantham Museum 12.30 – 3.30
Saxon & Medieval Pottery
Booking essential
Layers Of History ........................................ 22nd April .......................... The Lawn, Lincoln
Rings, Wings and Spindle Whols
Booking essential
Do Something New, Louth .......................... 12th May .......................... Louth Library 10 – 3pm
Booking for a table essential
Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival .......................... 19th May – 3rd June
Booking required for some walks
Castles Studies Trust .......................... 28th May – 1st June .......................... Bolingbroke Castle
Archaeological Research
Limited spaces, get in touch for more information
Grow Course: .......................... 20th June .......................... Lincoln Castle 10 – 5pm
Conserving Historic Stonework
Booking essential
Lincolnshire Show .......................... 20th, 21st June
Grow Course: A County Divided, the English Civil War in Lincolnshire .......................... 7th & 14th July .......................... Grantham Museum 2.30 – 5.30
Booking essential
Heckington Show .......................... 28th, 29th July
Heritage Open Days .......................... 6th – 9th, 13th – 16th Sept
South Lincolnshire Walking Festival .......................... 29th Sept – 28th Oct
Booking required for some walks

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