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If you need any kind of help with accessing any website links, we have provided in this newsletter or with other digital/IT issues, please email karl@capacitybuildings.org.uk or call 07936 415804.

Capacity Buildings commissioned the professional support of **Grants Visuals** to design and lay out this monthly newsletter and provide the photography. We are delighted with the results and received fantastic feedback from our readers. We are very happy to recommend their services. Contact Alex by email: grantsvisuals@outlook.com or visit the website: www.grantsvisuals.co.uk

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ALMSHOUSE

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE NEWS



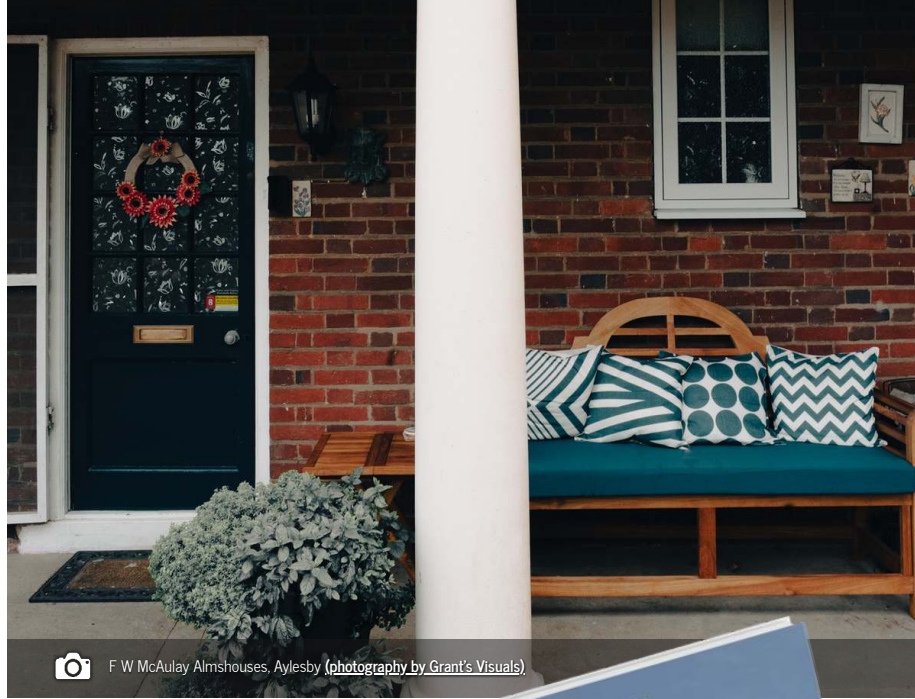
OPEN DOORS AND DISCOVERY

In this issue, Almshouses open their doors once again for Heritage Open Days, while closer to home, we've got walking routes, history and culture to explore. Plus, discover more ways to access essential support from a range of organisations.

DEAR RESIDENTS

Summer’s in full swing, and plenty is going on in your local area in the coming weeks.

This issue is packed with ideas for days out this Summer, along with key safety tips for staying safe online, in person or whilst cooking outdoors.



F W McAulay Almshouses, Aylesby (photography by Grant's Visuals)

SUMMER IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

There’s something in the **NEL Visitor Guide** for everyone to explore on our doorstep. We have towns, villages, coastal resorts and beautiful countryside to enjoy all around us. Make the most of it all this year.

Starting on Friday 11th September through to Sunday 20th September 2026, Heritage Open Days is England’s largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,300 organisations, 5,400 events and 41,000 volunteers, creating over one million visits. Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It’s your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences ... and it’s **all FREE!**

Source credit: [Discover North East Lincolnshire](#)

In 1949, it was decided that unspoilt areas of the countryside should be protected for future generations as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). In 2000, the importance of AONBs was re-emphasised, acknowledging that they, with the National Parks, form Britain’s finest countryside. **Most of the Lincolnshire Wolds was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1973 following considerable local campaigning.** This means the landscape is part of Britain’s finest countryside. It is a living, working landscape, with woodland, grassland and abandoned chalk pits providing important habitats for rare flowers and wildlife.

Walking Routes just beyond your doorstep - we hope you find a route to suit your walking style. Here’s a mixture of routes promoted by the LWCS: **Walking - Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service**

Source credit: [Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service \(LWCS\)](#)



A HOT TOPIC: FIRE SAFETY



BBQ safety tips to avoid injuries or damage to property: follow these simple precautions:

- Never leave BBQs unattended
- Ensure the BBQ is on a flat site, well away from sheds, trees or shrubs
- Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby for emergencies
- Ensure the BBQ is cool before attempting to move it

Did you know? BBQs can stay hot for hours, so be really careful moving them. They also give off carbon monoxide fumes for several hours after they go out, so never take them indoors.

Disposable BBQs bring several risks, from grass fires to harming wildlife due to:

- Disposable BBQs not being put out properly especially when the ground is dry
- Being used in open spaces where the wind could carry not ash towards neighbours
- Ensure the disposable BBQ is totally cold before disposal can take up to 24 hours
- Threat to wildlife due to tempting animals to try and eat left over food particles.

As you are probably aware, a number of retailers have already stopped selling disposable BBQs, this summer and as a fire and rescue service we are encouraging more to do the same.



Bedtime fire safety routine: we are more at risk from a fire when asleep, so it is always a good idea to check your home before you go to bed.

We recommend **including the following actions:**

- Close all doors
- Switch off and unplug electrical appliances
- Check your cooker is turned off
- Don’t leave the washing machine/dryer on overnight
- Turn heaters off
- Make sure all exit routes are clear
- Keep door/window keys where you can find them

Ideally, also take your keys and mobile telephone upstairs with you to ensure you can escape quickly in the event of an emergency. Closing all internal doors will limit the spread of smoke and heat to the rest of the home and give all occupants more time to escape should a fire break out.

For more information, have a look at the fire service’s **Home Fire Safety Booklet** or use this form **”Contact”; I Humberside Fire** to contact the fire service directly and ask any questions you have.

Source Credit: Humberside Fire and Rescue Service

HERITAGE ALMSHOUSES THROW OPEN THEIR DOORS ONCE AGAIN

The country's largest **Heritage Open Days** festival returns with a packed programme of **FREE events**, unwrapping England's history of creativity, with almshouses from all over England taking part.

The **Heritage Open Days Festival** is a fantastic platform for sharing the heritage and stories of almshouses and contributes to the celebration of community spirit. It's a great way for people to connect with their local history and appreciate the valuable contributions almshouses made to their communities over centuries.

To find participating almshouses nearest to our area, please click the link: **Heritage Open Days: What's On** and type in the name of the almshouses you would like to visit for full details.

Sleaford Almshouse: An Echo of the Past

The Almshouse, Eastgate, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7DQ

This rarely opened Almshouse Chapel is almost untouched by time since 1844.



Retford Heritage Day

25 Churchgate, Retford, Nottinghamshire, DN22 6PA

Presentations will be given every half hour on the Almshouses movement and Retford's Sloswicke's Almshouse Charity in particular.



Archbishop Holgate Hospital: Legacy Almshouses

Robin Lane, Hemsworth, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF9 4PP

Tour includes an opening talk in Ebor Hall about the history of Robert Holgate and his legacy.



Source Credit: Almshouse Association

HOW WE'RE HELPING YOU

online...

By talking informally with residents about their IT concerns, we've found that **sometimes only very simple technical advice is needed**. For example, one resident was introduced to My Community Alert to receive up-to-date police information by email, so they are **aware of local area crime** and know who to contact if they are worried about it and how to stay safe.



Another resident had their email hacked, so we showed them how to turn on the PIN security function on their mobile phone, reducing the risk of information being accessed again. We also helped set up a new, free Google email address; helped them start changing their accounts to use the new email address; and **explained how to report the issue to Report Fraud**. Call the support line on **08081 689111**.

If you are a North East Lincolnshire area almshouse resident, please email karl@capacitybuildings.org.uk or call: **01472 897337** and leave a message for him to contact you.

in person...

We helped another resident, who wanted to report an issue relating to council property which was affecting them, to register for a North East Lincolnshire Council account on the website so that they could report any local concerns they notice; in this case, it was a broken street lamp, which left a dark area where the resident felt vulnerable.

Our Support Worker, Pete Hewson, is available to meet you from Monday to Thursday between 0900 and 1400. Email: peter@capacitybuildings.org.uk or call: **01472 897337**.

in the community where you live...

...sharing your feedback about existing social groups in North East Lincolnshire open to new members: we know, for example, **Care Plus Group** and **Friendship at Home** both have a full programme of social groups every day of the week somewhere in our area.

There are social clubs in Immingham, Laceby, Healing and Waltham as well as in Grimsby and Cleethorpes. Have a look at the Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire (VANEL) **Neighbours Together** website where you can find guides to what groups are where and when.

For more ideas visit: **Simply Connect North East Lincs - connecting you to your local community**

NEL CRISIS RESILIENCE FUND: SUPPORT AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA



Visit **Citizens Advice North East Lincolnshire** at 16 Town Hall Street, Grimsby, DN31 1HN or make an appointment at **Immingham Advice Centre** in the Civic Centre Hub, Pelham Road, Immingham, DN40 1QF. Telephone: **0808 2505 701**. Email: info@advicenel.org.uk or visit [Citizens Advice North East Lincolnshire](#) for opening times and more information about services.



If you're worried about managing your health, are having difficulties communicating or feeling isolated and think you need a wellbeing check, visit **Friendship at Home** online: [Wellbeing Check](#). Telephone: **01472 602500**; Email: admin@friendshipathome.org.uk; call in and see us: 6-7 Aspen Court, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, DN35 0SJ.



HEY Credit Union is a not-for-profit organisation that offers loans from £100 upwards and charges interest only on the reducing balance. Repayments can be weekly, fortnightly, 4-weekly or monthly. **For the full range of services**, handy money tips, a benefits checker, a budget planner and links to support services, visit: [HEY Credit Union](#).



connectNEL is a free, friendly service that makes it easier to find the right help and information for you. This service is open to everyone, offering guidance whenever you need it. From weight management and anxiety to debt and employment, the team is there to connect you with the services and opportunities that fit your needs. Visit [Connect NEL](#) to find out more, or if you prefer, call **01472 403403** or email connectnel@centre4.org.uk.



Capacity Buildings is working with the council and local partners to deliver resilience services that **build financial knowledge and skills for residents living in almshouse communities**. This will help residents manage financial shocks, prevent crises and reduce the risk of them recurring or escalating.

Residents will have **free access to appropriate, quality advice and support**, both online and in person help through our Support Worker, ensuring there is "no wrong door" when seeking help.

Our joined-up approach enables effective referrals between agencies, **helping residents maximise available benefits**, access support during immediate crises and build stronger financial foundations for the future. **Contact: Pete Hewson** by email: peter@capacitybuildings.org.uk or call: **01472 897337**.

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

Here is a summary of the support now available to help low-income households with adults experiencing current financial emergencies and how to prevent them from recurring in the future.

Visit the NELC website for more details: [Crisis and Resilience Fund - NELC](#), or email: nel.crf@nelincs.gov.uk

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) are **part of the Crisis Resilience Fund**, which enables local authorities in England to offer preventative support to communities, and can assist people facing a financial crisis.

You can apply for extra help with your housing costs, known as DHP, if you receive Housing Benefit or the housing element of **Universal Credit** and this does not cover your full rent. Telephone: **0300 3030164** option 3 or email: benefits@nelincs.gov.uk.

Extra Council Tax Support Payment (ECTS)

The Extra Council Tax Support Fund has been set up **for customers receiving Council Tax support** who need help to pay the rest of their Council Tax bill.

The most you will be entitled to is the difference between the Council Tax support you receive and the amount of Council Tax you still need to pay. It will be paid into your Council Tax account.

Support with Travel Costs

Older person's bus pass: If you're State Pension age or older, you can [apply for an older person's bus pass](#) to travel on the bus for free. [NELC Bus Pass Leaflet](#) and online/in-person application links: [Bus pass - NELC](#).

Senior Railcard: You can [buy a Senior Railcard on the railcard website](#) to get discounts on the cost of rail tickets.

Low-cost broadband and mobile phone tariffs

If you receive government benefits, you could qualify for one of these discounted price plans. Find out more: www.ofcom.org.uk/cheap-broadband

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Please note that the council will never call, text or email you to ask you to apply for any of the above funding! If someone does this PUT THE PHONE DOWN immediately do NOT reply.

