

STICKFORD VILLAGE NEWS

AND DIARY DATES FEBRUARY 2025 ISSUE 106



Picture courtesy of Garry Steele

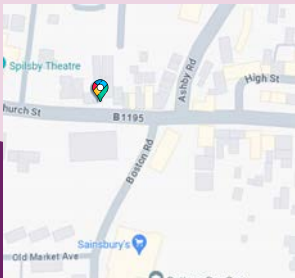
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Spilsby Wellbeing Hub New Life Centre, Church Street

Our Wellbeing Hubs provide a safe and supportive space for those experiencing mental health and wellbeing challenges.

We can signpost you to other services in the local area, help you build social networks and develop the knowledge and skills to manage your mental health and improve your wellbeing.



◀ **Spilsby Wellbeing Hub, New Life Centre,
Church Street, Spilsby, Lincs, PE23 5DU**



For more information

Call or WhatsApp our Community Connector.
You can find updates on our social media too.

FB: Spilsby & District Wellbeing Hub

H.A.Y. helping people find local resources for mental health and wellbeing. www.haylincolnshire.co.uk



Dear Reader

Welcome to the quarterly community newsletter for February until April. First, I must say, many thanks to the anonymous resident who has helped to fund this issue.

We want to focus on local people, so if you have a business, have won a competition, are raising for a special event, or have a picture of Stickford in the summer for our front cover then please contact us.

If you would like to volunteer at the Centre by helping with events, running our social media, collaborating on the newsletter, etc., then please contact us.

Deadline for the next issue is Friday 28th March 2025. Please submit all copy to:
newsletter@stickfordcc.uk

Advertising rates:

If you would like to place an advert, please contact us at newsletter@stickfordcc.uk to discuss your requirements. Please submit adverts/pictures in .jpg format in actual size. If you don't have an advert, please talk to us about how we can help you.

A WORD OF THANKS...

Carol Service, 14th December 2024 – This was a lovely event, taken by our two vicars, Rev Fran and Rev Judith. There were 89 people there plus one dog and one Bishop, Bishop Stephen. Following the service the band played, and the barbecue was served. Unfortunately, we ran out of food. We ordered the same amount as last year and last year we had food left over. Apologies to those who received no food. We got through nine bottles of mulled wine! Thanks to everyone who planned the event so well and to those who helped.

Barbecue – Simon for lending the gazebo and barbecue and for cooking. Richard for providing the outside lighting and cooking. Lou for cooking and buying tombola prizes.

Tombola – Ann and Janet.

Refreshments – our dream team of Barbara and Jude, with the addition of Kevin and Nicki.

The Band, Minus 2

Everyone who helped to erect the outside tree, which was donated by Ron and Anita Green from their garden, Richard, Garry, Dorian, Graham and others. To everyone I have missed out, I am sorry.

STICKFORD VILLAGE NEWS

is produced four times a year and delivered to all homes in Stickford and can be emailed to those in surrounding areas. We welcome contributions from all residents.

To advertise or submit information, please contact newsletter@stickfordcc.uk

FOCUS ON A LOCAL BUSINESS

Each quarter, we will be focusing on a local person living in the village who runs their own business, sharing how they started and what they do. This quarter, we invited **Helen Piscioneri of Mama's Chilli Delights** to tell us how it all began.....

Add a little Italian flavour to your kitchen!

My family and I relocated to Lincolnshire in August 2020. We've fallen in love with the area, which has allowed us to delve deeper into our hobbies. My husband, Tony, has a passion for trains and is actively involved in Boston Model Railway Society. My hobby is cooking and what started out as just a pastime back in 2022, has grown and it is amazing to see how far Mama's Chilli Delights has developed over the last 3 years. The idea behind it is simply put; a way to add a little Italian flavour and heat to your kitchen! From traditional home recipes inspired by our Italian roots, we have perfected our tasty recipes that have been shared with local communities over recent years. With a varied offering of products such as red onion chutney, chilli spread, delicious olives and the like, this "hobby" has now flourished into a small business serving local Lincolnshire communities the tasty, Italian artisan products that have become firm favourites with our customers.



From our very popular sweet chilli jam to our fire-cracking chilli medley, we offer a range of different products that are perfect for cooking, gifting or simply to add alongside your hosting dinner tables! We are proud to have built a wonderful loyal following of customers who enjoy our products, with each jar carefully and lovingly produced right from Mama's kitchen. Aside from the chilli stuff, we also offer a range of other tasty treats such as Lincolnshire cheeses and Italian cakes.

Throughout the year, you can find Mama's Chilli Delights at many local farmers markets, food festivals and other events up and down the Lincolnshire County. It is always so great to meet members of local communities at various events and markets which allow us to continue to wave the Mama's Chilli Delights flag. We thank the people of the local communities for their custom and we hope

you enjoy the 'heat' for many years to come!

Helen Piscioneri

Mama's Chilli Delights

Specialty homemade artisan

Italian Products

Tel: 07903 828210

mamaschillidelights@gmail.com

Facebook: Mama's Chilli Delights

Instagram: @mamaschillidelights

Life as an MSW (Maternity Support Worker)

by Katy Lovelock

This poem was written by a midwife in Birmingham and it explains exactly what my role is as an MSW...

'The Hands'

The hands that hold women to tell them we are here.

The hands that tell women they don't need to fear.

The hands that take bloods and do urine dips.

The hands that use a knitted breast to show feeding tips.

The hands that can demonstrate a parenting skill.

The hands that cause the waterbirth pool to fill.

The hands that can help a baby to have their first cry.

The hands that encourage women to try.

The hands that can undertake MEWs.

The hands that can point out those feeding cues.

The hands that weigh a newborn.

The hands that hold women when they mourn.

The hands that help women put on a gown and TEDs.

The hands that ensure there are fresh beds.

The hands that make that magical toast and tea.

The hands that make a difference to the team, women, their families and me!

I do all these things and more and it is, without a shadow of a doubt, the most rewarding job.

Much love to you all.

Katy Lovelock (MSW)

ALL THINGS DOGS

Welcome to your first article about “all things dogs” in response to a request from our Editor Ann. Just to get things off I am a retired Clinically Certified Animal Behaviourist (CCAB) and member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (APBC) with over 20 years’ experience. Although now retired, I keep up my membership in the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors (Non-Practising) and continue with Continuing Professional Development to ensure that I keep abreast of all the latest happenings in the field.

To start us off, I thought I would talk about walking our dogs and us safely in the dwindling dark which is pretty much inevitable at this time of year.

There may actually be more hazards this time of year than you think when walking your dog.

1) Other dogs - meeting other dogs in the dark is more of an issue, so if you have a nervous or reactive one, be aware.

2) Slip hazards - ice, fallen leaves, potholes, other people, mud and while your dog may be racing on head unconcerned, you may be alternating between skidding and falling in the dark.

3) Lack of good visibility - leaving you unable to see such things as broken glass, a danger to your dog’s feet, being disorientated and temporarily blinded by passing vehicle headlights. A lively dog may want to “parkour” on walls and logs along the way but the dark leaves you without the ability to see what hazards might be on the other side, like barbed wire.

It’s always best to go on familiar routes in the dark and make sure you take a reccy in the daylight before you explore somewhere new.

So now that we are aware of the dangers, how can we make our nighttime

walks safe? For yourself, don’t go out dressed as a cat burglar in black. While fluorescent orange, green or yellow may not be your colour of choice, do wear a bright jacket or vest and to be on the safe side add fluorescent stripes down the sides of your dog walking trousers. Wear proper shoes. Many will wear the most comfortable ones after a long day on your feet, but they may not be the most appropriate for winter evening dog waking. Try good boots or better still as avid dog walkers find, a good pair of waterproof hik-



by **Jeri Omlo**

ing boots. Wear a head torch. Now, it takes a bit of panache to carry off wearing a head torch, but you can do it! Plus, what looks dafter? Wearing a torch on your head, or falling over a log that you failed to see in the dark? It also leaves your hands free.

Now that you are decked out, what about your dog? The most important thing to remember is to make them visible! Dress them up in a reflective jacket or raincoat. Choose a fluorescent collar with a matching lead. There are lots of LED lights and collars available, so search around but ensure your best friend is visible. This is especially true for those that have a black dog.

Once you and your dog are kitted out, just a few more tips to think about. Don't let your dog off the lead in the dark. While they have far better night vision than we do, they could still bolt at moment's notice. Remember NOT to use an extending lead! I may write a whole piece on them later, but they are particularly dangerous especially at night.

Finally, stick to your familiar routes at night as exploring new routes for walks in the dark are just not safe.

• *If you have any health or behavioural issues with your dog, please contact your Veterinarian or Qualified Behaviourist or Trainer as the first point of contact. If there are topics you would like Jeri to address in future issues, contact her directly at jeriomlo@aol.com.*

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CALLING FOR CROCKERY!

CAN YOU HELP THE COMMUNITY CENTRE?

Do you have any plain white crockery (without chips or cracks), cutlery sets, bud vases, salt/pepper pots or ramekins that you are thinking of replacing? If so, and you would be willing to donate to the Community Centre, then please call Loraine on 07419 322837.

Thank you.

FROM OUR COUNCILLORS...

Stickford Parish Council

A village Resilience Plan is being formally put into place during January 2025. Anyone who is interested in being a contact in the event of a village emergency, please contact the Parish Clerk on the email below. In the event of flooding please contact Lesley Reeson on 07903 833460 for access to sand and sandbags.

Cllr Terry Taylor, ELDC

May I wish everyone a belated healthy and prosperous new year. Please remember, as your ELDC representative, I will always try to assist with any issues relating to district council responsibilities.

Cllr Terry Taylor JP

ELDC Representative

for Halton Holegate

M. 07368 538099

E. terry.taylor@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Cllr Wendy Bowkett

A new year is beginning so that means Spring is round the corner, I

think we all love to see the changes the months brings and Spring to me is one of the best with all the trees coming back to life and the Spring bulbs beginning to shoot through.

It has been over a year since we suffered the dreadful storms that caused properties to flood in Stickford and many surrounding areas. Since then, I have been asked to sit on the Mags Group that Anglian Water have set up and we meet every 4 to 6 weeks. Works have been done by Anglian Water to try and improve the system and during the storms before Christmas there were some issues but overall the system worked much better. There is still work to do and we will continue to work together until we are assured things have been resolved as much as ever we can.

If anyone is having issues with drains blocking, water etc during heavy rain please get in touch.

The Catchwater banks are still awaiting repair. I look forward to being able to report good news soon.

Your Parish Councillors and their chosen method of direct contact :

Chairman : Lesley Reeson : 07903 833460

Vice Chairman : John Howlett : 01205 481361

Pam Bryant : 01205 480410

Clive Kingswood : cldr.clive.kingswood@gmail.com

Tony French : cldrtonyfrench@gmail.com or 07765 868436

Parish Clerk : Nicki George : stickfordparishclerk@gmail.com or 07796 771036

The A16 is also a concern with residents especially when pulling out from the junction near to the garage. A speed survey has been done recently but it didn't show any significant issues with vehicles going above the limit.

Any issues with highways ie potholes, blocked drains, fly tipping etc can be reported to Fix My Street.

I regularly attend Parish Council Meetings. Any issues you can raise with me there or contact me on the number below or send me an email and I will do my best to help.

Cllr Wendy Bowkett

Executive Member for Adult Care and Public Health

M. 07917494478

E. cllrw.bowkett@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Misericords in St Botolph's Church, Boston

Misericords are the carved, tip-up seats found in the choir stalls of cathedrals, abbeys and large churches in the UK and Europe. They were designed to be tipped up for the clergy to rest on during long medieval services but to be returned to the horizontal position when not in use. Therefore, the underneath part of the seat was not generally in view and offered the carvers the opportunity for some original, often non-religious, topics for their carving. Boston has 65 carved around 1390.

Sir Yvain was a knight of King Arthur's Round Table. This misericord refers to one story. In pursuit of another knight, who galloped across a drawbridge and took refuge in a castle, Sir Yvain galloped in after him even as the portcullis was being lowered. This fell on the hind quarters of his horse impaling it, cutting off Sir Yvain's



spurs and he was captured. Fortunately for him, a damsel showed him a postern gate and he escaped. Misericords showing the same story exist in Lincoln, Chester and New College, Oxford.

Dr. Alan Pethybridge

The story behind another misericord in St Botolph's will appear in the next Newsletter.

Hair By
Charlotte

Stickford, Boston, Lincolnshire.
 For enquiries or to book an appointment please contact me on one of the following:
 Mobile: 07419140696
 Facebook: Hair by Charlotte
 Instagram: Charlotte Morris

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News from St Helen's Church

We are coming into a special time of year for the Church, with Ash Wednesday (5 March) marking the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer. This continues until Maundy Thursday when we remember the last meal Jesus had with his disciples prior to his arrest, trial and eventual crucifixion on Good Friday. Then on Easter Day we celebrate Jesus's resurrection from the dead. I hope to see you during this season.

Rev Judith Simons

The church is open daily for quiet prayer or reflection, or for choosing a book from the extensive collection in the book corner. Whilst browsing the books you are welcome to make yourself a tea or coffee using the equipment provided.

Services are currently held in the church on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, to which everyone is invited. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served after each service.

Stickford Church has a Children's Corner in the north-east corner of the nave. We have a child sized table and chairs, two boxes of toys/games and a play mat. Everyone is welcome to use the area.

The Bookshop

Thank you for your continued support for our bookshop. Everyone is welcome to come along and browse, you can even make yourself a cup of tea/coffee whilst you are in church. There are no fixed prices for books, but donations by cash or contactless are welcome. Some people choose to pass their

purchases to relatives and friends to read, others buy them and then return them to our bookshop.

We are always grateful for donations of books in the genres listed below (but cannot display books that are torn or hardbacked books that are missing their dustjackets); so please only donate books in good condition, from smoke free homes. We regret that we cannot accept magazines.

Our current categories are:

General Fiction

Action/Adventure Thrillers

Classics Romance Based Fiction

Novels for Teens Children's books

Auto Biographies (new for 2025)

War – Fiction War – Non-fiction

Historical Fiction *Happy reading!*

Farmers Markets

Thank you to everyone who supported these in 2024. We are going to continue holding them in 2025, but re-naming them "Village Markets", to reflect the different stalls that we can attract. They will be held on the third Saturday of

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each month, the first one being held on Saturday 15th March from 10am to 12 noon in Stickford Church.

There will be a variety of stalls including sausages, fruit and vegetables and Deli2yourdoor. Refreshments will be available and there will be a tombola or raffle.

To book a stall or for further information, please email cherylsteele@tiscali.co.uk or call 07810 445626

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

This will be held on Tuesday 18th March at 7pm in the Stickford Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please come and show your support for your village church.

Tombolas

We are very grateful for the donations of prizes we received for our church tombolas last year. We are now collecting prizes for the 2025 programme. We will need 600 prizes for the village markets alone. We also hope to attend two events at the Lincolnshire Aviation Centre, for which we will need another 300 prizes!

We welcome donations of toiletries, unwanted gifts, chocolate/biscuits, assorted general items – provided they are new, in good condition and in date where applicable.

We have a large number of soft toys left over from 2024 and we plan

to hold a soft toy “prize every time” tombola at the Easter village market on 19th April.

Donations of prizes can be given to Cheryl Steele or left in the church – please just put a note on to say they are tombola prizes and leave them on the back pew, nearest the main door. Thank-you for your continued support!

Spring Draw

This year's Spring Draw will be held on Monday, 14th April at the Bingo. This is a traditional draw where we raise money for our church. You can buy tickets from Cheryl Steele (cherylsteele@tiscali.co.uk) mob 07810 445626, or from any of the Parochial Church Committee. If you would like to donate prizes, please leave them for Cheryl Steele in St. Helen's Church - thank you.



Something for everyone at STICKFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Committee would like to send our sincere thanks to Jill Catchpole who has decided to step down from the role of Treasurer and Bookings Secretary for the Community Centre. Jill has been Treasurer for the last 35 years. Jill will still be Treasurer for the Stickford History Group and St. Helen's Church.

We would also like to take a moment to remember Ray Picker. Ray was one of our bingo callers. Late last year he became ill and he sadly passed away at the end of December 2024. May he rest in peace.

UPCOMING EVENTS

At our Open Day event in September 2024, people asked for more exercise classes, family events, food nights, table top sales, more quizzes, and more. We have been working behind the scenes to put together a programme of events for you in 2025.

Ways you can help the Community Centre...

*...and be in with a chance
to win up to £25,000!*

Sign up to the selcplottery.co.uk. Select "Play the lottery", search "Stickford Community Centre" and press "Support Us" and then buy your ticket - it's that simple! Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 a week and you will be supporting a good cause – your community centre. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week! Good Luck!!

We have two **exercise/dance classes** in place — one weekly and one bi-weekly.

The Quiz will be run quarterly in 2025, with the next one being on Saturday, 26th April. Contact Alan on 07572 189466 or Jennie on 07966 139641 to reserve your space.

The Wellbeing Hub will provide an evening of fun for the family with food and drink, board games, and family crafts between 4pm and 7pm on Sat 1st February, Sat 1st March and Sat 5th April

Table-Top Sale Saturday 22nd February 10am to 2pm. Refreshments will be available. Tables available at £6. Call Loraine Ruddle on 07419 322837 to book a table.

Mother's Day afternoon tea Sunday 30th March 4pm to 6pm. Treat that special lady or yourself for

just £16 per two persons. We will provide a selection of sandwiches, savouries and cakes served with tea or coffee. Pre-booked tickets only. Call Loraine Ruddle on 07419 322837 for your tickets.

Fed up with those April showers then join us for **A Night in Greece** Saturday April 19th 6.30pm to 9.30pm. An authentic three course menu to include a meze of starters, vegetable or beef moussaka followed by a refreshing dessert, tea or coffee. Bring your own wine/ drinks. Pre-booked tickets only. Call Loraine Ruddle on 07419 322837 to book your place.

Recycle and repurpose your wardrobe

As you sort through your winter wardrobe and decide what to discard, consider placing any unwanted clothing, handbags, belts, and shoes into a bag. These items can then be conveniently deposited in the clothing banks located in the car park of the Community Centre.

Post Office Van – At the Red Lion car park every Monday morning between 11.30am and 12.30pm. You can buy stamps and cards, post

letters and parcels and do your everyday banking.

Defibrillators - There are two defibrillators in the village: one outside the Red Lion and the other on Fen Road. They are maintained by the community and are registered on "The Circuit" website, managed by the NHS. In 2024, we held a demonstration on using the defibrillator and performing CPR. We can arrange a second demonstration if needed. Anyone interested should contact Jennie Hamer at 07966 139641 to organize another session.

STICKFORD WELLBEING HUB

by David Bruce

As part of the Mental Health Transformation Team in Lincolnshire, I have the privilege of supporting local Wellbeing Hubs in Skegness, Spilsby, and District. These hubs are community-focused spaces that provide accessible, grassroots mental health support.

Led by Community Connectors like myself, these Hubs offer free, confidential guidance and help

Continued on next page>>>

Stickford Community Centre is Available for Hire

Use the Community Centre to host Meetings, Training, Charity events, Conferences, Dances, Interest Groups, etc. We have Wifi and can accommodate up to 100 standing and 60 seated.

Reach out to Loraine Ruddle for availability on 07419 322837.

<<<From previous page

people connect to a wide range of local services. Whether you're facing mental health challenges, looking for new activities to improve your wellbeing, or hoping to combat loneliness and isolation, the Hubs are a great place to start.

Our role is to help individuals navigate and access the resources they need, making it easier for everyone to find the support that fits their specific needs. We work closely with both the public and local professionals to ensure the right services are available. We're especially excited to announce the launch of a new Wellbeing Hub in Stickford this year, further expanding our reach to local communities. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to reach out to me directly via email david.bruce23@nhs.net or WhatsApp at 07939 092585.

CLUBS & INTEREST GROUPS

WALKING The **Stickford Walking Group**

have been going since 2008 and meet every Thursday at Whistle-down, The Cul-de-Sac at 9.30am. email cllr.clive.kingswood@gmail.com. They walk a maximum of 4-5 miles and sometimes do a shorter route of about 2.3 miles.

Wellbeing Walks from Stickney Village Hall are short walks, run by friendly, specially trained volunteer walk leaders, who are on hand to provide encouragement and support. All walks are free and are open to everyone. The walks are run every fortnight, so, come along and join us on Monday 10th February. The walk starts at 10am and lasts up to 30 minutes. Then have a drink at the Stickney Community Cuppa. Don't worry about your fitness level - walks are over easy terrain and at a steady pace to suit everyone (please note we are unable to provide 1-2-1 support).

STICKFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

This group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Stickford Community Centre. Membership for a year costs £8 for an individual and £14 for two adults at one address. This includes a quarterly newsletter. It costs £1 for members to attend meetings and £2.50 for non-members.

RELAX AND CRAFT GROUP

Why not come along to relax and craft with us? We are a very friendly crafting group that meets at Stickford Community Centre on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Admission is £3.50, which includes unlimited drinks and a complimentary raffle ticket. Contact Sharon 07505 494355 or Karen on 07474 933667. We hold four inexpensive workshops a year. The first one of 2025 will be in March, and we will be making Easter cards. Join us!

SOCIAL GROUPS
STICKFORD LADIES
SOCIAL CIRCLE

We meet at Stickford Community Centre at 1.30pm on the second Monday of the month. During the year the club has various outings and fund raising events. New members welcome. Call Teresa on 07471 932821 for details.

THE KEALS CLUB

The Keals Club is for the over 50s from surrounding villages and everyone is welcome. The club meets every second Tuesday of the month at Stickford Community Centre from 2pm to 4pm and enjoys speakers and demonstrations, together with raffles, auctions and game afternoons. Afterwards there are refreshments and a chance to chat.

Visitors welcome £2.
Call Dawn on 07907 053128.

INTEREST GROUPS

See the diary of events for more information.

USEFUL INFO:
Stickford Charities Trustees

Pam Bryant
Tel 01205 480410
Beauport, Cul de Sac,
Stickford

Wendy Morley
Tel 01205 480474
Church View, Church
Road, Stickford

Helen Edwards Mob
07932 717553
Magers Farm, Back
Lane, Stickford

Rev Fran Jeffries
Tel 01790 752526
The Vicarage, Church
St, Spilsby

John Howlett
Tel 01205 481361
The Bungalow, Cole
Lane, Stickford

Applications for all grants should be made in writing to the Clerk to the Trustees, Mrs Katherine Bunting at The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Stickford, Boston, PE22 8EP or katherine.bunting@chattertons.com

FOOD BANK

Whilst we do not operate a food bank in Stickford, we do encourage everyone to support the local foodbanks where possible. There are drop off points in Sainsbury's and the Co-Op in Spilsby. Anyone in need of support from a foodbank can contact either the New Life Church, Church Street, Spilsby (Tel: 01790 754 092) or the Spilsby Christian Fellowship, Halton Road, Spilsby (Tel: 01790 752 457).

POLICE:

Non-emergency 101
Emergency 999
spilsby.npt@lincs.pnn.police.uk
www.lincs.police.uk
Twitter: @SpilsbyPolice

Childline: 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk

Domestic Abuse Helpline:

0808 2000 247
www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

DOCTORS:

Stickney Surgery
01205 480237
Best place for help
with your symptoms: 111
Spilsby 01790 728111

Pilgrim Hosp 01205 364801

TAXI Lanes Travel Stickney
07766 448849

STICKFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

To hire please
contact – Loraine Ruddle
07419 322837

HOW TO AVOID GETTING SCAMMED

'Phishing', 'smishing' and 'vishing' are the three main types of scams criminals will use to try to gain access to your personal details such as usernames, passwords and bank details. They can then use these details to sign in to your online account, steal information and potentially take your money.

- 'Phishing' is normally done by email.
- 'Smishing' is normally done by text message.
- 'Vishing' is when criminals impersonate a person or business and try to get you to provide your personal details.

Check what to look for:

Use the following checklist to decide if the contact you've received is a scam. You can use it for phone calls, emails and text messages.

It could be a scam if it:

- pressures you into making a decision
- has a short deadline, especially one you were not aware of
- is threatening
- is unexpected
- asks for personal information like bank details
- tells you to transfer money
- says you have to pay to apply for or get a relief
- says you have unclaimed credits

What you can do:

- Emails – forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk
- Text messages – forward suspicious text messages to 7726 – it's free.

If you think you've been a victim of an online scam or fraud, contact Action Fraud on <https://reporting.actionfraud.police.uk/login>
Or call 0300 123 2040.

The above is taken from the UK Government website.

Go to www.gov.uk to find out more.



STOP PRESS: The 2025 Greater Lincolnshire mayoral election will be held on 1 May 2025 to elect the inaugural mayor of Greater Lincolnshire. **STOP PRESS** Voting will be at Stickford Community Centre. You will need to be registered and have photo ID. For more information go to <http://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote>



My impression of England & the English people

by Oskana

Oskana comes from Khmelnytskyie, in the Ukraine. We asked her to share what impacted her the upon arriving in the UK. These are her words.

I came to England after the start of the terrible war in Ukraine on a Sponsorship visa, to my sponsor Sarah. She met me at the airport, and we went to her house. The road was long, and we practically did not speak, because at that time I was very bad with English. But this did not prevent us from becoming friends, and I realized that the English are really sincere towards Ukrainians and worry about our Ukraine.

I liked everything about England. A wonderful country, civilized with its own history and beautiful people. I especially liked how the English treat their traditions. How they honour and celebrate the birthday of Queen Elizabeth, thereby showing their love and national unity and support for the monarchy. It is really very majestic and impressive to the core. Each family demonstrates this greatness. Sara and I hung balloons on trees and poles by the road, and the drivers honked at us as a sign of respect, then there was a strong wind that blew these balloons away.

We could not catch up with them and had to inflate and fasten them again and all in a circle. It was very funny and fun. We hung English flags on all the bushes, and when we walked around the village.

Everyone at home was wearing flags and portraits of the Queen, and it was so festive and beautiful. I remember on the second Saturday of June 2022, we went to church in the morning and there were festive tables with cakes. The villagers themselves baked delicious and beautiful cakes and brought them to the church, and you could sit in the church and eat them. I was impressed and liked this simplicity because in Ukraine you can only pray in the church, but here we sat and celebrated and laughed and it was so warm and soulful. Then we went to a bar and listened to musicians who sang as if they were world-class stars. I will remember this day for a long time. Thank you England and all English people for touching your culture and your life!

Events – all at Stickford Community

Mondays

Prize Bingo

Doors open 6.45pm,
eyes down 7.30pm
Spring Draw will be
drawn at Bingo on
Monday 14th April
Bingo is on every
Monday **except** 10th
Feb, 24th Feb, 10th
March, 24th March, 7th
April, 21st April

Mondays

Line Dancing

with Step by Step
6.45pm – 8.15pm £6
**10th Feb, 24th Feb,
10th March, 7th April,
21st April**

Mondays

Ladies Circle 1.30pm

Visitors welcome £2
10th Feb Talk by David
Bruce, Lead
Community Connector,
Spilsby, on mental
health issues and the
support given.
10th Mar Sam from
Grandma's Pudding
Co, based in Friskney,
will be coming to talk
about how the tea

rooms are making a
huge difference to the
young adults with
specialist problems,
who help run the tea
rooms, along with the
various activities they
undertake.

14th April Tom Holland
will talk about Spring
flowers and he will have
a variety of shrubs and
plants for sale.

Tuesdays

Keals Club for the over
50s 2pm, Visitors
welcome £2.

11th Feb Talk by Ray
Emery and Garry Steele
on their visits and finds
of graffiti in the local
churches.

11th Mar Talk by
Emma of The White
Chakra. Emma
specialises in reiki and
crystal healing therapy
and the benefits that
various crystals have
and how they can help.

8th April Get those
little grey cells working
and take part in a quiz
with a difference.

Tuesdays

Parish Council Meeting

11th Mar 7.30pm

Public open forum for
15 minutes at start of
meeting.

Church Meeting

18th Mar Annual

Parochial Church
Meeting 7pm.

Everyone welcome.

Wednesdays

Dancercise

with
Deborah
Evans Every
Wednesday
6.15pm £7



Wednesdays

Relax & Craft

9am-3pm.
£3.50

**19th Feb,
19th Mar,
16th Apr**

Thursdays

Coffee morning

from 10.30-12 noon
at Stickford Community
Centre in February and
March; at St Helen's
Church in April.

Centre unless otherwise specified

Thursdays

Stickford Local

History Group Third Thursday of the month 7.30pm

Visitors welcome

20th Feb New

Bolingbroke Church – a talk by Jean Howard. Visitors welcome.

20th Mar AGM

followed by a talk and film from Andrew Blow of Blow by Blow Productions on World War 1 History in a film can.

17th Apr Folklore of

Horncastle and Woodhall Spa. An illustrated talk by Dr Ian Marshman.

Saturdays

Stickford Wellbeing

Hub – fun for all the family from 4-7pm
1st Feb, 1st Mar, 5th April, 22nd April

Saturday Table-Top

Sale 22nd Feb 10am-2pm Tables £6. To reserve a table Call Loraine Ruddle on 07419 322837

Saturday Village

Market 10am-12 noon
15th March, 19th Apr

St Helen's Church.

To book a stall or for further info email cherylsteele@tiscali.co.uk or 07810 445626.

Fed up with those

April showers? Then

join us for A Night in Greece April 19th 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

An authentic three course menu to include a meze of starters, vegetable or beef moussaka followed by a refreshing dessert.

Tea or coffee. Bring your own wine/drinks.

£15 per person. **Pre-booked tickets only.**

Call Loraine Ruddle on 07419 322837.

Saturday Quiz Night

26th April Teams of 4-6 people. Call Jennie 07966 139641 to book.



Sunday 30th March Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

4pm to 6pm. Treat that special lady or yourself for just £16 per two persons.

We will provide a selection of sandwiches, savouries and cakes, served with tea or coffee. Pre-booked tickets only.

Call Loraine Ruddle on 07419 322837 to book your tickets.

Sunday [April services may be subject to change because of Easter]

2nd Feb Morning Worship, St Luke's 11.15am

9th Feb Holy Communion, St Helen's 11.15am

16th Feb Holy Communion, St. Luke's 11.15am

23rd Feb Morning Worship, St. Helen's 11.15am

2nd Mar Morning Worship, St. Luke's 11.15am

9th Mar Holy Communion, St Helen's 11.15am

16th Mar Holy Communion, St. Luke's 11.15am

23rd Mar Morning Worship, St. Helen's 11.15am

30th Mar Deanery Service, St James', Spilsby

6th April Morning Worship, St Luke's 11.15am

13th April Holy Communion, St Helen's 11.15am

20th April Holy Communion, St Luke's 11.15am

27th April Morning Worship, St Helen's 11.15am

A day in the life of a teenager

Hi everyone, My name is Beth and I am 16. I live on the Cul-De-Sac with my mum, dad and little sister.

I recently started an Art and Design course at Boston college. I was really nervous at first; changing schools or jobs can be a really anxious time for people but it's going really well and the staff there are really supportive. I've made a great network of new friends there too and most of them are in my class. It is a lot more relaxed at college and there isn't that social media pressure to try and fit in or be 'cool' like there is in secondary school. If any teens out there are struggling with that, keep your chin up, I promise it does get better.

On most Saturdays I go to Spilsby to work in the hairdressers (Turning Heads). I've been working there for two years now. I started working to gain confidence and to earn some money for when I started college. I love the feeling of independence and responsibility it gives me. It's great to have a taster of working life and I don't have to keep asking Mum and Dad for money lol!

Outside of college and work hours I occasionally do art. I also love to walk my dogs, Churro and Pickle, and I also like to watch TV. My favourite show at the minute is Young Sheldon. I guess I am a typical teenager, where I like to be in my room a lot but thats ok, it's important to have that time for yourself too.

There are lots of beautiful walks to go on round the village. From our house it is about a 15 minute walk to The Red Lion pub and about a 10 minute walk to get to the community centre where there is a small playground and basketball court. There are many events held in the community centre, such as The Harvest Supper and Remembrance Day, which brings the village together.

As we get closer to Spring, I am excited for lighter mornings and evenings. It will be nice to walk to and from the bus in the light. I am also excited for turning 17 because I can start driving, so stay off the roads lol! I hope this article is helpful for all the teens that live in the village. Goodbye for now. Beth





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25th November 2024

13th January 2025

27th January 2025

10th February 2025

24th February 2025

10th March 2025

24th March 2025

07th April 2025

21st April 2025



This is traditional Bell Target ShootingAll welcome, no experience necessary, free training, very friendly club, come and have a go, only £4.00 per person, first night free.

Equipment included for beginners