

Letters to the editor

We would love to hear from you – contact us at County House

MORE NOT LESS HOURS

As has been highlighted in Lincolnshire Life, the 90th anniversary of the RAF and the 65th anniversary of the Dambusters raids are being marked by special events at RAF Coningsby this year. These events will attract visitors – as did Avro Vulcan XH558 when it flew into RAF Coningsby in early May.

Lincoln Castle attracts visitors from around the world, especially during June, to view the Magna Carta.

County-wide, museums including The Collection, Church Farm and museums at Stamford and Grantham all display unique stories of Lincolnshire people and history.

Lincolnshire Archives benefit from the worldwide boom in family and local history research.

These sites attract visitors, including 'yellowbellies,' and holidaymakers; creating jobs, generating tourism income (£850m annually) and boost the local economy.

With growing tourism it seems very short-sighted that, as of 1st May, opening hours at all LCC Heritage Sites were changed, with visitor hours reduced at most locations' educational resources,

without consultation, publicity or warning, will have a counter-productive impact on Lincolnshire tourism.

Whilst I would not expect these heritage sites to share the same 7.30am – 10pm opening hours of Salt Lake City Family History Library – increased opening would boost visitor numbers, jobs and income.

Joyce Stevenson

STAR LETTER SEEKING PHOTOS

I would like to know if any readers have any photos or information on Brunswick Drive charity home, which my

sister and I went to between 1957-1959. The Skegness Library have provided the following information:

It was started by a Captain R H Swain of Nottingham in 1912. It survived into the 1970s before being incorporated into the nearby county school. There is a quote from a local newspaper of 1937 which states; 'Captain Swain was a remarkable character – he combined kindness of heart with business acumen. He also remembered to thank the smallest helpers, a courtesy not observed by all.' In 1924 a new wing was added to the building, a large recreation room. This was opened by the Mayor of Nottingham, Alderman Houston. It was paid for by Messrs JD Marsden and JD Player of Nottingham and apparently a brass tablet commemorating the gift was unveiled by the Mayor. The newspaper article of 24th September 1924 which reported the extension gave another mention of Captain Swain and his wife – 'Ald Houston said he felt compelled to say that the work of Capt and Mrs Swain as secretaries of that society was nothing less than magnificent. Whatever the benefits the Society was able to bestow were the result of the exertions put forward by those two. It was quite obvious that the whole object of their lives was not merely charitable and philanthropic work, but absolute Christianity in the best sense of the word.' The photograph in the archives does feature children and carers at Brunswick Drive but it is dated to just before the First World War.

I have had some photos sent to me from people in Nottingham, but unfortunately we were not on them. Any help from readers would be greatly appreciated

Patricia Dodge

WELCOME HOME

Waves of nostalgia and happy childhood days were evoked by your

feature on Waltham and Brigsley in the May issue. From 1929 to 1941 my father, John Wilmot, was headmaster at the Waltham Church of England school and as little 'Peggy' Wilmot I grew up in the adjoining schoolhouse both sadly demolished decades ago.

As well as being a schoolmaster, my father was also a well known North Lincolnshire artist (exhibiting frequently at the Lincoln Usher Art Gallery) and his paintings are no doubt hanging in homes all over the county. Two of them are gracing the walls of Ross Hall in Waltham, a most suitable setting as my father was a member of the British Legion and my mother was president of the Women's Institute, both organisations having Ross Hall as their headquarters.

Since leaving Waltham in 1941, when my father died at a tragically young age, I have lived and travelled all over the world, recently moving near to my 'roots' on the Notts and Lincs border after 24 years in London's Chelsea.

In a way, I feel I have, at the ripe old age of 81, 'come home'. I was born in Lincolnshire and am most proud to be a 'yellerbelly'!

Margot Whiting (Mrs)

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