

Letters to the editor

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

TRAVEL CHAOS

Lincoln Central Railway Station is the hub for much of our county and certainly for the City of Lincoln which boasts being "a tourist attraction". Why then is the Travel Centre closing down? In over twenty years of using the Railway Station Travel Centre I have always stood in a queue many longer than today's which included seven German tourists, two other individuals making lengthy travel enquiries and obtaining tickets, and a queue behind me. I was there to renew my rail card. The process takes 5-10 minutes.

Can you imagine all those people stood in the foyer of Lincoln Railway Station trying to hold a conversation through a glass wall whilst those waiting to buy tickets for departing trains are held up behind them? I know because I have been there at 6.40am in the morning, stood in the queue to get a car parking pass.

The cuts may be totally unrelated to Gillian Merron's "return of the direct line to London" with a banner splashed across every window in the Station. But at £136 return, it is a wonder anyone uses it let alone the small number who do. Perhaps that is where the salaries of the Travel Centre staff have disappeared to; a sop to the few, over the efficiency of service for the many. However that is in line with the closure of the Post Offices which Ms Merron also voted for.

When are we going to get away from doctrinaire politics and back to commonsense and service to the people?

With the Tourist Information Centres closing and the Travel Centre closing, is there really any hope for Lincoln actually maintaining the position that has been so hard fought; and, I believe, finally won,

that brings thousands of visitors to our City and the surrounding area every year; many of them by rail and most of them needing help and information.

The queues are still as long as they ever were and now, as with the Post Office, they will get even longer and the service even poorer. It is time for a change, it is either people or politics, it is about time the people won for once. The Travel Centre needs to be reopened promptly at the Railway Station and the two Tourist Information booths need to be kept open whilst the politicians are put in their place as servants of the people, not their masters.

Terence O'Halloran, Lincoln

PS It takes one hour fifty minutes from Lincoln Central Station to Kings Cross via Newark. The new 'direct' train takes three hours via Nottingham.

MYSTERY UNRAVELLED

Mrs Lucas, of Lincoln, need look no further for the answer to her 'mystery' (Letters to the Editor, May 2009 edition) than in a copy of Lost Lincolnshire Country Houses, by Terence R Leach and Robert Pacey, Volume 5, published in 2002, but now happily being re-issued. I can heartily recommend these inexpensive, splendidly informative booklets about our lost Lincolnshire heritage. Forty houses are described, over the five volumes, some in great detail, with photographs, maps, floor plans and much besides, including Hartsholme Hall, the subject of her searches.

Peter Byrne, Louth

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STAR LETTER - FORGOTTEN CERTIFICATE

Although my Mother died over twenty years ago aged 91 and I am 90 in November, odd things still emerge from the family attic.

Actually my daughter in cleaning out her own came across a lavishly illustrated brochure with the enclosed tucked in it.

My Mother was born in Lincoln and was a prominent member of the W.V.S (as it was then called) from its inception. My late Father was Headmaster of a junior school on West Parade in Lincoln.

I had never seen or even heard either of them refer to the receipt of this certificate. I wondered if Maureen Sutton or David Robinson had ever seen one?

In the autumn of her life my mother returned to Malta for health reasons but when Dom Mintoff came into power he forced the Brits to return to England.

Can anyone shed any light?

Mrs D F Oliver, Carlton Scroop

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