

# Life in Lin

*Keep in touch with what's happening*

## OLD FRIENDS CELEBRATE BRANSTON BENCH

Old school friends from the 1940s gathered when Peter Owen, a former wartime evacuee from London, presented a public seat as a gesture of thanks to the village which had made him welcome more than sixty years ago.



Peter, who now lives in Essex, wrote the book 'Escape to Branston' and promised that if it made a profit, he would return the money to the village in some form. The seat is inscribed: 'In gratitude to the village that ensured my wartime Escape to Branston was filled with lasting memories'. It has been sited on a spot Peter walked past each day as he made his way between the blacksmith's where he lived and the village school. More than a dozen local residents who shared that school life were there to see Peter, accompanied by his wife Sylvia, formally hand over the seat to parish council chairman John Saywell.



*Peter Owen (right) with former schoolmates (back row from left) Ken Millns, Tony Cant and Joe Reast; (front row from left) Roy Creasy, Raymond Graves, Gerald Forman and Joe Craggs*

*The plaque which says 'thank you' to the village*

## MOTHER SAYS 'THANK YOU' TO BLOOD DONORS

Lincoln mother of two Natasha Smith went along to the County Hospital to give a very big 'thank you' to fifty blood donors. A week before her eighteenth birthday she was diagnosed with leukaemia and immediately given eight units of donated blood. After receiving regular blood transfusions alongside chemotherapy, Natasha recovered and now, at twenty-four, is the mother of two children, three-year-old Jade and two-year-old Skye.

"It was very frightening when they told me I had leukaemia, even more so as I also developed septicaemia. I already knew about blood donation as my mum is a donor but I never realised donated blood could be made into so many products and put to so many uses," she said.

Natasha was helping to launch the National Blood Service's major new campaign to recruit more donors. Every day 10,000 units of blood are needed to meet hospital demand. Lincolnshire hospitals need almost 53,000 units a year. If you are aged between seventeen and seventy and would like more information about being a blood donor, please contact 08457 711711.



*Natasha Smith with her big 'thank you' card with some of the county's blood donors*

## IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO HECKINGTON WINDMILL

Heckington windmill's cap is being removed for the first time since 1892 as part of a seven-month restoration programme which started just after Easter. The unique, eight-sailed windmill was only ever designed to operate with five sails and the extra power thus generated has weakened the cap structure. A solution to the problem has been reached by a partnership between the operators, English Heritage and the Friends of Heckington Windmill, and the owners, Lincolnshire County Council. The first stage of the work involved the removal of each of the eight sails and then the complete cap and internal mechanism were being lifted off as one item. It is intended to store and work on the cap and sails on site.

The cast iron curb sections at the top of the tower will be removed and inspected and approximately 1.4 metres of brickwork will be removed by hand and relaid. Some of the mill's machinery will also be refurbished.

It is hoped that the mill will re-open to the public in April 2004.

Heckington Windmill is a Grade I listed building and is the only eight-sail windmill in the country.



*Heckington windmill*  
DOROTHY BURROWS

# Lincolnshire

happening around your county

## OLD ESTATES WITH NEW IDEAS

Visitors are being offered a chance to see the beautiful Grimsthorpe Castle and its treasures and enjoy a delicious lunch and then move on to Easton Walled Gardens for tea and a guided tour of the gardens with the owner or head gardener. Conveniently situated near to the A1, this idyllic tour is available to groups of 20 or more throughout the summer. Bookings can be made either at Grimsthorpe or Easton and tours are tailor-made for each group. Telephone: Easton Walled Gardens on 01476 530063 or Grimsthorpe Estate Office on 01778 591205.



*Grimsthorpe Castle and Easton Walled Gardens are offering visitors a combined visit*

## SCHOOL WINS £5,000 AWARD

Eresby School in Spilsby has won an education award worth £5,000 as part of BT's CVs on CDs project. The project is designed to help students with learning difficulties create, present and access their own educational records in a meaningful way.

Pupils will work with information communication technology students from a local secondary school to use video and digital cameras, scanners and computers to record work, pictures and snippets of movie images of themselves to create a curriculum vitae.



*Marty Tomey and Aiden Malby experimenting with a digital camera and computer images*

## HISTORIC HOUSE UP FOR SALE

*Connected with the ballad of the 'Green Lady', Thorpe Hall near Louth, has come onto the market for £2.15 million.*

*The Hall was originally built in 1584 for Sir John Bolle who was knighted for his exploits in Cadiz, Spain in 1596. The 'Green Lady' of the ballad was a Spanish woman who fell in love with Sir John after the battle and, unable to return to England with him as he already had a wife, gave him a portrait of herself in a green dress. For years the portrait hung in the hall but was sold in 1760.*

*Today the hall is in twenty acres of parkland, laid out by Gertrude Jeckyll in 1906. The house has evolved through four centuries and now features many modern*

*amenities, including a swimming pool.*

*The hall is on the market with Hodgson Elkington, telephone 01502 567645/811096,*



*Thorpe Hall, South Elkington, Louth*

## MOUNTAINOUS TASK FOR LINCOLN STUDENTS

A boot which helped to achieve the first ascent of Mount Everest has been restored by students at Lincoln University. The boot was specially designed and



*Sarah Stannage (left) with senior technician Chris Robinson and Caroline Lawson*

constructed for the expedition and incorporates nine layers of synthetic and natural textiles. It was used by Edmund Hillary and his party on the last month of the ascent in June 1953 and was the first time an Everest expedition was completed without the occurrence of frostbite.

Now owned by the Kettering Manor House Museum, the boot had become very frail and ripped and the crampons were badly corroded.

Second-year conservation and restoration degree students Sarah Stannage and Caroline Rawson spent twelve weeks restoring the boot and its display cabinet. They have also made it more stable to prevent further deterioration.

## MORE WHITE KNUCKLES AT PLEASURE ISLAND

*Pleasure Island Family Theme Park in Cleethorpes has just taken delivery of an exciting new £1million attraction for the 2003 season. The Pendulus is the park's sixth white knuckle ride and is set to become one of its most thrilling attractions. The ride stands eighty feet high above the ground on four legs and swings its forty passengers in a pendulum motion whilst continually rotating to a dizzy 360 degrees.*

*Neil Ireland, general manager at Pleasure Island, said: "The Pendulus is a completely exhilarating experience that thrusts its passengers through the air at G-force 3 and we're sure it will be a bit with our visitors. "The ride is another phase of Pleasure Island's ongoing expansion programme and takes our investment in developing the park to £35million since 1993."*

*Pleasure Island is open from 10 am until 6pm every day until Sunday 7th September 2003.*

*Pleasure Island's new Pendulus ride*

