



Historic Alford

Josie Thurston crossed to the edge of the Wolds to discover the attractions of this picturesque market town.

Words: Josie Thurston Photographs: Eyerise Photography, Emma Pickering, Wazel Wood Flooring

Although probably mostly attributed to the cattle market, historically serving the farming community, Alford is also home to an array of unique places of interest. First and most probably foremost is the newly restored Manor House. Reported to be the largest thatched manor house in the country it was built back in 1611, in line with a traditional 'H' plan. It remains a rare example of a composite structure, encased in brick.

Thanks to the wonderful restoration it is now open to the public for visitors to enjoy. Although the ground floor and first floor have been altered through the Georgian and Victorian era, the attic floor lies virtually untouched since construction.

The gardens and outbuildings are experiencing major restoration at present which will last until 2011. The project aims to re-establish the layout that existed during

the Victorian period – a spectacular site once complete I'm certain.

Hackett Barn within the grounds of the Manor House offers a nostalgic trip down memory lane as Alford's past artefacts are on display. Bygone farming equipment and craftsman's tools unveil the rural heritage of yesteryear.

The House is home to events within the community and on Spring Bank Holiday and August Bank Holiday weekends there is a craft market, complete with entertainment, making it a fun day out for all the family. Exhibitions and weddings are also held at the house, providing a beautiful backdrop.

Further into the town, through the summer months and over the Christmas period there is a craft market on Tuesdays and Fridays. Held in the conveniently situated Corn Exchange, you can find all sorts of wonderful and unique gifts.

On the point of gifts, the town has a host of individual shops, including antiques, chocolate, ladies fashion, hand-made dolls plus an abundance of coffee shops and restaurants to visit.

A working five-sailed windmill, situated on East Street in the town, mills organic grain and provides an idyllic setting for the tea room. A piece of living history it is well worth a visit.

Another attraction not to be missed is Alford Pottery. Located on Commercial Road, just off West Street. Here you

ALFORD MANOR HOUSE
DURING THE CRAFT FAIR



**THE WILLOW
RESTAURANT AND
TEA ROOM**

128 West Street, Alford, Lincs



Lite bites, traditional lunches
afternoon teas. Private parties.

Open Mon to Sat
9.30am to 3.00pm
01507 462179



can buy hand crafted, practical, well-designed pots to suit all purposes and is open all year. Car parking is available and admission is also free.

You cannot fail to be impressed by the parish church. St Wilfred's is a medieval church built around 1530 and possesses a rather unusual and curious Jacobean pulpit alongside the marble tomb of former Manor House occupants and an amazing collection of needlework.

Should you be on two wheels, why not try out the Alford to Spilsby cycle route? At eight miles and with a hilly terrain it is graded as 'difficult' but if you are feeling sprightly and up for a challenge I heartily recommend it. It begins at The Manor House Museum and finishes in Spilsby Market Place. Maps of the cycle route are available from the Tourist Information.



Bottoms Up!

The Wine and Glass Company just outside of Alford, have provided Lincolnshire Life readers with the chance to win a case of 6 bottles of wine up to the value of £50.

With over 250 quality wines in stock from around the globe, each wine is selected and tested by Mary Hales the proprietor. After moving to the area and realising it can be hard to find a good value quality bottle of wine, The Wine and Glass Company was born. Apart from providing high quality wine (they offer FREE delivery anywhere in Lincolnshire), wine tasting evenings can be arranged, and glass and china hire is available for Weddings and Dinner Parties. Mary also likes a challenge, if you have tasted a wine on holiday, or with friends and cannot find it locally, she will do her utmost to track it down for you to buy.

To win a case of fine wine of your choice up to the value of £50, please answer the following question:

What is the predominate grape variety that white burgundy (origin: France) is made from?

Send in your entries on the back of a sealed envelope or postcard to: Bottoms Up! Competition, Lincolnshire Life Magazine, 9 Checkpoint Court, Sadler Road, Lincoln, LN6 3PW, by 19th October. Prizes cannot be transferred into cash. The prize must be collected in person from our offices in Lincoln. Entrants must be 18 years old and over.

Where there's a Wazel



Wazel Wood Floors are based on Hanby Lane on the outskirts of the town and are very nearly self-sufficient in what they do. There are three Directors; Simon Roughton, Simon Howett and Mark Forman, who between them (and Simon Roughton's daughter who looks after the sales side) manufacture all types of wooden flooring and it's associated products.

They are a business with a difference however as they are fortunate to have their very own forest to the rear of the business which provides almost all the wood they require, with the remainder coming from local sources. They manage the forest by ensuring that trees are sustained through new planting.

They provide an excellent quality service to the general public and local businesses, largely basing themselves within the county, although they are happy to travel further afield. There is one client that is most unusual and that is the Morgan sports car manufacturer. It is little known that Wazel Wood Floors actually supply the famous car with the wood used in the assembly process – quite a remarkable feat!

The machinery installed at the premises allows for only the best finish possible. With a specially developed kiln that they can

manage to maintain the correct moisture content, preventing warping in the future and top of the range moulders for perfect precision shaping, quality is guaranteed.

The company has also provided flooring for other establishments of note, including Harrington Hall, Dolby Hall and Wolds College. Visit www.wazel.co.uk for more information.



SIMON HOWETT, RACHEL EDGAR,
SIMON ROUGHTON



INTERIOR OF A MORGAN SPORTS
CAR WITH WAZEL WOOD TRIM