

## TIME FOR A CUPPA WEEK

Time for a cuppa week is 1st to the 8th May, in aid of Dementia UK. Local communities to get together to organise a tea-based gathering to raise funds and connect with their communities for Dementia UK.

## ENERGY REBATE

Payments for the £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate will start to be distributed from the end of April. Look on NKDC website for the criteria.

## BE MORE HILDA

Mrs Smith's cottage museum has launched a six month campaign calling on all of us to 'Be More Hilda' and rediscover Mes Smith's simple and sustainable lifestyle through a series of events and activities.

The aim is to reacquaint people with traditional lifestyle habits that naturally lead to more sustainable choices, such as seasonal eating, make do and mend, growing your own food and reducing waste.

On offer from the team will be a season of workshops, talks and events at the cottage, online, and around North Kesteven.

Project leader Anne Flannery said: 'Mrs Hilda Smith is the inspiration behind the museum, and behind the project. She lived a very low impact lifestyle - even without a fridge or freezer she avoided wasting any food - and there is so much she can teach us.

"During this time of climate crisis many people are looking to the past to rediscover traditional skills and knowledge that can help us live a more sustainable and environmentally friendly daily life".

'We're delighted to be working with a range of partners, including Hill Holt Wood, Artisan Honey CO., the Museum of Lincolnshire Life and local craftspeople to run this series of engaging events.

There'll be something for all ages to enjoy, from willow weaving workshops to bee keeping demonstrations, seasonal foraging to rag rug making".

The programme will culminate in creating an almanac-style guide to be sold at Mrs Smith's cottage giving practical advice inspired by Mrs Smith's life, interspersed with relevant quotes from her diaries.

Mes Smith was born in Navenby in 1892 and spent most of her 102 years as a resident of the village, she lived in the cottage at various times until 1995, with the bare minimum of modern conveniences. Her cottage was turned into a museum in 1999 and is a time capsule record of her simple life.

Mrs Smith's cottage is open Friday to Monday from 12 noon until 4pm. Visitors can drop in, but due to the small space bookings are recommended to avoid disappointment.

For the full events list please visit the website:-

[HTTPS://www.mrssmithscottage.com/events/bemorehilda](https://www.mrssmithscottage.com/events/bemorehilda)

## LINCOLNSHIRE WELCOMES FIRST UKRAINIAN GUESTS

Lincolnshire is receiving its first Ukrainian evacuees after hundreds of families reached out to offer sanctuary, safety and a warm welcome under the new Homes for Ukrainian programme.

In tandem with the preparations being made in homes across the county, a network of local councils, other public bodies, charities and community groups is continuing to develop, in partnership, a range of services and mechanisms to underpin the response.

In the first stages the Lincolnshire Resettlement Partnership is anticipating an initial allocation of guests to around 200 sponsors, with between 25 and 35 expected within North Kesteven to begin with.

This follows the approval of initial visa applications. As more visas are approved NKDC anticipate the number of arrivals to increase in the coming weeks. The message currently is that if you have offered accommodation but have not yet matched with anyone from Ukraine, please be assured your kindness is appreciated and do keep an eye out for any updates as things progress.

Alongside this, the Ukraine Families Scheme enables family members to join Ukraine relatives already in the UK.

The scheme operates differently, for example no payments are made and no checks are required. A further progress community sponsorship is being developed nationally.

Where people can't offer accommodation, but still want to contribute, the Sleaford-based Lincolnshire Community Foundation has set up a fund at :-

[Totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/LincolnshireCF-Ukraine](https://Totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/LincolnshireCF-Ukraine)

Which will help to finance those little extra things in life beyond the extent of the Government, Council and charitable support - such as toys and new clothes, toiletries and tickets for leisure activities. It is the first of its kind in the country and offers a mechanism for everyone to extend a warm Lincolnshire Welcome.

Through the partnership of councils, the Wellbeing Lincs service is ready to offer advice and signpost arrivals to services. For details for this and other considerations see

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Ukraine](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Ukraine)

#### PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER

NKDC have received a reminder from Anglian Water about the Priority Services Register which may be of value to vulnerable or elderly residents, or those struggling with cost of living.

"As the cost of living crisis is affecting many of our customers, it's more important than ever that people who need help paying for their bills are being supported".

Anglian Waters specially trained EXTRA CARE support team can create personalised payment plans to help their customers budget, provide some breathing space if they need some extra time to pay, as well as guide them towards other help and benefits available.

With different tariff options, customers could be eligible for a discount of up to 50% on their water charges, depending on their situation.

They also provide a range of free practicable support services through their PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER. Priority services in place to help lots of people with different needs and is free. By signing up, they are made aware of customer's circumstance (for example, if they're living with a disability, or going through a life change) and can tailor their services to better support their needs. They can:-

Prioritise their needs if there's an interruption in their water supply.

Help protect customers against bogus callers.

Communicate in different languages, including British Sign Language

Send bills in different formats, including large print, audio and Braille

Knock and wait, giving customers longer to get to the door

#### CALENDARS DETAILING COLLECTION DATES ACROSS THE YEAR FOR YOUR BINS

all your household bins can be found at

[N-kesteven.gov.uk/findmybinday](http://N-kesteven.gov.uk/findmybinday)

To save and keep. You can also find your next bin day anytime using the checker on the webpage.

Calendars won't be posted out to all households, as happened last year to support the Districtwide separate paper and card collections introduced.

#### PARTNERSHIP'S WORKING SUCCESS AT AIDEN'S PARK

Following longstanding reports of antisocial behaviour in St Aiden's. Park in North Hykeham, NK's ASB team worked in partnership with North Hykeham Town Council and partner agencies to deliver a positive outcome.

Such a scale of work is not always possible, but where persistent issues are identified a partnership approach can yield results. The work included:

Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner was secured to deliver the project

A community consultation event and an action plan developed

Lincolnshire Police Crime Prevention Officer conducted a survey and guidance for NHTC

Additional patrols after 10.00pm to both reassure and identify issues

Ongoing encouragement for residents and community groups to use the parks facilities, increasing positive footfall.

#### WARNING ABOUT REBATE SCAMS

The LGA among others, has issued a warning about fraudsters using the Council Tax Energy Rebate as an opportunity to scam unwary households. You may wish to spread this information amongst your residents and neighbours.

There are more than 47,000 households in North Kesteven who are eligible for the payment and NKDC are working hard to ensure residents receive their £150 ASAP.

They have started distributing the £150 rebate to those who pay council tax by direct debit this week. Eligible households who pay council tax by direct debit will receive the payment directly into their bank account automatically- there is no need to contact NKDC.

Those that are eligible but do not pay by direct debit will be sent a secure letter with details of how to claim. They are aiming to start these letters this month.

The Government has given NKDC until the end of September to process all rebates, however, they fully expect to complete the scheme well before this date.

This is a significant project that requires a huge amount of officer time to ensure that all households receive their rebate and all their claims are valid and not fraudulent. Please bear with them. Residents who are entitled to the rebate will receive it.

Anyone who calls now asking for bank details is likely to be a scammer and if a resident receives a call like this they should hang up immediately. If in any doubt about a call they have received, residents can contact the Customer Services Team.

If anyone receives a text message that they believe is fraudulent, they can report it to the mobile phone provider or forward the message to 7726, a free reporting service provided by phone operators.

Take Care Everyone  
Lucille



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