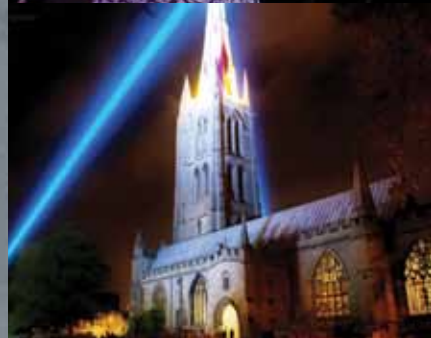




your council working for you



How are we doing?

An update on performance and projects to keep South Kesteven clean, green and healthy and to promote leisure, arts and culture

Spring 2013

Gravity Fields Festival was a huge success



It's a fact

- On the first Saturday of the Festival 7,000 people visited the George shopping centre and this was 2,200 more than on the previous Saturday.
- The weekly increase in shopper footfall in Grantham during the Festival was 11.7%. This compares with a national average weekly increase of 1.9%.
- The Festival marked the start of an on-going campaign to raise the profile of South Kesteven as a place to visit and invest.
- Positive publicity about the town and district was secured not only in the local Press but also on BBC's Look North, East Midlands Today, Radio 4, Classic FM, in national newspapers including The Times and The Independent, in science journals and on Lincs FM. The total value of this positive exposure is estimated at £80,000.
- Based upon this success the Arts Council now want to promote Gravity Fields Festival as a regional event alongside other events across the East Midlands; Derby Feste an outdoor performance festival, SO Festival a world class arts and performance along the east coast of Lincolnshire and the Frequency digital festival in Lincoln.

Our first ever Gravity Fields Festival celebrating the life and work of Grantham's most famous son, Sir Isaac Newton, has been voted a huge success by local people and businesses alike.

The week-long event saw more than 100 shows and talks and 32 of them were complete sell-outs.

The finale evening – called Transformation of the Town – featured an aerial theatre company involved

in the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games who performed an act representing the planets in the skies over the Guildhall.

Police estimated the town centre crowd at between 10,000 and 12,000 and the processions involved 1,000 school children and representatives from local groups who were dressed in costumes they had made over the summer.

Don't make recycling rubbish

working with you will help us save £1000's

Despite great efforts from residents who recycle half of all waste collected in South Kesteven the council could be subject to penalties for contaminated waste.

Our recycling rates are fantastic but we need to encourage more people to think about what they put in silver bins and clear recycling bags.

From August this year councils have to pay penalties for every load of contaminated waste that goes for processing as this will be rejected by our contractor and worse still sent to landfill and not recycled which is detrimental to the environment.

The new contract will mean that if dry recycling contamination exceeds 5% the cash received will be reduced.

Some areas of our district may have contamination levels as high as 15% and an awareness campaign to reduce this is now underway.

SKDC's Head of Environmental Services, Mark Taylor said: "Our residents are great at recycling in the main, but a small number of bins and bags and the non recyclable waste that is placed in them can

have a huge effect.

"Just one resident's contaminated recycling can affect a whole lorry-load of around 8 tonnes which could then have to be sent to landfill and not recycled and turned back into useful materials and cost around £1,200 per lorry load."

Contamination means that the wrong type of material is put into the wrong wheelie bin or bag. The silver recycling bins or clear bags are considered contaminated when non-recyclable items are placed in them. At the moment there is a problem with items such as food waste and nappies being discovered.

To raise awareness, over the next few months our waste operatives hope to assist residents and encourage them to think more carefully about how and what they recycle. As part of this process they will start to be more thorough when emptying silver bins and collecting clear bags to try to avoid contaminating a whole lorry load of waste. If waste is found to contain non recyclable items it will result in it not being emptied and it is the residents' responsibility to remove any contamination.

RAISING THE GREEN FLAG:
Cllr John Smith (right) pictured with Grounds Maintenance Co-ordinator Steve Frisby



Wyndham Park gets even greener

Grantham's Wyndham Park has been awarded a top accolade making it one of the best in the country.

The park has been given Green Flag status and joins 75 other parks in the East Midlands with the prestigious award.

SKDC's portfolio holder for green, healthy and arts, Cllr John Smith said: "This is a fantastic achievement, which provides well deserved recognition of all the hard work and time we have invested in the park.

"This is a wonderful example of collaborative working between the community in Wyndham Park Forum, our contractors Veolia and SKDC."

The Green Flag Award is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom. The scheme was set up in 1996 to recognise and reward green spaces in England and Wales that meet the highest standards.



Bartec installed to cut costs

New waste technology designed to save money and increase efficiency has been installed to 15 of our refuse vehicles.

The Bartec Waste Collector has cost a total of £70,000 to install and although savings are already being achieved they will not be accurately measured until proposed new rounds are introduced later in the year.

But the indications are good as other councils are making good savings – Southampton £56,000 a year, Litchfield and

Tamworth £51,000, Harrow £30,500 and Chichester £52,500.

Amongst the benefits of the system are:

- Reduction in missed bins because residents can be challenged
- On board health and safety information for the crews to use and update
- Improved assisted collections – reduces time spent looking for bins
- Increased recycling because data received allows areas to be targeted

Time to rejoin the garden waste service

Re-join Now

your council working for you

Re-join for 2013/2014

If you want to continue having your garden waste collected from April 2013 please re-join our scheme now - it's only £25 per year for the first green bin and a further £10 per year for each extra bin.

If you have already registered with us, thank you. Please remember to put your sticker on the back of your bin.

South Kesteven District Council
STAMFORD • GRANTHAM • BOURNE • THE DEEPINGS

Our campaign to encourage residents to rejoin the garden waste scheme

The new look bin stickers >

We are inviting members of our garden waste collection service to re-join the scheme by no later than 31 March.

The charge for collection has not increased and will continue to be £25 for a single wheeled bin and £10 for each additional bin. The collection period will be from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

We will continue to provide alternate weekly collections all year round apart from December, January and February when collections will be once a month, due to the lack of green waste at this time of the year.

SKDC's portfolio holder for green healthy and arts, Cllr John Smith said: "As a result of the success of the green waste scheme we introduced last year, SKDC is proposing no increase in the £25 a year charge for collection of a green wheeled bin.

"More than 26,000 residents signed up to the scheme this year and more than 1,000 additional green bins were purchased.

"We are confident that our residents value this service and hope that they continue to support the scheme for 2013/14."

your council working for you

PAID 2013/14
10001

Your garden waste service

YES PLEASE ✓

- ✓ Grass cuttings
- ✓ Hedge clippings
- ✓ Twigs and small branches
- ✓ Weeds with soil shaken off
- ✓ Flowers and plants
- ✓ Leaves and bark

NO THANKS ✗

- ✗ Any food waste
- ✗ Plastic of any description
- ✗ Large quantities of soil
- ✗ Bricks, rubble etc
- ✗ Any household waste
- ✗ Animal waste

South Kesteven District Council
STAMFORD • GRANTHAM • BOURNE • THE DEEPINGS



No business like show business!

Jimmy Carr, Strictly stars, the Rat Pack and the Drifters all live at the Meres

Grantham's Guildhall Arts Centre and live shows at the Meres have been a massive hit with audiences over the last year.

Despite the recession, a glittering line up has tempted audiences to part with their cash and many events have been sell out shows and even more have beaten their revenue targets.

Box Office favourites have included a variety of drama, family theatre, music and workshops bringing great quality entertainment to a broad range of ages and interest groups including blues band Paul Jones and Dave Kelly, The Temperance Seven, Ballet Central, Nashville Nights and Dixie Days, Remember When at Christmas and our annual pantomime Sleeping Beauty which took our biggest income to date.

Well-known names have continued to help raise the profile of the venue in the district with the programme featuring acts such as Mitch Benn from The One Show

Complaints Choir, cricket commentating legend Henry Blofeld, journalist, agony aunt and author Virginia Ironside, and TV comedian Jo Caulfield.

The Meres events have continued to attract strong audiences from inside and outside the district, helping promote the leisure economy and boost the morale of residents, with large-scale top-class acts, right on their doorstep.

In the last year the Meres has played host to Solid Silver Sixties featuring Peter Noone, Chris Montez, Brian Hyland and Brian Poole, The Little Big Club featuring characters from children's TV favourites, An Evening with Strictly's Katya and Pasha, the return of top comedian Jimmy Carr with another sell-out show, The Rat Pack Live direct from the West End, the return of Magic of Motown and the Drifters.

Still to come is the return of the sell-out Three Bs (Chris Barber, Kenny Ball and Acker Bilk) and from the West End, An Evening of Burlesque.

Big screen in Stamford packs 'em in!

The cinema at Stamford Arts Centre has again proved it is recession proof!

Several shows were 99-100% sold out and some had to be re-programmed to meet the demand.

Anna Karenina was a sell out and Skyfall was 98% sold out over 16 screenings. The cinema continues to develop and has been accepted as part of the highly prestigious Europa Film Network.

Live Events also performed well throughout the year, such as Gervase Phinn, Equus, Royal Geographical Society Lectures, Orchestra of the Swann, Ballet

Wales and Clare Teal with the busy month of October being particularly successful with several sell out shows.

Satellite screenings have been hugely popular - NTLive almost always selling out and the introduction of METOPERA Live has been particularly popular.

On the literary front, Verse 2012 saw the launch of the first Poetry Festival and from this a keen interest in poetry has grown in Stamford, with popular, regular monthly writing workshops and open-mic performance sessions in the Cellar Bar. The town has even got its first ever Stamford Poet Laureate!

It's a fact

- More than 10,700 people attended Stamford cinema in the last quarter – 3,000 more than the figure recorded for the summer.
- Excellent visitor figures at the Grantham Arts Centre reflect the Gravity Fields effect but the numbers have also been swollen by the popularity of the panto, Sleeping Beauty.
- Stamford Arts Centre had a particularly busy autumn with increased room hire, sell out films and the popular Met Opera broadcast live by satellite from New York.
- Stamford's Music in Quiet Places was one of the most popular series of concerts programmed and although ticket sales suffered due to the very busy Jubilee/Olympics calendar of events locally, regulars still very much enjoyed these relaxing summer church concerts.
- Stamford Senior Youth Theatre for ages 16 – 25 is a unique and innovative project, and has been regarded as one of the flagship schemes for young people by many of Lincolnshire's arts venues.
- The 2012 production Torchbearer was performed on Stamford's theatre stage in April and taken to five schools around the region for SSYT on Tour, alongside In House days where schools visited Stamford Arts Centre for a full day of performance and workshops with SSYT, reaching over 800 students and young people.

South Kesteven was on fire when the Torch Relay came to town!

The spirit of the Olympics was well and truly captured when the Torch Relay came to our district.

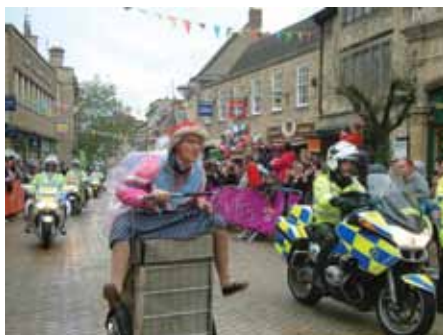
The London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay was part of the build up to London 2012, which brought people across the UK together in a massive sporting celebration.

The Torch Relay passed through South Kesteven on three separate occasions – in Grantham on 28 June; Stamford on 3 July and Market Deeping, Thurlby and Bourne on 4 July.

The Torch was also in Stamford earlier in the year as part of the national dress rehearsal for the event.

The district council was responsible for providing security, crowd control and all arrangements to ensure the safe passage of the Torch throughout the district. In addition we held a series of related events, on the days of the relays and throughout the year, that supported the Council's priorities of promoting leisure, arts and culture and also promoting South Kesteven as a key destination.

Thousands of our local residents and



visitors turned out to line the Relay route and cheer on the torch bearers in South Kesteven. Police estimates put the crowd numbers in Grantham and Bourne at 20,000 each; 15,000 in both Stamford and Market Deeping and 5,000 in Thurlby, some 75,000 people in total!

Together with the crowds of people enjoying the spectacle was a network of volunteers from the community who worked closely with Council staff to ensure that the days were a huge success. They dealt with all manner of issues, from lost children to helping drivers plan their routes and keeping the spirits of



the crowd high during some torrential thunderstorms in Grantham.

Visitors on Torch Relay days also enjoyed activities and community events put on by the Council to entertain the crowds. This ranged from international cooking demonstrating and sampling, local dance and singing groups and demonstrations by local sports clubs.

The Torch Relay attracted very positive publicity nationally and South Kesteven was particularly mentioned for both its good preparations for the event and the Olympic dressing of the towns with colourful flags and bunting.

It's a fact

- Attendances at the four leisure centres in South Kesteven totalled a massive 604,551 over the last year.
- Top performer was Grantham with 289,583 users, followed by Deeping with 122,427, Stamford with 100,759 and Bourne with 91,782.
- The figures include pool use, dryside, outdoor and school bookings.

Exercise figures fit as a fiddle

South Kesteven is the only place in Lincolnshire where more people are exercising three times a week compared with a year ago.

That's according to figures released by an Active People Survey that show the district was the only place in the county that has seen an increase in adults participating in three 30 minute periods of exercise every seven days.

The figures revealed the numbers of adults participating in three sessions increased to 24.2 per cent from 23 per cent in 2011 whilst there was also an increase in adults exercising for 30 minutes once a week.

There are 3.8 per cent more people getting active with a single half hour's exercise than 12 months ago as figures increased to 37.5 per cent compared to 33.7 per cent last year.

SKDC's portfolio holder for green, healthy and arts, Cllr John Smith said: "These are really positive figures that show South Kesteven residents have embraced the sporting spirit of 2012.

"One of our priorities is to encourage active and healthy lifestyles so it's great to see more people dedicating time to exercise."

The Active People Survey is an annual survey of sport and active recreation participation conducted by Sport England. Data is collected from October to October each year and the results were published in December.

The survey showed 33.7 per cent of adults aged 16 and over in Lincolnshire are now taking part in at least one sports session per week.