

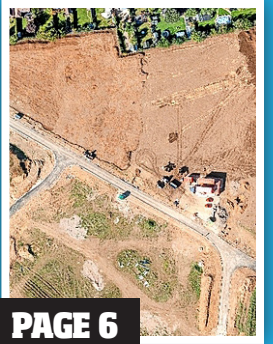
Lincolnshire
Chamber of
Commerce

The Ultimate Business Network

Chamber MATTERS

INSIDE

Work
starts on
Roman
Gate
Court



PAGE 6

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY OUR PATRONS

Proudly sponsored by our Patrons



SIEMENS



Businesses shortlisted for the Construction and Property Awards 2022



From left, Jeff Todd, Zoe Summerfield, Tim Downing, Hayley Clayton, Chris Brown, Chris Houldsworth, Charlotte Watson, Nick Pettit and Simon Beardsley



FIRMS TO BE SHOWCASED AFTER DIFFICULT YEAR

PAGE 2

ChamberMATTERS



Lawyer firm turn Green for award

TOP 150 law firm Roythornes took another step on its journey to be one of the UK's greenest law firms as it won the sustainable Business award at the Peterborough Telegraph Business Excellence Awards.

The award recognised the way in which the firm had tackled environmental issues and engaged with its staff, involving the whole firm in projects and initiatives.

Speaking about the award, Ann Barrasso, Operations Director and head of the firm's Environmental programme said:

"The award is undoubtedly for the whole firm. We have an amazing Green Team of individuals across the business who coordinate our activities, whilst everyone else in the firm engages with our mission to be one of the UK's greenest law firms. We realise that this will be a journey of many stages, and winning the award shows that we are at least moving in the right direction."

Even during lockdown and working at home, the Roythornes team have been undertaking environmental measures such as calculating the miles saved by not commuting to offices, sourcing more environmentally sound products and hosting talks and webinars for staff from environmental groups such as Investors In the Environment (iIE).

The firm again achieved the 'green' award from iIE this year.

Ann continued: "We have a number of exciting activities already planned for next year including tree-planting projects close to some of our offices, which offer our staff an opportunity to do something practical with their colleagues."

"What sets us apart is the commitment of all of our people, including the partners, Board Directors and all of our staff. It involves doing things rather than just talking, plus some financial investment, but we're committed to reducing our impact on the planet and the award is great recognition of this."

'Every business, in their own right, deserves the accolade and recognition'

LINCOLNSHIRE Chamber of Commerce and headline sponsor, Morgan Sindall Construction, are pleased to announce the finalists for the annual Greater Lincolnshire Construction and Property Awards 2022.

Taking place on Thursday 3rd February at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Lincoln, the awards will be hosted by former RAF Fighter Pilot and Executive Officer of the world-famous Red Arrows, Dan Lowe alongside retired English Rugby Union and Leicester Tigers player, Leon Lloyd and will see money raised for YMCA Lincolnshire.

Charlotte Watson, Head of PR, Marketing, Comms and Policy at Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce said: "Judging at any point is a difficult job because every business, in their own right, deserves the accolade and recognition, but this year has been pretty special as we have seen a record number of applications since the awards began in 2017 making it an even tougher job for the judges."

"After what can only be described as a rollercoaster 18 months it is so refreshing to see the calibre of applications all which have been phenomenal, and we are looking forward to showcasing some of them next year."

THE FINALISTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Agent of the Year

Kinetic Estate Agents New Homes Agent

Apprentice/Young Achiever of the Year – sponsored by Willmott Dixon

Hannah Cook – Waldeck
Katie Hughes – Lindum
Ollie Taylor – Gelder Group
Tim Houchin – APSS

Consultancy of the Year – sponsored by Waldeck

Influence
Polkey Collins
Viridis

Development Project (Over £5 million) – sponsored by Shakespeare Martineau

12 Squadron Training Facility - Galliford Try
Cornhill Quarter - Lincolnshire Co-op
Lincoln Medical School - Gleeds
YMCA Grimsby - RG Carter

Development Project (Under £5 million)

Engineering, Manufacturing & Technology Centre - Boston College and CPMG
Gibney Building - Lincoln College
Old Kings Head – Heritage Lincolnshire
Tower Gardens – GF Tomlinson

Product Supplier of the Year

NuSpan Flooring
Tradeglaze
Castlebuild
Superfoil

Residential Project of the Year – sponsored by Longhurst Group

Myos House Dementia Care - Ongo
Fosdyke Paddock – Chiselwood Homes

Sustainable Project of the Year – sponsored by Viridis



We have seen a record number of applications since the awards began in 2017
Charlotte Watson

Building Services

Fosdyke Paddock – Chiselwood Homes
Lincoln Medical School - Gleeds
Pelham Bridge - Minster Group
Priory Federation of Academies Trust Schools – Amelio Solar
Energy and Procure Direct

Other sponsors include RG Carter, Visual Print and Design and Simons Design Ltd, with sponsorship opportunities still available.

Charlotte concluded: "I wish the best of luck to all deserving finalists and we will see you as part of the Awards ceremony in 2022."

■ For further information, visit www.lincsconstructionandpropertyawards.co.uk, to book tickets, visit www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/events/lcpa-2022

Give the gift of better mental health

LINCOLN-BASED counsellors, who successfully supported hundreds of clients throughout the Coronavirus pandemic – have launched a fundraising drive to help scores more people in urgent need of their "life-saving" services.

Professionals working at The Naomi Watkins Counselling Hub CIC, which has seen a huge surge in demand from its help over the past 18 months, is taking the crowdfunding route to raise £10,000, so that it can help those on its fast-growing waiting list, many of whom cannot pay for support.

At the height of the pandemic, NWCH – which is based on the city's Allenby Business Park – was determined clients would not miss their sessions, despite being forced into lockdown, having to work from home and care for school children.

Although Chief Executive Naomi Watkins-Ligudzinska's team was supporting 800 individuals a month, counsellors managed to continue their valuable work by transitioning from face-to-face sessions to providing telephone and online counselling.

"So many people's mental health was suffering because they couldn't socialise with

family and friends, missed the workplace camaraderie and had to help children with their schoolwork," said Naomi.

"We have received some fantastic feedback from our former and current clients and now we want to help people on our waiting list – who can include individuals from children aged four to young people and adults.

"This work is urgent because we know everyone's mental and physical health has been strained by all sorts of issues, including the often-hidden trauma of sexual, child and domestic abuse, as well as self-harm, suicide ideation and, of course, bereavement.

"We know they urgently need our help, but the pandemic has really stretched our resources, so we hope our crowdfunding campaign will give us the necessary financial support we need to reduce, or even clear our waiting list," said Naomi.

Naomi's Crowdfunder campaign has not only



Christopher Morris and Naomi Watkins-Ligudzinska

received the full support of her colleagues at the Hub, but many sponsors have stepped forward with a range of offers to encourage people to donate in the hope the campaign reaches its target.

Donations promise to make a real difference to so many more lives, said Naomi, and people can find out more and pledge their support by visiting: www.crowdfunder.co.uk/nwch

ChamberMATTERS

Sustainable growth is the plan for Systematic

LINCOLNSHIRE family business Systematic support leading businesses with design, print and brand marketing services. Whilst this work keeps the team busy, they have maximised the skills of their design team to create a fresh look for their own brand.

After a trading year that exceeded expectations, Systematic recruited digital and graphic designers, Paige Gregory and Sarah Lawrence in the autumn. They are part of the team that has evolved Systematic's branding, which is revealed on their new website, www.systematic.uk in an animation, a service that is proving to be increasingly popular with their clients.

Systematic's refreshed, natural colour palette of blue and green reinforces their sustainability values, including their mission to be carbon neutral by 2025. December marks a milestone on this theme, with all Systematic company vehicles being fully electric.

Managing Director Chris Robey commented, "We are proud of our 46 year trading history and excited for the future."

The pandemic changed the emphasis of services that we provide, and we now have more creativity and capacity within our design team to support the digital transformation that our clients are responding to.



Paige Gregory and Sarah Lawrence

"It continues to be an honour to support our clients."

"Whilst embracing digital marketing techniques, we are now seeing our clients have a renewed connection to physical communications, using the power of print in highly creative ways, often within mailing campaigns."

We are delighted that clients are placing

more importance on the sustainability of their purchasing, an approach that is aligned to our core values.

"Every day at Systematic we strive to help our clients to achieve their business goals, and our new brand reflects our ongoing commitment to sustainability, creativity and having an agile and bespoke approach to each project that we manage."

Riverside Training awarded Matrix Standard

GAINSBOROUGH-BASED Riverside Training is excited to announce it has been credited the Matrix Quality Standard for the information, advice and guidance it provides. The training provider has been benchmarked against best practice and has been awarded the accreditation after it demonstrated a high quality of course delivery and support to individuals in their choice of career, learning, work or life goals.

Riverside Training have been a part of Acis Group since 2020 and offers a range of opportunities to people to enhance their skills, knowledge and wellbeing.

The Matrix Standard is the international quality standard for organisations that deliver information, advice and/or guidance (IAG), either as their sole purpose or as part of their service offering.

Roger Chapman, head of the Matrix Service for The Growth Company said: "This is a fantastic achievement for Riverside Training and I would like to congratulate the team on their success. We believe that at the heart of high-quality advice and support services are strong leadership, excellent service and a focus on continuous improvement, all underpinned by effective use of the resources available."

"The Matrix Standard is designed to benchmark organisations against best practice in these areas. With their accreditation success, Riverside Training is working to provide the best possible support to their clients."

Riverside Training's delivery manager, Richard Thorpe, said: "We are delighted to be presented with this accreditation."

"Not only does this recognise the strong culture throughout the organisation but it also demonstrates the hard work and passion we have to helping our customers overcome and remove barriers in their lives. We couldn't be prouder."

Riverside Training offer free courses, in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council, to help customers increase their confidence and get into work or education.

Find out more about the organisation and courses at www.riverside-training.org.uk

For more information about the Matrix Standard please visit www.matrixstandard.com.

How the East Midlands could benefit from an Australia trade deal

THE world-famous East Midlands shoemaking industry, the region's manufacturers and high-quality food exporters could all be big winners from an Australia free trade deal.

Manufacturing and chemicals: machinery and chemicals exports from the East Midlands to Australia were worth £130m last year. Cutting tariffs of up to 5%, removing red tape and aligning regulations would make exporting easier and open up opportunities for growth.

Shoemaking: cutting the 5% footwear tariff could open up new opportunities for Northampton's renowned shoemakers, such as Tricker's, to export more high-end shoes and boots to Australia.

Food: cutting tariffs on food and drink could boost exports for the East Midlands's food producers. Buxton's Bradburys Cheese sells nearly \$3m of British cheese in Australia every year but wants to boost that by up to 60% with the removal of tariffs on their goods.

TOP THREE TRADE FACTS

- Nearly 1,200 East Mids businesses exported goods to Australia last year.
- East Mids firms exported goods worth more than £200m to Australia in 2020.
- Machinery & transport equipment makes up nearly half of all goods exports from the East Mids to Australia, worth nearly £100m last year, up by nearly 8% on 2019.

CASE STUDIES

Bradburys Cheese

Bradburys Cheese was established in 1884 in the East Midlands, and now exports to over 30 countries. Its premium quality classic British cheese types can be found in major Australian retailers where sales now approach 3 million Australian dollars every year.

"The current tariff on cheese adds just under £1 (A\$1.60) per kilo



to the cost of the product at retail and is an extra burden for Australian households and a deterrent to increasing sales. Its removal could cause sales to rise by 50-60% year on year. Quality premium value, in a price sensitive market, will be recognised by the consumer."

George Paul, Owner and Chairman of Bradburys Cheese

Siemens Mobility

Siemens Mobility operates across

the UK, including in Lincolnshire.

"The products we manufacture in the UK have similar standards and requirements to Australia, making export a logical next step."

"The removal of up to 5% tariffs on these products through an FTA will increase the competitiveness of UK manufactured goods, supporting UK jobs and skills investment."

Justin Moss, Head of Sales Electrification for Siemens Mobility

ChamberMATTERS



Langleys Solicitors launch first advertising campaign

IT AIMS TO CHANGE THE PERCEPTIONS OF LAW FIRMS

YORK and Lincoln-based solicitors, Langleys, has launched its first-ever display advertising campaign to highlight the new position of the firm following the sale of its insurance law team, as it challenges people's perceptions of what it is like to work with a law firm.

The out of home campaign comes as part of the business's new positioning as a different kind of law firm, distinct from its competitors in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and beyond.

Working with marketing agency Gaspl, Langleys aims to present a clear and simple message, that law with Langleys is easy, "Langleeeasy".

By using its own name, the

business has created a unique design that cannot be replicated by competitors.

The campaign harnesses all channels of communication, with advertisements placed on buses and billboards in Lincoln and York, as well as in local press, online, lifestyle magazines and local radio stations.

The advertisements share the message that law doesn't need to be complex, it can be easy to understand and simple to follow.

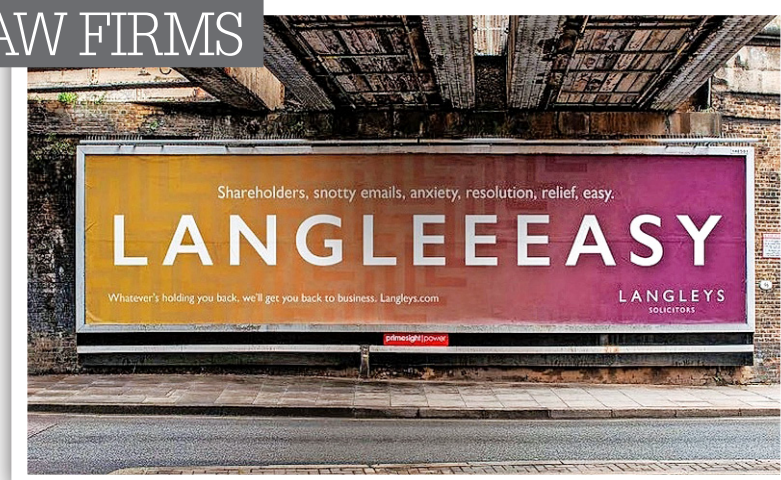
The campaign leads on the idea that Langleys can support when times get tough, personally and in business, and take the stress out of difficult situations.

To inform the campaign Langleys

undertook detailed market research into existing levels of awareness, with the campaign aiming to improve brand awareness and salience, increase the number of enquiries and clients across all practices, and position Langleys as the law firm of choice in the area.

Lee Grunnell, director of marketing and business development at Langleys, said: "We're delighted with our first display advertising campaign, and are excited by the initial results and feedback from those that have seen it in the flesh."

"The campaign is part of Langleys' vision to build a forward thinking legal services business that



changes people's perceptions about what it's like to work with and for a law firm.

"We want to show people that law

isn't as complex as they think, and that we make it easy to follow, easy to understand, and easy for people to get what they need doing, done."

Second highest Audit award for Council's grant support of businesses

AUDITORS have awarded West Lindsey District Council the second highest award for its awarding of Covid-19 Business Grants.

Between June and October, Auditors monitored the programme and found that the scheme was to be awarded with a "substantial assurance" rating.

The Council was noted as being focused on getting payments to support businesses out quickly during the early parts of the pandemic, while it was recommended that

additional assurance checks could have taken place earlier in the application process rather than in post payment.

Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee, Cllr John McNeill, said: "We take the recommendation made by auditors on board, and I can confirm that additional assurance checks now do take place prior to payment for all subsequent and current grant schemes set up to support businesses in the pandemic."

Auditors have confirmed that in all cases all the checks and assurance checks were followed in every case - as mentioned we have now changed our strategy and thank the auditors for their recommendation.

Senior Growth Strategy & Projects Officer, Wendy Osgodby, said: "Looking after eligible businesses at the start of the pandemic was our main focus. I am immensely proud of the work that we have done as a Council to support all those local shops that make up

our streets, towns and villages in West Lindsey. Although we are in a different stage of the pandemic, we still have a part to play to help where we can, and I want to thank everybody in the team for their efforts over the past 18 months."

The Audit was awarded as part of a series of independent Audit Inspections on different Council areas over the past few months.

For the latest news on West Lindsey District Council visit: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk

ChamberMATTERS

Who Wants Christmas Pudding?

BACK on the shelves by popular demand is a heart-warming Christmas book written by one of the UK's largest equine welfare charities, Bransby Horses.

Pudding's Christmas Miracle is a wonderfully uplifting tale, written to raise funds for the charity, while helping to spread the word about the amazing welfare and rescue work they do.

Sally Crawford, Executive Director of Engagement and Income Generation at Bransby Horses said: "Our work to improve the lives of horses is, sadly, more needed than ever before and through Pudding's inspirational story, we're hoping to raise awareness and funds."

"Whether you decide to buy Pudding's Christmas Miracle storybook, sponsor an equine or make a donation, you'll make a positive difference and for that we're truly grateful."

Based in Lincolnshire, Bransby Horses has been rehoming and rescuing horses, ponies, donkeys, and mules for over 50 years.

Pudding's Christmas Miracle was written in 2020 as a collaborative effort between Bransby Horses

staff and primary school teacher Helen Kennedy.

It was a huge success selling 2,483 copies and raising £16,316.40 to date.

However, £16,316.40 is just a little more than it costs the charity to care for one horse a year - and Bransby Horses is currently responsible for nearly 1,000 equines.

Added to which the pandemic has cost them in excess of £100,000 in lost fundraising income since March 2020.

Pudding's Christmas Miracle costs £6.95 from BransbyHorses.co.uk/Pudding or by calling 01427 788 464.



Charitable Group to deliver on its commitment to keep making a difference

IT IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE £460,000 OF GRANTS AWARDED

THE Alan Boswell Group Charitable Trust continues to deliver on its commitment to make a difference to charitable causes in the areas that we operate in.

They wanted to share what these donations mean to some of the charities who have been given funds.

The current Charitable Trust sub-committee have assessed 111 applications made to the Trust, sent feedback to dozens of charities and have been the driving force behind the £460,000 of grants awarded in the last 12 months.

Here are some of the amazing impacts the grants have made:

EAST NORFOLK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

The Trust donated £4,000 to the charity and they have put the money to excellent use.

Some of the items have been able to purchase include a specialised saddle and handles to support riders, First Aid and Safeguarding training for instructors, training sessions for volunteers and Covid-19 safety products.

NORTH NORFOLK MACMILLAN CENTRE

Macmillan Cancer Support invested £2.2m in the North Norfolk Macmillan Centre to help thousands of

people access cancer treatment and support closer to their homes.

They relied on grants such as the £10,000 donated by Alan Boswell Group to cover the costs of the build and despite an unprecedented drop in income of up to 50 per cent during the pandemic, the building is now complete and the first patient has received treatment.

EATING MATTERS

Eating Matters are a Norfolk based charity which offers counselling for people age 11-plus with mild to moderate eating disorders in the community.

They applied for a grant of £2,500

back in March 2020 to support their services throughout the pandemic, meaning delivery via online/telephone counselling.

At the time of writing, they supported 264 clients, 134 of which were under the age of 25.

ARTHUR RANK HOSPICE

The hospice ran the 'Help Us Be There' appeal back in 2020 where they aimed to raise £100,000 to fund the recruitment of two full time healthcare assistants.

The new colleagues were needed to meet the demands of people wishing to receive end of life care in their own home, overnight,

during the last two weeks of life.

The appeal was a great success and raised a total of £140,000 in the end, of which the Charitable Trust donated £6,608.00.

NANCY OLDFIELD TRUST

The Trust offers accessible accommodation, canoeing, sailing and motor cruising on the Norfolk Broads and put together an 'Enhanced Accessibility' project to improve the accessibility of their premises.

They were given a grant of £3,746.48 to purchase an automatic door system.



ChamberMATTERS

Work starts on Roman Gate Court in Lincoln

24 NEW ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS UNDERWAY FOR PEOPLE AGED OVER-55

WORK has started in Lincoln in preparation for construction of 24 new apartments for people aged over-55.

Lindum Group is currently on site at Roman Gate Court, off Nettleham Road, just north of the city centre.

Work to set up the site compound is underway with construction of the new homes scheduled to begin in January.

LACE Housing, which is a non-profit making association specialising in the provision of housing and support services for older and vulnerable people, appointed Lindum Group to build the new homes following a competitive tender process.

The finished scheme will provide affordable, safe and secure homes and will consist of 24 one bedroom apartments, as well as a communal lounge facility, mobility scooter store and landscaped gardens.

The scheme is located within easy reach of convenience stores, supermarkets, takeaways, doctor's surgery and public transport with excellent access to the A46 Lincoln bypass.

Site manager Andy Foster said that, as part of the preliminary works, Lindum is constructing a bridge to allow access to the site without vehicles having to pass through the neighbouring housing estate.



"We are getting all the preliminary work completed so we can start on site fully in January," he said.

"We are building access over the stream, which is known locally as The Meg, and this will reduce construction traffic through the housing estate by about 90 per cent.

"The build will be managed by Lindum with the support of our sub-contract team, which is made up of some reliable local businesses.

We expect to be onsite for around 60 weeks so the homes should be ready for occupants by spring 2023."

The scheme is one of two new housing projects by LACE.

As well as Roman Gate Court, Collinson Court will provide 16 one-bedroom and two-bedroom affordable apartments with communal facilities on land off Willoughby Road in Scunthorpe.

LACE Housing's CEO Nick Chambers said: "Despite the many challenges experienced over the past year, we are delighted that works have now begun on a further development of 40 much needed homes for older people in Greater Lincolnshire.



"This could not have been achieved without the support of the local authorities, the local community, local contractors and Homes England. "Designed for those over the age of 55, both developments will complete during spring 2023."

Get ready for Self-Assessment as tax returns loom

ETO covid-19. These include the Self Employment Income Support Scheme, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and any other payments such as Self-Isolation Payments, Local Authority Grants and the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme.

HELP TO PAY

Whilst the economy is still trying to recover from the impacts of covid-19 and pressures from rising inflation are becoming more apparent, HMRC are providing a self-serve Time To Pay facility.

If you have concerns about paying your bill, do contact HMRC for guidance.

WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE?

The beauty of doing your tax online is that you do not have to complete it all in one go.

If you find you are missing some information you can save your progress and then go back to it once you have found it.

Conversely, if you have made a mistake, you can rectify it before you submit your return.

We would always advise that you check, check and then check again before you submit your return.

You can correct any mistake up until the following year's filing deadline so if you

discover down the line that you have made a mistake on your 2020/21 submission, you have until January 31 2023 to contact HMRC and advise them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING RECORDS

When it comes to doing your online tax return, the importance of good record keeping pays dividends.

You don't want to be searching high and low for that missing invoice or receipt, turning the house and the office upside down.

Keeping records organised throughout

the year makes the whole online tax return so much easier.

If you use a cloud accounting package like Xero or Quickbooks, the process becomes even easier. If you are new to self-assessment tax returns, do make sure you start the process as early as possible.

Talk to your accountant, they can help or even do the tax return for you, taking the stress and pain away and leaving you to enjoy Christmas and the New Year without the concern of the dreaded self-assessment tax deadline looming.

■ For more help with self-assessment, visit www.forrester-boyd.co.uk

ChamberMATTERS

Ongo joins forces with Juj to launch 'Train to Taxi' scheme

ONGO are working with local taxi company Juj, based in Scunthorpe, to offer jobseekers a unique opportunity into employment.

The 'Train to Taxi' scheme launched in November 2021, giving 10 people the chance to benefit from all of the necessary training to be awarded their badge and become a self-employed driver.

Requirements including an enhanced DBS, medical, liability insurance and safeguarding are included. All that is required of participants is to be over the age of 25, have a clean driving licence and a passion for the role.

Training will last a maximum of eight weeks and once in the role, cars will be provided. A commission of 45% can then be earned, with hours decided by them.

Regina Dalmeida, Sparc Manager at Ongo said: "We noticed a huge shortage of taxi drivers in the area, so have created the

scheme to offer a flexible route into sustainable employment.

"To receive all of your training, relevant paperwork and support to become self-employed is really unique and we're very proud to be offering it. The job can work around other commitments and is a fantastic and life changing opportunity.

"To go through this yourself would cost around £350, so we expect interest to be extremely high. If you're interested we would urge you to get in touch as soon as possible to secure your place."

Along with Juj, other taxi companies are also in talks with Ongo's Sparc project, in the hope of offering even more roles going forward.

The Sparc project aims to help people sustain financial independence and offers opportunities for those who want to set up a business or become self-employed.



Regina, of Ongo, and Kuljinder, of Juj Taxis

More than 50 people have benefited from the project over last 12 months, with that number set to rise.

To check your eligibility for 'Train to Taxi', email regina.dalmeida@ongo.co.uk. To find out more about Ongo, visit www.ongo.co.uk

Councils Partnership calls for greater investments

PUBLIC TRANSPORT, ROADS, AND GREEN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE COULD GET AN INJECTION OF CASH

IN response to two major strategic transport consultations, the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council, and South Holland District Council) has called for greater investment in public transport, roads, and green transport infrastructure.

In its recent responses to both Highways England's 'Vision for Route Strategies' consultation and Lincolnshire County Council's Local Transport Plan consultation, the Partnership highlighted the need for a more ambitious transport plan for the area, in order to attract the investment needed to improve local transport infrastructure for the benefit of residents and businesses across the sub-region.

THE PARTNERSHIP HAS SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR:

■ Major investment in the A16 and A17 to recognise the route's national significance and to support residents, visitors and businesses, especially those within the Agri-food sector, an industry in which the area is a national leader.

■ Investment in the road network that links the area's rural communities together, and measures to address congestion, noise, and air pollution to preserve the area's natural environment.

■ Further investment in public transport to ensure residents have better access to vital public services and greater employment opportunities,

■ Upgrades to rail connectivity that can support residents, visitors and businesses and help address a historic lack of funding in rail infrastructure in the area.

■ Investment in 'green' transport infrastructure, including electric buses and electric vehicle charging, to ensure the area is future proofed as transport habits change in response to climate change.

Following submission of the responses, the Partnership has affirmed its commitment to now working with partners to ensure that the needs and aspirations for transport across South and East Lincolnshire can be delivered.



ChamberMATTERS

New-look Lincoln Drill Hall returns

THE DRILL

ICONIC LANDMARK IS BACK

Renovated, restored and reinvigorated, the theatre and entertainment venue, formerly known as Lincoln Drill Hall is set to reopen its doors next month as The Drill.

The ambitious and extensive refurbishment is nearing completion, under the stewardship of Lincoln College, which stepped in to save the venue after it closed in 2020.

The relaunched venue's first public performances begun from 11th December with the much anticipated pantomime, Aladdin. This will be followed by a short closure for some final finishing touches, before a grand opening that is planned for early February.

With a past as eclectic and illustrious as the acts that have graced its stage, the building has been dramatically reimagined to bring new energy into this iconic venue at the heart of the community.

The Drill returns with a new look, a new team, and a whole new ethos centred around creating electrifying music, comedy and theatrical experiences across a wealth of genres and interests.

The exhaustive upgrade will include a new restaurant and bar, a brand new kitchen, and a completely transformed box office and foyer.



The Drill's commercial director, Mark Taylor said:

"We're thrilled to be breathing new life into this iconic local landmark. The Drill will soon be ready to welcome you back for your favourite events and enthralling evening entertainment. We've completely

transformed the venue, amplifying the best things about it and creating some really impressive new features.

"One of the things people loved most about Lincoln Drill Hall was its commitment to supporting the people, groups and communities of

Lincoln, and we're proud to continue in this tradition when we reopen.

The Drill can be used as a meeting space for community groups, we'll host a huge range of classes, workshops and activities, including our popular parent and child groups, and we'll continue being a safe, accessible and welcoming space at the heart of the community."

Initially, the venue will be open at a reduced capacity to ensure social distancing is in place, with the hopes to expand to its full capacity in the very near future.

Rigorous sanitation and careful attention to detail will ensure that each experience at The Drill is as safe as possible in the current climate.

■ You can find out more about The Drill by visiting www.lincolndrill.co.uk or contact the box office on 0800 804 4643.

For tickets to the pantomime, Aladdin, visit www.lincolndrill.co.uk/whats-on/aladdin-family-pantomime-spektrix



Upcoming events ...

Virtual Lincolnshire Construction & Property Network January

18th January 2022
12.30pm - 2.00pm
Zoom

ChamberConnect: How Data Science and Data Analytics can Drive Business Outcomes

20th January 2022
10.00am - 11.00am
Zoom

ChamberConnect: Social Media Basics Workshop

24th & 25th January 2022
1.30pm - 3.30pm
Zoom

Exploring New Markets: Funding Support

26th January 2022
11.30am - 2.00pm
Commerce House, Lincoln

Incoterms 2020 Rules Training

27th January 2022
10.00am - 12.00pm
Zoom

International Trade Operations and Procedures (ITOPS) Training

Starting 1st February 2022
9.00am - 11.00am
Zoom

Greater Lincolnshire Construction and Property Awards 2022

3rd February 2022
7.00pm - 12.00am
DoubleTree by Hilton, Lincoln

For more events and bookings, please see our events page: www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/events or call the team on 01522 523333.

New members

■ Americold
www.americold.com

■ Foresight Group
www.foresightgroup.eu

■ Tall Oaks Academy
www.talloaksacademy.co.uk