



LATEST NEWS UPDATES FROM LINCOLNSHIRE

May 2004

WORLD CIRCULAR CHESS CHAMPS HEAD FOR LINCOLN

Chess champs will be going round in circles this month as Lincoln proves that the game is anything but square.

For the ninth year running the historic city of Lincoln will host the World Circular Chess Tournament – an event that previously has attracted players from as far afield as Malaysia, Australia, Crete and Spain.

Circular chess dates back to the 12th Century, but was overtaken by the better known square board variety until the circle was resurrected by a historian in Lincoln in the 1980s.

Since then more than 600 of the distinctive circular boards sporting the City of Lincoln crest have been sold around the world.

And Sunday 16th May will see the Lindum Group sponsored 2004 World Championships played out once again in Lincoln with a top prize of £200 on offer.

Although players travel from Europe and from all corners of the UK, the event is open to all, whether novice or expert.

More details about the event are available on www.worldcircularchess.co.uk and tickets can be ordered by e-mail at info@circularchess.co.uk

EXTREME CHALLENGE PITS WIND AND KITE SURFERS AGAINST THE WASH!

A unique sea challenge between windsurfers and kitesurfers will help launch a weekend of extreme sports events in Skegness this summer.

Pro kitesurfers and windsurfers aim to test their skills against each other in a head-to-head race across the Wash – the first time such a crossing has ever been done.

Covering a distance of 14 miles each way, the race is likely to last two hours and will not only help kick-off Windfest 2004 in Skegness but also raise charity cash for the RNLI.

Windfest is the UK's Number One extreme sports events and this year for the first time is being staged amidst the wide-open beaches of Skegness.

The Wash Race from Skegness to Hunstanton and back again will take place during the week of 5th-10th June while Windfest 2004 itself will be on 11th-13th June.

Over 15,000 people are expected to attend the event taking place on the north beach and popular Skegness resort Butlins is on board with Windfest 2004, not only with accommodation but also by hosting two surf parties.

More details about accommodation at Butlins can be found on their website www.butlins.com while full details of Windfest 2004 can be found on www.windfest.co.uk

CHOCOHOLIC POD WINS OVER TASTE JUDGES

Taste of Lincolnshire members Special Edition Chocolate from Market Rasen sent judges at a recent awards event into a chocoholic frenzy!

Going back to the Mayan roots of chocolate tastes, Special Edition created a life-size cocoa pod packed full of chilli and ginger truffles.

And their unusual creation scooped the Sugar/Confectionery category of Food From Britain's Ideas to Dine For awards.

On hand to present the award to Special Edition's Rosanna Benn Dixon was TV chef Rick Stein who led the team of industry experts judging the awards.

Dubbed the Chocolate Source, the winning creation was a dark chocolate pod containing chilli and ginger truffles, but the pod is also made in milk and white chocolate with any combination of other truffles

More information from Special Editions Chocolates, 01673 844 073.

£3 MILLION BOOST FOR LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

From soldiers drilling there in the 19th century to the Rolling Stones performing in their 60s heyday Lincoln's Drill Hall has had a glorious past.

But now thanks to a £2.6m revamp, the city centre building has been given a new lease of life – after lying disused since 1999.

Leisure chiefs aim to return the restored Drill Hall to its former headline-grabbing status, reflecting the days when international stars such as the Rolling Stones and the Batchelors played there in the 1960s.

Creating the city's first new publicly funded concert venue in decades, the Drill Hall is one of the most important projects in Lincoln's development as a cultural centre.

After 12 months work, the brand new state-of-the-art community venue is now open offering locals and visitors a venue catering for 350 seated or a standing audience of 650 as well as café/bar and meeting rooms.

And fittingly, one of the first concerts to be staged was a Rolling Stones tribute band.

But offering a hint of events to come, the Drill Hall has also lined up a sell-out concert by top UK jazz solo artist Jamie Cullum who has taken the music world by storm.

Already the hall has hosted Lincoln's first contemporary craft fair and a concert by the acclaimed National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

LINCOLNSHIRE MARKET TOWN AMONG 'BEST IN ENGLAND'

Lincolnshire market town Sleaford has been picked out by rural campaigners as one of England's best.

A major study by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) carried out a 'health check' on 120 market towns which found that many were in danger of losing their character and distinctiveness because of 'bland' development, serious traffic congestion and services stretched to the limit.

But after looking at 120 up and down the country, the CPRE singled out 20 as being those that stood out from the rest – with Sleaford one of them.

It was praised for its policies to promote town centre shopping, its twice-weekly markets and major developments such as The Hub – a renovated riverside warehouse transformed into the largest space for contemporary arts and crafts outside London.

And the CPRE is urging others to follow the examples of the best practice towns by delivering good planning, regenerating 'brown field' sites, civic pride, local markets, events and festivals.

In Sleaford, more regeneration could come courtesy of a proposed massive £55 million scheme to breathe new life into an abandoned former Maltings which won royal support from Prince Charles during a visit to Sleaford late last year.

LINCOLNSHIRE BRIEFS....

Flying high by the seaside. Some of the world's top kite-flyers are expected to descend on the Lincolnshire coastal resort of Cleethorpes for the annual International Kite Festival this month. This popular annual event takes place this year on the 15th and 16th May from 10am – 5pm. Adding to the spectacle, Saturday will see night flying and a fireworks finale. For more information contact Cleethorpes TIC on (01472) 323111.

Lincoln Waterfront Festival. July will see water-based fun taking to the streets around the stunning Brayford Waterfront in Lincoln. Live music, water shows, street theatre and a craft market are just some of the treats on offer at the Lincoln Waterfront Festival 2004 which takes place on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th July. Free entertainment for all ages and tastes, the event has become a popular annual attraction in Lincoln and will also feature a grand firework display.

Supergran launches new thrill ride. A daredevil great-grandma was the first person to test a new 100mph white-knuckle ride on the Lincolnshire coast. Eighty-three-year-old Mabel Swift was catapulted 300ft skywards in a reverse bungee jump at The Magical World of Fantasy Island in Ingoldmells. And plucky Mabel, from Bridlington, East Yorkshire, was so unfazed by the latest thrill ride at the popular park that she got straight back on the Absolutely Insane ride for a second go! More details from www.fantasyisland.co.uk

Tasty treat for Boston visitors. Boston Railway Station has been rejuvenated with the conversion of some of the station building into a cafe bar. 'Shunters' is a member of the Tastes of Lincolnshire providing a range of local sourced and homemade food plus picnic hampers, breakfast and lunch pack ups. As well as offering visitor information, Shunters will also soon be home to the Boston 1536 Virtual Reality simulator for a while before it relocates to the Cultural Quarter Boston.

Notes to Editors:

Find out more about Lincolnshire and visitor events by clicking on www.visitlincolnshire.com

For further information please contact media manager Mark Hibbert on 01522 526 450 or mark@lincolnshiretourism.com