Great Coates
Village Magazine

Bringing the community together



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GOLD MEDAL

Winter 2025

Issue No 37

Great Coates Village Council
Community • Democracy • Transparency

Council Information

Chairman	Cllr Karl Green	cllr.k.green@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
Vice Chairman	Cllr Jim Masterton	cllr.j.masterton@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
Councillors	Cllr Lisa Cutting	cllr.l.cutting@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
	Cllr Chris Dunn	cllr.c.dunn@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
	Cllr Sarah Hall	cllr.s.hall@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
	Cllr Ambily Mathews	cllr.a.mathews@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
	Cllr Mike Stewart	cllr.m.stewart@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
	Cllr Kevin Redgrift	cllr.k.redgrift@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
Clerk to the Council	Carl Thomas	clerk@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	Cllr Steve Holland	steve.holland@nelincs.gov.uk
	Cllr Lyndsey Downes	lyndsey.downes@nelincs.gov.uk
	Cllr Paul Bright	paul.bright.freshney@gmail.com
Email	clerk@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk	
Postal Address	28 Allington Drive, Great Coates, Grimsby, DN37 9FF	

Schedule of Meetings

All meetings are held at the Venue in the Village, Cooks Lane, Great Coates commencing at 7 pm unless otherwise stated.

Thursday 18th December 2025
Thursday 26th February 2026
Thursday 26th March 2026

The Great Coates Village Magazine is edited and produced by Great Coates Village Council.

Opinions or views expressed within the magazine are solely the views of individuals and do not necessarily represent the view of Great Coates Village Council.



Dawn Stewart

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dawn Stewart, one of Great Coates longest serving and most devoted residents. Dawn's connection to the village began in 1960 when she moved here with her parents. Her father, Rolly Stocks, became the village bobby, and Dawn attended the Village School, settling into village life from the very beginning. Those early roots shaped a lifelong bond with the community she would ultimately come to serve so faithfully.

Dawn's life was marked by kindness, quiet determination, and a deep sense of duty to both her family and her village. She dedicated many years to caring for her mother, demonstrating a compassion and steadiness that reflected her character. Alongside this, she poured extraordinary energy into Great Coates itself. Together with her husband, Mike, she became a cornerstone of Great Coates in Bloom, helping to transform the village and elevate it onto both the regional and national stage. Their efforts saw Great Coates achieve three East Midlands in Bloom Gold Awards and, ultimately, the prestigious Britain in Bloom Gold.

None of these achievements were sought for personal recognition. They were driven by Dawn's genuine love for her village – its people, its appearance, its spirit, and its future. The colour, warmth, and pride that define Great Coates today stand as part of her lasting legacy.

Dawn will be remembered with heartfelt affection and immense gratitude. On behalf of the whole community, we extend our deepest condolences to Mike, her family, and all who knew and loved her.

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HALLOWEEN

A Night of Shadows, Secrets and Suspense

















Halloween at The Venue in the Village was nothing short of spellbinding this year, as residents packed into a sold-out murder mystery spectacular. Featuring an impressive cast of 24 characters, the evening unfolded with twists, tension and a generous dash of theatrical mischief.



This year's production went even further, blending drama with lively music and atmospheric dance sequences that brought the story to life in striking fashion. These moments added rhythm, colour and energy to an already gripping performance, drawing the audience deeper into the mystery.





Supported by an exceptional sound and lighting display, the atmosphere shifted from eerie to electric as the clues began to surface and alliances unravelled. The audience played their part brilliantly, scrutinising every movement, every whisper and every suspicious glance as they searched for the culprit.



The theme for the night left everyone on edge:

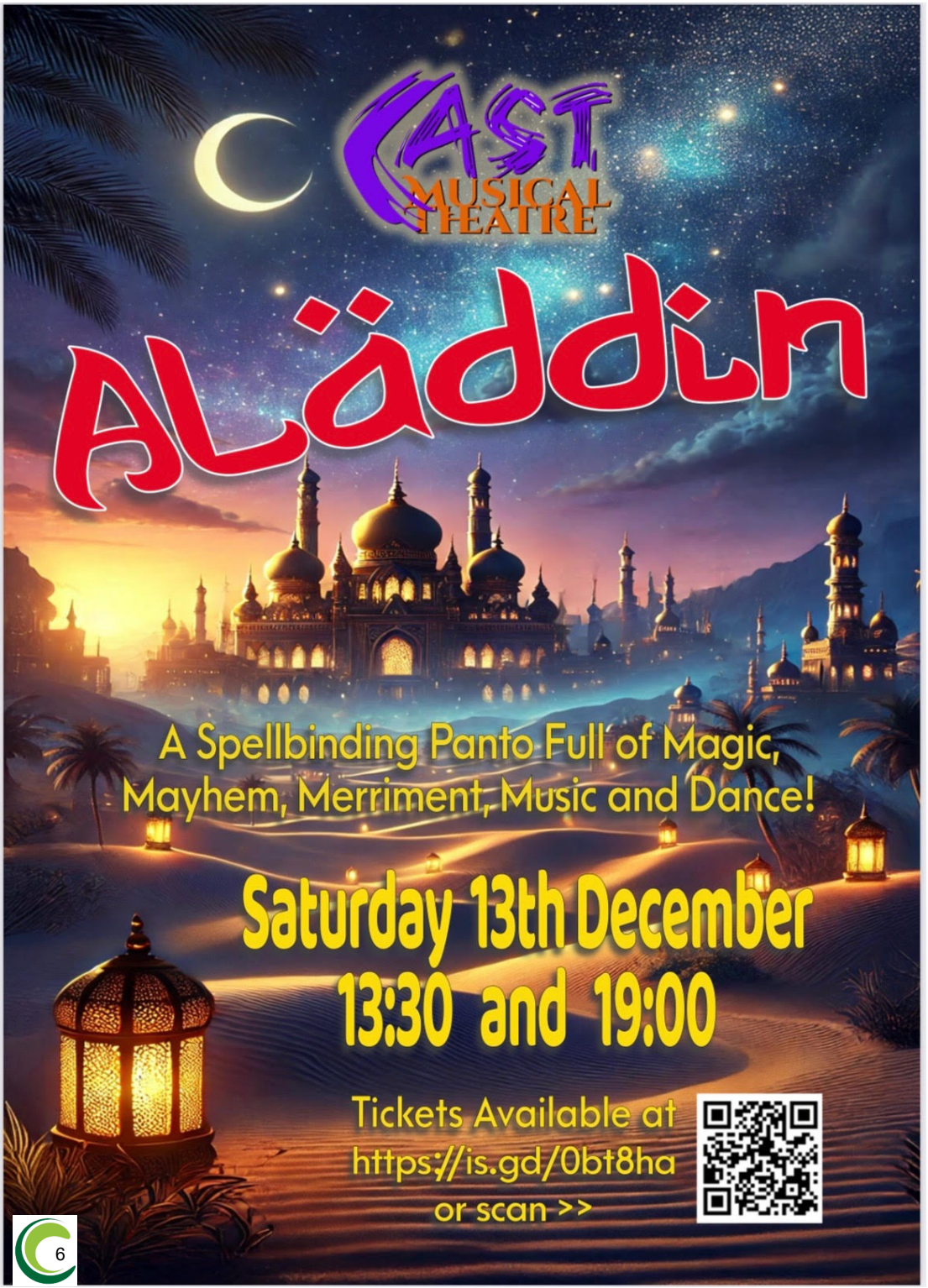
"One walks in shadow, one hides in light, but only one's hands are truly tonight. Keep your eyes open, the killer walks among you. Watch the stage, watch the guests, and remember… no one is innocent."





It was an unforgettable community event—creative, clever and wonderfully dramatic—and a perfect way to celebrate Halloween together.




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East Midlands Railway has introduced a number of timetable changes that will affect services in Great Coates and Grimsby. These changes form part of a wider update across the network aimed at improving reliability, increasing capacity, and strengthening links between communities.

The new timetable provides an additional 2,000 seats across the region and introduces a direct service between Matlock and Cleethorpes. Locally, the Barton–Cleethorpes route will see revised timings, so passengers are encouraged to check updated schedules before travelling.

Full timetable details can be found on page 41 of this magazine, or by visiting the East Midlands Railway website.www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk

A new defibrillator is now available to support residents at the Church end of the village.

Located alongside the bus stop along Great Coates Road the village is now covered with a defibrillator in the centre of the village (Venue in the Village) and the industrial estate end (Fastnet Fish). Access to any defibrillator is gained by ringing 999.



The Council's Local Plan is scheduled for an update in 2026, with a further consultation beginning in December 2025. This will give residents another opportunity to share their views on the proposed development.

If you believe that building 3,500 houses - effectively merging the villages of Great Coates, Laceby, and Healing will have a harmful impact on our already overstretched roads, local wildlife, the Freshney River, flood risk, and essential services, please make sure to respond to the consultation once it opens.

The consultation will be available on the NELC website from early December. Simply search for **"NELC Have Your Say."**

Stallingborough 3 Sea Defence Improvement Works

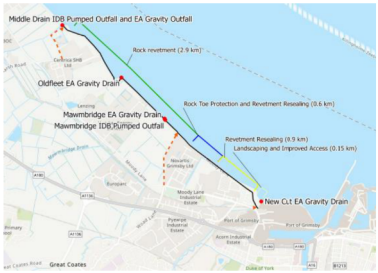
Newsletter - Autumn 2025

Key information and updates about the sea defence improvement work taking place near Stallingborough, North East Lincolnshire.

What are we doing?

The Environment Agency are working with our delivery partners Jacksons Civil Engineering, Arup, and Jacobs, improving 4.5km of coastal flood defence between the Ports of Immingham and Grimsby on the south Humber bank.

The now four-year construction programme continues to reduce the risk of tidal flooding to thousands of properties, major industry, and important infrastructure in the area.



Scheme Overview

The accelerated flood defence project began a year early during the summer of 2023.

In compliance with environmental constraints, protecting overwintering birds within the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) work is paused Estuary site over the winter season (October - March).

Year 3 Progress:

Completion of the rock amour

The final small-scale element of rock installation took place in spring / summer 2025, closing the gaps over/ adjacent sea outfalls. Completing the necessary sea defence strengthening works.

In a move away from traditional concrete and steel pile sea defences, the granite rocks reduce the energy of the waves hitting the sea wall significantly reducing overtopping.

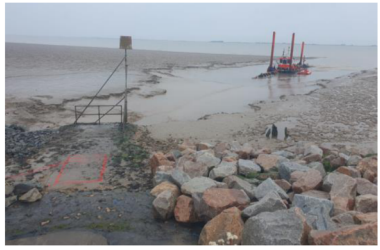
The methodology is also more sustainable as the rocks can be reused at the end of the 25-year project life to adapt to further predicted sea level rise.



Granite rock armour installed along 3km of coastal flood defence

Outfalls desilt, inspect and repair

Alongside reinforcing the sea defence, we are upgrading the four gravity outfall culverts that pass through it. Improving access for maintenance to ensure they remain fully functional for at least 25 years.



Humber Work Boats – Oldfleet Drain foreshore channel de-silt

Middle and Mawmbridge Drain culvert structural works are complete. Oldfleet Drain works are ongoing following the foreshore channel de-silt in summer 2025.

New access tracks are complete to aid maintenance at Oldfleet and New Cut Drains, the latter of which included a major crossing of Anglian Water sewerage pipes.



Above - Oldfleet Drain – new access track



Above - New Cut Drain - Anglian Water sewerage mains crossing and new access tracks

Environmental Enhancement

Installation of a Bee bank has provided increased nesting areas for the protected Sea Aster bees.



Bee prospecting for a burrow at the bee bank

Working with local stakeholders

The Project team are working closely with the North East Lindsey Drainage Board to make improvements at Middle, Mawmbridge and Oldfleet Drains, as well as Anglian Water for improvements at New Cut Drain.

We continue to work with North East Lincolnshire Council, landowners and works plant operators, to ensure to minimise disruption to their usual services.

Year 4 (2026) Programme

Unfortunately, design and funding delays to the culvert works require an additional year to complete construction. Landward side works over winter 2025/26 with completion by autumn 2026:

- A new high-level overflow will be installed at Oldfleet Drain, linking to Middle Drain pumping station to reduce flood risk upstream.
- Following a structural investigation, Oldfleet Drain will have a structural liner pipe added to the inside to provide additional strength.
- Provision of tidal resilient penstocks/ flood gates at Middle Drain and Oldfleet Drain.

Estuary-side flood defence works will pause over winter 2025/26 to comply with SSSI environmental constraints, resuming in March 2026. Planned estuary side work from spring 2026:

- Subject to securing funding: commencement of New Cut Drain culvert works – foreshore channel and culvert de-silt, structural repairs, provision of new tidal flap valve and new maintenance access points.
- Environmental enhancement & landscaping.
- Site demobilisation planned for October 2026.

Local Impact

Due to the need for an additional year of construction, the public right of way along the sea defence between New Cut Drain/ Pyewipe and Middle Drain will need to remain closed for health and safety reasons.

Impact to local housing will be minimal as the site is remote. Working is restricted to daylight hours Monday to Friday. Traffic management will be minimal at Moody Lane and only when necessary to facilitate delivery of plant to site for the ongoing works.

Site Security

The main compound and satellite compounds will have 24-hour security throughout the works and access to the compounds will only be during the agreed working hours.

Contact

If you require any further information, you can contact the Project Team by calling the Environment Agency's Customer Contact centre: 03708 506 506 or by directly emailing us at:

Stallingborough@environment-agency.gov.uk

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Lest We Forget



On Sunday, November 9th 2025, the Great Coates community gathered at the village War Memorial for a poignant and solemn service to honour the memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the World Wars. The ceremony, led with heartfelt sincerity by Rev Daffyd Robinson, drew a significant number of residents, reflecting the deep respect and gratitude the village holds for its fallen heroes.

The service began with reflections and prayers, setting a contemplative tone for the occasion. A moving two-minute silence was observed with profound respect, offering an opportunity for attendees to remember the brave men and women of Great Coates who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of freedom and peace. The stillness during the silence was a powerful testament to the shared reverence of all present.



Wreaths were laid at the memorial by a wide range of local organisations and individuals, each representing a unique part of the Great Coates community. These included the Great Coates Nursery School, Great Coates Village Council, Independent Councillors for North East Lincolnshire, St. Nicholas Church, Great Coates In Bloom, Freshney Forward, and the Women's Institute. Each wreath was a symbol of remembrance and gratitude, honouring the legacy of the village's servicemen and women.

The service not only commemorated those lost in conflict but also underscored the unity and resilience of the Great Coates community. Residents of all ages, from the very young to the elderly, came together to pay their respects, demonstrating that the spirit of remembrance remains strong across generations.

The event concluded with a benediction and the singing of hymns, creating a sense of shared hope and commitment to the values for which so many gave their lives. This annual tradition continues to be a cornerstone of Great Coates' communal life, reminding all of the enduring importance of remembering and honouring the sacrifices of the past while fostering a spirit of unity and





As we come to the end of another year this is a good opportunity to look back over the previous twelve months and review what has happened at St Nicolas.

Although the parish has remained without a resident vicar we have continued to provide services thanks to the hard work of the deanery administrator and the good will of various retired ministers, and other lay ministers. A huge thanks to all of them.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and successful applications for loans we have been able to install an effective sound system and improve the lighting. We celebrated this with a day of singing and poetry readings, supported by the Singing for Fun group. This was well attended and everyone enjoyed the day.

Advent is the start of the church year and last year we again kicked off the season by celebrating the feast of St Nicolas with our Christmas Tree Festival and Christingle which were well supported. As usual there were trees of all shapes and sizes and demonstrated the imagination and creativity of all those who took part.

As in previous years we installed our meditation walk in the churchyard during the Easter period which was accessed by parishioners as demonstrated by the placement of prayer pebbles towards the end of the walk, and the use of the booklets provided.

The church also opened its doors for the Heritage Day with a focus on design and architecture and people were encouraged to compare the church tower with others in the area, some visitors braved the tower stairs to visit the ringing chamber and the bell room.

We have welcomed couples into the church to celebrate their weddings and baptism families have engaged with our new addition returning to collect their baptism baubles at one of our less formal services.
We continue to maintain the building and churchyard with the support of volunteers, who ensure essential works are carried out. A huge thank you to all those who support this work.

Great Coates Village Council

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A LIGHT-HEARTED LOOK AT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

As the final page of our village calendar is turned, the familiar scene unfolds: every lamppost, every front garden in Great Coates seems to whisper of clean slates and fresh starts. The festive lights have been taken down, the last mince pie crumbs swept away, and now the crisp air carries more than the promise of frost—it carries possibility.

Here in Great Coates, we're no strangers to community spirit. Whether it's the volunteers tending our village planters, the folk chatting at the bus stop about the next heritage walk, or the Speedwatch team keeping things safe, there's an unspoken readiness to step into the New Year together. And so as the clock ticks towards midnight, there's a kind of collective resolution-ritual underway: "Let's make 2026 better, brighter, and a little more memorable right here in our own lane."

For three, six, or maybe even twelve hopeful weeks, many of us pledge to become more active — taking the footpath from the Church to the Dock Tower, perhaps — or to become more connected by calling up that neighbour whose name we've known but whose face we've barely glimpsed. Some vow to embrace healthier habits, others to spend a Saturday afternoon volunteering for the village tidy-up rather than falling into the sofa-trap of daytime television.

Of course, Great Coates also knows its realism. The wind off the Humber may test our optimism, the heating bills may remind us of the everyday pressures, and that comfortable pair of slippers may have sentimental value. So when our bold resolutions encounter the usual life-curves—unexpected work-calls, soggy footpaths, or a surprise invitation to cake at the village hall—we don't despair. Instead we grin, shrug, and say: "Well, at least we gave it a go."

Because the truth is, resolutions aren't solely about perfection. They're about intention. They're about the spirit of community: the willingness to step outside the familiar fence, to share a smile across the allotments, to say "hello" at the Speedwatch stop, to lend a hand when needed. And if along the way we slip up—miss that morning walk around the Dock Tower path, forget to sort one recycling bin—well, that's human. What matters is that we keep going, keep caring, and keep making Great Coates a place where small things mean a lot.

So let's raise our (non-alcoholic) glass to the year ahead: a year of hopes, one of small but steady steps, one of village-wide momentum. Because in a place like Great Coates, every resolution—however humble—has the potential to ripple outwards and make a difference.

Take at least one winter walk around the village without complaining about the weather

Learn the name of two neighbours you've waved to for years but never actually spoken to

Spend more time outdoors…and less time glaring at the TV when the broadband drops during the home-office session.

Attempt a week without losing your phone, keys, glasses or that one glove that vanishes every winter.

Support one extra local event this year - even if it means braving the raffle at the Village Hall.

Compliment at least one volunteer every month. Whether it's the In Bloom team, Speedwatch, litter pickers or events team.

Visit one part of the village you haven't explored in years. A wonder down Woad Lane or a stroll by the churchyard can work wonders

Promise not to complain when your wait at the level crossing when you realise it's three trains passing

Accept the fact that the village dog (or the village cat) will always choose the muddiest possible spot

Take one photograph each season to celebrate how Great Coates changes through the year. You might even end up with a magazine cover contender !

Do one small thing each week to brighten Great Coates - pick up a piece of litter, water a planter or smile at someone you pass

Spend more time outdoors…and less time glsaring at the TV when the broadband drops duringt he home-office session.

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WINTER











Great Coates Village Nursery once again lit up the season with heart-warming charm as they hosted their 4th Christmas Winter Wonderland, beautifully combined with a bustling seasonal craft fair. The nursery has been working tirelessly since September – a true labour of love – creating a magical display of handcrafted decorations, festive artwork, and winter-themed creations by the children, all guided and inspired by the dedicated staff. Their efforts paid off superbly, as every visitor was greeted with a sense of awe, joy, and village pride.

A special note of thanks goes to Tom Cook and the Brass Band, whose live music added a traditional Christmas atmosphere that wrapped around the event like a warm scarf. Their festive melodies echoed through the winter air, lifting spirits and adding the final flourish to a truly enchanting occasion.

Although the weather didn't behave with the crisp winter frost we might have hoped for, it certainly didn't dampen the merriment. Under Santa's cheerful instruction, and with help from his trusty penguin and snowman companions, everyone simply decided to pretend the rain was snow – because when Santa says it's Christmas… it is Christmas!

This delightful event once again demonstrated the heart of our village – creativity, community, and the shared joy of bringing people together. Great Coates Village Nursery can be very proud of another successful Winter Wonderland, and we look forward to many more magical gatherings in the years ahead.

WONDERLAND













COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Can you help us educate the drivers who speed in your community?

We are seeking a number of volunteers to join a Community Speed Watch scheme in your area.

Could you spare two hours a month?

Anyone aged over 18 can take part.

All training and equipment is provided free of charge.

This is your opportunity to make a difference in your community.

If you are interested, please contact your Parish Council or email **csw.admin@humberside.police.uk**

You can also visit www.humberside.police.uk to find out more!



This initiative is administered by Humberside Police with the full support of all the local Town and Parish Councils across the region.



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KEEPING WARM AND WELL THIS WINTER IN GREAT COATES



As winter settles over Great Coates and the mornings glisten with frost along Station Road and The Green, our thoughts turn to warmth, comfort, and kindness. December brings that familiar mix of festive cheer and cosy nights in, but it can also be a testing time — particularly for those living alone or managing on tight budgets.

This year, our message is simple: **let's look after ourselves — and one another.** A few small steps can make a big difference to our comfort, health, and peace of mind.

🏠 Keeping Your Home Warm

Keeping warm doesn't always mean keeping the heating high.

Check your heating.
Have your boiler serviced before the temperature really drops, and bleed radiators to improve efficiency.

Block draughts.
Use draught excluders or seal strips to keep warm air in and cold air out. Even a rolled-up towel can help on windy nights.

Use curtains wisely.
Open them in the day to let in sunlight and close them at dusk to trap the warmth.

Focus your heat.
If you're home during the day, heat the rooms you use most and keep doors closed. A timer thermostat ensures warmth when you need it most.

Warm Spaces.
The **Venue in the Village** on Cooks Lane will once again open as a **Warm Space** on selected days this winter — offering hot drinks, friendly faces, and a welcoming atmosphere for anyone who needs it. Opening times will appear on the parish website and noticeboards.

🍲 Eating Well and Staying Nourished

Good food is one of winter's best defences.

Cook simply and economically.
Soups, stews, and casseroles made with vegetables, beans, and lentils are inexpensive, filling, and full of nutrients.

Keep hydrated.
Hot drinks like tea, coffee, or lemon water help keep you warm and hydrated.

Seek support if needed.
If you or someone you know is struggling to prepare meals, local meal delivery and volunteer services can help. The Parish Council can direct residents to appropriate support.

🚶 Staying Active and Connected

The darker months can make it tempting to stay indoors, but a little movement and social contact work wonders.

Get outdoors.
A stroll along The Green or through the churchyard on a crisp morning boosts

Join in locally.
The **Venue in the Village** hosts regular coffee mornings, craft sessions, and quiz nights — perfect for catching up with friends or meeting new people.

Keep in touch.
A quick phone call or doorstep chat can mean the world to someone who's alone. Great Coates thrives on kindness — let's keep that going through winter.

💡 Managing Energy and Costs

Energy bills remain a worry for many, but help is available.

Government schemes.
The **Winter Fuel Payment** and **Cold Weather Payment** are automatic for eligible residents. For advice on insulation or energy grants, call the **Energy Saving Advice Service** on 0800 444 202.

Local support.
North East Lincolnshire Council's *Warm Home* team offers free guidance on energy efficiency and can help access funding for home improvements. Visit **www.nelincs.gov.uk** or call **01472 326296**.

Energy-saving habits.
Turn appliances off at the wall, batch-cook meals, and keep doors closed to hold heat. Small changes add up.

🩺 Health and Wellbeing

Winter can be hard on health, but a little preparation helps enormously.

Vaccinations.
If eligible, book your flu and COVID booster at your local GP or pharmacy — quick, simple, and effective.

Stock essentials.
Ensure you have enough prescription medication for the holiday period and basic supplies like paracetamol and tissues.

Mind your mood.
Shorter days can affect energy levels. Try to get daylight each day, read, listen to music, or join a local group. If you're struggling, **Age UK North East Lincolnshire (01472 344976)** and the **Samaritans (116 123)** are there to listen.

💔 Looking Out for One Another

The strength of Great Coates lies in its people. A quick check on an elderly neighbour, a shared cuppa, or help clearing a path after frost — these small gestures make a huge difference.

If you need help, never hesitate to ask. The Parish Council and volunteers are always willing to lend a hand, and our village has a proud tradition of care and compassion.

🌟 In Summary

As we light our Christmas candles and look toward the new year, let's carry forward that spirit of friendship and community that defines Great Coates. By staying warm, staying well, and looking out for one another, we can ensure no one faces the winter months alone.

Here's to a safe, cosy, and caring winter for everyone in our village.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas in Great Coates received a rather unexpected setback this year. On 5 December, a traffic accident near the Village Christmas Tree forced the cancellation of our much-anticipated light switch-on. The vehicle involved collided with the electrical supply, leaving both the lamp post and our beautifully decorated tree without power. It was an unfortunate and disappointing moment for everyone who had worked so hard to prepare the display, and for those looking forward to seeing the village lit up.

By the time you are reading this, we hope the situation has been resolved and the lights are once again shining brightly for all to enjoy. However, true to the Great Coates spirit, a lack of electricity did not dim our festive cheer.

On 6 December, more than 100 residents gathered at the Venue in the Village for an evening full of seasonal excitement. Children and families enjoyed games, music, magic, and plenty of dancing, all wrapped up in a wonderfully joyful Christmas atmosphere.





The biggest moment of the night came with the arrival of Santa Claus himself, greeted with wide smiles, eager waves, and a long list of Christmas wishes.

Despite the setback outside, the heart of the community shone brighter than ever inside. Laughter replaced disappointment, and together the village proved that Christmas is not about the lights on the tree, but the spirit shared between neighbours and friends.



Great Coates may have had a slightly different Christmas start this year, but thanks to everyone who came together, it remained every bit as magical.

IN GREAT COATES



















THE VAMPIRE STRIKES HALLOWEEN PARTY



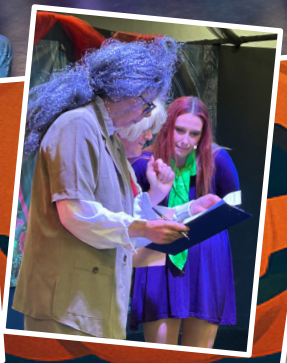














Great Coates was transported straight back to the 1970s as the beloved characters from Scooby-Doo burst into town for a Halloween weekend full of singing, dancing and mischievous fun. Children packed into The Venue in the Village to meet the famous Mystery Inc. gang, who arrived ready to entertain from the very first moment.

Scooby-Doo himself was the star of the show, bounding onto the stage with his trademark mix of courage and clumsy charm. He was joined by the full original line-up: the ever-enthusiastic Shaggy, brainy Velma, glamorous Daphne, and cool-headed Fred, all dressed exactly as fans remember them. Together, they performed a lively programme of songs and dance routines that brought the classic cartoon to life for a whole new generation.

Children were soon up on their feet, joining in with familiar catchphrases and dancing along to the “Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?” theme tune. The cast kept young ones thoroughly entertained with party games throughout the afternoon — from spooky treasure hunts to monster-themed competitions and team challenges, all sprinkled with the good-natured humour that made the TV show such a hit.

Laughter, music and excitement filled the hall, and the smiles on children’s faces said everything. The visit from Mystery Inc. proved to be one of the highlights of the Halloween celebrations, blending nostalgia for parents with unforgettable fun for the village’s youngest residents.

It was a colourful, joyful afternoon — and judging by the cheers at the end, Great Coates wouldn’t say no to another mystery-solving visit from Scooby and the gang!













Venue in the Village
Cooks Lane
Great Coates

Tickets
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31st December 2025
7 pm

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The Christmas Star of Great Coates

A festive tale for children (and grown-ups who still believe in magic)

It was the first week of December in the village of Great Coates, and a light frost had painted the trees and hedges silver. The rooftops sparkled under the glow of the streetlamps, and the smell of mince pies drifted from the community hall where the Christmas Fayre was being prepared.



Everyone in the village was busy. Cllr Stewart was arranging the fairy lights around the big Christmas tree on the green. Mrs. Blake was baking her famous spiced shortbread for the market stall. Even the ducks at the pond seemed to be waddling about in excitement.

But in the middle of all the bustle, little **Molly Parker**, aged eight, sat at her bedroom window, gazing at the sky.

You see, Molly loved Christmas more than anything — the carols, the cocoa, the cosy evenings by the fire — but this year felt different. Her dad was working away on the fishing boats until Christmas Eve, and she missed him terribly.

She had made him a card and wrapped up a scarf she'd knitted herself, but what she really wanted was for him to be home in time to put the star on top of their tree, just like every year before.

"Please," she whispered to the stars. "Let Dad come home for Christmas."

Just then, something bright streaked across the night sky — a tiny golden flash that landed somewhere near the old churchyard. Molly gasped. "A shooting star!" she said. "Maybe it's magic!"

Without a moment's thought, she pulled on her red coat and boots, wrapped her scarf tightly around her neck, and tiptoed out into the frosty night. The village was quiet, apart from the crunch of snow beneath her feet and the faint jingle of bells from the decorations fluttering in the wind.

She followed the glow until she reached the churchyard, where the old yew trees stood guard like wise old giants. And there, nestled in the snow, was something shimmering — a tiny star, no bigger than an apple, glowing softly as if it had a heartbeat.



"Oh my goodness," whispered Molly. "You fell from the sky!"

The star flickered, and to her amazement, it spoke — not in words exactly, but in warm, musical tones that she could



somehow understand.

“I need to get back to the sky before Christmas Eve,” it said. “Without me, the Northern Lights won’t shine on Christmas Night.”

Molly thought hard. “The windmill is the tallest place in the village,” she said. “Maybe from there, you can fly home!”

And so began their adventure.

Molly tucked the little star into her mitten to keep it warm and set off through the village. As she passed the green, she saw the big tree, half-finished and twinkling faintly in the cold. “We’ll make it shine even brighter soon,” she promised.

They reached the windmill on the edge of the village — its sails stood still in the moonlight, dusted with snow. The door creaked as Molly pushed it open, and the air inside smelled of old flour and adventure.

“Hold on tight!” she said as she climbed the spiral stairs, her torchlight dancing on the walls.

At the very top, Molly opened the hatch to the cold night sky. The view took her breath away — the whole village lay below like a Christmas card, roofs glittering, lights twinkling, and smoke curling gently from chimneys.

“Here we go,” she said, holding out the star. “Time to go home.”

But the star hesitated. “Before I go,” it hummed softly, “I can grant one wish.”

Molly didn’t even need to think. “I wish my dad could come home safely for Christmas,” she said.

The star pulsed with golden light, brighter and brighter, until it lifted gently from her mitten and soared into the sky — leaving behind a trail of sparkles that drifted down over the village like snowflakes made of starlight.

The next morning, the village was buzzing. People said they’d seen the Northern Lights dancing above Great Coates — ribbons of green and gold rippling across the sky like magic. The big Christmas tree shone brighter than ever, its fairy lights sparkling as though touched by the heavens themselves.

And just as Molly was hanging her stocking by the fire that evening, there came a knock at the door.

“Merry Christmas, sweetheart,” said her dad, standing there with a big grin, snow in his hair, and his arms wide open. “I made it home after all.”

Molly squealed and hugged him tightly. “I knew you would,” she whispered.

That Christmas Eve, as the villagers



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INTRODUCING...

Sharan Gohil the Franchise Owner and Registered Manager of Blossom Home Care Lincolnshire. Sharan lives in Healing with her husband and two beautiful girls. Having worked as a Neonatal nurse at Grimsby Hospital for over 19 years Sharan is passionate about delivering the same exacting standards to adult home care. Whether it's assistance with daily activities, medication management, or personal care, your well-being is Sharan, and her team's, top priority.

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Hello once again from Great Coates W.I. and 'Merry Christmas' and a 'Happy New Year' to you all.

In September our meeting really challenged us as we were shown many items from the past and we had to work out what they were used for, very interesting. An apple pie supper followed.

Our October meeting was finding out how to research your family history and our competition that night was to reveal any hidden secrets discovered by any research……shhhh….I'm not telling!

Our November meeting coincided with



'World Kindness Day' so we treated our ladies to a session of aromatherapy and, part of our 'serving the community', we donated toiletries to the Women's Refuge Centre. Two large boxes were received with gratitude. We also continue to support the Oasis South Food Bank on a weekly basis.

Our December meeting is a time for creativity and fun. This session will be led by a member of the committee. We will share a faith supper, and 'Secret Santa' will pay a visit!

Look out for our entry in St Nicolas Christmas Tree Festival on December 6th / 7th . We have won the last two years so hopefully, we can make it a hat trick.

We are currently working on our new programme for the new year, planning on choosing a wide variety of subjects to interest our members.

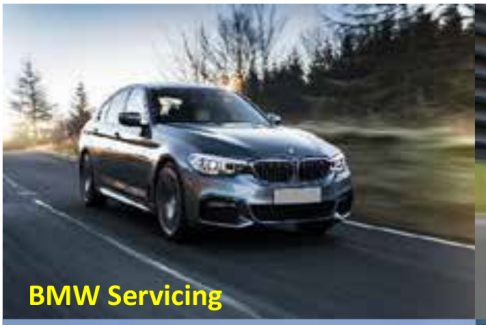
We recently had a visit from one of our local advisors and she complimented us on the friendliness and lovely atmosphere of the meeting. As always, a warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to join us. We meet at the village hall in Great Coates on the second Thursday of the month. 7.30pm.

Pauline Armitage
President of Great Coates WI
Tel: 07950068301



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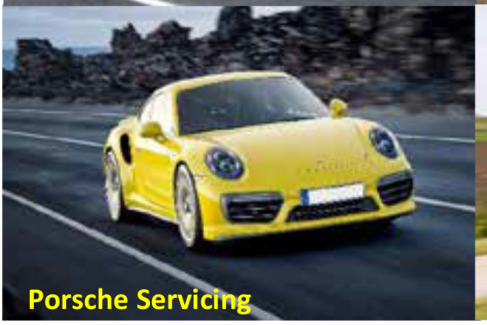
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Looking After Our Village Trees: What You Need to Know



Over recent months the Parish Council has received several questions about what residents can and cannot do to trees in the conservation area. It's clear there's some confusion around the rules – especially when i comes to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and the notification process for work on trees. This article sets out the facts so everyone knows where they stand.

Trees in a Conservation Area – The Basics

If you live in a conservation area, any tree with a trunk diameter of more than 75mm (7.5cm) measured at 1.5m above ground level is automatically protected by law, even if it does not have a TPO. This is because conservation areas are given special status to protect their character and landscape.

If you wish to prune, cut down or remove a tree, you must serve a Section 211 Notice on the district council. This isn't an application for permission, but a legal notification informing the council of your intentions. You can usually do this using a simple online form or by email.

Once your notice is received, the council has six weeks to respond. During this time, their Tree Officer may visit and assess whether the tree meets the criteria for a TPO. If the tree is considered valuable enough to warrant a TPO, the council can serve one, giving the tree full legal protection. If it does not meet the criteria, the council cannot refuse your proposed work or impose conditions.

TPOs – Full Legal Protection

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is a special legal order placed on individual trees or groups of trees to protect them for their amenity, environmental, or landscape value. There's no minimum size requirement for a TPO.

If a tree already has a TPO, you must obtain formal written permission from the council before carrying out any work, no matter how minor.

If a tree is dead, dangerous, or poses an immediate hazard, the law recognises this as an exception and the time involved is significantly reduced. You should still notify the council as soon as possible, ideally with photographs and supporting information, to show why urgent action was necessary. In many cases, the council will accept retrospective notice if immediate work was essential for safety.



Why the Parish Council Isn't Consulted

Some residents have asked why the Parish Council doesn't get involved in these decisions. The law is clear: Section 211 Notices are between the resident (or their contractor) and the district council's Tree Officer. Parish councils are not statutory consultees for these notices, so they are not formally consulted or required to comment.

Further Information

For full details, visit the Government website and search "Section 211 Notice" or "Tree Preservation Orders" or contact North East Linconshire Council planning department or Tree Officer for advice.

By understanding these rules, we can all help preserve the special character of our conservation area while managing our trees responsibly.

ALL ABOARD THE CLEETHORPES LIGHT RAILWAY

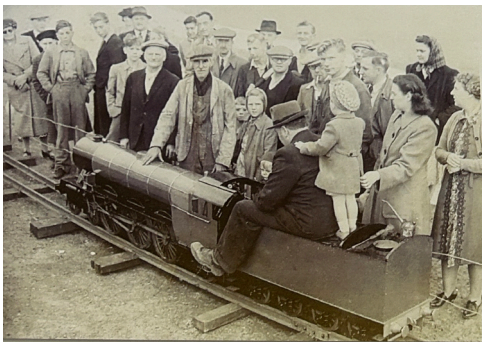
From seaside novelty to cherished heritage line a journey through time along the Lincolnshire coast



There's something quite magical about the sound of a whistle drifting across Cleethorpes on a crisp day. For generations, families have climbed aboard the little trains by the sea — part of a living tradition that began in the years just after the Second World War and evolved, rebuild by rebuild, into today's Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway (CCLR).

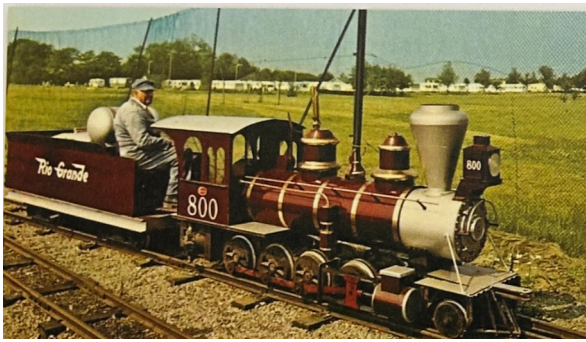
From 10¼-inch beginnings (1948)

The railway's story starts in 1948 — not at 15 inches as many assume, but as a 10¼-inch gauge line. Laid as a single track from the bathing pool to the boating lake, it was soon a firm favourite with



holidaymakers. Over that first winter, the track was relayed as a double line ready for the 1949 season, reflecting the popularity of seaside miniature railways in the post-war years.

The pioneer behind it all was William Botterill — a former showman who, in the late 1940s, moved into dealing and operating miniature railways. Botterill ran the Cleethorpes line from 1948 to 1953, initially with steam traction (1948–1953). When his lease wasn't renewed, the story entered a new chapter.



Electric years and council stewardship (1954–1990)

From 1954, the line was operated by Arthur Clethro, who introduced battery-



electric locomotives — the railway's signature style through the mid-century seaside boom. In 1959, Cleethorpes Borough Council took over and continued to run the battery-electric trains until 1971.

A major redevelopment followed in 1972. During this rebuild, the track gauge was expanded to 14¼ inches — a change remembered locally as a contractor error that the council then worked around. New stock arrived and propane-fired locomotives were introduced to keep costs predictable and operations efficient. Under council ownership, the railway continued to entertain visitors right up to 1990.

A new era: steam returns, CCLR is born (1991–2014)

The next big turning point came in 1991, when a small private group led by Chris Shaw purchased the railway from the council and launched the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway. Their vision: to blend reliable seaside service with genuine heritage appeal.

Key to that plan was another regauging. In 1994, the line was rebuilt to the classic British miniature 15-inch gauge, opening the door to a more diverse fleet, including authentic steam and diesel motive power. Chris and Deborah Shaw steered the railway through two energetic decades — investing in the route, improving stations, curating a fleet with character, and nurturing a strong volunteer culture — before selling the line in 2014 to Seaside Railway Group Ltd, who also own the Scarborough North Bay Railway and Eastleigh Lakeside Railway.

The route: how it shifted over time

The permanent way has never been entirely "permanent" in Cleethorpes — it has flexed with the resort's changing landscape:

- 1949: bathing pool → Thrunscoe
- 1972: Thrunscoe becomes a middle stop; Zoo terminus added
- 1992: Zoo terminus removed; Meridian (Lakeside) constructed
- 2000: bathing-pool terminus moved nearer the road
- 2007: Humberston (North Sea Lane) opens
- Since 2019: no service to Humberston due to level-crossing issues



People, engines, memories

Today's CCLR is a compact line with a big personality — and a fleet that reflects every chapter of its history. The current roster includes 4 diesel locomotives and 4 steam locomotives, with two



steam engines operational at present. Among the favourites is Bonnie Dundee: she arrived in 2016 on loan, entered service in 2021, and has since been purchased from the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway — a much-loved addition that bridges Cleethorpes with one of Britain's best-known 15-inch lines.

A living part of Cleethorpes' identity

What's especially striking is how deeply woven the railway has become into the culture of Cleethorpes itself. When residents speak of it, their memories are often deeply personal — a first childhood



ride sitting next to a grandparent, a day-out tradition on birthdays, or simply the familiar sight of the little train rolling past the boating lake on a bright afternoon. Schoolchildren take educational rides, learning about engineering, signalling, and railway safety from volunteers who delight in passing on their knowledge. Pensioners stop to chat with guards, exchanging news and recollections about the line's earlier form — "I remember when it was still electric," some say, with fond nostalgia.

The railway has also inspired creativity. Local artists have painted it, photographers have captured it across every season, and railway enthusiasts have written articles and produced videos celebrating its locomotives and history. The trains themselves often gain personalities of their own — with children greeting certain locomotives by name as though they were old friends. In recent years, the railway has also drawn visitors who come specifically for miniature railway heritage. It appears in enthusiast calendars, guidebooks, and online forums as a must-visit example of a thriving 15-inch line.

A day out that still feels special

Heritage flavours run through the experience: the compact coaches, the sea-air, the whistle drifting over the boating lake, and the convivial scene at Lakeside — complete with the celebrated

A Brief Timeline

1948 – Railway opens near the boating lake.

1949 – Line extended to Cleethorpes Zoo.

1960s – New locomotives and signals added; a family favourite attraction.

1991 – Major redevelopment; extended to Humberston and renamed Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway.

2001 – Opening of Signal Box Inn at Lakeside Station.

2010s – Heritage galas, themed events, and volunteer expansions grow its popularity.

Today – One of the UK's premier 15-inch gauge heritage railways, celebrating over 75 years of seaside steam.

Signal Box Inn, often billed as the world's smallest pub. Seasonal trains, special events, and gala days ensure there's always a reason to drop by — whether you're a first-time visitor or returning to relive a childhood ride.



More than anything, the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway endures because it weaves itself into personal memories. Children who once waved from the carriages now return decades later with children of their own. Volunteers speak of the pride that comes from maintaining a machine whose purpose is not merely transport, but joy. Locals remember summer evenings when the sun slid low over the Humber and the trains ran full of holidaymakers laughing together. The railway is not just a tourist feature — it is a thread of continuity running from Botterill's early steam days through the electric era and into today's heritage revival.

The romance of Cleethorpes' little railway endures because it has never stood still. It has adapted — sometimes by design, sometimes by necessity — yet always with a clear purpose: to give families a memorable seaside journey. That's as true in 2025 as it was on the first day of operation in 1948.

Fast Facts

Opened: 1948 (originally as the Cleethorpes Miniature Railway)

Gauge: 15 inches (381 mm)

Length: 1¾ miles (2.8 km)

Stations: Kingsway, Lakeside, and Humberston North Sea Lane

Journey time: Around 15 minutes each way

Locomotives: A mix of steam and diesel engines including Mountaineer, Sutton Belle, and Bonnie Dundee

Highlight: The Signal Box Inn — officially recognised as the world's smallest pub!

Events: Real Ale & Cider Festival, 1940s Weekend, Santa Specials, Enthusiasts' Galas

2026 Events

14th & 15th March	Easter Trail
25/26 April	Diesel Power Weekend (Gala)
9th May	BDs 125th In Service Anniversary
23-25 May	Cider Festival
26-28 May	Armed Forces Weekend
11/12 July	Summer Steam
1/2 August	Signal Box In 20th Birthday Bash
11-13 September	Rail, Ale & Blues
26/27 September	Oktoberfest
24 Oct - 1st Nov	Pumpkin Trail

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VENUE IN THE VILLAGE TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
0900 - 1000				Private Hire 9.30 - 11.30	SLT Fitness 0930 - 1030	Core Dance Drama 9 am to 12 pm	
1000 - 1100							
1100 - 1200							
1200 - 1300				Music Bugs 12.30 - 3.00			
1300 - 1400							
1400 - 1500							
1500 - 1600							
1600 - 1700							
1700 - 1800							
1800 - 1900	Puppy & Dog Training 6.30 to 8.30 pm	SLT Fitness 6.30 to 8.30 pm	Cast Theatre 7.00 to 9.00 pm	W.I. 2nd Thursday 7.30 to 9.30 pm			
1900 - 2000							
2000 - 2100							
2100 - 2200							

Private hirings are not shown.
Live availability and costings are on our website www.greatcoatespc.com
Enquiries: email clerk.greatcoatesvc@gmail.com

CAST Theatre	**sarah.1997.hall@gmail.com**
Core Dance Drama	**coredancedrama@gmail.com**
Music Bugs	**julie@musicbugs.co.uk**
Puppy Training	**naturescompanionsdogs@gmail.com**
SLT Fitness	**sltfit@icloud.com**
W.I.	**pauline_armitage@hotmail.com**

VENUE In the VILLAGE

Hire Rates

Standard Hire Rate

Monday to Friday
0800-1600 £15/ hour
1600-2300 £18/ hour

Party Rate

Monday to Sunday
0800-1800 £25/ hour
1800-2200 £35/ hour

Hiring The Venue in the Village

The Venue in the Village is available for hire to private parties including onsite parking.

Chairs and tables are provided together with use of a kitchen and patio doors opening onto a large patio and grassed area.

You may view live availability for The Venue on our website: www.greatcoatespc.com/hall-booking/. Alternatively email clerk@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk or send us a message on Facebook.

What community events would you like to see at The Venue ? Send your ideas to clerk@greatcoates-pc.gov.uk





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East Midlands Railway

Timetable

From 15th December 2025

This timetable is subject to change Up to date information may be obtained from East Midlands Railway

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Twitter : @eastmidlandsrailway
Email: contact@eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk
Telephone : 03457 125 678

Monday to Friday

Cleethorpes	0651	0910	1113	1313	1513	1710	1913	2101
New Clee	0655	0914				1714		
Grimsby Docks	0657	0916				1716		
Grimsby Town	0701	0921	1121	1321	1521	1721	1921	2109
Great Coates	0705	0925	1125	1325	1525	1725	1925	2113
Healing	0708	0928	1128	1328	1528	1728	1928	2116
Stallingborough	0711	0930	1130	1330	1530	1730	1930	2118
Habrough	0717	0936	1136	1336	1536	1736	1936	2124
Ulceby	0720	0940	1140	1340	1540	1740	1940	2128
Thornton Abbey	0725	0945	1145	1345	1545	1745	1945	2133
Goxhill	0729	0948	1148	1348	1548	1748	1948	2136
New Holland	0734	0953	1153	1353	1553	1753	1953	2141
Barrow Haven	0737	0957	1157	1357	1557	1757	1957	2145
Barton	0744	1003	1203	1403	1603	1803	2003	2151

Barton		0751	1008	1208	1408	1608	1808	2008	2203
Barrow Haven		0756	1013	1213	1413	1613	1813	2013	2208
New Holland		0800	1017	1217	1417	1617	1817	2017	2212
Goxhill		0805	1022	1222	1422	1622	1822	2022	2216
Thornton Abbey		0809	1026	1226	1426	1626	1826	2026	2220
Ulceby		0813	1030	1230	1430	1630	1830	2030	2224
Habrough	0741	0818	1035	1235	1435	1635	1835	2035	2229
Stallingborough	0747	0824	1041	1241	1441	1641	1841	2041	2235
Healing	0750	0826	1043	1243	1443	1643	1843	2043	2237
Great Coates	0753	0829	1046	1246	1446	1646	1846	2046	2240
Grimsby Town	0759	0835	1052	1252	1452	1652	1852	2052	2246
Grimsby Docks		0838							2249
New Clee		0841							2252
Cleethorpes		0848	1101	1301	1501	1701	1901	2101	2258

Saturday

Cleethorpes	0651	0910	1113	1313	1513	1710	1913	2105
New Clee	0655	0914				1714		2109
Grimsby Docks	0657	0916				1716		2111
Grimsby Town	0701	0921	1121	1321	1521	1721	1921	2116
Great Coates	0705	0925	1125	1325	1525	1725	1925	2120
Healing	0708	0928	1128	1328	1528	1728	1928	2123
Stallingborough	0711	0930	1130	1330	1530	1730	1930	2125
Habrough	0717	0936	1136	1336	1536	1736	1936	2131
Ulceby	0720	0940	1140	1340	1540	1740	1940	2135
Thornton Abbey	0725	0945	1145	1345	1545	1745	1945	2140
Goxhill	0729	0948	1148	1348	1548	1748	1948	2143
New Holland	0734	0953	1153	1353	1553	1753	1953	2148
Barrow Haven	0737	0957	1157	1357	1557	1757	1957	2152
Barton	0744	1003	1203	1403	1603	1803	2003	2158

Barton		0751	1008	1208	1408	1608	1808	2008	2203
Barrow Haven		0756	1013	1213	1413	1613	1813	2013	2208
New Holland		0800	1017	1217	1417	1617	1817	2017	2212
Goxhill		0805	1022	1222	1422	1622	1822	2022	2216
Thornton Abbey		0809	1026	1226	1426	1626	1826	2026	2220
Ulceby		0813	1030	1230	1430	1630	1830	2030	2224
Habrough	0720	0818	1035	1235	1435	1635	1835	2035	2229
Stallingborough	0726	0824	1041	1241	1441	1641	1841	2041	2235
Healing	0728	0826	1043	1243	1443	1643	1843	2043	2237
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Grimsby Docks		0839							2249
New Clee		0841							2252
Cleethorpes		0847	1101	1301	1501	1701	1901	2101	2258

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HOSPITAL



OUT OF HOURS DOCTOR

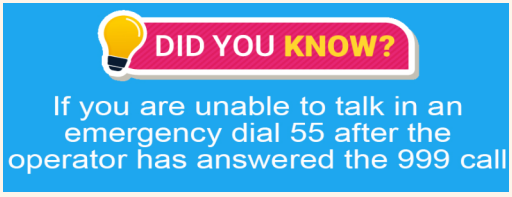
014723 256256



ATM

Co Op, Wingate Parade, Willows, DN37 9DR
Open 0800 to 2100

Co Op, St Nicholas Drive, Wybers Wood, DN37 9SF
Open 0800 to 2200



NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

To report any issues with highways (inc pavements), planning, parking, waste, fly tipping, street cleaning, over hanging vegetation, environmental issues please contact North East lincolnshire Council or 01472 231231 or you can report any issue quickly and easily online:-

www.nelc.gov.uk/report-it/

Waste and Recycling Calendar

Recycling Collections

Please put your blue or grey bin out before 7am on the relevant blue or grey collection date.

Thursday 18th Dec
Thursday 1st Jan
Thursday 15th Jan
Thursday 29th Jan
Thursday 12th Feb
Thursday 26th Feb
Thursday 12th Mar
Thursday 26th Mar





Refuse Collections

Please put your green bin out before 7am on the dates shown below. Green bins are emptied every two weeks.

Thursday 11th Dec
Thursday 25th Dec
Thursday 8th Jan
Thursday 22nd Jan
Thursday 5th Feb
Thursday 19th Feb
Thursday 5th Mar
Thursday 19th Mar



Garden Waste Collections

Please put your brown bin out before 7am on the dates shown below. Brown bins are emptied every two weeks.

Monday 9th Feb
Monday 23rd Feb
Monday 9th Mar
Monday 23rd Mar
Monday 6th Apr
Monday 20th Apr



The nearest Community Recycling Centre (the 'tip') is located at Gilbey Road, Grimsby, DN31 2UD. This is open from 8am until 6pm every day.

The dates provided are subject to change especially during bank holidays or bad weather. You can check collection days by going to www.nelc.gov.uk/refuse-collection-schedule/.