

2.A Vision of the Future - possible future news

HORNCASTLE AND WOODHALL SPA NEWS - 4th JULY 2020

WORLD LEADERS SAMPLE SPA GOLF

Leaders of the world's top 10 nations took time out from their world summit at Lincoln University's Riseholme Campus last week to sample golf at Woodhall Spa.

The Championship Hotchkin course, which staged the British Open for the first time last year, was closed for the day as the leaders and a small army of security personnel and media flew in by helicopter.

The people of Woodhall Spa were delighted at the honour, which follows a string of successes that have put the Spa on the map in recent years.

The Health and Beauty Spa, which grew from small beginnings, has beaten Ragdale Hall and Eden Hall as the region's 'best loved beauty experience'.

The complex, which is enjoyed by visitors and residents alike, has recently added a new section for alternative therapies and converted more of the old site into a state of the art gym and therapy pool, reviving the tradition of treating the sufferers of arthritis, rheumatism and other mobility limiting conditions.

The Spa, a regular winner of the Best Kept Village accolade, has also won its category in the Britain in Bloom competition for the first time, with the judges especially praising the imaginative and colourful planting in Royal Square and Jubilee Park as well as the street displays. The gardens in the Spa were also noted.



Tourist Information is an instant Success

The tourist information office, open all year round in the new wing of the Cottage Museum, was inundated with calls and Email requests for more information about the area. "Visitors love the way we have been able to keep that special spacious and wooded character that was part of the original spa design," commented TIC Manager Jackie Smith. "They are also impressed with the way all our facilities are interlinked enabling them to combine visiting the revamped open air pool at Jubilee Park, the indoor Olympic pool and Spa water at the Golf Hotel and the Beauty Spa in a combined day or week pass."

"We attract a different type of tourist altogether from the county's coastal resorts, our marketing is aimed at people looking for a more unusual and special holiday experience," she added.

The Hotels have been fully booked during the summit and the restaurants and cafes have been busy too. Jane Jones, who operates the Tea House in the Park, has had to recruit the help of the area's Country Market to meet the demand for her lunches and teas. "Ever since the café was rebuilt to echo the distinctive design of the original one, we have been attracting visitors from a wider and wider field,"

Is there Jubilee in Jubilee?

Not so long ago the future of Jubilee was not too bright, however since the district council really got behind the spa and its plans the park has gone from strength to strength. The Tea House also serves visitors to the pool, which recently used the retractable bubble purchased by the District Council and the Friends of Jubilee Park, with Grant funding, to extend the season even further, so that it now runs from early April to the end of October. The hotter summers Britain has been experiencing have benefited the open air pool too. Although the schools have not yet started their summer holidays, it has seen an increased use since the launch of its own website five years ago to coincide with the new changing rooms and the return of the pool to its 8 feet depth after a major refurbishment of the tank.

Cyclists Sue and Barry White from Lincoln regularly use the Lincoln to Boston riverside cycle route to visit the Spa and enjoy a swim. "We like to visit the woods here too, Woodhall Spa is so lucky to have them. The walks and cycle paths are well-maintained, and signed and we can use the leaflet guides to follow different walks each time", Barry commented. "We're both keen naturalists,

Have your cake and eat it!

New resident, Fred Brown, who was enjoying the weekly band concert in the Park, commented. "I'm not surprised they came here from the summit to play golf. We moved here because it has the best of both worlds', top class facilities and amenities but it's stayed small and a real living community, with something for all ages. I moved my architects practice here into one of the large house conversions; with e-commerce, you can be based anywhere these days. It really is having your cake and eating it! "

My son has taken one of the new units on the small business park for his electrical and loft conversion business. Because he's married a local girl, they have been able to buy one of the low-cost homes and get his feet on the housing ladder. It's marvellous for us to be able to be near our grandchildren. I've always been keen on boating, so when the Marina is finished, we'll be able to take that up again too."

Parish Council Chairman, Nigel Green, a Consulting Engineer, also runs his international business from offices in the Spa's business park. " I was also able to take advantage of the low-cost housing when I decided to move back here seven years ago, it's been crucial in enabling local people to remain in the area" he said. "I can remember filling in a questionnaire when I was at school about the future of Woodhall Spa – I think I was the one who suggested bringing back public hangings as a form of entertainment!"

Touch and Go

"We didn't take it all that seriously then, but I recall my parents worrying about over development and the future of the Spa in 2005. It was touch and go then, but with the help of the Parish Plan of 2005 and a better District Plan we were able to stop Woodhall Spa being spoilt and become the place it is today, still relatively quiet but with the affluence brought by discerning visitors who appreciate our special character.

Building is controlled to no more than 10 to 15 houses a year and for every tree we lose, a new one has to be planted. Of course, it's not perfect. There are still traffic issues and we really need more parking in the Jubilee Park area, especially since the Country Show and Festival have been combined and revived in a single event"

"We're working on new Parish Plan now, as you know, they have more teeth these days and as a Quality Council so do we, but looking at Woodhall Spa today, we have lot to thank the previous generation for, it could have been very different. It's up to us now to carry on their good work."

