

Star letter prize


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So send us your views – good or bad – about the magazine, the council or any local issue that concerns you. And you could soon be feeling pampered.



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 **North Lindsey College**

STAR LETTER

Classes should be for all

Adult education classes, especially in villages, have an immense value, particularly for older people. It gives them a chance to gather and engage the mind productively, and it adds value to villages where a class is held.

Very important to New Holland was the Crafts For All class. Some 12 people went weekly and gained many skills, useful for cards to friends and beautifying the house with painted pots and glasses, etc. A scheme of work was sent to attendees for summer 2005. Yet, suddenly the class was cancelled. I understand a ridiculous hurdle of 14 students was required.

Once again, classes of such educational and social value have been treated shabbily compared with those that have exams or use computers. Council Tax has risen again and everyone is entitled to equal provision.

Adrian and Rosemary Worsfold, New Holland

Reply from North Lincolnshire Adult Education Service: We have had to cancel a large proportion of our summer courses. This is because we have recruited more learners than the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can fund us for. We have to manage our funding very rigorously. So we must ensure that we don't put on courses that we cannot afford. We have limited funding from the Learning and Skills Council. The LSC requires us to spend no more than the amount they give us. Last summer term we overachieved on the funding, and had to use our reserves to fund the programme. But we do not have any reserves for the coming term. The service has simply been too successful in increasing learner enrolments each year and we are very disappointed that we have to take these actions.

We stress that our funding is from the Learning and Skills Council, not from North Lincolnshire Council. It is not supported by council tax. We have been funded this way since April 2001: that is how we kept fees at £1 per hour until January 2005. But there are now other government priorities for funding. These have to be met and the service has to address these. We will offer our usual programme in the Autumn term.

Please send letters to:

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Pittwood House, Ashby Road, Scunthorpe
N. Lincolnshire, DN16 1BR (no stamp required)
email: publications.admin@northlincs.gov.uk**

Letters may be edited for publication. If your letter is not for publication, please mark it clearly to this effect. We can only print letters which include a name, full address and daytime contact number. If your letter needs a reply, we will pass it to the relevant department, even if there is not space to print it.