

WEATHER

Lincolnshire Today

Once any early local mist patches have cleared, it will be dry with sunny spells during the morning. Gentle westerly winds. The evening will be clear. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F). Tonight, dry with clear spells. Min temp 2-4C (36-39F).

Lincolnshire outlook

Tomorrow
A dry day with sunny intervals and variable amounts of cloud.

Thursday
Dry with a few sunny intervals, but areas of high cloud will increase.

Friday
It will be another dry day with sunny spells and patchy cloud. Flatter mild.

UK yesterday

Warmest East Malling 18C (64.7F)
Coldest Northolt 1C (34F)
Wettest Drumalbin 27mm
Sunniest Southampton 9.1 hrs

Tides

today	ht	ht
Boston	11:49 4.2m	
Gainsborough	1:37 5.4m	14:22 5.3m
Skegness		12:00 5.3m
tomorrow	ht	ht
Boston	0:56 4.1m	13:36 4.2m
Gainsborough	3:31 5.3m	16:13 5.4m
Skegness	1:21 5.3m	13:39 5.4m

Sun & Moon Today

	ises	sets
Sun	6.25am	6.04pm
Moon	4.06am	10.12pm

YOUR ECHO

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'Utterly mad - this ban is over the top'

WOBBLY videos of school concerts and nostalgic class photographs are already becoming a thing of the past as child protection becomes the main priority.

by Marie Daniels
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Worry and mistrust now surround anyone wanting to video or photograph performances involving children, leaving well-intentioned relatives feeling like criminals.

The latest decision surrounding Nettleham Gang Show comes after last Tuesday's article in the Echo which reported that the Government was considering proposals to restrict photography in public places.

But some people say the child protection issue has gone too far and is ultimately depriving youngsters of their mementoes.

Grandad David Arnell, from South Reston, near Louth, had travelled to see his nine-year-old

grand-daughter Bethany perform in the show. He was hoping to take a video recording to send to Bethany's other grandparents in Oxfordshire but was shocked to hear an announcement that no pictures or videos could be taken.

"I spoke to one of the Scout representatives and they insisted the decision had been taken because they had sold tickets to the general public," said Mr Arnell.

"My father used to take 8mm cine films when we were children but now other relatives can't even see what Bethany has been doing.

"Why should this young generation be denied the pleasure of not only seeing themselves on picture and film, but also being denied the pleasure of showing friends and family and their future children and grandchildren what they had done?"

"I strongly feel the Scout movement has gone completely mad. Why should decent parents and grandparents be denied the taking of pictures at a gang show?"

"It's gone over the top. I know there are a few undesirable but decent people shouldn't be discriminated against."

Bethany's mum Amanda Runciman-Arnell, who lives in Scampton, near Lincoln, described how the audience had been allowed to take photos during the afternoon performance but this was changed to no videos or photos being taken for the evening performance.

She said: "I think the organisers should have thought a little bit more about the situation and maybe arranged for one of the Scout leaders to film an official video.

"I asked them to take the issue back to their next committee meeting.

"I can understand certain situations where tak-



Out to stop restrictions

ing pictures and videos would be inappropriate but this is taking it to the extreme."

The Scout Association sends out forms at the beginning of each year to get approval for photographs to be taken, and most groups get all parents to agree to this.

However, gang shows involve more than one Scout or Guide group and it is difficult to ensure that all parents agree to photos or videos being taken.

"It is unlikely that someone filming the show will be continually focused on their child and will inevitably get other children in the shot," said Ian Cashmore, media development manager for Lincolnshire Scouts.

"The other problem is that some parents take it upon themselves to send photos off to the press."

SIMON TAYLOR, a photographer from Hampshire, has set up an online petition to prevent proposed restrictions regarding photography in public places.

"Under UK law there are no restrictions on taking photographs in a public place or on photography of individuals, whether they are adults or minors," he said.

"Children have no more right to privacy than an adult. There is no right to privacy in a public place, although photographers are, of course, subject to the usual libel laws in the same way as any other citizen and should observe them."

He added: "Equipment or film may not be confiscated, or images deleted by any person or officer unless a warrant for such action is issued."

It's no go ... from tig to Harry Potter

■ **FEBRUARY 9, 2007:** Children at St John's Primary School in Bracebridge Heath, near Lincoln, were banned from playing all contact games in the playground.

Tig was among the "rough and inappropriate" games axed by the school. The move was part of a plan to make playtime more organised, peaceful and structured.

■ **FEBRUARY 5, 2007:** A schoolgirl at Lincoln's Priory LSST had her winter jacket confiscated by teachers because its furry hood was against school rules. Uniform rules at the Cross O'Cliff Hill school state that pupils must wear a plain navy blue coat with no distinctive markings or logos.

■ **JULY 14, 2005:** Disappointed schoolchildren had a Harry Potter day cancelled after complaints that it could lead them "into areas of evil". Pupils from Skellingthorpe's Holt Primary School were due to take part in a Harry Potter day to celebrate the joy of reading. But it was scrapped after the school received letters expressing concerns on religious grounds.



■ **JUNE 29, 2002:** Sport England introduced the idea of non-competitive school sports days to make them more "group friendly".

Traditional sports days based on athletic-type events have been known to promote enthusiastic competition between teams and provide an opportunity for parents to watch pupils involved in activity.

However, Sport England claimed that for many pupils, being beaten in front of their peers and losing vital points for their team was likely to be far from enjoyable.

How do other organisations deal with the issue?

Ron Westerman

Mid Lincolnshire Youth Football League chairman

"If anyone wants to film a match, out of courtesy they are asked to inform the opposition.

"Occasionally someone doesn't want their child photographing or filming, and they are withdrawn from the team photo. It's a shame if children are deprived of a record of their achievements."

June Austin

Headteacher, Manor Leas Infants School, in Hykeham Road, Lincoln

"We prefer children not to be named. A permission slip is sent out every year asking parents if they mind their children being in photographs for the local media. If a parent does turn up to a play with a video camera and we know who they are, I don't see a problem."

Chris Williams

Deputy head, Lincoln Christ's Hospital School

"To the best of my knowledge, this has never been an issue with us. In the parental information pack there is a disclaimer which parents are asked to fill in to say whether or not they wish their children to appear in PR photos. "It tends not to be as big an issue in secondary schools."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE PHOTO BAN?

Vote in our online poll at www.thisislincshshire.co.uk/vote