

## Responsibility is lacking nowadays

While it is true to say that some cyclists are the biggest nuisance on our roads (Echo, July 12) the main problem seems to be an increasing lack of personal responsibility by people towards one another.

I have several times observed car drivers cutting off in front of buses. Often pedestrians walk blindly in front of moving traffic as I recently observed at the St Mary's/High Street junction.

Then there was the case where the driver of the bus I was on had to stop his vehicle in order to go upstairs to tell a noisy passenger to turn his radio down.

Recently when I cycled down a side street to get to Wragby Road a little girl was using the road as a play area with her toy bicycle.

Of course she was not personally to blame but children regularly use the street as a play area because there is no authority to tell them otherwise.

In the next street a car driver stopped against parked cars so that his passenger could alight but this blocked the road to any other vehicles.

On the return journey a woman stepped out of her car in front of passing traffic.

Although none of these incidents caused accidents they were potentially dangerous.

They are all part of a breakdown in responsibility between people.

Governments are part of the same syndrome being, it seems, oblivious to any thing other than the country's balance sheet but unable to see the consequences of cuts in public services such as police and border control.

On the one hand this is an invitation towards lawlessness and on the other it has a demoralising effect on society.

People still have to live regardless of their circumstances.

Many of those in employment are expected to work harder and consequently suffer stress.

They are more likely to require medical treatment as are those who are unemployed who are more likely to become unfit and therefore be a drain on society.

Unfortunately people in political parties as well as those in many other organisations suffer from a form of tunnel vision whereby they are only able to see their own viewpoint.

It is hardly to be wondered that the general public becomes disenchanted with them.

What is needed is for our political authorities to take an overall view rather than a partisan one.

While on the face of it there may seem to be an increased cost in employing more people in public services such as police and immigration, in the long run this is likely to be actually more cost effective.

Increased and subsidised public transport along with park and ride schemes need to be considered to reduce the traffic on our dangerous and crumbling roads and to reduce the number of injured people who end up in hospital as a result of traffic accidents.

**THOMAS E. ROOKES**  
Ruskin Avenue, Lincoln



**A fine start:** The launch of the club took place at A Taste of Italy

## A 'women-only' club making sure that they're the business

**A** new army has been gathered in Lincoln to help represent the views of women in business.

Angels Bring Business aims to bring about the empowerment of women and is open to senior managers, directors, entrepreneurs, those keen to build on business skills and those interested in supporting the local community.

We aren't looking for fluffy slippers or women who think they have to be tougher than the men at the top!

It's about supporting women and providing an environment where they feel comfortable in asking for help in business support.

Some would say, why a women's only club?

I would say, why not? There are plenty of men only clubs (both officially and unofficially).

We're not raving feminists but we do recognise that sometimes women need their own forum.

Recent statistics show that 80 per cent of networking is carried out by men and therefore they often set the rules.

Here we are talking about formal networking - because, as many already know, women are champions at informal networking!

Senior positions in business are often filled by men - and despite what some commentators may say there is definitely still a glass ceiling.

Senior businesswomen do not always have an adequate amount of support in the workplace because they are outnumbered by men and perceive they may be thought weak if they ask for help.

I believe that businesswomen are not always supported by their juniors as well as male managers are. This could be because juniors sometimes resent being given orders by female bosses.

This may be especially true in male dominated industries such as construction and farming sectors.

Another issue is that a lot of women work from home and can become isolated, especially true with online businesses.

Angels Bring Business aims to

### First Person

**Wendy Spalding-Siracusa,**  
co-founder of  
Angels Bring  
Business



connect businesswomen across the city and county so they have greater opportunity to refer business and connections to each other.

Creating this club will allow us to build a quality brand which can be used by its members to give them further business credentials, perhaps opening doors they had previously never wanted to or even thought about opening before.

The launch of the club took place on July 12 at A Taste of Italy by Pompeo, with 25 women from a diverse range of business attending.

We unfortunately had to turn people away due to a lack of space, so we are now in negotiations for a new venue which will be announced shortly.

The speaker at the launch was Carolyn Morgan from Penman Media, an expert in social media. The next meeting is to take place on Thursday, August 9 when BBC Radio Lincolnshire breakfast presenter Rod Whiting will be speaking.

The monthly meetings will then continue to take place on the second Thursday of every month, from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Women will have the chance to network, listen to a variety of business speakers and socialise.

There will also be training sessions, a large networking event in December and an annual conference.

If you would like more information visit the website at [www.angelsbringbusiness.com](http://www.angelsbringbusiness.com) or follow the club on twitter @angelsbusiness

► Wendy Spalding-Siracusa is a partner at Sills and Betteridge LLP