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**Welcome to July's Parish News from your local Council. If you have any enquiries about any of the articles, please feel free to contact the communications team at [communications.unit@boston.gov.uk](mailto:communications.unit@boston.gov.uk)**

### **Call for organisations and individuals to help lead cultural development**

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership is looking for individuals and organisations with a passion and experience in local culture, arts and heritage, to help form a new strategic member board to help shape the sub-region's arts and cultural sector.

The 16-strong board will be made up of skilled, experienced, and motivated members looking to be at the forefront of leading cultural change and helping to create a more vibrant and dynamic arts, culture and heritage offer in South & East Lincolnshire.

One of the key roles of the board will be to lead on the Partnership's ambitious three-year National Portfolio Organisation programme, a £2million Arts Council England funded programme to support art, culture, heritage and creativity across the whole of the Partnership area, providing meaningful opportunities and programming for residents, developing the sector and helping to build our arts, culture and heritage capacity.

All board members will also have a responsibility to champion the Boston and East Lindsey Cultural Framework, while also supporting its future development and expansion into South Holland.

Please note that places on the board are on a voluntary, unpaid basis, with reasonable expenses covered for work carried out.

More details can be found at <https://www.boston.gov.uk/NPO>, and for an informal discussion on the Board please contact the Place team on [Samantha.Phillips@e-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.Phillips@e-lindsey.gov.uk). Those wishing to follow the project as it develops can also receive regular update by signing up to the newsletter at <https://www.boston.gov.uk/NPONewsletter>.

### **Boston's four-day Christmas event**

Boston's Four-Day Christmas Event will be taking place throughout Boston Town Centre from Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th November 2023.

Plans include a four-day Christmas market, live on-stage performances, entertainment, small fun fair, Santa Fun Run, Christmas crafts and trail, Santa Claus and much more including the all-important lights switch on. Further details will follow but if anyone is keen to get involved or have a stall on the Christmas market please do get in touch, email [events@boston.gov.uk](mailto:events@boston.gov.uk)

### Grants to tackle social isolation

Grants of up to £2,000 are available to support groups and community hubs in the East Lindsey area who are supporting residents to tackle social isolation.

The Cost of Living crisis saw a number of community groups open as Warm Spaces in winter 2022 and many of those spaces saw 100s of residents through their doors over the winter period.

One overriding theme from those who attended was how residents had benefited from the support they got from attending the warm space. Many groups have stayed open during the warmer months for residents to continue to access the support on offer, whether that be a cuppa with new friends or learning a new skill like knitting.

Groups can apply for a grant from £100 to £2,000. Forms for this grant can be accessed here: [Social Isolation Grant - East Lindsey District Council - East Lindsey District Council \(e-lindsey.gov.uk\)](#) or by emailing Nichola Holderness, Community Leadership Manager, South & East Lincolnshire Council Partnership at [nichola.holderness@boston.gov.uk](mailto:nichola.holderness@boston.gov.uk)

### Who is your favourite Boston Market trader?

Boston Market and The Bargate Green have been for hundreds of years important focal points for our local community.

The Market Trader of the Year award is a great opportunity for our customers to nominate the trader who in their opinion sells the best bargains, has the highest quality goods, serves the best cup of tea or goes the extra mile for customers.

Cllr Dale Broughton, Boston Borough Council's Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Town Centre including markets, said: "Our market traders join us every week offering a wide variety of affordable, quality products. The traders continue to provide a valuable service to our community and so we are keen that they receive the recognition they deserve. Boston's markets are very important to the council and we are working hard to support them for future generations to come.

"I would encourage everyone to get nominating for their favourite Market Trader of the Year, this is a brilliant way for everyone to celebrate our markets."

The winning trader will receive four markets rent-free and a hamper of local products and there will also be a prize for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

You can vote a number of different ways:

- Complete the online form [vote for you Boston Market trader](#) via the [Boston Market UK Facebook page](#)
- Pick up an entry form on the Market from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July and post to Markets, Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QR, or you can post your entry form in the box which will be on the Council's own market stall

The competition closes on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 and the winner will be announced soon after this date.

### Events at Boston Central Park

The Boston beach has returned to Central Park this summer, offering a host of activities for all ages - most of which are free.

The events include:

- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August - Fairy Door Hunt, 10am-3pm, (last entry for hunt 2pm). The fairies will return to Central Park, Boston but we need your help to find all their doors. Cost is £2 per hunt – Tickets can be obtained here: [Fairy Door Hunt Tickets, Wed 2 Aug 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August - Performer in the Market Place with a Mobile Circus Workshop 11am-3pm.

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August - Pirate Treasure Hunt from 10am-3pm (last entry for hunt 2pm). Some pirates have lost their treasure in Central Park - can you help them find it? Cost is £2 per hunt - Tickets can be obtained here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pirate-treasure-hunt-tickets-672897212677>
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August - Golden Oldies - Sing-a-long around the beach. A free session for over 50s and those living with dementia) from 2pm-4pm. Come along and enjoy singing with Boston's Singing for Fun Group. There will be games on the beach or just come and listen and watch. All welcome. Free event.
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August - Art Fun Day, Meet the artists and create your own Masterpiece at Fydell House and Boston Guildhall, 10.30am-2.30pm Cost £2 per child - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-the-artist-tickets-672892277917?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&from=6b3e2cae2c8f11ee9d09464a07479dee>
- Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August - Boston Skate Jam, 12noon to 4pm in Central Park at the Skate Ramps area. With demonstrations, music, competitions and prizes. Come and roller skate, skate board or BMX on the amazing skate park with Team Rubicon Action Sports School. There will be free riding sessions plus competitions with prizes throughout the event so come along and show your skills. Professional riders will also be demonstrating their skills. Don't worry if you are new to these sports you will be given a chance to learn new skills. Free of charge.
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August - Free Family Fun Days on the beach, open to everyone from 10am-3pm. Bring your lunch and stay all day. There will be a magician, donkey rides, giant tortoises, bouncy castles, fun sports, face painting, arts and crafts, a magician plus much more. All activities are free. On the 18<sup>th</sup> only there will be reptiles too!
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August - Slacklining demonstration at the Ingram Memorial in the Market Place 11am-3pm, watch the professionals and have a go yourself. Free event.
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August - Fun in the Sun. A free session for those living with additional support needs from 1pm-3pm. Come along and have fun on the beach, play games, build sandcastles and listen or dance to the music. Free event.

## Love Parks Week

Boston Borough parks will be among hundreds of parks across the country taking part in Love Parks Week 2023. The celebration will take place from 28 July to 6 August, bringing together local authorities, green space managers, landowners, residents and community organisations to celebrate and support our fantastic green spaces all across the country.

It comes just after Boston Town Area Committee agreed £150,000 of play area improvements in Boston Town Centre last month and the recent release of our summer event programme which includes a sponsored beach in Central Park which was sponsored by Boston Big Local.

Works have already started on the installation of the new play equipment in Central Park which will see new surfaced areas, picnic benches and tables, a large horse springer, new water lilies with four way springers and a little mermaid, ugly duckling and castle playground framed unit.

As well as, a new large three-piece pirate ship complete with climbing net will be installed at St John's Boston which will inspire and attract play again and again. The strong themed ship inspires dramatic play, and the variation of climbing, gliding and sliding attracts play on end, again and again, year after year. The unit forms a whole playground with its diverse play activities.

Woodville Road's funding will mean the pirate ship is replaced after it was destroyed by a fire back in September 2022 and at Garfit's Lane we will introduce two concrete table tennis tables with tarmac bases.

## Annual Canvass is underway in Boston

The Annual Canvass, a process which takes place every year to keep the Electoral Register up to date, is now underway in Boston Borough.

The canvass, which is managed by the electoral services team at Boston Borough Council, started on Friday 21 July when emails were sent to 10,800 properties.

The remaining households in the Borough will be contacted via either telephone, letter or in person, between the start of August and the end of October.

By responding quickly, residents will ensure their place on the Electoral Register for future elections as well as saving council resources spent on reminder emails and letters.

### **Have your say on new Boston town planters**

One of the Council's priorities is to improve the image of our town. As part of that, you may have noticed a number of large planters that have recently been installed in the Town Centre, we are keen to seek your views on them.

Please give just a few minutes of your time to complete our survey at <https://loom.ly/oU1YN3E> to share your views.

### **Tourism brings record £95million economic benefit to Boston**

A new report by Global Tourism Solutions has highlighted the record-breaking benefits of tourism in Boston, with over £95million of economic impact in 2022 alone.

The findings showed the £95.13million of investment from tourists to be the highest since the data was first recorded in 2011, up from £70.96million in 2021.

In terms of visitors, the report found that 1.3million people visited Boston during 2022, up from 1.09million the previous year, with 210,000 staying in the Borough and over a million visiting for the day.

Shopping and enjoying the local hospitality were the two most popular activities, with almost £26million spent in the Borough's shops and over £20million in its cafes, restaurants, and bars.

There were also 1,044 tourism-related jobs across Boston for the year, a 27% increase from 2021 and showing nearly a full recovery to the pre-pandemic levels of employment in the sector.

### **Agency working with Council and police strengthen community relations**

A stronger partnership through agency working to build better community relations and address community concerns in Boston has seen vast improvements.

The joint agency working, made possible through local police, council enforcement and anti-social behaviour teams offers a dedicated service to help crackdown on reports of anti-social behaviour, littering and fly-tipping in the area. It builds on existing work by the partnership, including close working with private landlords on bin contamination, fly-tipping, over-occupied HMOs and operations such as clean-sweep which prevented the illegal disposal of 10 tonnes of construction waste, as well as the seizure of 3 vehicles.

Following recent reports of anti-social behaviour, littering and fly-tipping in one particular area of Boston the partnership have been able to make great improvements and it has been recognised by the residents who have come to us to say "I would just like to say a big thank you for sorting out the issues in our area and taking our concerns and reports seriously, a huge thank you to the street cleaning team who come regularly to clean up the mess that's left near the riverside steps on a regular basis. They do a great job."

Cllr Anne Dorrian, Leader of Boston Borough Council, said: "I would like to thank our teams and the Police for the continued dedication to the issues we face on a daily basis in our town. Our aim is to crackdown on anti-social behaviour, littering and fly-tipping in particular; and with multi-agency working I think this is the best way.

"All partners are committed to working together to improve community relations for all residents in Boston Borough, and on their behalf, I'd like to thank all the residents who have contributed feedback so far and helped in the development of these improved working relationships."

As the joint agency work continues and strengthens we hope that all of our residents start to see the benefits of the partnership working which itself is built on dedicated resources committed to the area by council services and police.

### **Boston in Bloom**

Boston was blooming, thriving and looking bright when the town welcomed East Midlands in Bloom (EMIB) judges on July 4.

Judge Richard Stephen, accompanied by Nicholas Litherland, toured the town to see the hard work and many hours of dedication put in all year-round by volunteers to enhance the town for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors.

They were shown around by Alison Fairman, Chair of Boston in Bloom who presented an array of work volunteers have achieved since last year's entry as well as ongoing and future projects, one of which was Dion Woods and Willoughby Road Allotments. Since last year's visit a further 17,000 trees have been planted at Dions Wood and a new kitchen community area and water harvesting equipment has been installed at Willoughby Road Allotments. Boston has been awarded Gold status for the last seven years and volunteers are hopeful they can maintain the standard following this year's team effort. EMIB judges always take many notes, photographs and make suggestions but do not give anything away on their decision until the official awards ceremony in September. The tour began at Boston Cemetery before heading over to Dions Wood and Willoughby Road allotments and then onto town centre projects with a refreshment break at The White Hart Hotel. Moving over to the south side of town they then visited The Home Nursey, Pilgrims Patch and the Haven Meadow and Custom House Quay with the tour ending at Fydell House where lunch was served.

The East Midlands in Bloom Awards Ceremony will take place in Spalding in September 2023.

### **Lincolnshire Community Foundation Cost of Living Fund**

Lincolnshire Community Foundation will be distributing vital funds of up to £300 to individuals and families, who have not received any cost of living support.

The scheme opened on Thursday 20 July and will remain open to eligible applicants until March 2024.

Eligible applicants for this funding are only those who have not received any cost of living support and live in East Lindsey, Boston or South Holland.

More details are available on the attached poster.

### **South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership join new 'Clean Air Lincolnshire' project**

Following a grant awarded to Lincolnshire County Council by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership will work with the County Council to drive the new 'Clean Air Lincolnshire' project.

As part of the project, a public awareness campaign will be developed by the County Council in conjunction with the seven District Councils, including a new website which will be launched in Autumn 2023, providing useful information on the causes and impacts of air pollution and the actionable steps to take to improve local air quality and reduce health conditions related to air pollution.

Public Health England have reported that poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK and can cause spikes in cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, particularly in the young or vulnerable. Clean Air Lincolnshire will raise awareness of these issues and encourage action for cleaner air across the county. Efforts will be made to involve local schools across the county in the project, using data from air quality monitoring equipment to educate students, staff and parents on the effects of local air pollution and how to reduce exposure and emissions.

Using the data and local knowledge, school students will run campaigns during the 2023/24 school year, promoting active travel and anti-idling, to improve air quality around their schools.

### **South & East Lincolnshire Crowd**

The South & East Lincolnshire Crowd is an opportunity for community groups in our area to access fundraising and be eligible for a contribution from one of our funding pots (Boston, East Lindsey, South Holland).

Please feel free to promote the scheme within your wards and to local community groups.

The South & East Lincolnshire Crowd is particularly keen on projects looking to improve communities and places in Boston Borough, East Lindsey and South Holland. Projects should address challenges of integration and inclusion, support our high street, invest in community facilities or enhance the culture and heritage offer. If you would like further details on the scheme, an information session has been arranged for Tuesday 11 July at 12pm or if you are unable to make this session please contact Community Leadership Manager, Nichola Holderness at [Nichola.Holderness@boston.gov.uk](mailto:Nichola.Holderness@boston.gov.uk).

Find out more here: [South & East Lincs Crowd-Project Creator Workshop Tickets, Tue 11 Jul 2023 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)

### **The Big Lincolnshire Welcome Fund has reopened**

Following a significant donation from the Homes for Ukraine Team, the Big Lincolnshire Welcome Fund to Ukrainian refugees residing in Lincolnshire has reopened.

Funds are available for an item to help settle into life here.

- up to £150 for an individual OR
- up to £300 for a family unit.

\*Applications are restricted to those individuals/families who have not previously received support from the fund.

For more information or to apply please visit our website [www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk](http://www.lincolnshirecf.co.uk)

### **An introduction to Age-friendly Communities webinar**

The Centre for Ageing Better is hosting a free “introduction to Age-friendly Communities” webinar on Wednesday 16 August from 10am-11am.

**This webinar is designed for:**

- People who have heard about the Age-friendly Communities approach and want to learn more.
- People who are interested in taking the first steps in making their place Age-friendly.
- New members or partners of existing Age-friendly Communities.

**This webinar will cover:**

- Why we need Age-friendly Communities.
- Frameworks for thinking about the 'what' and the 'how' of Age-friendly Communities.
- Inspiring examples of Age-friendly work from members of the UK Network.
- How Ageing Better and the UK Network can support your community's next steps.

For further information and to book, click here: [An introduction to Age-friendly Communities | Centre for Ageing Better \(ageing-better.org.uk\)](https://ageing-better.org.uk)

### **Changing Places facility now open in Boston Central Park**

A new state-of-the-art accessible toilet facility at Central Park in Boston is now open.

This facility and a number of others soon to be complete in Boston was made possible thanks to a successful bid by Boston Borough Council securing £210,000 in government funding for four Changing Places conveniences.

The other facilities will be installed at Lincoln Lane and Wide Bargate and the facility at Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex will be incorporated into the Boston Leisure Project which is part of the Boston Town Deal funding with works expected to start later in the year.

Changing Places toilets are designed for people who cannot use standard accessible toilets. These are larger and accessible for people with limited mobility, or specific disabilities and care needs. They are fitted with hoists, privacy screens, adult-sized changing benches, peninsula toilets and have space for carers.

The council is proud to now have Changing Places facilities in the area and we hope with this one and the others opening soon that it will make it easier for disabled people and their families to enjoy making Boston a more pleasant and attractive place to live and visit.

### **Boston Book Festival**

Please find attached a press pack which gives more information about this year's Boston Book Festival. The festival takes place from Thursday 21 September to Sunday 24 September. The press pack has been compiled by the festival organisers.

### **Pilgrim Hospital Paediatrics service – have a say**

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust is midway through running a 12-week public consultation on the future of the children's (paediatric) service at Pilgrim Hospital, Boston, following significant challenges in the service over the past few years.

This included temporarily reducing the service from a full children's ward to a short-stay (12-hour) Paediatric Assessment Unit (PAU).

Five years on, improved staff recruitment and new ways of working have meant that the paediatric service has re-established itself and is offering high quality clinical care to the vast majority of children in the Boston area, once again.

Further information and consultation can be found at <https://bit.ly/46VaOpF>

The consultation will run until Monday 4 September 2023.

### **Boston Naturehood**

Lincolnshire Community Voluntary Service has another naturehood event upcoming, at Boston Centenary Methodist Church, to help improve their outside space for wildlife.

It will take place on Saturday 29 July from 10am-1pm.

They will be improving the bug hotel, making wildlife habitats and wildflower seed bombs and other nature-themed activities suitable for all the family. Everyone's welcome

Gloves and tools will be provided.

To learn more about the project, please email: [jackielane@lincolnshirecvs.org.uk](mailto:jackielane@lincolnshirecvs.org.uk) or simply call 01205 510888

### **Nature artist – Boston Guildhall and Fydell House**

Come and get creative at Boston Guildhall and Fydell House on Thursday 10 August from 10.30am-3pm.

Learn about the art styles of Guiseppe Arcimboldo and Andy Goldsworthy, create your own masterpieces and take part in an art trail.

Tickets are £2 per child, children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. There is no charge for adults supervising children. Last admission for the trail is 2pm.

Tickets can be obtained here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-the-artist-tickets-672892277917>

### **Boundary Commission 2023 final boundary recommendations**

The Boundary Commission for England has released its final recommendations for the 2023 Boundary Review which have been laid before Parliament.

The recommendations propose changes for the Louth and Horncastle constituency and Boston and Skegness constituency.

You can find more detailed constituency level maps on their website:

Boston and Skegness: <https://bit.ly/3r7CZS9>



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