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Welcome to the November'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

Boston gears up for a historic celebration: Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party

On December 16, 2023, Boston will honour the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, a pivotal moment that forever shaped the course of American history. The commemorative activities are set to unfold in various locations, promising a day filled with educational and entertaining experiences.

The celebration kicks off at 11am, with activities planned in Boston Guildhall, St Botolph's Church 'The Stump' and the Market Place (weather permitting). The venues involved, working in partnership with Transported Art, have created the day's activities and events.

For those eager to delve into the historical narrative, Boston Guildhall will host a 'Talk & Tea' event starting at 11am. Dr Scott will present a comprehensive history of Boston's role in the American story. The talk is free, but booking is essential due to limited space. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to taste the actual tea varieties that were thrown into Boston Harbour after the talk. Additionally, the Guildhall will host tea-themed arts activities throughout the day, providing engaging experiences for families. To book your seat visit <https://bit.ly/3SUSe7U>

Beyond the Guildhall, the town will come alive with a display of Lanterns & arTEA activiTEAs, at The Stump, also available, and starting from The Stump, is a free trail through the town for locals and visitors to explore. Redcoats Re-enactors will add a touch of historical authenticity to the festivities, offering a glimpse into the past.

Cllr Sarah Sharpe, Portfolio Holder for Culture for Boston Borough Council, said: "I'm thrilled to see Boston embracing its rich history with the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. This event not only offers a fascinating journey into our town's pivotal role in American history but also provides a unique opportunity for our community to come together.

"The 'Talk & Tea' event at Boston Guildhall, coupled with tea-themed arts activities, reflects our commitment to both education and enjoyment. Let's celebrate our heritage and create lasting memories on this historic occasion."

As Boston commemorates this significant milestone, the 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party promises to be an immersive and enlightening experience for all. Join us in celebrating history, community, and the enduring legacy of this transformative event!

Boston's four-day Christmas festival delights thousands

The enchanting spirit of the holiday season descended upon Boston as the Town Centre hosted its first ever spectacular four-day Boston Christmas Festival, leaving residents and visitors alike in awe. The festivities commenced on Thursday 23rd November with the grand opening of Boston's Christmas Market.

The crowd was treated to an unforgettable performance by Blackfriars Peter Pan, adding a touch of theatrical wonder to the festivities. The Illuminate Boston T-Party Parade then took to the streets, drawing eager onlookers and creating a vibrant atmosphere that resonated throughout the town. The pinnacle of the evening was the Boston Christmas light switch-on, followed by the energetic tunes of live music from Revolver.

The merriment was mirrored with community events at Boston Stump and a Christmas light switch-on in Pescod Square, where Santa himself made an appearance, spreading joy and smiles.

Friday brought a harmonious blend of Christmas market delights, community acts, and live bands gracing the stage, ensuring that the festive energy remained high.

Saturday saw the regular market joined by the Boston Christmas market, offerings of cultural dance experiences on stage, alongside Christmas crafts and face painting. The Biz took charge, leading captivating performances and shows that kept the audience enthralled. The day culminated with the soulful melodies of the Salvation Army Band, leaving hearts warmed by the holiday spirit.

On the final day, the Boston Christmas Market joined forces with The Teenage Market, creating a vibrant atmosphere in the town centre. The Santa Fun Run saw over 300 Santa's dashing through the streets, spreading joy and laughter. Attendees enjoyed Christmas crafts, face painting, street entertainment, and the uplifting Boston Carol Service. The day ended on a high note with the crowning of Izzy as the winner of Christmas Got Talent.

Cllr Dale Broughton, Deputy Leader and Portfolio of Town Centre at Boston Borough Council, said: "Witnessing the success of Boston's first ever four-day Christmas Festival was truly heart-warming. The collaborative efforts, from the opening of the Christmas market to the festive parades, live performances, and community engagement, showcased the spirit of our community. It's inspiring to see our town come together for such a joyous celebration. We have had tremendous feedback from local businesses who have praised us on such a successful four days and thanked us for the increase in footfall and for bringing Christmas back to Boston. A massive well done and thank you to everyone involved in making this event a resounding success!"

Adding to the festive charm were vintage and small family fun fairs, snow globes, giant games, and a captivating Christmas Tree Festival. Boston truly sparkled with holiday magic, making this four-day Christmas festival an unforgettable celebration for all.

Council Tax Single Person Discount review

Residents are being urged to tell Boston Borough Council if they are claiming Single Person Council Tax discount they are no longer entitled to.

The Borough Council gives a 25 per cent discount to 9,825 households where there is only one adult resident at the property. In the last financial year, this totalled more than £3.8million.

The Council will soon be working with a third party to compare its council tax information with other databases. This will identify those cases where more than one adult is living at an address and a discount is being claimed.

Cllr Sandeep Ghosh, Portfolio Holder for Finance at Boston Borough Council, said: "We know that the majority of our residents who are claiming single-person discounts do so honestly and legitimately, however, there are times when circumstances change and people forget to tell us their discount should end. There will also, unfortunately, be a minority who do attempt to defraud the system.

"We will shortly be sending a letter to residents in receipt of the single-person discount. We will be asking them to confirm their current circumstances. Residents can respond via text, online, or by returning the form to the address provided. It is a legal requirement for council tax payers to tell us within 21 days if they think they should no longer qualify for a discount. If you receive a discount you think you are no longer entitled to, this is your chance to tell us before we contact you.

"We are obliged to amend any records we find to be incorrect, back to the date of the change. This means that householders do not benefit from withholding information from us, and it makes the system fairer for everyone. It could mean some households will find they have a considerable amount of council tax arrears to pay.

"While we are reviewing the incorrect discounts granted, we are still keen to make sure that everyone gets the reductions they are entitled to. You should contact us if you think you should qualify for any discounts and exemptions."

Residents can contact Boston Borough's Council Tax team via email at revs@boston.gov.uk or by phone on 01205 314000. For more information about the available discounts and exemptions, householders can check our website www.boston.gov.uk/CouncilTaxReductions

Boston Borough Council is seeking an Independent Member to serve on its Audit and Governance Committee

Boston Borough Council is looking to appoint an Independent Member for its Audit and Governance Committee. The Audit and Governance Committee provides assurance of the adequacy of the Council's governance arrangements, particularly the effectiveness of the Council's internal processes and procedures. To support the Committee in its work, the Council is looking for one of two independent non-voting members to sit on the committee alongside elected Councillors.

The role will suit an independently minded person to give an external perspective to the committee. The period of appointment will be up to four years.

The committee will meet approximately five times per year and it is important that potential applicants have a broad understanding of the financial, risk control and corporate governance issues that the Council faces.

For more information please download our recruitment pack which will be available on the 'Latest News' section of the Council's website w/c Monday, 4 December 2023.

Closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday, 22 December 2023. Interviews will be held in the New Year.

For more information or to have a chat about the role, contact Rhonda Booth, Democratic Services Manager on 07867 464450.

Leader expresses concern over the lack of transparency in Greater Lincolnshire Devolution bid

Please find below a statement issued by Cllr Anne Dorrian on Wednesday 22 November in relation to the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution bid.

We understand that the text of a Greater Lincolnshire devolution deal has been agreed between Leaders of Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, and North East Lincolnshire Council which will form the basis of an announcement in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on Wednesday 22nd November 2023.

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Whilst we acknowledge that some limited consultation has taken place with District Council Leaders over the past months, we the leaders of South Kesteven, Boston Borough Council, and West Lindsey regret that we have not been able to consider nor offer comment to government Ministers on this full draft before the announcement was made today.

The three district leaders stated: "It already feels as though Devolution is being done to us rather than being done with and for us. We are strongly committed to democratic principles and will ensure that our councils will publicly debate the proposed Devolution deal as soon as possible after it has been published."

Councillor Richard Cleaver - Leader of South Kesteven District Council

Councillor Anne Dorrian - Leader of Boston Borough Council

Councillor Trevor Young - Leader of West Lindsey District Council

Relocation of Litter Bins Aimed to Combat Fly-Tipping in our Community

In a proactive move to tackle the persistent issue of fly-tipping in some of our hot spot areas, we have made a decision to relocate a number of community litter bins. The initiative is designed to address the common problem of residents leaving mainly black bags of waste next to existing bins, leading to unsightly and environmentally harmful fly-tipping.

The decision to relocate a number of these bins follows a careful analysis of fly-tipping hotspots and community input, this includes bins located at Elan Close, Liquorpond Street roundabout, Haven Bank (next to Sluice Bridge) and Frampton Place corner. By relocating these bins from areas prone to illegal dumping, our aim is to discourage this irresponsible behaviour and foster a cleaner, more attractive environment for all residents.

While the relocation of litter bins is a crucial step, we are keen to emphasise the role of personal responsibility in waste disposal. Residents are reminded to use the street litter bins for their street litter only and refrain from leaving bags of household waste next to them. All households in the borough are provided with household wheeled bins and these are the main receptacles for household waste and recycling which are collected on a regular basis. Proper waste disposal not only contributes to a cleaner environment but also helps build a sense of pride and community well-being.

Councillor Callum Butler, Portfolio Holder for Environmental at Boston Borough Council, said: "As a councillor, I wholeheartedly support the relocation of these litter bins in our community to make sure that our bins are in the best possible locations for residents. This initiative reflects our commitment to creating a cleaner, more welcoming environment for all residents. It's a step towards addressing the persistent issue of fly-tipping, but success hinges on our collective effort.

"By working together, we can bring more pride into the streets in which we live."

In addition to physical changes, the local council also plans to focus on more targeted educational campaigns to raise awareness about the consequences of fly-tipping and the importance of responsible waste disposal.

As the community embarks on this collective effort to combat fly-tipping, optimism abounds that the strategic relocation of litter bins, coupled with enhanced community awareness, will lead to a cleaner, more sustainable living environment. The success of this initiative ultimately rests on the collaboration of residents and their commitment to upholding a shared responsibility for the well-being of the community.

Councils form Special Interest Group to seek new funding approach for Internal Drainage Boards

Boston Borough Council is part of 22 local authorities which have joined to form a Special Interest Group through the local government agenda to lobby the Government for a fairer way to fund Internal Drainage Boards. Internal Drainage Boards manage water levels and reduce the risk from flooding in areas where special flood management measures are needed.

The board's work is essential for keeping communities safe and protecting land.

All the councils in the SIG are currently required to pay a Special Levy to fund the Internal Drainage Boards for their Council area. The levy varies from year to year and the Councils have no control over the sum. Historically, IDBs raised the levy directly from local ratepayers and, for efficiency from the 1970s onwards, the collecting of the rates was passed to local councils who then transferred them on the IDBs.

The levy is paid from the funds collected through Council Tax, meaning less money is then available to fund statutory services the Council must provide to taxpayers. In some cases, services are being cut to fund the levy.

One of the authorities most hard hit is Boston Borough Council. In the 2023/24 net budget, the IDB levy represented 22 per cent of the Borough Council's overall budget and took 58 per cent of the total Council Tax collected. This year, the council tax yield was £168,000 - almost half of the IDB increase of £320,000. This issue is unique to a handful of councils - all with relatively small overall budgets - as local authorities not covered by drainage boards do not have this financial disadvantage.

Earlier this year, the Government made a one-off payment to the 15 councils most significantly impacted to mitigate the levy increase. While this was hugely welcomed, it was a one-off payment and offers no permanent solution, with the levies expected to increase further in 2024/25. For some local authorities, the one-off payment did not cover this year's levy increase in their budgets.

Through the SIG, the councils are now seeking a longer term, more sustainable approach to how Special Levy payments to Internal Drainage Boards are funded.

The campaigning so far has included writing to the Chancellor Mr Jeremy Hunt MP; Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Mr Michael Gove MP, MPs in the area of the 21 councils and the District Councils Network.

New cash, card and app payment machines up and running in Boston council-run car parks

New, more reliable, secure and efficient car parking payment machines have now been installed across 21 different council-run car parks in Boston, following a significant investment by Boston Borough Council. The new machines are designed to accept contactless and chip-and-pin card payment, as well as the existing options of cash and online app.

Works to install the new machines got underway at the start of the month, with 25 out of 26 successfully installed and operational.

The power supply at Victoria Place car park has had some technical issues that are currently undergoing a fix. Parking in this car park will be temporarily free whilst the payment machine is out of service, but charges will be reintroduced once the new payment machine is operational.

As part of the change users are now required to enter their vehicle registration number to purchase a ticket, before choosing their duration of stay and then having the new option of paying via card or Apply Pay, as well as the previous methods.

The machines will be brightly lit to make them easy to use and connect wirelessly to offer drivers the fastest possible transactions. They are also made from high security steel with anti-graffiti coating to reduce the risk of vandalism against them.

Councillor Sandeep Ghosh, Boston Borough Council portfolio holder for finance, said: "I am delighted that we have completed the installation of these new machines, that will provide users with a quicker, simpler and less restrictive experience when parking in Boston.

"With cards and phones increasingly becoming the most popular ways to pay, I hope these upgrades can take some of the stress out of parking for people so they can instead focus on enjoying their visit to Boston.

"Our investment into this project is just one part of our ongoing goals to improve the town centre, as shown through our Town Deals and Levelling Up projects, and ensuring that visitors can park easily and securely is a key part to these improvements."

Tackling the unpleasant smells that ruin residents' quality of life

New support is available for residents affected by nuisance odours caused by the use of illicit substances, such as cannabis.

Although environmental law allows local authorities to investigate nuisance odours related to industrial, trade or business premises, these powers do not extend to residential properties. In light of this, the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership has created the new Lincolnshire Noxious Odours Procedure, which is believed to be the first of its kind in the country.

The procedure sets out how local authorities and partner agencies will deal with complaints about unpleasant and persistent smells perceived to be caused by the use of illicit substances in private addresses and how they may be able to take action using alternative tools and powers.

If you wish to report an unpleasant and persistent smell from a residential property that you believe to be caused by use of an illicit substance, please contact your district council or housing association.

New culture board hold first meeting in journey to lead cultural development in South & East Lincolnshire

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has held the first meeting of a new, strategic eight member board, drawing on experience from a variety of sectors to lead cultural change in South & East Lincolnshire and help to create a more vibrant and dynamic arts, cultural and heritage offer for residents and visitors.

The following members make up the board and met for its first quarterly meeting last week to appoint a chair, tour two of the proposed new 'cultural hubs' at The Guildhall in Boston and Ayscoughfee Hall and Gardens in Spalding, and discuss future actions:

- Rob Pitman, Paradigm Arts - appointed as chair for the board
- Councillor Graham Marsh, Deputy leader of East Lindsey District Council
- Councillor Sarah Sharpe, portfolio holder for Culture at Boston Borough Council
- Councillor Elizabeth Sneath, portfolio holder for Conservation and Heritage at South Holland District Council
- Claire Foster, Boston College
- Tracy Stringfellow, Heritage Lincolnshire
- Mark Rice, former Advertising and Marketing expert
- Sarah Grundy, Lincolnshire County Council

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 opportunity and programming for residents, developing the sector and helping to build our arts, culture and heritage capacity.

All board members have the responsibility to champion the Boston and East Lindsey Cultural Framework, as well as supporting its future development and expansion into South Holland, which is now under commission.

Chair of the Board, Rob Pitman, said: "The opportunity to meet face to face with everyone and have privileged tours of Boston's Guildhall and Spalding's Ayscoughfee Hall and Gardens was not only a great place to begin but an opportunity to reflect. Lincolnshire has such a wealth of culture and its impact on the globe should not be underestimated. Knowing where we've come from, helps guide us into an exciting future and this opportunity is so full of potential. We can't wait to get started!"

More details can be found at www.boston.gov.uk/NPO, and those wishing to follow the project as it develops can also receive regular updates by signing up to the newsletter at www.boston.gov.uk/NPONewsletter.

2023 Crime and Policing Survey

The Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner has officially launched his 2023 Crime and Policing Survey. The survey gives residents the opportunity to voice their opinion on how the PCC should continue to protect the quality of life in our towns and villages.

In previous years, the views expressed have been the driving force behind significant changes in Lincolnshire Police services.

A dedicated roads policing unit, new rural crime teams, increases in neighbourhood officers and investment in 101 response – all have been launched thanks to the survey.

The survey closes on December 6. You can take part here:

<https://habit5research.questionpro.eu/a/TakeSurvey?tt=SggNcKuAEpTDoJ3Y0UO2/g%3D%3D&&custom2=SELP>

[The Council issues a regular newsletter by email to residents. It's free and keeps you informed on the Council work and that of its partners. If you'd like to subscribe to receive this please sign up at \[www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/messenger\]\(http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/messenger\)](#)

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HOW WE WORK AS ONE TEAM
TO BE THE BEST FOR OUR
PLACE AND PEOPLE



Joined by One Team

South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership



WE TRUST



WE DELIVER



WE WORK
TOGETHER



WE ARE
PROUD



WE CARE
