

From: Communications, Communications <Communications.Communications@e-lindsey.gov.uk>
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Subject: Boston Parish News - Thursday 29 February 2024



Welcome to the February'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 Levelling Up Consultation Survey is now live

Following on-site public and business consultation, the Levelling Up survey is now live. This is a chance for everyone to have their say on what they would like to see in the Rosegarth Square Development, which is happening with the help of Levelling Up Funding from the Government. Survey Link - <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/e58ecc6a-47bf-418a-ac2f-46904f11a64e>
Survey Ends: Sunday 10th March 2024
Please take five minutes to share your thoughts and share the survey within your parishes.

Bargate Green Traders Joins Main Market in Town Centre

Bargate Green Market which is held every Wednesday will join the main market in the Boston Market Place from Wednesday 6th March 2024. Boston Market has been a recognised tourist attraction in its' own right since it obtained its Charter of Incorporation from Henry VIII in 1545. The market offers diverse goods and services including fresh local produce, toys, fabrics, household goods, and clothing. Outdoor catering vendors provide drinks and snacks. To streamline operations and enhance visitor experience, the Bargate Green traders will now be situated within Boston Market Place, every Wednesday. For more information: www.boston.gov.uk/boston-market

Partnership Leaders issue joint statement on National Grid pylon proposal

Leaders from the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, comprised of Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council, have issued a joint response to plans to run a series of pylons and overhead lines through the sub-region.

The plans have been announced as part of National Grid's Great Grid Upgrade, an overhaul of the electricity grid involving new infrastructure projects across the country.

The grid proposes installing new overhead cabling through Lincolnshire between Grimsby and Walpole near Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, along with new electricity substations.

In a joint statement, Cllr Nick Worth, Leader of South Holland District Council, Cllr Anne Dorrian, Leader of Boston Borough Council, and Cllr Craig Leyland, Leader of East Lindsey District Council, said: "We recognise the national importance of major energy projects like this to help improve our infrastructure and tackle the energy crisis we are currently seeing, as well as to create greater grid capacity and investment opportunities in our own sub-region.

"However, the major impact these plans could have on our communities and environment cannot be ignored, and we are pleased to see consultation taking place in these early stages to receive feedback before any further steps are taken.

"We hope that we can continue to be actively involved in any future plans, and that all possible alternative options and views are considered, including the possibility of underground installation. The greater cost of this compared to overhead pylons must be weighed by National Grid against the need to protect our environment, the amenity of our residents and communities, and the devastating impact the proposals threaten to have on a £500 million local tourism industry.

"It is important that all available steps are taken to help minimise the impact on our residents and businesses and protect the unique character of South and East Lincolnshire. Most importantly, we would encourage everyone with an interest or an opinion to get involved, make sure they attend the online or in-person events, and provide their thoughts to ensure that our voice is heard on this significant project."

You can find out more about the proposals, and how to attend an in-person or virtual consultation event, at www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/grimsby-to-walpole

Boston Market Place to host Boston's Strongest and Food Fest event

Boston's Strongest are gearing up to compete in a special contest this July in a bid to be crowned Boston's Strongest 2024, and this event is being held alongside a Boston Food Fest.

Boston's Strongest has been held for a number of years at the Mayhem Gym, but due to its growing size in popularity they are this year joining us in Boston Market Place on Sunday 14th July, from 10am.

There are a number of categories and events for men and women with up to 10 athletes in each, with head referee, World Strongman Games Athlete, Craig Candler.

To win the titles of the 5 categories, competitors will have to compete a series of gruelling events including deadlifting 100kg and cars, vehicle pull and MAS Wrestling and more. There will be cash prizes and trophies for the top three in each category.

Previous champions, Dean Mason, Finley Roberts and Tom Dust the Boston's Strongest defending champions will be competing alongside a host of other names to be confirmed soon.

The event is free for spectators with a £35 entry price for competitors.

For more information, visit www.boston.gov.uk/article/25590/Boston-Market-Place-to-host-Boston-s-Strongest-and-Food-Fest-event

Boston Heroes is back!

Following the success of the last two year's Boston Heroes Campaign, Boston Borough Council is calling on the community to nominate their local heroes for 2023/24.

This year's categories will be:

- Outstanding Achievement
- Group Champion.
- Individual Champion
- Youth Champion

The deadline for nominations is midnight on Sunday 10th March 2024, and winners will be announced shortly after

Nominate your local hero on our website here <https://bit.ly/3UxeTNf>

A fair deal for funding of Internal Drainage Boards presented to MPs and Ministers

Members of the Local Government Association Special Interest Group for Internal Drainage Board levies – which includes Boston Borough Council - have stressed the urgent need for funding reform to Government Ministers and MPs at a Parliamentary event.

The House of Commons event was jointly hosted by the Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP and the Rt Hon Sir John Hayes MP. Both echoed their previously voiced support urging the Government to revise the current funding approach to IDBs which is crippling a small number of councils' budgets.

Cllr Paul Redgate, chairman of the SIG, praised the work of IDBs, presented the huge impact the levy increases are having and how this is leaving several small councils in a financially precarious position. He warned if no long-term solution is secured, councils will have no choice but to cut services residents rely on.

The event came following last month's announcement by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities that a long-term solution to IDB funding will be implemented. The Government is also awarding £3m for the next financial year to the most affected authorities. The SIG is grateful to the Government for listening and conversations are progressing with civil servants in DEFRA and DLUH to seek a funding solution before the 25/26 financial settlement.

Cllr Paul Redgate said: "The issue of Internal Drainage Board levies is hugely significant to the budgets of the Special Interest Group Councils and the reception was an important part of our raising the matter with Government and MPs.

"I was delighted the SIG was able to present this significant issue direct to MPs and I thank the hosts, the speakers and all those who were able to join us. Everyone in the room was united with one voice - we need Government to implement a solution with pace.

"The urgency for this to be resolved cannot be stressed enough. The levy will keep consuming the money Councils have available for services it raises by Council tax every year until a fair deal is secured.

"We need to continue to support the critical work of the IDBs, managing water and reducing flood risk. Their operations are vital for the communities the SIG councils represent. The demand on pumping stations is not going away and will become even greater in time.

"We need Government to review policy and we need this to progress at the pace the Government has set out - in advance of the 25/26 financial settlement.

"The SIG will not stop until a long-term approach is secured. We now look forward to progressing conversations with DEFRA and DLUH even further following the Parliamentary reception."

Read more on this here: www.boston.gov.uk/article/25567/A-fair-deal-for-funding-of-Internal-Drainage-Boards-presented-to-MPs-and-Ministers-at-Parliamentary-event

Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner elections – May 2

An election to appoint Lincolnshire's Police & Crime Commissioner for the next four years will take place on Thursday, 2nd May 2024.

This year, there have been some new elections laws introduced. Here's a guide to everything you need to know:

Voter Authority Certificate application deadline - 5pm Wednesday 24 April 2024

To vote at the polling station voters are required to show an accepted form of photographic ID before being issued with a ballot paper.

The most common forms of photo ID are passports, photo driving licences, bus passes and Student PASS cards. Anyone who does not have an acceptable form of photo ID can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. For more information about Voter Authority Certificates and acceptable forms of photo ID, please visit the Electoral Commission website - [Voter ID information page](#)

Voter Authority Certificate application deadline - 5pm Wednesday 24 April 2024

Photo ID is required to be shown when voting at the polling station and your proxy will need to bring their own photo ID to the polling station when voting on your behalf (unless they apply to vote by post on your behalf)

Register to vote deadline - Midnight, Tuesday 16 April 2024

To register to vote, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote> (you will need your national insurance number)

Postal vote application deadline - 5pm, Wednesday 17 April 2024

To apply for a postal vote either:

- Apply online <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote> (you will need your national insurance number)
- Download an application and send it by email to elections@boston.gov.uk or by post to Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QR.
- Completed applications must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 17 April 2024

Proxy vote application deadline - 5pm, Wednesday 24 April 2024

To apply for a proxy vote either:

- Apply online <https://www.gov.uk/apply-proxy-vote> (you will need your national insurance number)
- [Download an application](#) and send it by email to elections@boston.gov.uk or by post Boston Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QR.
- Completed applications must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 24 April 2024.

Handing in of Postal Votes at Council Offices or at a Polling Station

There will be a limit on the number of postal votes a person can hand in at the Council Offices or at a polling station - they will not be allowed to hand in **more than five postal ballot packs for other electors plus their own**.

- Anyone handing in postal votes will need to complete a '**return of postal voting documents' form**.
- The person handing in the postal vote(s) will need to complete the form with their name, address and the reason for handing in other people's postal votes (where appropriate).
- They will also need to complete a declaration that they are not handing in more than the permitted number, and that they are not a political campaigner.

Reasons your Postal Votes might be Rejected:

- If a person hands in more than five postal votes for other electors, all the postal votes (other than their own) will be **rejected**.
- If there is reason to suspect that a person has already handed in the maximum number of postal votes on any previous occasion at the election, any subsequent postal votes handed in will be **rejected**
- If the return of postal voting documents form is not completed with all the required information, or to the authorised officer's satisfaction, the postal vote(s) will be **rejected**.

Please note the council offices at Boston Borough Council Municipal Buildings, West Street, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 8QR will only accept handing in of postal votes during normal office hours. Rejected postal votes will not be included in the count. After the election, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will write to electors who have had their postal votes rejected, telling them why.

Roles available to work at elections

The Council has paid work opportunities for people aged 18 or over to assist with the election of Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner on May 2.

Roles include:

- Polling Station staff – Presiding Officer and Poll Clerks to work at polling stations from 6.30am-10pm on election day. They will oversee the ballot and ensure the proper procedure for voting is followed. Full training is provided.
- Counting staff – to count the votes. This is usually on the night of election day and into the early hours.
- Postal vote staff – to open postal votes. This is day-time only.

If you know someone who may be interested in working at this or any other election, they can email: elections@boston.gov.uk

New exhibition featured at Boston Guildhall Museum

The Pilgrim Woman Exhibition at Boston Guildhall Museum is well underway, detailing the process and research behind the Pilgrim Woman: Boston sculptures outside the Stump.

Artist and sculptor, Rachel Carter, created the Pilgrim Women series after following in the footsteps of the Mayflower Pilgrims to develop new work inspired by their journey. Rachel's work will be on display at the exhibition, which will tell the often unheard stories of the women on this journey.

The exhibition is on now until Saturday 20 April. Entry is free, and the Guildhall is open on Wednesdays to Saturdays, 10.30am to 3.30pm, with last admission at 3pm.

Rachel Carter is also hosting free public weaving workshops tomorrow, Saturday 24 February, where you can get the opportunity to learn new skills and hear Rachel's story. Tickets available here: <https://loom.ly/0bk0Nd4>

For more information around the exhibition, please visit <https://loom.ly/80haizs>

This project is part of the National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme awarded to the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, funded by Arts Council England, and was put together in partnership with Transported.

Boston Green Volunteers

The Liquorpond Street roundabout area had become very overgrown which made it an unsafe place to cross the road due to the lack of vision and a place where a lot of litter had accumulated amongst the shrubs!

The Boston Green Volunteers have been working extremely hard to tidy up this area. It is looking a lot better and is now safer for people crossing the road here.

The group have nearly finished tidying the shrubs and clearing ivy and it will soon be time to add colour with some new plants. Boston Borough Council helped by clearing away all of the cut down vegetation and bags of litter.

The Green Volunteers are a small friendly team that would welcome new volunteers who like to get out in the fresh air to help improve our town. They meet every Friday morning and maintain some of the green spaces in Boston. If you would like to get involved, please contact us on 07506 717998

Blenkin Memorial Hall

The Blenkin Memorial Hall was recognised at the Greater Lincolnshire Construction and Property Awards 2023 as the historic community space marks one year since it reopened its doors.

The transformation of the hall, which is a Boston Town Deal project, was made possible by £810,000 from the Towns Fund as well as match funding to provide a multi-functional space with the community at the heart of all it offers.

Viridis Building Services Ltd, the Mechanical Engineering specialists who worked on the restoration and development of the Blenkin Memorial Hall, won the Development Project of the Year (under £ 5 million) at the Greater Lincolnshire Construction & Property Awards 2024 for their work on the project.

The Blenkin Memorial Hall, which sits in the shadow of Boston Stump, has been a community hub in Boston for over a century, opening its doors in 1893. The repair, renovation and redevelopment of the Blenkin Memorial Hall is an important part of Boston's plan to enhance existing community hubs.

One of the key features of the restoration was the environmental aspects of the project, not only carrying out works that are sympathetic to the original features of the building but also incorporating new technologies.

A new heat source pump system has been installed alongside LED lighting, with communal spaces operating via sensors. The hall's electricity comes from low-carbon technology to ensure that the Parish is doing its bit in aiming for a carbon-neutral future.

Since reopening its doors, the rejuvenated hall has seen significant use by the local community, with dance classes amongst the activities provided in the space. And, Boston College also offers regular sessions which offer numeracy and literacy skills through crafts in the hall.

The restoration of Blenkin Memorial Hall has also enabled the Parish of Boston to develop its song school and extend the role of Director of Music, John Lyon, so more outreach can be achieved in Boston's numerous schools and colleges. Music lessons are held in the hall, and work is taking place with schools, including choral classes for two local primary schools. The Director of Music is currently working with six local primary schools and two secondary schools.

In addition, the development of the hall has provided space for mentoring, coaching and life skills by providing individual and group workshops.

Read more here: https://www.bostontowndeal.co.uk/2024/02/22/the-blenkin-memorial-hall-recognised-with-award-as-it-marks-one-year-since-reopening/?fbclid=IwAR05Wc6PLCVAP_tIYkK8t5zpO9oGroNkbTv2piZ_2WhgH1uP8qDB3y6RzGQ

Charity Fundraiser event in Boston

The Worshipful the Mayor of Boston, Councillor David Brown, invites everyone to attend the 'Mayor's Charity 'Fun' Fundraiser' in aid of the Mayor's Charities, RNLI and Salvation Army.

Cost £22 per person, includes very comprehensive buffet, novelty gifts and competition prizes. There will be a Pay Bar available. All special dietary requirements can be catered for. There will be a novelty gift for everyone in attendance, games, quick quiz on printed sheets and reverse bingo, all with prizes for winners and a raffle too. The tables are for 6 people and if anyone wishes to reserve a table of 6 please advise asap, otherwise you can sit where you wish as there will be no seating plan.

Details as follows:

- Friday 22nd March 6.30pm
- Boston Rugby Club, Great Fen Road, Wyberton, Boston PE21 7PB.

All payments will be made through Cllr Pierpoint and all proceeds will be donated to the Mayor's Charities.

Places can be reserved with Cllr Pierpoint and it would be very helpful if you could please advise with your name and your numbers before Friday, 15th March with your payment of £22 per person. Details are as follows:

- barrie.pierpoint@boston.gov.uk
- 07720 406806

The Mayor looks forward to seeing you all there for a great night of good food, fun, gifts, prizes, surprises, laughter and lots more too.

If you require any further details, please contact Cllr Pierpoint as above.

Boston's Wombles plan another street clean-up

Together with the support of Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council the borough's dedicated volunteer group The Wombles of Boston Common are once again planning on making our streets cleaner and greener to be held on Sunday 17th March from 9am.

To find out more or to register your interest call or text 07595 635891, email stephen.slater5@btinternet.com or pledge your interest at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/406875743746063>

Free marketing workshops available soon

Cock-a-doodle-doo Marketing is holding a free, interactive marketing workshop to support arts and heritage practitioners, organisations and venues.

The workshop from 10am to 1pm will be on 14th March at Fydell House, Boston.

You can expect to discover the latest trends on social media, define your marketing goals, grow your audience, learn techniques to grow your social media, and receive expert advice on preparing media releases, e-mail marketing and eye-catching posters and flyers.

In addition to the workshop, 2 hours of 1-to-1 mentoring is provided to all participants who successfully complete the workshop.

This opportunity comes following funding from South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership's Arts Council England NPO programme, which looks to support arts, culture, heritage and creativity across the whole of South and East Lincolnshire, providing meaningful opportunity and programming for residents, developing the sector and helping to build our arts, culture and heritage offer.

If you know someone who may be interested, places can be booked by emailing samantha.phillips@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 ready for residents

The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has secured funding from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to assist Boston Borough homeowners and landlords to make improvements to the energy efficiency of their properties.

HUG 2 will focus only on off gas properties - however there may be other funding available for those who do not meet the criteria so please get in touch if you are unsure.

To be eligible, total household income should be less than £31k of which Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Attendance Allowance (AA) will be deducted if the customer is in receipt of these.

The Home Energy Advice & Retrofit Team will be delighted to hear from those who would like to take advantage of a grant which is available to improve the energy efficiency of your home.

Grants of up to £38,000 will be available to owner-occupiers and up to £25,000 to landlords - with landlords being required to fund a percentage of the cost of work.

Funding amounts are subject to property types and wall types. The grant funding will only be available until the end March 2025.

The scheme will target low carbon heating such as air source heat pumps as well as energy efficiency measures such as insulation which will help boost your EPC rating.

Residents can contact the team on greenhomesgrants@e-lindsey.gov.uk or call 01507 613573

Capital and revenue grants available from Grants4Growth

Funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and distributed by the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, more than £2million will be awarded to help Small and Medium sized businesses (SMEs), operating across Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland, with grants to help purchase both the equipment/machinery and the services they need to grow.

So far, the Partnership has awarded more than £460,000 to businesses across the area through Grants4Growth. Businesses supported include those in the construction, manufacturing, logistics and printing industries, along with training providers and sports coaching companies.

Visit www.grants4growth.sholland.gov.uk for more information and the eligibility criteria – or email any questions to grants4growth@sholland.gov.uk

80th anniversary of D-Day landing

On June 6th, 2024, it will be 80 years since the D-Day landing took place during the Second World War. This event was a turning point in the process of liberating France and more of Western Europe.

Communities are invited to light their beacons at 9.15pm on 6 June 2024.

More details of this anniversary, and how to get involved in honouring D-Day, can be found on the Royal British Legion's website - [D-Day 80 | Remembrance | Royal British Legion](#)

Bishop of Lincoln's Social Justice Fund available

Staff and Trustees at Lincolnshire Community Foundation (LCF) are pleased to announce another opportunity to receive funding available to Churches, local volunteer and not-for-profit community groups, and charities etc to address social justice issues within their community via the Bishop of Lincoln Social Justice Fund.

Grants of up to £2,500 are available for projects across Greater Lincolnshire, which respond to human need and seek to transform unjust structures of society. Priority will be given to activities for example, which improve social cohesion of intergenerational and diverse communities; engagement to reduce lonely, isolated or vulnerable members of the community; or address the causes of poverty, crime or unemployment.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications and supporting documentation is on 1 March 2024 with decisions notified within 4-6 weeks of the closing date.

The application process is straight forward, and Helen Cater, the Grant Manager for this Fund is available throughout the application process. If you would like more information, contact helen@lincolnshirecf.co.uk Telephone (01529) 305825, Mobile 07591 916305 or download the Fund Guidelines and an Application Form from our Grants Page at <https://lincolnshirecf.co.uk/available-grants/>

[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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