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Welcome to September'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

Local community benefits from 10 years of funding

Boston Borough Council extends a heartfelt thank you to Boston Big Local for their incredible support over the past 10 years. In 2014, Boston was awarded £1 million from the Big Lottery Fund to be spent on projects in Boston Town Centre, as decided by the residents living in the area. The Boston Big Local resident group was formed to manage the allocation of this funding over a 10-year period, ensuring the money was used for initiatives that would greatly benefit the local community. Many community groups and organisations applied for grants to fund a wide variety of projects aimed at enhancing the area. Boston Borough Council was fortunate to collaborate with Boston Big Local on several of these projects, particularly to improve play spaces within the town centre. These improvements included the installation of small play equipment in various areas and some remarkable larger pieces, such as the inclusive wheelchair-accessible swing in Central Park, the pirate ship in Woodville Road play area, a zip wire, slide, and swings in Broadfield Lane play area, and the three-part ship in St John's Play Area. Boston Big Local also made the decision to organise free community events for all to enjoy. Over the years, these events have included the annual beach built in Central Park during the school summer holidays, family fun days, teddy bears' picnics, "Fun in the Sun" events for those with additional support needs, "Golden Time" for over-50s and those living with dementia, and Active Boston, showcasing healthy activities available locally. To learn more about Boston Big Local and the projects funded through the £1 million Big Lottery Fund, please visit <https://bostonbiglocal.co.uk>.

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) approved to Control Wild Bird Feeding in Boston Town Centre

A new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) has been approved by the Cabinet of Boston Borough Council to address the uncontrolled feeding of wild birds in designated areas of Boston Town Centre. This decision was made following a public consultation and feedback from the Environment and Performance Committee.

The PSPO aims to reduce the negative impact of excessive bird feeding, which has caused damage to local infrastructure, buildings, the public realm, and the heritage of Boston. The Council received strong public support for the initiative, with 82% of respondents recognising a problem with bird feeding in certain areas and 86% supporting enforcement measures. Notably, 91% of participants in the consultation either live, work, or study in the town.

Cllr Anne Dorrian, Leader of the Council, said: "We are committed to maintaining a clean and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and visitors to Boston. This new PSPO is an important step in tackling the ongoing issues caused by excessive bird feeding, which has affected our town's infrastructure and heritage.

"Most importantly, the guano (bird poo) has caused damage to one of the most beautiful buildings in Lincolnshire, St Botolph's Parish Church, and we simply cannot stand by and do nothing. I would like to reassure residents that there will be an extensive public awareness campaign to ensure that residents know about this new order, and we will take a kindly, educative and informative approach in the early months, rather than a punitive one.

"We have listened to our residents, and it's clear that there is strong support for these measures. By taking action, we aim to preserve the beauty and character of Boston for everyone to enjoy." Parish Resources Manager, Chris Ladner, has recently told the council: "We have recently invested £2.8 million in restoring the building but unfortunately, the acid in the guano produced by wild birds damages the stonework. This new measure will help preserve it for many years to come."

The order, with fixed penalty notices fixed at £100, will enable the Council to implement and enforce measures to better protect the town centre's environment and public spaces.

BTAC third round of funding open

Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC) have a number of community grant schemes available for local groups, organisations and charities to apply for to support projects that will contribute and improve Boston town centre!

The third round is now open until Thursday 3 October.

For more information and eligibility - <https://loom.ly/-woB-Lg>

Boston to stage its first ever Christmas Festival complete with ice rink

On Friday 29th November, Bargate Green Car Park will be transformed into a winter wonderland, featuring attractions for the whole family to enjoy. The highlight will be an ice-skating experience with a synthetic ice rink - new for 2024—alongside several traditional fairground rides, beautifully framed by the newly illuminated Christmas lights introduced in 2023.

The ice rink will be open for skating throughout the weekend, with its official launch on Friday 29th November to kick off the Boston Christmas Festival of 2024 running through to 6pm on Sunday 1st December 2024.

The Christmas Festival again will bring Traditional Christmas market food and drinks being served, including mulled wine and Bratwurst sausages, as well as the traditional hog roast, cakes and pastries, and many other items.

The Market will also feature a "fabulous selection" of stalls selling Christmas gingerbread, handmade wooden items, jewellery and Christmas ornaments and decorations, as well as pet items from The Little Blue Pupcakery.

Meanwhile, a number of community acts, local bands, talent shows, and much more will bring the entertainment for the 3-day festival.

Rosegarth Square Public Realm Programme update

This scheme has been developed following extensive engagement with our residents, schools, and local businesses during the public consultation earlier this year.

A link to a fly-through video of the proposed area, which will be submitted for planning permission at the end of this week - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ib5Bg1RL4b4>

Pending approval, work is expected to begin in February 2025, with completion targeted for Spring 2026.

Blenkin Memorial Hall Wins Prestigious Award

Blenkin Memorial Hall in Boston has been crowned a winner in the prestigious Local Authority Building Control Building Excellence Awards 2024.

The recognition for the Boston Borough Council Building Control team comes after the hall underwent a significant refurbishment in 2022, with internal and external improvements carried out in keeping with the heritage of the building.

Now the hall, which dates back to 1893, has been named the regional winner in the best non-residential extension, alteration or conversion category in the awards which celebrate local authority building control excellence in projects.

The Blenkin Memorial Hall has a hall and office space which can be hired on a hourly/daily rate. To find out more please contact adam.kelk@parishofboston.co.uk or call the Parish Office via (01205) 310929.

Read more: <https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/27471/Blenkin-Memorial-Hall-Wins-Prestigious-Award>

Sign-ups are open for the Boston Santa Run 2024

Join 500 fellow Santa's as they dash through Boston town centre to raise money for charity on Sunday, 1st December as part of the three-day Boston Christmas Festival! Follow our refreshed route from last year, take in the historic landmarks, and soak up the festive vibes.

Whether you're a runner or a walker, this event is for everyone. You can walk and enjoy the festive atmosphere with tail walkers making sure no one gets left behind!

Kicking off with an exciting warm-up by Vicki and the V-Fitness team, the fun doesn't stop there! They'll finish at Boston Market Place with live music from Endeavour FM, market stalls, and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Remember, it's not a race—it's all about festive fun and making magical memories with your fellow Santa's, and everyone taking part gets a goodie bag and medal!

Ready to suit up and join the fun? Register here at

https://tridentsportevents.eventrac.co.uk/e/boston-santa-run-10989?fbclid=IwY2xjawFZFfnJleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHVwg6KEskCfV70ipHUKpTIdiHVvfk1-29WEjgbMiao4ftdQSIQSiVhVOOA_aem_4uHz8hGFRGrhoZKwXmxd7A

Grand opening of Boston Men's Shed

In August, Boston Borough Council was privileged to be part of the Boston Men's Shed Grand Opening of their new premises - Lealand Way in Boston.

The Boston men's Shed is a place of sanctuary to men who may feel like they need somewhere to just 'be'. This new location for their 'shed' will enable them to open their doors to more men who may be struggling for whatever reason and will enable them to undertake projects of a larger scale.

This event was a way for the Shedders to acknowledge and thank some of their donors and supporters who have helped and assisted them leading up to this point. The guests included benefactors and local councillors who have all supported the Men's Shed in some way. The Honourable Mayor of Boston cut the ribbon and declared the new site open. John Mould of the Men's Shed proceeded to give thanks to all of those who have been and still are being of assistance to them.

If you would like to support or to just find out more about the shedders have a look at their Facebook page/website: https://bostonshed.co.uk/?fbclid=IwY2xjawFH2-tleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHeVx1LrHe4MLHGQV-XOQdNoTjA09Ic_CZbjjGiUyo6tIBkb_Dj30NwUrug_aem_vLRn7l6eINbV3x1N-JXazg

New stretch of King Charles III England Coast Path opening in South Holland, Boston Borough and East Lindsey

An additional 57 miles of path has been opened between Skegness in East Lindsey and Sutton Bridge in South Holland, as well as going through Boston, notably passing the memorial to the Pilgrim Fathers who sailed to America on the Mayflower.

This new development enables access to new parts of Lincolnshire's coastline, including The Wash, which is rich in wildlife and nature.

The new path joins with the existing King Charles III England Coast Path, as well as Lincolnshire's existing National Trail, connecting Mablethorpe and Skegness.

Read more here: [New stretch of King Charles III England Coast Path opens in Lincolnshire – Lincolnshire County Council](#)

NPO newsletter

Please find attached the SELCP NPO newsletter for September 2024.

Move to Universal Credit

Some benefits and tax credits are ending and being replaced by Universal Credit.

People who are being 'moved to Universal Credit' will receive a letter from the Department of Work And Pensions - this is call a 'Universal Credit Migration notice'.

People will not be moved automatically – the letter will tell people when they need to move to Universal Credit. They must make the new claim within 3 months of receiving this letter (a sample letter is attached for reference).

More information can be found: <https://ucmove.campaign.gov.uk/>

A detailed guide on support available is attached and resources are available at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-information-for-stakeholders-and-partners

Parking Penalty scam

A scam trying to get money fraudulently via text messages about parking fines is doing the rounds in Lincolnshire.

Starting with words along the lines of 'Parking Penalty Charge Notice' text messages are being sent out claiming that an outstanding parking ticket is due to be paid.

It warns of an increase of 50% to pay if the PCN fine is not paid within 28 days, and that the receiver of the text will be prosecuted and may also face court costs.

Thankfully, this text message is nonsense. If you, or anyone you know, is sent one of these messages then ignore it. Any parking charges are to be paid, or contested via the details on the back of the actual ticket itself.

Do not try to resolve a parking issue, or pay a PCN charge, via any other route. You will NOT be contacted by text message regarding a PCN charge in this way - ever.

https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/news/article/2037/parking-penalty-scam-doing-the-rounds?fbclid=IwY2xjawFRCBpleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHd67FwUPRF-V0a50rtzwvFAhpzzEkBWR5OZ5S8FFeCegiCsNEovuFNjchw_aem_dZ3HY4O7ZDlzyBoE_CszkQ

Upcoming Exhibition at the Guildhall Museum

The Guildhall Museum in Boston is gearing up for a special exhibition to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Ron Diggins' groundbreaking invention of the first mobile disco, Dance Again to Diggins Exhibition!

Join us in celebrating the legacy of Bostonian Ron Diggins, the pioneer of the world's first mobile disco. The exhibition will be held at the Boston Guildhall from 12th October 2024 to 11th January 2025.

Fancy a boogie? Check out the dates for our exclusive Dance Sessions at the Guildhall:

- 7th November 4-6pm
- 22nd November 4-6pm
- 19th December 4-6pm (Christmas Special)

Don't miss this chance to relive the magic of the mobile disco era and celebrate a local legend! See you there!

For more information and updates please visit Boston Guildhall's Facebook:

[Boston Guildhall Museum | Boston | Facebook](#)

A message to residents from Boston's Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Ian Cotton

Boston's Neighbourhood Policing Team is looking for input on its priorities for the next three months.

Residents can help to shape their policing priorities by completing a short survey, which takes approximately one minute to complete: [Neighbourhood Policing Survey \(office.com\)](#) - the survey will close at midnight on Monday 7 October, ahead of the team's priority setting meeting on Wednesday 9 October.

Unlocking Digital skills with the help from Lincs Digital

Residents of Boston Borough are being given a unique opportunity to enhance their digital skills through a series of community events and learning sessions organised by Lincs Digital, a local charity based in Horncastle in partnership with SELCP Healthy Living Team. These events, designed to cater to the diverse needs of the community, are taking place at various community hubs. For more information on session dates and venues, or to explore online course options, please contact Lincs Digital, visit their website at [Lincs Digital | Lincs Digital - Supporting you online](#) or follow [Lincs Digital](#) on Facebook.

Pension Credit

Did you know Pension Credit is one of the most under-claimed benefits in Lincolnshire? Help your neighbours or family check their eligibility—it only takes a few moments and could make all the difference this winter! Check online: www.gov.uk/pension-credit or call 0800 99 1234.

If you get Pension Credit, you can also receive:

- Winter Fuel Payment
- Housing Benefit
- Cost of Living Payments
- Support for Mortgage Interest
- Council Tax discount
- Free TV licence (75+)
- Help with NHS costs
- Warm Home Discount Scheme
- Royal Mail redirection discount

Follow Lincolnshire Financial Inclusion Partnership for more money tips and information: www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator - www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBN_CDjnkxQ&t=13s

Police and Crime Plan 2025-2029 Public Consultation

Have your say on the future of policing in Boston Borough by taking part in The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire’s Police and Crime Plan.

Marc Jones is calling for views on the proposed themes and priorities within his Police and Crime Plan and his approach to holding the Force to account.

This online survey can be found here: [Microsoft Forms \(office.com\)](https://forms.office.com)

Your time and feedback is very much appreciated on behalf of East Lindsey. The PCC will use the feedback to inform the final drafting of the Plan which will be presented at the Police and Crime Panel meeting on 15th November. Following this, the final version of the Plan will be published on the PCC’s website in December.

[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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