

ON THE UP AT BLACKFRIARS THEATRE

Blackfriars Theatre kindly invited Boston Big Local to the opening of their brand new lift. A project that has been more than 10 years in the making.

It started as a hope and dream to enable more people to access the stage and the theatre. After an extremely kind donation of £11,000 in the will of Dot Hugh enabled the project to move into a real possibility.

Years prior, Dot, along with her late husband, Peter, who worked as a projectionist at a local cinema, requested that their money be put towards the installation of the lift at Blackfriars Theatre.

Now with around a third of the required funding needed for the lift, Rob Barclay from Blackfriars Theatre approached the residents of Boston Big Local for support with further funding. We happily agreed to donate a further £22,000.

With a final funding offer of £5,000 from Len Medlock, there was enough money for the project to have lift off!

One of Blackfriars' Directors,



The opening of the new Blackfriars Lift. Left to Right: David Grant, BBL Chairman Richard Tory, BBL Resident Don Jenkins, Rob Barclay, Stuart Bull & John Tillson

John Tillson, was chosen to manage the project. John, along with the Blackfriars committee, selected H. H. Adkins the builders to carry out the work. John stated:

"They (H. H. Adkins) could not have supported us (Blackfriars) any more than they did and the quality of their work was outstanding."

The lift installation project was extremely challenging because of some unforeseen large structural difficulties of this medieval theatre building.

The only downside of the lift installation was the extra cost to Blackfriars. This hit their restoration fund hard. If you wish to donate to their fund to help with further theatre refurbishments you can by visiting the Blackfriars website.

Since the lift has been opened,

Blackfriars is now fully accessible for theatre users and actors the feedback has been very positively received. A member of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) who visited Blackfriars said:

"I would struggle to name 5 theatres nationally that can do what you do for people with disabilities."

Rob Barclay and a member from a theatre in Lincoln stated how impressed they were with the quality of the lift and how quiet it is to not disturb any of the performances.

Next time you are near Blackfriars Theatre why not pop in and see it.

We are really proud to have helped Blackfriars to make the town's theatre more accessible for even more people to use and to perform.

Our vision is for a happy vibrant area where people feel a sense of belonging

NEWSLETTER Boston Big Local

Residents Leading Change



January 2019

OUR PLAN!

To quote Hannibal Smith from the A Team "I love it when a plan comes together." Well we are not quite there yet but we are working towards our next 2 year plan.

So far, back in October, we have had a planning meeting with our partners.

This was extremely helpful and produced many good ideas and gave us directions of where to head.

An example being to have more of a focus on supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing from within our Theme 1 - Health and Wellbeing. This was a great suggestion because for the first



Our Partners Planning Meeting in October 2018

4 years, with varying degrees of success, we have focused much more on the physical health of people within the Boston Big Local area. we discussed how much we would like to invest over the next 2 years, along with the projects we would like to add into that plan.

At our November panel meeting **Continues on the next page...**

A BIG THANK YOU!

Rachel Lauberts has chosen to leave her role as Planning Co-ordinator at Boston Big Local. We would all like to take this opportunity to say how we have all appreciated her passion and hard work in setting up and running BBL. Thank you Rachel.



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FIND OUT WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED.

5 - 7pm on 31st Jan 2019 at the Len Medlock Centre

All BBL Residents are invited to see our draft plan of how we hope to invest in the area over the next 2 years.



WHO WE HELPED: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Sometimes it is good to stop and reflect on what we have done. As we begin a new year, perhaps now is the best time to remember *some* of the differences the BBL investments have made to our area:

- Theme 1 - Health and Wellbeing
- Theme 2 - A More Attractive Environment
- Theme 3 - Build Community Spirit
- Theme 4 - Encouraging Enterprise

If your group needs some financial support and is in the Boston Big Local area or you can demonstrate that you make a difference to the people living in Boston Big Local area please visit - <http://bostonbiglocal.co.uk/funding/>



Boston Central Park

We funded towards the the swing for people with disabilities and also invested in a new roundabout.



Get Cycling Roadshow

BBL funded this whole event to enable people experience cycling in a variety of ways in the Marketplace.



Boston Bike Night

Our small events fund helped this event take place.



Boston Marathon, UK

Since 2016, we have funded the Boston Marathon UK. Now into its 4th year the Marathon is heading towards profitability meaning this will be our last investment into this event.



Beach in Central Park

We provide the vast majority of funding, ensuring this popular event gets bigger year on year.



Memory Lane

The funding we give helps support people with Dementia.



Boston In Bloom

Getting better and better, year on year Boston in Bloom has blossomed into becoming a Gold Winner. We are pleased to be part of this journey.



Boston Hanse Group

We continued our support ensuring Boston is recognised internationally.



Christmas In Boston

Our investment helped ensure that Boston looks great this Christmas.



Boston Community Transport

We supported this scheme to support people who have difficulty or unable to use public transport.

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Over the next couple of panel meetings in January and February 2019 we will conclude our draft plan.

Once we have finalised our draft 2 year plan we will send it to the national Local Trust who, hopefully, will sign it off so we can start actioning it's aims from April 2019.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2012, The National Lottery gave the residents of Boston Big Local £1 Million to invest in their local area over ten years. Learn more at www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk

