

BOSTON BIG LOCAL

Hanse Group

Project:		Encouraging enterprise	
Lead delivery partner:		Hanse Group	
Theme:	Bringing local history to the residents by joining the new Hanseatic League	Priority:	
Activity:	Increasing the knowledge of Boston's historical links with the Hanseatic League		
Cost Code	4.3.1		

Project outcomes (from SLA)

- Acting as the focal point for information about and support for Boston and the new Boston Hanse Group.
- Encouraging and fostering research into Boston's Hanseatic past.
- Partnership working to improve tourist information about Hanseatic history
- Develop a Hanse trail and audio guide
- Public information boards
- Guide training
- Blue plaque placement
- Preparation for the 2020 Hanse Tag, working with Kings Lynn, giving support and advice to delegates
- Support the creation of 'Hanse Scholarships' in the schools and college with a view to Boston representation at the Youth Hanse
- Foster interest in the New Hanse in the migrant community and foster a sense of belonging

Reporting period dates:	April 2019 to June 2021	Number and age of people benefiting from the project during the reporting period:	– The resident community and 17 to 25 year olds in Scouts, Boston High School, Grammar School and the College
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Introduction

Aim: -

- Continuing membership of the New Hanse
- Building civic pride
- Encourage community and business involvement

The main focus of our activity is to introduce the people of Boston to its history and explain the benefits of a wider partnership, not only with other towns and cities but also other countries.

Activities undertaken during reporting period



The poster features three images at the top: a historical illustration of a building labeled 'Stilard', a map of the Hanseatic League, and a photograph of an archaeological dig site. The main text reads: 'Boston Hanse Group's Big Dig 23rd April to 9th June 2019. Register now to get involved with this exciting archaeology project which aims to discover more about Boston's medieval history. FREE training will be given by professional archaeologists. Contact: Lydia.hendry@heritagelincs.org. Open Weekends on May 11-12th & June 8-9th. For more details check out our website www.bostonhanse.co.uk'. Logos for the Heritage Lottery Fund, Lincolnshire County Council, Heritage Lincolnshire, Boston Council, your waterloo, and Historic England are at the bottom.

Archaeology – April started with a bang, the Heritage Lottery Fund covered the costs of the Big Dig. We were looking for the hanseatic warehouse near Bath Gardens. The plans for the dig were approved by the various authorities, the Borough, housing association and the local residents. The archaeology firm Archaeological Project Services, an off-shoot of Heritage Lincolnshire, met our group and the plan for the first day on 23rd April was laid. The site of two trenches decided, an 'office' and toilet brought on site and digging began. The first diggers were a group from Boston High School. Hundreds of primary and secondary students, who learnt about layers of history, how to uncover finds and how to wash and care for those finds, Many Boston residents also joined in, with a chance to use geophysics too. The Mayor of Boston opened the dig. Lydia Hendry, the archaeologist in charge told us that she had never had so many participants at a residents' dig.

Two open weekends were held in May and the last weekend of digging in June. Many new residents were involved and came to the Hussey Tower to see the Hanse display and the performances given by the Knights of Skirbeck and the Blacksmith. It was particularly gratifying that so many local European residents had visited during the open weekends and also that seven schools and the local scouts had participated with such enthusiasm. It was agreed that these school contacts should be maintained as far as possible; Mike and/or Lydia will be visiting them before the end of this school term. Two books for schools, (one on archaeology and one on our Hanse history, with translations, will hopefully be our next project and perhaps children could be involved in the next Hanse Day. Likewise we want to maintain contacts with local European groups. Our translated leaflets were a success



Our local history guide was very supportive throughout the Dig and included Hanse information on her history tours. She has been working with a Latvian, Eriks Pitkevics, who is making a film about Boston and its Hanse connections, to take back to Latvia. Our general Hanse leaflets are being translated into various languages for local people and to take to the next International Hanse Tag in Germany.

Finds are now being catalogued and then the collation of feedback information and all statistics will begin, together with reporting to the HLF and BBL. There will be a professional evaluation of the project.





Hanse

A day held in
and city, ours
the most
With a stilt

Lincoln Waites music group, Boston Weavers, Boston Wood Carvers and a medieval food specialist. Our medieval small beer and biscuits were very popular tastes, we had many visitors to our tent village on the Ingram Memorial. The Knights were with us again and led our procession through the market, Pescod Square and back through Narrow Bargate. They were very popular with everyone, and many photos were taken with the men in armour. The group

International Day

every Hanseatic town
was on May 25th and
successful so far.
walking juggler, The



dressed up, my grandson said I looked like a sack of potatoes!

Work with Transported Arts and Artist

Part of the Gateway to Boston programme. Joint venture with Boston in Bloom, Transported Arts, the Poacher Line and Lincolnshire County Council and the Boston Hanse Group.

The artist has completed the small pieces for the trail based on the Hanse flags which are also being used as the pattern for flags for lampposts. A representative from LCC and the Poacher Line is seeking funding for the Hanse History project for art and flags.

Boston Hanse Group were awarded the Pride of Boston by Boston Preservation Trust for their work on the Big Dig.

Heritage Lincolnshire said <https://www.heritagelincs.org/news/summer-newsletter-2019>

Award Winning Boston Big Dig! We were very proud to hear that the Boston Hanse Group have won the Pride of Boston award for the Boston Hanse Big Dig. We have had a great time working on this project with them. The dig has been taking place next to the River Witham in Boston, in order to try and reveal more about the involvement of the Hanseatic merchants in Boston and help educate people about this important time in the town's history. Mike Peberdy, event organiser, had this to say about our contribution to the event: "There have been many positives, especially the schools' involvement and Lydia (APS Community Archaeologist) has done a fantastic job ! The APS site staff have also been very supportive and always very helpful. Thank you." The dig has seen over 300 people getting their hands dirty on site, learning new skills and making new friends. They even found time to discover some lovely finds, such as fragments of a medieval skillet and ribbed decoration green glaze! A type of frying pan



Plans for the next reporting period and time scales

Continue work on selling our publications

Continue to strengthen links with local business and with the Borough. Continue our work with the Youth Hanse.

Evaluate the findings of the Big Dig

As suggested by the RHS judge for Boston in Bloom explore collaboration re display of flags and other Hanse symbols. Talks developing with Transported Art for Hanse flags in town based on the community designs. Poacher Line also interested.

Considering another Arts Council grant for this

Prepare for the 5th September Guildhall public meeting closing the dig exhibition.