



Boston Samaritans

Based in the BBL area at the Len Medlock Centre, Boston Samaritans have been supported by BBL for a couple of years.

In 2019 Boston Samaritans contacted us with the hope of raising awareness of mental health support in the BBL area. We loved this idea and supported them in our 2019-21 two year plan with an initial investment of £4400.

What they did with our funding, which was delivered in 8 quarterly payments, was quite extraordinary.

Samaritans actioned a variety of activities to raise the profile of mental health support. These included attending events, sharing their leaflets and promotional material with local organisations and providing 'How to offer emotional support to others' training.

The training sessions proved extremely popular and were attended by local councillors, businesses, health professional, students, teachers and many more.

When the pandemic hit Boston Samaritans were extremely busy supporting their callers but still managed to change their approach to the training they offered. Instead of offering the training in person, they moved it online over Zoom.

After sharing an invite to the Zoom training on their Twitter page they were surprised at the uptake. Initially, they were expecting no more than 20 attendees, however, they ended up delivering the training to over 200 people from different groups in the area.

With the popularity of this training, along with Boston Samaritans' profile-raising, they increased their volunteers by nearly a third, going from 30 volunteers to 40.

Being a smaller branch, Boston supports the Samaritans service by being open at the busiest time. so because of their

additional volunteers, they needed to add an additional phone line.

We were happy to help fund this change and process by increasing how much we invest in Boston Samaritans over the 2021-2023 plan.

We now support Boston Samaritans for £1250 each quarter to help fund their new room as well as their continued effort to raise their profile.

Samaritans Boston Branch Secretary, Jill Stock, shares "Without the investment in our branch from BBL our profile in Boston would not be where it is today and we would not have as many new volunteers that we have today. I would like to say a big thank you."

Learn more about Boston Samaritans

www.samaritans.org/boston/

New Order Placed

Our first run of 1000 Historic Boston (UK) Trump Cards has all but sold out.

We have now placed a new order for 2500 more packs. We will once again give all of them to organisations in the area.

Each pack will be sold for £4.99 - all of which will go to good causes.

Last time the beneficiaries were Fydell House, The Guildhall, Blackfriars Theatre, St Botolph's Church, The Centenary Church, Centre Point Outreach, Butterfly Hospice, Len Medlock Voluntary Centre, We'll Meet Again Museum, Age UK, Boston Samaritans, Boston Mayor's Charity and Lincolnshire Air Ambulance.

Discover where you can purchase your pack:
cardgame.bostonbiglocal.co.uk



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

Boston Big Local

Residents Leading Change 2021 Summer Edition

BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL

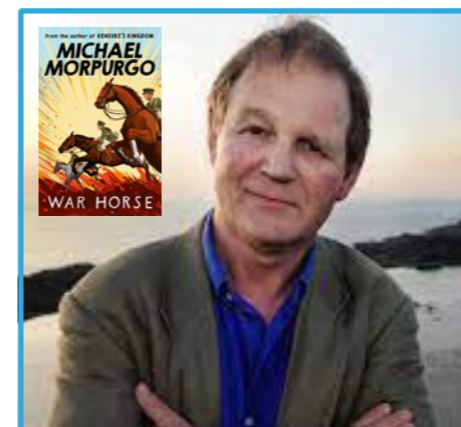
To champion diverse authors from across the local community, raise the profile of Boston nationally, and create new opportunities for all ages to access and enjoy literature, the inaugural Boston Book Festival is being held at Blackfriars from September 17th – 19th 2021.

Having initially funded £1500 for the creation of promotional material, we were then asked by the Boston Book Festival if we could be the main funder for the event to ensure it can go ahead and have a foundation to build from. With a history of pump funding events, like the Boston UK Marathon, we agreed to invest the required £8500.

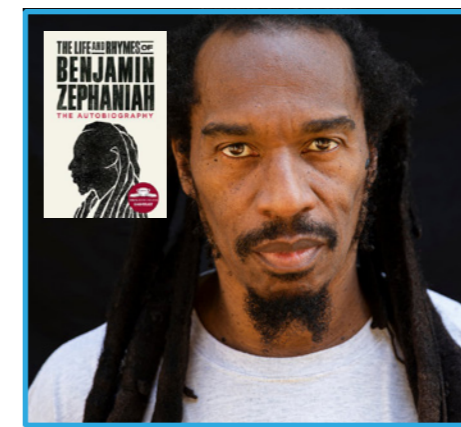
Our funding helped ensure a packed programme of events, of which the highlights are talks by:

Michael Morpurgo: Acclaimed author who is best known for his children's novels. However, novels such as War Horse, although aimed at children reach a far wider audience and can be enjoyed by all ages.

Benjamin Zephaniah: A British writer, playwright, author but is probably best known as a poet. Come and learn more about Benjamin's life and work in conversation with a local playwright and poet Kei Bailey.



Michael Morpurgo



Benjamin Zephaniah

Discover the full programme at

bostonbookfest.co.uk/programme.php

In this issue:

Pg 2 LCVS Survey
Pg 4 Samaritans



To get updates on Boston Big Local, subscribe to our newsletter at bostonbiglocal.co.uk, like our Facebook page or follow @bostonbiglocal on Twitter



JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING

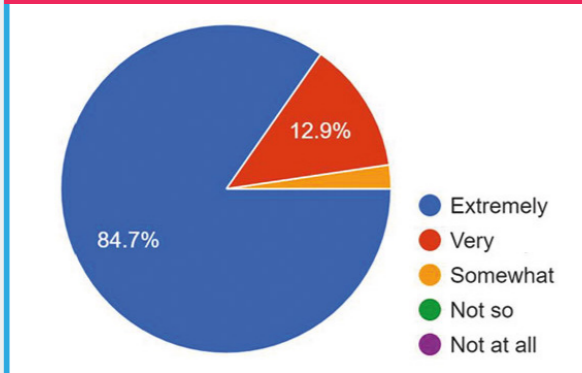
The 2nd Thursday of each month at TLCC, Mitre Lane, PE21 6EB.
Email us to let us know if you would like to attend - info@bostonbiglocal.co.uk

LCVS Boston Big Local Survey

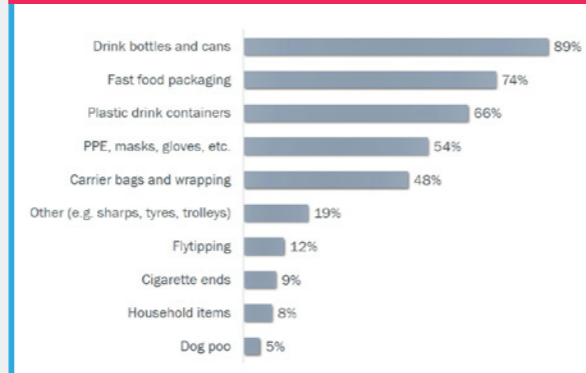
In 2020 Boston Big Local appointed an Environment Volunteer Coordinator to develop a resident led volunteer programme of activities to help brighten up the BBL area and improve local open spaces.

A survey of 13 questions was prepared and distributed to residents of Boston via Facebook asking for views on litter and whether they would like to get involved in volunteer improvement projects.

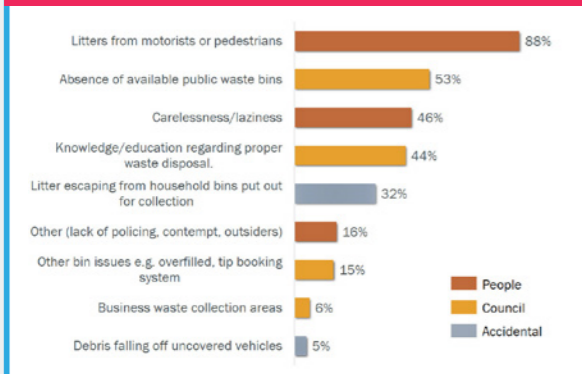
How important is litter as an environmental issue?



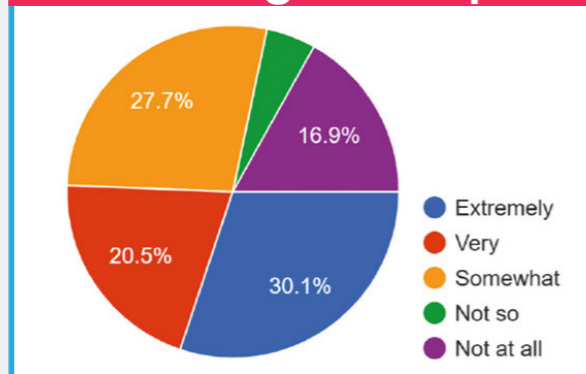
Types of litter that are more common



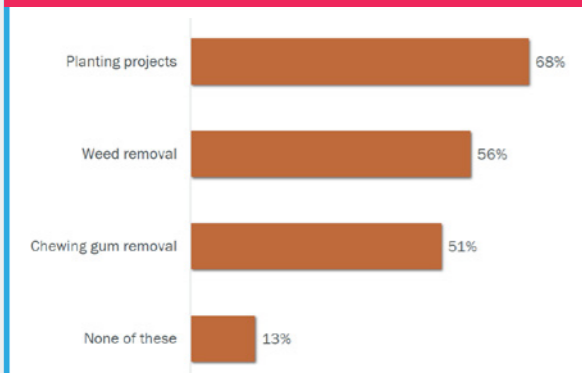
Factors that contribute most to litter



Are you interested in volunteering to litter pick?



Other projects of interest?



Most likely litter pick activities



86 people completed the survey in March 2021 and an analysis of the responses received is given in this report. The information gathered from this survey, as shown below, will help develop a programme of activities to improve the Boston Big Local and surrounding area.

Current Projects



RiverCare Litter Pick

Litter picking equipment was given to Scott House and Your Day – Your Say and they will be carrying out regular litter picks.

Volunteers have been involved in **painting the town heritage signposts**, litter picking, and gardening activities.

A **volunteer gardening group** has been set up. The plan is to purchase some gardening equipment for their use so they can get involved regularly in volunteer projects.

RiverCare (Keep Britain Tidy/Anglian Water) – Are a group of volunteers who carry out litter picks and conservation projects on rivers and riverbanks.

The Friendly Bench – Aims to tackle loneliness, social isolation and build community cohesion using their innovative, purposely designed outdoor social spaces that reconnect people back to their own community.

To take part in any projects please contact Jackie Lane at - jackielane@lincolnshirecvs.org.uk.

Next Steps

The LCVS Environment Volunteer Coordinator funded by BBL is building a close link with Boston Borough Council to ensure volunteers will be supported and litter will be collected by the Council. New volunteers will register as Litter Champions.

The Environment Volunteer Coordinator will join forces with other groups currently litter picking in Boston including the Wyberton Wombles who have a number of Boston volunteers.

We will support by giving out litter picking equipment and red sacks, using the Community Shed as a base. Small supported litter picks will also be organized with local groups, i.e. The Prince's Trust, Scott House, Social Prescribing clients, and Boston College.

The Environment Volunteer Coordinator will continue to develop links with local businesses. At this stage, the Co-op has agreed to sponsor litter picking equipment and Anglian Water wishes to continue to work with us on projects. A total of 36 people have left their contact details and would like to be involved in future projects and previous participants in BBL projects have also expressed their wish to be involved.

With feedback from volunteers, LCVS will develop other environmental projects (planting projects, weed removal and chewing gum removal for example were highlighted as being of interest) working closely with other Boston organisations including Boston in Bloom.

Read the full report and survey results:
bostonbiglocal.co.uk/lcvs-boston-big-local-survey/

DID YOU KNOW?

Since we formed in 2015 we have invested around £700k into the BBL area. We have 4 years left to invest the remaining £500K! Help us do this at www.bostonbiglocal.co.uk

