

Boston Big Local Report, July – September 2023

Lincolnshire Community & Voluntary Service – Environmental Volunteering

The Friendly Bench

With the funding from The Boston Big Local we were able to hold many events at The Friendly Bench.

In July Lauren from the RSPB Frampton Marsh and Helen from The Wildlife Trust visited for an afternoon to discuss the facilities and gather input on what people would like to see at Frampton marsh, it provided an excellent opportunity for community engagement and conservation efforts.

In August the Friendly Bench had a wonderful event creating mosaic with Jane Kay, in fact it was so popular that we had to book a second afternoon with Jane. Enjoying tea and cake alongside the creative activities added to the pleasant experience. Everyone went home with their creations and hopefully made new friends too.

In September we had another enjoyable event introducing the knitting and crocheting project for poppies in preparation for Remembrance Sunday. This was a great way to engage with everyone in such a creative way. Following it up with a game of Boules and a game of Giant Connect Four loaned to us by Boston Borough Council.

Green Volunteering

Working together with Stephen Bromby, an Asda Community Champion, we created a bug hotel in The Pilgrim Patch to provide shelter and habitat beneficial for insects in that area. The Men's Shed made us a roof for the hotel in order that we could create a living roof. We also litter picked this and the surrounding area to keep the area looking nice for everyone to enjoy. We finished the day with some gardening.



We revisited the wildlife area in the Centenary Methodist Church, the bug hotel had some slight damage. We repaired and stabilized the bug hotel with chicken wire and added a planter to the top (made for us by the Men's Shed) where we planted Sedum which is an ideal pollinator and attractive too.

We visited the Centenary again to support their Carers First Event with an information stand on volunteering and green activities people can get involved with and wildlife games and activities.

Kirton Middlecote Academy and our environmental Green Volunteers collaborated to improve the green areas from the bus station to the footbridge. Working together we tackled a litter pick of the whole area including the carpark. We then split into teams, and we worked on the raised planted areas weeding and cutting back overgrown plants.

As this is an ongoing activity, we have now made arrangements to take all green waste directly to the park as so not to use bin bags for the green waste.

Children from Kirton Middlecote Academy will be joining volunteers twice a month to tackle environmental improvements in the centre of Boston. A condition from the school for working with the young people is that all volunteers working with them are DBS checked. DBS checks have therefore been carried out for five volunteers at this stage.

Geoff Moulder Community Garden

The Green volunteers joined the team at the Geoff Moulder Community Garden to help take cuttings ready for when the garden moves location early next year. We also helped pick the fruit from the trees. While taking a break we took the opportunity to tell everyone about the poppy project and the ladies joined in and made some with us. The weather prevented the students from the Young People's Learning Provision (YPLP) from joining us on this occasion. Students from YPLP will be doing regular environmental improvement projects with us starting in October.

Volunteers at the Geoff Moulder Community Garden are concerned about the future as the garden is moving due to building works. With the help of the LCVS Area Officer we therefore met with the volunteers and helped them to form as a properly constituted group in order that they can apply for funding in the future.

Beach Event

The Beach Event in Central Park was a great success. Collaborating with the Wildlife Trust and the RSPB to promote volunteering and environmental projects.

Engaging with both young and old with the environmental educational games was a great way to raise awareness and to inspire people to take part in environmental projects. Making seed bombs and creating bee/butterfly feeders was a fun way to support our wildlife, but the biggest hit was the Guess Who game made for us by The Men's Shed.



Guess Who game made for us by the Men's Shed.

Thistles Market Garden

It's unfortunate that the weather didn't cooperate for the planned litter pick along the River Witham walkway, but we had an enjoyable time playing the Reuse Recycle Reduce game also the Wildlife Guess Who game. We also took the opportunity to tell the students about our Poppy Project and a few of the students had a go at crocheting.

We will be hoping for better weather for our next litter pick.



Some of the lovely volunteers from Thistles having a go at making poppies.

We have continued to work closely with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, and they visited some of the sites in Boston to give advice on improvements for wildlife (Pilgrims Patch, The Geoff Moulder Community Garden, the community garden at St Boltoph's Church and the Centenary Methodist Church). They also invited us to their Wilder Lincolnshire Festival at Doddington which was a great opportunity to meet others involved in improving the local environment. We were introduced to a volunteer that is an expert in building dry (or dead) hedging for wildlife and he has agreed to come to Boston to deliver a free course for volunteers on how to create a dry hedge. We also met the education officer, and she has offered to come to Boston to work with volunteers on a wildlife project in the autumn/winter.

We attended a meeting with the Social Prescribing Link workers to discuss how their clients can get involved in environmental volunteering.

Endeavour FM



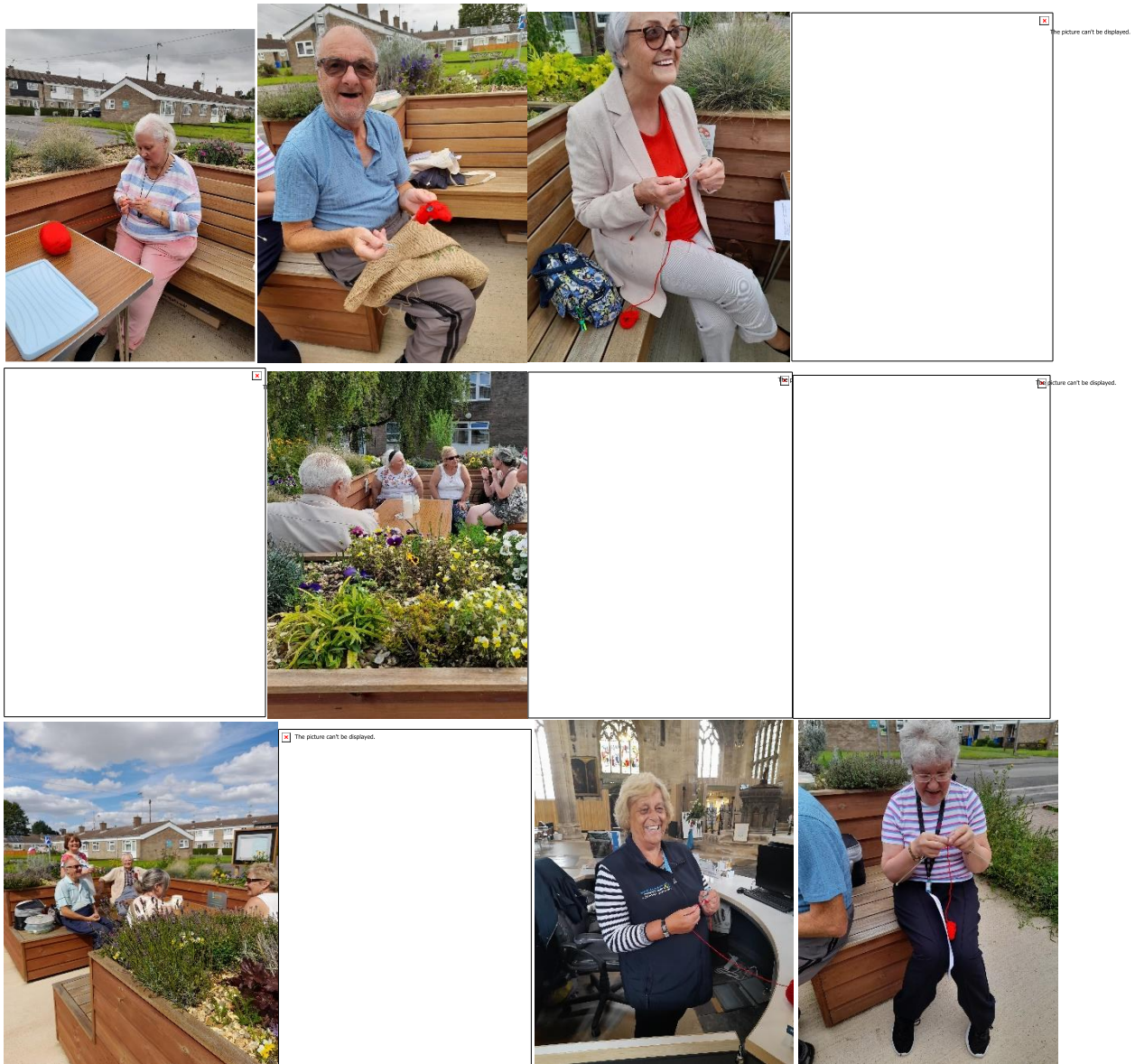
Leanne joined Dylan Taylor on his breakfast show to discuss everything about the Poppy Project. She was on Air for an hour while teaching Dylan how to crochet much to the amusement of the listeners.

Number of Volunteers

Pilgrims Patch	8 people
Friendly Bench	12 people
Centenary	17 people
Friendly Bench	25 people + 17 people
Carers First	20 people
Beach Events (2 days)	300+ people on each day
Thistles Market Garden	10 people
Friendly Bench	9 people
Geoff Moulder	7 people
Green Volunteers	16 people

Plus supporting Kirton Green Volunteers. As a result of supporting the green volunteering we received the funding to purchase some gardening tools for our volunteers to use.

Some volunteers having a go and knitting and crocheting poppies for our Remembrance Day project.



Feedback

Mark – You know what I wasn't going to come out to this, but I thought no go on get outside and you know what I've really enjoyed myself.

Maxine – Thank you for inviting me I am pleased I came as I have had a rubbish day and I feel alright now.