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It's official – it's CHRISTMAS in Boston

The illuminated flock of birds was spectacular, but it was the enthusiasm of the hundreds of children which made "Christmas" night in Boston brilliant.

Their infectious excitement, and very vocal joy, lit up the town centre as they took part in another wonderful Christmas ceremony.

The night sky was filled with brightly-lit swirling, whirling Christmas birds and the second annual Mayflower 400-inspired Illuminate parade, organised by Transported, the Boston arts organisation, was voted a huge success as giant paper-sculptured birds, lit from within, converged on the Market Place

Last year the festive season was launched with a parade of fish, waves and stars, making way for a giant model of the Mayflower - the ship which took the Pilgrim Fathers to America.

Boston celebrated its connection with the settlement of modern-day America this year with a parade of swooping doves, signifying peace and liberty sought by the Pilgrims, and swallows, to symbolise hope and migration.

The two marching columns approached the Market Place from Central Park and from across St Botolph's footbridge to signal the switch-on of the town's

Christmas tree lights by Boston's newest Honorary Freeman of the Borough, Alison Fairman.

She was welcomed by Mayor, Cllr Stephen Woodliffe, who received a massive yell of confirmation when he declared Boston to be "the best town in the world".

This also signalled the start of a projected colourful light show on the tower of Boston Stump, displaying bird designs in which local groups and children have had a hand.

Christmas fun in the town centre started earlier in the day with a Christmas market, fairground rides for children, face painting and a visit from Santa, who greeted good girls and boys in his grotto. It continued with free entertainment for the crowd from the stage.

The Illuminate parade looked at the themes which brought those seeking a new life in the New World to Scotia Creek, near Fishtoft, one dark night in the autumn of 1607.

A choir on the stage in the shadow of the Stump sang Beyond the Horizon, the Mayflower song composed by a local musician and songwriter.

To read more and for a full round-up of all Christmas in Boston pictures see <http://bit.ly/2gfOccX>

Help STOP terrorism

The war on terrorism has many different strands - from stopping suicide bombers in their tracks to helping residents stay safe online.

Counter Terrorism Awareness Week is from November 28 to December 4 and emphasis will be placed on helping stop the cyber means that terrorists employ, including online radicalisation.

These methods have already been used to lead people towards terrorist ideologies.

Today is PREVENT day of action when you can find out more about how to better protect yourself online and what to do if you spot terrorist information, picture or videos on the internet.

To find out more visit www.getsafeonline.org



Domestic abuse: Children in the crossfire

Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB), supported by partner organisations, is leading the campaign, highlighting the issues around domestic violence from Friday, November 25 to December 10.

The campaign coincides with national days of action against domestic abuse and international white ribbon for the elimination of violence against women.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2gFCM02>



Bin label confusion

Some Boston borough residents may have found stickers on their bins last week advising of Christmas and New Year collections. Despite being marked "East Lindsey" the information is pertinent to the borough. Simply substitute your green bin for black and your blue bin for grey. Sorry for any confusion caused.

Three years ago it was flood – are you prepared for any emergency?

'Tis the season to be... aware of flood risk.

Around this time, three years ago, the unthinkable actually happened and Boston suffered a catastrophic flood. It happened as a result of an unfortunate coincidence of an extra-large high tide, low air pressure leading to a bulge in the sea surface and a storm driving the tidal waters from the North Sea into The Wash and along the tidal Haven into Boston.

The tidal water overtopped the riverbanks and flood defences leading to sudden and dramatic flooding on the night of December 5, 2013, affecting around 900 residential and commercial properties.

There are no predictions for these nightmarish conditions to happen again anytime soon. But... there is always a possibility.

Flooding isn't the only emergency which could happen. But preparation is the key whatever the difficulty.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2fPMhec>

