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Town is getting steadily cleaner

Today is day three of the annual four-day Big Boston Clean Up, and the good news is that volunteer litter pickers are reporting much less rubbish to collect than in previous years.

When the clean-up began in 2008 a total of more than ten tonnes of rubbish was lifted from Boston's streets, verges, open spaces and waterways.

Last year, despite volunteer numbers staying up, the total had reduced to just under five tonnes, demonstrating that the town is becoming cleaner.

And so far this year those taking part in the clean-up who have helped in previous years are reporting much less litter to pick up.

Yesterday (Tuesday) the volunteers were joined by the Leader of Boston Borough Council, Cllr Michael Cooper, and Deputy Leader, Cllr Aaron Spencer, who also took time out to lend a hand.

They quickly filled their first rubbish sack when they discovered a drinking den in a hidden corner of the town's Staniland car park.

The pair removed a pile of empty drinks cans and bottles which had been left hidden from immediate view.

Other groups of volunteers teamed up with leaders from the council's regular full-time clean-up staff and "battle-hardened" regulars from support organisations such as Asda, Lincolnshire Co-op, Calders and Grandidge, Black

Sluice Internal Drainage Board, the Environment Agency and Boston Police.

Clean-up organiser Jen Moore, Boston Borough Council's environment and sustainability officer, thanked all who had helped and said it was good that the evidence, despite the perception of some, was that the town is becoming steadily cleaner each year.

"There is still much to be done and we can never relax, but it is good to note that each year we collect less because there is less to collect. Fingers crossed that the messages about litter and fly tipping are being received and acted upon.

"We are all so grateful for all the volunteers do to help keep the town clean and tidy; not just at Big Boston Clean Up time but throughout the year. Some faces I recognise from year one. They keep coming back because, despite the fact they are out in all weather picking up litter, there is great camaraderie and they really enjoy these four special days."

ASDA and Freshtime have been thanked for sponsoring this year's event.



Cllrs Cooper, left, and Spencer join the Big Boston Clean Up

Have you signed the 'better roads for Boston' petition?

Support is gathering for a petition from Boston direct to the Transport Minister for a share of extra Government cash for improving our roads to reduce congestion and boost economic growth. The Government is to announce in the summer which schemes have been successful, so delivering a loud message from Boston is urgent. See today's **Boston Standard** for the latest on the campaign. Go to www.boston.gov.uk/transportforboston for more information and to sign the online petition.

New powers to deal with illegal encampments

Illegal campers could face up to two years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine under new powers given to Boston Borough Council by the High Court.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2q9u53W>



Boston Marathon this Sunday

Whether you are running the full marathon, half marathon, the fun run or will just be a spectator, the start of this year's event in Boston Market Place at 9am this Sunday will be spectacular. More than 1,200 runners have registered. There will be some road closures for this event.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/2GCX1L6>

Heroes of the Airfield at Guildhall

Boston's Guildhall Museum will have a special Sunday opening on April 15 for its Heroes of the Airfield exhibition. Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire is touring the exhibition, which focuses on the contribution to the nation's defence by Lincolnshire's aircrews. It especially looks at the threat during the First World War and the formation of the RAF. On Wednesday, April 11, there is an accompanying Children's Discovery Day with craft activities. Entry is free on both days, 10.30am to 3.30pm, last admission 3pm.

1940s event to see Lancaster flypast

Lincolnshire is known as Bomber County, so the ultimate topping on any 1940s event would be a Lancaster flypast. The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight gets more requests for this than it can accommodate... but a request for just that has been approved for the event taking place in Boston on Sunday, June 17, which is Father's Day. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2Eh5Vc0>



Week 51 winner – Read more at <http://bit.ly/2nqHd3f>