

St Botolph's Church

A week of flowers, markets and medieval re-enactments

The week beginning the 14th June 2009 will see the climax of celebrations for the church's 700th anniversary. Plans have been finalised for the biggest week of events to be held in the town for many years. Visitors and locals are invited to come to the church and the market place to see and take part in the many events organised for the week.

Words: Peter Coleman Photographs: Boston Stump and Tastes of Lincolnshire



For many years churches have held flower festivals to celebrate the church and major events. The last one to be held in St Botolph's Church, Boston was in 2005. This year, as part of the church's 700th anniversary celebrations, there will be the largest one ever held in the church and indeed the town. Starting on the 16th June with the Preview Evening when for £7.50 people will be able to enjoy a leisurely stroll around the arrangements with refreshments and a drink. The Festival is open to the public from the 17th June until the 21st June admission being £5 with students and children under 14 free. Tickets for both the preview evening and the festival are available from the Festival Office on 01205 362864 or from the website on www.parish-of-boston.org.uk/tickets

The Festival will be the biggest that Boston has ever seen with over 100 arrangements gracing the church consisting of thousands of flowers. Seventeen flower clubs are contributing to the festival which will range from small arrangements to large set piece designs all of which will reflect the theme '700 years of History'. The flower clubs come from all over Lincolnshire and beyond and have put in hours of time and effort to arrange such a magnificent show. They have been working on the arrangements for over a year. The titles of the arrangements will reflect the sights, sounds and history of Boston and the church. They include John Cotton, The History of Boston Market, The Gliderdrome, Kathryn wife of John of Gaunt to name just a few. Two of the largest arrangements will tell the story of the fishing industry which will feature a fishing smack as part of the arrangement whilst the history of agriculture will use a seed drill and top dresser to illustrate the impact agriculture has had on the church and the town. Refreshments will also be available during the Festival as will be a plant stall and raffle.

Accompanying the exhibition will be a special

commemorative programme that will not only provide visitors with all information on the arrangements but will also serve as a lasting memento to the anniversary celebrations. Visitors to the Flower Festival will also be able to see a copy of the Magna Carta kindly on loan to the church by Lincoln Cathedral as well as view a copy of the Gough Map, probably the United Kingdom's earliest road map. Visitors will also be able to buy special anniversary gifts in the Stump Shop.

People are expected to visit from all over the country to visit the festival and to make the week even more memorable many other events will be going on at the same time. On the 20th and 21st June Tastes of Lincolnshire will be holding a food market in the grounds of the church selling a range of the county's finest produce, as well as cookery demonstrations by Tastes of Lincolnshire champion Rachel Green. On the same days a group of medieval re-enactors will camp on the green and will, among other things, perform a re-enactment of the laying of the church's foundation stone.

On Sunday 21st June a craft market consisting of about twenty-five traders will be in attendance including a wood carver, weaver, mason and a coin maker who will make and sell special commemorative coins to celebrate the church's 700th anniversary. There will also be a

demonstration by the church's own masons showing how working on the church has changed over the past 700 years.

So Boston is gearing up for a week of celebrations with the thousands of flowers, some of the best food in the county, medieval re-enactments, cookery demonstrations and much more. This will be the centrepiece of the church's anniversary celebrations and we are hoping that the people of Boston and Lincolnshire will come and look at what is on offer and enjoy themselves.

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