



# Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council Newsletter May 2024

---

Follow us on Facebook to hear about our latest news. Click on the links below:

[Town Council](#)

[Town Hall](#)

[The Mayor](#)

---

In this issue, you can read about:

- Mini meadows
- 460th Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations
- Spotlight on Rubbish Friends
- Volunteers Reception and Mayor's Awards
- Farewell from Mayor, Councillor Kate Rolfe
- Community Corner
- Future Meetings at the Town Hall
- Hire of the Town Hall

For more regular updates throughout the month, follow us on [Facebook!](#)

---

## No Mow May / Mini Meadows

If you would like to sign up to no mow May, please use the link below:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>



## Volunteers Reception

On Friday 19th April, the Town Hall hosted an amazing evening to celebrate those people who volunteer in our Town. The Mayor presented awards for volunteering to Doug Armstrong and Jackie Lines who run Street Arts. Thank you to everyone for all the work you do!



## Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations

On Saturday 20th April - the sun shone brightly, flags fluttered in the breeze and the town came out to celebrate the 460th anniversary of Shakespeare's Birthday!



## Spotlight on...

Welcome to our new feature. Are you a volunteer or member of a group in the town? Do you have a story to tell? If you would like to feature in this section of the monthly Newsletter, please email an article (max 250 words) and a photograph to [info@stratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stratford-tc.gov.uk)

### Rubbish Friends

Do you like litter? Then don't join us!

We are Rubbish Friends, a home-grown charity from and for the town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

We say, “Litter is pollution by any other name and it costs.”

- Litter takes years to degrade. It pollutes waterways, destroys habitats and [harms wildlife](#).
- Litter wastes money and resources. [Local authorities spend](#) £699million or £30 per household just to keep our streets clean.
- Litter contributes to [anti-social behaviour and crime](#). People feel less safe in areas that are littered.

[Our role as a charity](#) is to encourage partnerships and promote practical measures to reduce litter and improve the environment of Stratford-upon-Avon. We believe the most effective way to do this is to prevent litter in the first place.

Following our Rubbish Conference at the Crowne Plaza in February, we are working to find long term solutions with other organisations who share our vision of a sustainable town. We are prioritising key residential areas and developing joint campaigns to reduce rubbish in our streets and in our river.

Our next community pick is on Sunday 2 June, starting at 10.30am behind the Leisure Centre. Rubbish Friends will be on land whilst Stratford upon Avon Kayaks (SOAK), Severn Trent River Rangers and Severn Rivers Trust are out on the water. All equipment provided.

Be a Rubbish Friend: join us for practical solutions to reduce litter and improve the environment, visit [our website](#), find us on [Facebook](#) or email us at [rubbishfriendssua@gmail.com](mailto:rubbishfriendssua@gmail.com)



---

## Warm Hubs

All hubs across the town offer free hot drinks and snacks, a chance to sit and relax, free activities as well as information on how to save on bills and places to go for advice and support. An up-to-date list is below.

## **Warm Hubs – Stratford upon Avon**

### **Bishopton Social**

Bishopton Community Centre, Drayton Avenue CV37 9PB  
Mondays 10am-1pm

### **Escape Arts Creative Hub**

Escape Arts & Heritage Centre, off Sheep Street CV37 6EF  
Mondays 12-2pm

### **Stratford Town Football Club**

Arden Garages Stadium, Knights Lane, Tiddington CV37 7BZ  
Community Café  
Wednesdays 10am-12noon

### **Stratford Library**

Henley Street CV37 6PZ  
Wednesdays 2-4pm  
*(general Library opening hours 9am-5pm Mon-Fri and 10am-3pm Sat)*

### **Venture House**

Avenue Farm Industrial Estate CV37 0HR

#### Warm Hub

Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm

#### Community Cafe

Fridays 10-11:30am

### **Clopton Connect**

Ken Kennett Centre, Justins Avenue CV37 0DA  
Fridays 1-3:30pm

---

## **Mayor's Engagements**

Mayoral engagements attended by The Mayor during April and May 2024 include:

- Street Arts Project - Wldflwrs concert
- Henley-in-Arden Court Leet dinner
- Bob Bessell birthday celebrations
- Sporting Memories event
- Tour of Kenilworth Castle
- United Reform Church - knitted Bible exhibition
- Civic dinner, Mayor of Leamington Spa
- Volunteers Awards Evening
- Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations
- Shakespeare Sermon
- Stratford Marathon, medal presentation
- Stratford Club 200th Anniversary
- Shakespeare Hospice ball
- 53rd Anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh
- 100th Anniversary of Marie Corelli

If you would like to request the Mayors attendance at an event please click on the link and complete the online form [www.stratford-tc.gov.uk/the-mayor](http://www.stratford-tc.gov.uk/the-mayor)  
Once received we will check availability and contact you as soon as possible.



## Mayor's Farewell

I was elected as 478th Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon on Friday 19th May 2023. The mayor-making ceremony saw the chain of office being passed from Councillor Gill Cleeve. This would be my second term of office - the first was in 2019-2020 and the pandemic and consequent lockdowns put paid to most of my duties in the last three terms of office during that time.

Many of the events are the same as before but with new faces to greet, many are similar but some quite new and quite different. In no particular order, memorable occasions so far for me have been the spitfire flypast at RAF Cosford during their new regimental colour's ceremony, a dinner in the Town Hall with the Worshipful Company of Glovers and reviewing the Sea Cadets from all over Warwickshire as they marched past the Town Hall. I was able to briefly greet the Chinese Ambassador to London and the Mayor of Stratford, Ontario, who both paid a flying visit to the mayor's parlour with their respective wives.

Then there were the 'Young Market Trader of the Year' stalls to be judged, a refurbished pub, the "Dirty Duck" to be opened, the 200th Anniversary of the Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School (formerly the Willows) to be celebrated and the Rugby Club's giant bonfire to be lit. We also lit the

Christmas lights, and then along came the panto's, the Carol Services and concerts. Helping with the Foodbank drives and visits to the Care Homes, Nicol Unit and the Police & Fire stations on Christmas Eve and Christmas day all reminded me that there is more than just one side to the Festive celebrations. A Charity Ball and Charity Fashion show were held as well as our own unique birthday celebrations for William Shakespeare.

That is just a small selection. It seems to have been a lot busier than the first time around, although dealing with it all is perhaps a little bit easier the second time you do it.

This is one of my few public opportunities for thanking all the Town Hall staff for the tremendous amount of work that they undertake to ensure that the Town Hall and the Mayoral term of office both run smoothly and harmoniously. Without them things would grind to a halt in no time. So, thank you Caroline and Charles, Georgina, Lisa, Emma, Victoria and Tony and all the Outdoor Spaces Team. Finally, a big thank you and a final one, sadly, to Pat who retired from the Town Hall in January 2024.

My thanks too, to the Council's Chaplain, Reverend Doctor Paul Edmondson for his continuing and very positive support. Thanks Paul – you are an angel, well pretty close to one – in a nice way.

Finally, thank you too, to my husband and consort, Michael, who has supported me constantly throughout my two terms of office. I am seriously grateful for your help and encouragement.

So, as my 'second innings' draws to a close, I shall miss it. Being Mayor has proved to be an incredible, although at times exhausting, experience. It's made incredible in large part by this town and the wonderful people in it - especially those who go the extra mile to make Stratford-upon-Avon such a great place to live in. Let's keep it that way.

Councillor Kate Rolfe  
Mayor, Stratford-upon-Avon 2023/2024



# Community Corner

If you would like to share an event that town residents would enjoy, please send an email with more information to [info@stratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stratford-tc.gov.uk)

Join us for a meal at our

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

At the Ken Kennett Centre,  
Friday evenings



- Food served 5 - 7 pm
- Food by talented local volunteer cooks
- Keeping food from landfill
- Pay what you feel
- Bring a bag/container to take home



STREET ARTS PROJECT PRESENTS  
**KATE'S LAST HURRAH**

STREET ARTS PROJECT  
Stratford-upon-Avon  
foodbank YOUTH COLLECTIVE  
In aid of the Mayor's charity

FEATURING  
**WLDFLWRS**

£10 PER TICKET

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM

Doug Armstrong  
07772 568175  
Sam  
07766 007413  
sam@mailcal.net

SuA Town Council  
01789 269332  
charles.wilson  
@stratford-tc.gov.uk

FRIDAY  
10<sup>TH</sup> MAY  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON  
TOWN HALL

DOORS OPEN 19.30  
MUSIC FROM 20.00

CASH BAR AND RAFFLE



FREE

STRATFORD  
UPON AVON  
PURSUITS

FREE CULTURAL COMMUNITY  
FESTIVAL

RECREATION GROUNDS  
11TH & 12TH MAY  
10-8PM & 10-5PM

FOOD &  
DRINK

HISTORY &  
CULTURE

BOUTIQUE  
MARQUEES

STRATFORD  
SELF STORE  
.CO.UK

[www.pursuitsfestival.co.uk](http://www.pursuitsfestival.co.uk)

---

## Future Meetings

- 7 May - Personnel Committee Meeting
- 17 May - Annual Meeting of the Town Council
- 21 May - Planning Consultative Committee Meeting

---

## Hire of the Town Hall

## Looking for a celebration venue?



[www.stratforduatownhall.co.uk](http://www.stratforduatownhall.co.uk) Tel: 01789 269332

**Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall**

**Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council are proud to support the following organisations, please click on the pictures below for more information.**



## Get in touch

If you have any ideas or suggestions for our Newsletter, we would love to hear them. Please email us at [info@stratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stratford-tc.gov.uk). You can call us on 01789 269332.

If you would like to discuss an issue in your ward, or with a specific concern of the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, you can reach out directly to a Councillor. You can find the contact details of our Town Councillors below.

Find a Councillor



*Copyright (C) 2024 Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council. All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:  
Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council  
Town Hall  
Sheep Street  
Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6EF  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

