



BRIDGING the GAP

Stratford-upon-Avon

Newsletter from Stratford-upon-Avon TOWN COUNCIL

ISSUE 26

UNIQUE BIRTHDAY PARADE SET TO MAKE CELEBRATIONS SPECTACULAR FOR THE BARD



Shakespeare's Celebrations is the local initiative tasked with organising the annual Birthday Parade, and plans are coming together to make 23rd April 2016 particularly memorable. We will be celebrating 400 years of Shakespeare's legacy with a unique take on the traditional annual procession through the town. The festivities will combine birthday and commemoration in a day full of music, colour and action.

The Mayor, Councillor Tessa Bates, said: "Preparations are well under way for the Parade in this significant year for Shakespeare's legacy, and for his home town of Stratford-upon-Avon.

"We are introducing some exciting changes to this year's event which we are confident will bring a new flavour to the 2016 Birthday Celebration Parade but retain the essence of the popular ceremonies at its heart. There will be more opportunities for people to see, and take part in, the proceedings."

In a departure from convention, spectators will see parade participants gather at many places around town this year; the 'mini-parades' will be escorted through the streets to their flag stations in Henley Street, High Street and Bridge Street. Following the Flag Unfurling Ceremony, the whole procession will continue as one in festival mood along High Street, Chapel Street, Church Street and Old Town to Shakespeare's resting place.

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TOWN HALL

(continued from front page)

Tessa continued: "We want the crowds lining the route to join in the ceremonial, throwing sprigs of fresh rosemary underfoot as the procession passes by in sombre mood in a walk of remembrance. And later, as the party starts, we are looking for a photographic moment to savour with our specially commissioned Shakespeare masks. We need everyone to join in!

"Follow that with a surprise entrance from our guest Jazz Band, joining our festivities

all the way from New Orleans, USA and you can appreciate it's not our usual Birthday Parade!"

All the usual participants will be there too, among them civic dignitaries, VIPs and invited guests from the worlds of literature and theatre, students of Shakespeare's school and other local schools, characters in period dress, and marching bands making their way through the streets towards Holy Trinity Church.

Here is the latest brief guide to what happens when:

• BEFORE THE PARADE, from 9:30 am:

Students from local schools will be handing out sprigs of fresh rosemary and commemorative Shakespeare face masks to visitors lining the route of the Birthday Parade.

• MUSTER OF GUESTS AND PARTICIPANTS, 10:15 - 11:00:

Primary schoolchildren, staff and students of King Edward School, led by the Head Boy, as well as invited diplomats, civic dignitaries and guests of the Town and District Councils follow the route of the floral tribute to take up their positions for the main ceremonies in Bridge Street. At the same time, several 'mini-parades' assemble in designated town centre streets and, after the flag ceremony, they join the main procession on its way to Holy Trinity Church.

• BIRTHDAY COMMEMORATION, MASK MOMENT AND A SURPRISE ENTRANCE, 11:00 - 11:10:

The traditional placing of the commemorative wreath is followed by the unfurling of the Big Birthday Banner and the Unfurling of Flags along Bridge Street. There is an invitation for everyone to take part in a 'Mask Moment' and put on their masks of William Shakespeare as the Beadle and Town Criers from neighbouring towns call for 'Three Cheers for William Shakespeare'. Then our invited New Orleans Jazz Band bursts into action with its rendition of 'Happy Birthday!' as cannon streamers shower the crowds and the band plays its way around Bridge Street.

• PARADE TO HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, 11:10 - 11:50:

Accompanied by the ATC Band, Coventry Corps of Drums and the New Orleans Jazz Band, the procession makes its way to Holy Trinity Church, where the town's floral tribute to William Shakespeare is formally received.

Once the Procession is over, there will be community festivities and street entertainment taking place across town throughout the day, organised by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the Royal Shakespeare Company, and others. The annual Birthday Luncheon starts directly after the Parade and is a ticketed event.

If you are planning on driving to the Celebrations, vehicle access to the town centre is restricted between 8am and 12:30pm to accommodate the Parade and Celebrations. Details of road closures will be available in due course from Stratford-on-Avon District Council.



More details about Shakespeare's Celebrations 2016, and especially the Birthday Parade, will be available from www.shakespearescelebrations.com in the coming months.

WARD WATCH REVAMPED

Ward Watch meetings were instigated by the Town Council in 2005 and were held on a regular basis. This initiative brought together councillors and officers from the County, District and Town Councils, South Warwickshire Housing Authority as well as the local police and saw the Town Council as the conduit, identifying and directing problem issues straight to the appropriate officer or representative responsible. Although issues were rarely resolved as speedily as the Town Council would wish, often due to budgetary constraints, there appeared to be a collective desire to work together to remedy the problems.

When the Community Forum was introduced, the Ward Watch meetings were discontinued.

However, the Town Council continued to strongly believe that these Ward Watch meetings, which were attended by members and officers from the three tiers of local authorities and representatives from relevant outside bodies, were of significant importance and should continue. They provided the platform for 'joined up thinking'. Solutions to concerns about street lighting, pot holes, dropped curbs, hedge and grass cutting etc. were worked out there and then, or explanations given why the issue has to remain ongoing.

At a specially convened meeting on 22 February, the Town Council agreed to resurrect Ward Watch, and Operational Ward Issues will become an agenda item for every General Purposes Committee. If necessary, a dedicated Ward Watch Meeting will be convened so that the three authorities, service providers, or whichever outside agency is necessary, can come together round the same table to find the best way forward in sorting out longstanding operational issues.

THE TOWN HALL – PERFECT FOR ANY OCCASION



Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall is a distinctive venue for almost every occasion.

Stratford-upon-Avon's Town Hall has been standing on its original site since 1634, and is situated in the very heart of this historic town of worldwide acclaim. It not only houses the Town Council and its offices, but also provides a superb venue for a variety of events.

The Town Hall is available for hire by residents or visitors to the town, and the Hall often rings to the sound of music and laughter, merriment and dance. Sober occasions such as memorial services and funerals are also accommodated, with sobriety and respect.

The principal rooms are all licensed for marriages and other civil ceremonies, and their variety and diversity make this an ideal venue for a wedding of distinction; from a grand occasion for approximately 180 guests to an intimate affair with just two witnesses.

Christenings, conferences, corporate dinners and coffee mornings, have all been accommodated at remarkably realistic prices for a venue such as this.

Please telephone Emma Evans for further information, or for an appointment should you wish to view the Hall.

Telephone: 01789 269332
Email: info@stratford-tc.gov.uk





TOWN HALL

Home Instead SENIOR CARE

To us, it's personal.

Home Instead in Warwickshire are a private care company who support elderly clients to live independently in the comfort of their own homes.

Due to an increase in the amount of elderly people in Stratford-upon-Avon and the surrounding villages who need our support, we are currently looking for additional friendly and genuinely caring people to join our team.

While working for us you will support elderly people in a variety of everyday tasks, as well as offer companionship. We don't wear uniforms and we never do calls less than an hour. This means you will see regular clients every week and, with the time you spend with them, you will build some fantastic relationships and enjoy a rewarding and varied job.

We offer full training and support so you don't necessarily need experience in the care industry, as long as you share our passion for providing only the highest quality of care, we can support you with the rest.

Please email louise.pendleton@homeinstead.co.uk or call Louise on 01789 204040 if this sounds like something you would like to get involved with, or you would like some more information about the company and the job on offer.

Our website is always a good point of call to give you a better feel for the organisation and what we do www.homeinstead.co.uk/warwickshire

BEST DRESSED CHRISTMAS STALL

The mild and very wet weather experienced over the Christmas period was hardly festive – it feels more wintry now than it did three months ago!

That said, it did feel very Christmassy for at least four days in Stratford, when the Christmas Market was held in Bridge Street. Although the rain did fall for a considerable amount of time (we must applaud the market traders for their dedication) it still evoked a sense of winter wonderland and excitement in the run up to Christmas with the smells of mulled wine, hot soup and zesty homemade wreaths.

Each week, the Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon visited the stalls on the Christmas Market and judged the 'Best Dressed Stall'. We would like to congratulate the following stall holders:

- Week 1 – Esme's Cakes and Catering
- Week 2 – Vintage Past and Present
- Week 3 – Flowers on Avon
- Week 4 – Itsy Bitzy

Thank you to all the stall holders for providing us with a Christmas Market; we hope you managed to dry out and had a well-earned rest!



Week 1
Esme's Cakes and Catering



Week 2
Vintage Past and Present



Week 3
Flowers on Avon



Week 4
Itsy Bitzy

“THERE'S ROSEMARY, THAT'S FOR REMEMBRANCE.”

- HAMLET, ACT 4, SCENE 5



If you have attended the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations previously, you may have seen the guests in the procession wearing a sprig of rosemary on their lapel. This tradition was introduced many years ago, spurred on by the quote from Ophelia in Hamlet stating that rosemary was a symbol of remembrance.

This year the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare's death, we want to go one step further and not only wear rosemary but enable you, the spectators, to participate by casting sprigs of rosemary as the floral tribute processes through the streets to form a pathway of remembrance.

For this to be possible we require a significant amount of substantially sized sprigs of rosemary to distribute to those lining the streets. April is about the right time to prune Rosemary, and we would be most grateful to receive those offcuts. They need to be fresh though, so please get pruning at around about 21 April! Please contact the Town Hall on 01789 269332.

STRATFORD PREPARES TO EXCEL IN THE NATIONAL 'IN BLOOM' COMPETITION



2015 was a hugely successful year for Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom. The appointment of local company Blenheim Nursery as its new planting contractor proved to be an excellent decision, as Stratford's floral displays looked the best they had for many years and received plaudits from not only countless local residents and businesses, but also visitors to the town.

After a two-year break, 2016 will see Stratford re-entering the national Britain in Bloom Competition, and the town's entry has now been officially registered. "With the huge success of our floral displays last year and the prospect of even more of the same, or better, for this year, I thought it was time that the town entered the competition again" Chairman, Steve Brookes, commented. "We have been National Small Town winners twice in the past as well as being the best Heart of England Town nine times, winning five gold medals and many other awards. It would be magical if, in Stratford's special Shakespeare's 400th Legacy year, we could achieve something wonderful once again. Success, however, will not just be due to the work of Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom. It will be very much a community effort with everyone doing their bit – residents, businesses, schools, groups & societies and Council bodies – and building that sense of pride in helping to make our great town look and feel fabulous! Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom are also thrilled that The Stratford Herald has chosen to champion our bid for success in the competition."

Achieving top marks in the Heart of England in Bloom judging is not just down to producing wonderful, colourful, well-maintained floral displays. In fact, the horticultural part of the judging makes up only half the marks! The other half is evenly weighted between the assessments of year-round environmental responsibility and community participation. This means that conservation: recycling; development of local heritage; reduction of litter, fly-posting, graffiti & dog fouling; art in the landscape; engagement with schools

& other community groups; press coverage; local business involvement; and working with and for the residents of the town will all play a huge part in Stratford's bid to do really well in the competition.

Within the Horticultural Achievement judging there will, of course, be the displays produced by Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom (165 hanging baskets, 70 troughs & planters and six islands & beds) and those islands and flowerbeds maintained by Stratford District Council. But that is not all. The judges will also be looking for floral displays by small & large businesses, retail & shopping areas, pubs & tourist attractions etc, the development and maintenance of green spaces and communal gardens, and the fabulous front gardens of local residents.

To help bring all of the above together, and give our wonderful town the very best chance of success in the Britain in Bloom competition requires determination and support from everyone in the town from now onwards. The judging will take place on Wednesday 27th July, so Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom and the rest of Stratford have exactly six months to make it happen!

The Annual Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom Coffee Morning will take place on Saturday 9th April at The Town Hall, from 10am to 2pm. Visitors will find a wonderful selection of plants & cakes; a raffle; planting demonstrations; and gardening Q&A sessions.

If anyone would like more information about Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom or would like to find out ways they can help, then please contact either Stratford-upon-Avon in Bloom Chairman, Steve Brookes, on 01789 267124, or Secretary, Miriam Dow, on 01789 417852.





TOWN HALL

LIVING WELL WITH DEMENTIA IN COVENTRY AND WARWICKSHIRE

This year there will be 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK and over 21 million people know someone affected by the condition. All too often people with dementia experience loneliness and social exclusion. By mobilising society, together we can make sure that people living with dementia are understood and included, and feel part of their communities.



What is Dementia?

Dementia is not a disease in itself. It is a term used to describe a group of symptoms. These include a gradual loss of memory, a decline in the ability to think and reason, and problems with communication.

These symptoms are caused by a variety of different disorders and conditions. The most common of these are Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, and dementia with Lewy body. It is possible to have more than one form of dementia. Older people, in particular, may have both Alzheimer's and vascular dementia.

Symptoms of Dementia

We have seen that dementia is a combination of symptoms such as memory loss, confusion and disorientation. It is a condition that results from too many brain cells dying out, and is generally progressive. The symptoms vary from person to person but usually include difficulties with the following:

- Remembering
- Making decisions
- Looking after yourself
- Expressing thoughts
- Understanding what others are saying
- Finding your way around

Information and support for people living with dementia, carers, and professionals, can be found by visiting the Living Well with Dementia Portal at www.livingwellwithdementia.org or contacting them by email at dementiapartnership@warwickshire.gov.uk

COMPOSTING

Warwickshire County Council are running free home composting workshops to encourage residents to reduce the amount of organic waste disposed of in their residual bin.

A recent waste survey of bins in Warwickshire showed that 70% of the grey wheeled bin was organic waste that could either be composted at home or disposed of in the green wheeled bin. This organic waste is harmful to the environment when disposed of at landfill and costs the taxpayer millions of pounds each year in disposal costs.

To help residents reduce their waste, we are running free home composting workshops open to those who are new to composting and those we are already composting but might need a bit of help.

Anyone attending the workshop will be given a voucher to buy a compost bin for £5 (normally £10) from a local Recycling Centres (except Judkins).

To book a place, please go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/composting.

Stratford-upon-Avon
Stratford Methodist Church, Old Town,
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG
Wednesday 13th April – 6:00pm–6:45pm
Wednesday 25th May – 6:00pm–6:45pm

NO CHANGE TO THE COMMUNITY CHARGE

The Town Council resolved to retain the community charge requirement at the same level as last year: £472,174.

This is a charge per household on a Band D property of £38.43 per annum. Interestingly, the average Town and Parish Council community charge across the District is £52.03.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COUNCIL



There are eighteen members of the Town Council. Each newsletter, we profile one of them so that you can get to know them better.

Councillor Kate Rolfe was born and brought up in London and moved to the Midlands in 1976 to further her career in the BBC.

She is married to Mike and they have three children. The family have lived in Stratford-upon-Avon for over 17 years and, prior to that, in Henley-in-Arden for 18 years.

Kate worked at the BBC on a wide variety of radio and television programmes. In the mid 70s she moved into TV Drama at Pebble Mill where she worked as a Production Assistant for several years. Having left the BBC to start a family, she worked as an estate agent in Henley and subsequently in Stratford, whilst her children were growing up. Kate then set up her own company in Stratford – a business designed to help older people live an independent life.

Councillor Rolfe was first elected as a District Councillor in 2008 and a County Councillor in 2009 and continues to represent residents on both councils as well as having being recently elected onto the Town Council, in 2015. Kate remains very keen on the wellbeing of older people and represents the County on the Adult and Health overview and scrutiny board. Well aware of the dangers of social isolation amongst the elderly, she set up 'tea and chat' sessions for older people, supported by Waitrose and the Rosebird Community Hall.

Kate represents the County on the Stratford BID board and sits on the Local Transport group and the Historic Spine group. She is also a trustee board member of CAB and a long serving Governor of Alveston Primary School.

In her spare time, Kate enjoys going to the theatre and cinema and supporting local businesses by eating out in the pubs and restaurants in the town.

MAYOR MAKING 2016

Councillor Juliet Short was unanimously appointed Mayor Elect at the Town Council Meeting on 2 February 2016. If all goes according to plan, she will become Mayor at the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making in the Town Hall on Thursday 19 May 2016 at noon. Juliet will be assisted during her mayoralty by her husband John Short. Councillor Victoria Alcock will serve as Deputy Mayor.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON CEMETERY

From 1 April 2016 we shall be observing the summer opening hours in the cemetery:
1 April – 31 October 8:30am–8:30pm

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

AVENUE

Cllr Lezley Bott	01789 550689
Cllr Juliet Short (Deputy Mayor)	01789 294247

BISHOPTON

Cllr Victoria Alcock	01789 551072
Cllr Chris Wall	01789 508396

BRIDGETOWN

Cllr Ben Brain	01789 290093
Cllr Ian Fradgley	01789 266369

CLOPTON

Cllr Jason Fojtik	01789 551267
Cllr Bill Lowe	01789 552606

GUILDHALL

Cllr Jenny Fradgley	01789 262522
Cllr Tony Jackson	01789 209102

HATHAWAY

Cllr Tessa Bates (Mayor)	01789 293744
Cllr John Bicknell	01789 290947

SHOTTERY

Cllr Charles Bates	01789 293744
Cllr Bill Dowling	01789 740795

TIDDINGTON

Cllr Phil Applin	01789 295393
Cllr Kate Rolfe	01789 550624

WELCOMBE

Cllr Keith Lloyd	01789 551856
Cllr Tony Jefferson	01789 268318

Town Council Office
01789 269332
info@stratford-tc.gov.uk
www.stratford-tc.gov.uk





TOWN HALL

WHAT'S ON...

Stratford Arts House Box Office
(formerly Civic Hall):
01789 207100
www.stratfordartshouse.co.uk

Bear Pit Ticket Hotline: 01789 403416
(10am-6pm Mon-Sat)
boxoffice@thebearpit.org.uk or visit
Royal Shakespeare Theatre Box Office

Cake and Company every Friday afternoon
from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Stratford
Methodist Church Centre.
Chat over a cup of tea or play board
games.

Brunch served the second Saturday of every
month from September at
Stratford Methodist Church Centre from
10:00am to 12 noon.

Stratford Friends of Shakespeare's Hospice
- Quiz Friday 4 March at Stratford Town
Football Club, Tiddington at 7:30pm.
Tickets £10 to include Ploughman's Supper.
Ring Val George 01789 297720

Stratford Friends of Shakespeare's Hospice
- Coffee Morning 12 March 10:00am-
12:30pm at Town Hall. £1 entrance to
include coffee and biscuits. Stalls, cakes,
plants, Tombola, raffle and more.

"Alive & Kicking" - an evening of script-in-
hand playlets/sketches written by members
of Stratford Playwrights. Admission free, no
booking required. Join us for "millions of
smiles, and a few little tears"! Sunday 20
March 2016 at 7:30pm, at The Dirty Duck,
Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BA.

Private Lives by Noel Coward at the Bear
Pit Theatre on Wednesday 13 to Saturday
16 April, 2016 at 7:30pm. An "intimate
comedy", presented by Second Thoughts
Drama Group. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions),
available online at www.secondthoughts.org.
uk, by phone on 01789 403416, or in person
at the RSC's Box Office.

Enjoy drinks while you watch Shakespeare's
Birthday Parade on Saturday 23 April from
10:00am at the Methodist Church Centre
opposite Holy Trinity.

If you would like to advertise your local
event, please contact the Town Hall

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

All Town Council Meetings or Standing Committee Meetings, held at the
Town Hall, are open to the general public. There is an opportunity for public
participation at the start of every meeting.

General Purposes Committee Tuesday (6:30pm)	Planning Consultative Committee Tuesday (6:30pm)	Finance & Scrutiny Committee Tuesday (6:30pm)	Mayoral & Protocol Committee Tuesday (6:30pm)	Town Council Tuesday (6:15pm)
12 July 16	17 May 16	14 June 16	24 May 16	Annual Meeting & Mayor Making
6 September 16	7 June 16	13 September 16	27 September 16	Thursday 19 May 16
25 October 16	28 June 16	8 November 16	15 November 16	21 June 16
6 December 16	19 July 16	20 December 16	14 February 17	26 July 16
28 February 17	9 August 16	17 January 17		4 October 16
28 March 17	30 August 16	7 March 17		29 November 16
	20 September 16			7 February 17
	11 October 16			Town Meeting Thursday 2 March 17
	1 November 16			21 March 17
	22 November 16			18 April 17
	13 December 16			
	10 January 17			
	31 January 17			
	21 February 17			
	14 March 17			
	4 April 17			
	25 April 17			

AND FINALLY... Please make a note of the Council's new website address: www.stratford-tc.gov.uk



Bridging the Gap is published by Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6EF
Contact: 01789 269332 E-mail: info@stratford-tc.gov.uk Website: www.stratford-tc.gov.uk