



BRIDGING the GAP

Stratford-upon-Avon

Newsletter from Stratford-upon-Avon TOWN COUNCIL

ISSUE 27

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY BEADLE/TOWN CRIER

An honorarium vacancy has occurred for the position of Beadle/Town Crier following the announcement that the present incumbent is to step-down after twelve years. The Town Council would sincerely like to thank Mr Graham Beard for his distinguished service and wish him well for the future.

Beadle is derived from the Latin "bidellus" or "bedellus", rooted in words for "herald." The word Beadle has also been used to describe early policemen and church or parish wardens. Today, the role is primarily ceremonial but the Beadle also acts as the Mayor's personal officer and attends all formal and civic occasions, ensuring that the Mayor's dignity and matters of form and protocol are correctly observed. Additionally, the Beadle's role encompasses that of Town Crier for Town Council sanctioned projects or services approved by or affiliated to them.

A prime consideration when appointing the Beadle is the strength of the person's commitment to the office, both in terms of continuing the traditions of this historic office and in relation to the need to remain available for all functions at which the Beadle's presence is required.

The office is for a fixed term of five years with the opportunity to extend by mutual consent. Full uniform will be provided and the position attracts a modest honorarium.

For further details please go on line for an application pack at www.stratford-tc.gov.uk or call Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council on 01789 269332 and ask for the Civic Secretary, Charles Wilson.





TOWN HALL

SPECTACULAR BIRTHDAY PARADE CELEBRATIONS



Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council is tasked with organising the annual Shakespeare Birthday Parade, and extensive planning was necessary to make 23 April 2016 so memorable.

The town celebrated 400 years of Shakespeare's legacy with a unique 'take' on the traditional annual procession, and the festivities combined birthday and commemoration in a day full of music, colour and action.

The Town Council introduced some memorable changes to this year's event which brought a new flavour to the Birthday Celebration Parade, but nevertheless retained the essence of the popular ceremonies at its heart. In a departure from convention, spectators saw parade participants gather at many places around town. The 'mini-parades' were escorted to flag stations in and around the central arena to the toll of the funeral bell. Following the Flag Unfurling Ceremony, the whole procession continued

as one in festival mood, making its way to Holy Trinity Church, Shakespeare's resting place. Crowds lined the route throwing sprigs of fresh rosemary underfoot as the sombre procession passed by in a walk of remembrance. Later there was a definite mood swing from commemorating the Bard's death to celebrating his birthday and there was an iconic photographic moment to savour when 10,000 participants and spectators donned the specially commissioned Shakespeare mask. This was followed by the 'surprise' entrance from the guest Jazz Band, joining the festivities all the way from New Orleans, USA. It was certainly not the usual Birthday Parade!

Over the Shakespeare weekend of 23 and 24 April 2016, over 55,000 visitors were

welcomed to the town and the world wide coverage of the event was extensive. There were more than 1,800 pieces of media coverage including major national titles and TV news programmes. However, the cost to engage every 1,000 people was well below £0.01.

The Town Council, who worked in partnership with the District Council who co-hosted the event and other key stakeholders in the town, is satisfied that it went very well. However, the question now is 'How do you follow that?'

We would be very interested to hear your views on how we can take the Celebrations forward.



TRANQUILITY GARDEN

Since the last update in Bridging the Gap, the planning of the Tranquility Garden has progressed rapidly and things are in place for construction to start in September this year. The creation will take approximately 6 weeks to complete (weather depending!) but, we are mindful of services taking place in the cemetery and work will be fitted around these.

For those who may be unfamiliar with the project, under the responsibility and management of Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, the Tranquility Garden will be created to provide a peaceful and serene place to visit when reflecting and remembering loved ones who are no longer with us.

A 35m x 21m section of the cemetery (at the furthest end) will be used as the footprint of the Tranquility Garden. The garden will provide a perfect setting for ash burial plots and will also contain a secluded area for the scattering of ashes. In other areas of the garden, there are opportunities to commemorate loved ones who are either buried in the cemetery or interred or scattered elsewhere. The peaceful and tranquil surroundings are designed for reflection so that you can remain close to a loved one who is no longer here. A special area for cut flowers will be provided and care will be taken to ensure that nothing detracts from the natural beauty of the garden.



MEMORIAL ITEMS

Memorial items available are listed below. All prices include VAT.



Granite Paving Stones

Set within the red brick pathway of the garden will be memorial granite paving stones, in little groups, which will eventually create a distinctive walkway of remembrance. There will be several areas within the garden where these can feature.

The cost to purchase a **Granite Paving Stone**, which includes an inscription of up to 50 black letters, is **£250.00** for a period of 10 years. A charge of £1.25 per letter is applied thereafter.



Slate Plaque

These plaques will be affixed to the wall at the end of the garden, covered by a wooden and brick pillar pergola. Plaques can also be attached to the brick pillars supporting the pergola down the centre of the garden.



The cost to purchase a Slate Plaque, for a period of 10 years, is **£250.00** or **£400.00** for 20 years. This includes 50 letters in grey script. A charge of £1.25 per letter is applied thereafter.



Bronze Bench Plaque

Each bench will feature a maximum of 4 dedication plaques at a cost of **£250.00** for a period of 10 years. If, however, you would prefer your plaque to feature exclusively on a bench, the cost is **£500.00** for a period of 10 years.

A lot of thought has gone into the design and planting for the garden, to make it a beautiful space all year round but also to be low maintenance so that it can be managed by our small and busy cemetery team. The garden will be enclosed by a 1m high Beech hedge and Silver Birch will be planted towards the rear of the garden. 1m high Purple Beech hedging will run through the centre of the garden, either side of the block paving and granite stone walkway. A resin bound gravel path will run around the edge of the garden, and both these surfaces will enable easy access to all areas of the garden.

Bespoke stone artwork has been commissioned to encapsulate 'Stratford' but also to reflect peace and tranquillity.

An information brochure will be produced shortly and will be available from Funeral Directors in Stratford-upon-Avon and from the Town Hall.





TOWN HALL

MAYOR'S AWARD – SAMARITANS

At this year's Mayor Making, the final duty of the retiring Mayor, Cllr Tessa Bates, was to present the Mayor's Award 2015/2016, which went to Samaritans of Stratford-upon-Avon.

Three representatives from the organisation, Jill Young, Irene Sabin and Richard Grunow, were presented with an inscribed salver and a donation from the Mayor's Charity, in recognition of the organisation's outstanding service and commitment to the community.

Samaritans was started in London in 1953 by a vicar, Chad Varah, who wanted to help his parishioners struggling with life's problems and contemplating suicide. Nowadays, Samaritans has grown into a nationwide service where callers can talk to volunteers about all their concerns and receive a listening ear and non-judgemental support.

The Stratford branch has been running for just over 25 years and is now housed in the Hub on Tyler Street with approximately 80 volunteers. As well as manning the phones and computers, the local Samaritans run an outreach service to highlight 'Emotional Awareness in Young People' by giving talks in local schools and colleges. They also run a weekly stand in Warwick Hospital.

According to statistics, suicide is the biggest killer of young men in the UK and the busiest time for the volunteers is between 10pm and 8am.

If you would like to find out more about Samaritans, visit www.samaritans.org or if you feel their services would be of benefit to you, the Stratford branch can be reached on 01789 298866 (local call charges apply) or 116 123 (free to call).



LOOKING FOR A PERFECT WEDDING VENUE? LOOK NO FURTHER...

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall is a setting for all occasions but it excels as a splendid wedding venue. The public rooms are licensed for civil weddings and those on the ground floor provide the perfect place for small, intimate occasions. The Ballroom, upstairs, can easily accommodate large wedding parties in the spectacular and stately surroundings.

The public rooms are all DDA compliant with a platform lift and there are disabled toilets and baby changing facilities on the ground floor. The Hall's central location is within easy walking distance of the many excellent hotels in the town and Stratford-upon-Avon offers parking facilities either on street, or in one of the numerous car parks nearby.

There are three different wedding packages available at a reasonable price, one for just a ceremony, one for just a reception and one for both ceremony and reception. Those hiring the hall may, within reason, decorate the venue according to choice and are totally at liberty to bring in chair covers, use their own florist and the caterer of their choice. They can also provide their own licensed bar - we don't even charge corkage. Dine in splendor in the Ballroom, or dance the night away on the sprung dancefloor. The impressive stairwell is perfect for photographs but there are many other photographic opportunities in the beautiful scenic locations in close proximity to the Hall.

Everyone at the Town Hall understands just how important the wedding day is for those who choose to marry here and we will do everything possible to make sure the day is memorable for all the right reasons. There is a dedicated member of the team, who will deal with your booking, but the rest of the Town Hall staff will be able to assist with any enquiries – we all love a good wedding.

Why not come and view the Hall, or give Emma or Pat a call to discuss availability before contacting the registrar. It is important to remember that the registrar and venue are independent of one another and need to be booked and paid for separately.

More information can be found on the website www.stratford-tc.gov.uk



CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

All Town Council Meetings or Standing Committee Meetings, held at the Town Hall, are open to the general public. There is always 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)	Human Resources Committee
12 July 16	19 July 16	13 September 16	27 September 16	26 July 16	5 July 16
6 September 16	9 August 16	8 November 16	15 November 16	4 October 16	18 October 16
25 October 16	30 August 16	20 December 16	14 February 17	29 November 16	24 January 17
6 December 16	20 September 16	17 January 17		7 February 17	11 April 17
28 February 17	11 October 16	7 March 17		Town Meeting	
28 March 17	1 November 16			2 March 17	
	22 November 16			21 March 17	
	13 December 16			18 April 17	
	10 January 17				
	31 January 17				
	21 February 17				
	14 March 17				
	4 April 17				
	25 April 17				



*Please note: The chair covers in the photograph were brought in by the hirer and are not supplied by the Town Hall.





WARWICKSHIRE
cares Better Together

Housing Related Support

News Update

Housing Related Support

Chapter 1 have been appointed to provide accommodation-based Housing Related Support services for young people, including young parents aged 16 to 24 across Warwickshire. This new service will begin on 1st August 2016 and will replace a number of existing services. Warwickshire County Council and Chapter 1 will be working with outgoing providers to ensure that the transition to the new service runs smoothly.

For further information contact:

Louise Cunningham, Children's Commissioner, Housing Related Support
louisecunningham@warwickshire.gov.uk

Other new services

The Chapter 1 service will work alongside Stonham, part of Home Group, who we previously announced will be providing accommodation-based Housing Related Support services for people aged 25 and above from 1st August 2016.

In addition, the results of tenders for two new floating support services are expected shortly.

What is Housing Related Support?

Housing Related Support services provide support to people aged 16 or over to enable them to attain and / or maintain the skills required to be able to live independently thus preventing problems that can cause homelessness, hospitalisation or institutional care. These services are either accommodation-based, where support is provided to customers living in specific designated accommodation provided for the purpose or alternatively are provided on a floating support basis where the support worker visits customers in their own homes in the community.

For further information contact:

Hugh Gaster Housing Related Support Officer
hughgaster@warwickshire.gov.uk



Alzheimer's Society
Leading the fight against dementia

Young Onset Dementia Café

For those diagnosed under 65

Launch: Tuesday 19th July, 11am – 1pm

- A get together for those living with or affected by dementia who were diagnosed under 65
- A chance to have a coffee and a chat and share experiences with others
- fun activities to be chosen by the group
- free to come along and no need to book – just turn up!

Where: Warwick Space,
71 Coten End,
Warwick,
CV34 4NU

When: every 3rd Tuesday of the month

Call 01926 88-88-99 for further info



Charity No 296645

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 William Lowe, known as Bill, lived in Stratford for five years during the 70s, then returned in 1988 and has lived here ever since.

Bill has served on both the Town and District Councils. He first served on the Town Council in 2002, was made Mayor in 2005, but resigned his seat in 2013 due to ill health. His circumstances changed, he stood again and was re-elected in May 2015 as one of the two Clopton Ward representatives.

Currently Councillor Lowe serves on a number of the Council's Standing Committees; Finance & Scrutiny, Mayoral & Protocol, Planning Consultative and Human Resources Committees. He also serves on the Cemetery Sub-Committee. He was appointed as the Council's representative to Friends of Shakespeare's Church, VASA and the County and Stratford Area of the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils.

Bill has worked in local government since 1956 covering horticulture, landscape gardening, engineering and leisure centre operations. For over 50 years, he also worked extensively with children and adults with disabilities.

In the past, Bill participated in swimming and water polo events at national level and became a swimming coach and lifeguard. He also played Rugby Union up to County Trial Level.

Nowadays, his leisure time still incorporates swimming and horticulture, but being recently widowed, he takes comfort and spends more time with his family and four grandchildren.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

AVENUE

Cllr Lezley Bott 01789 550689

Cllr Juliet Short (Mayor) 01789 294247

BISHOPTON

Cllr Victoria Alcock (Deputy Mayor) 01789 551072

Cllr Chris Wall 01789 508396

BRIDGETOWN

Cllr Ben Brain 01789 508325

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 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

'FASTER BROADBAND IS ON ITS WAY'

CSW Broadband has been working with Warwickshire County Council to bring superfast broadband to Stratford. They are now pleased to announce that it is now available in parts of Stratford.

Cabinet Stratford 48 has been upgraded, meaning that properties connected to this cabinet may now be able to order the improved service.

Please note that some lines that were previously connected directly to the exchange have now been routed through this cabinet so will now also be able to order faster broadband.

Once the cabinet has gone live, the area will turn green on the map (<http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/the-project/latest-maps/nga-network-coverage-map/>)

If you wish to check which cabinet you are connected to and what speeds they might achieve, please visit <https://www.dslchecker.bt.com/>. For the best results you will need to be able to enter a BT landline number for your property. If you do not have this then please use your address, but it may be less accurate. It should be noted that customers are not restricted to buying a service from BT and that they can go to any Internet Service Provider (ISP).

There are a number of different Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and it is best to check carefully as there are a wide

range of packages available, with some including telephone calls and even TV options. For impartial advice and to see which might be best for specific needs visit <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/phones/cheap-broadband>

The CSW Broadband website has lots of information about Internet Service Providers, a very useful jargon buster to help people to get through the sometimes baffling terms surrounding broadband, and lots of self-help guides so that users can get the most from the new, improved service <http://www.cswbroadband.org.uk/about-broadband/>

HAVE WE GOT IT RIGHT?

The Town and District Councils work together to deliver an interesting and diverse market offer, from fruit and vegetables to quality craft. Currently markets are held on Fridays and Saturdays on Rother Market and on Waterside on Sundays.

Additionally, there is a Christmas Market, usually held in Bridge Street and the occasional specialist markets at various locations which often complement a festival.

We would like to hear your views on whether we have got the market offer right. If you can spare a few minutes, may we ask you to go to our website www.stratford-tc.gov.uk and click on the link to the questionnaire which can be found on the home page. Alternatively, please pick up a hard copy questionnaire from the Town Hall.

Your help will be much appreciated as we are currently assessing the feasibility of expanding the Christmas offer, so input from the public at this juncture would be most opportune.





SUMMER OFFER
Hot deal on desk space

NEED A DESK SPACE THIS SUMMER?

Try five FREE days Hotdesking!
Then buy five days for £60.00 & get an additional five days FREE!

Valid from 7 June until 9 September, 2016
...so if you work from home, feel isolated or distracted & just need a desk space providing :

- Flexible working in a business friendly community
- Space to get on with your work whilst the children are at home over the summer break
- Free business advice & support
- Chill Zone & great coffee!
- Free parking

Just turn up or book in advance
A warm welcome awaits at Venture House!



Venture House Business Centre
Avenue Farm Industrial Estate
Birmingham Road
Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 0HR

info@venturehousestratford.co.uk
Tel : 01789 207500



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.

Twelfth Night, performed by the Trinity
Players at Holy Trinity Church.
Thursday 14 and Friday 15 July at 7:30pm
and Saturday 16 July at 4:30pm.
Tickets £10, concessions £5 available from
Holy Trinity Gift Shop or on the door.

Daisy Pulls It Off by Denise Deegan
Wednesday 13 July to Saturday 16 July at
7:30pm at The Bear Pit Theatre, Rother
Street. Tickets £10, concessions £8.

A hilarious spoof of the classic English
school adventure. Daisy Meredith is the
first scholarship student to attend posh
Grangewood School. Some privileged students
make life difficult for Daisy. Find out how she
cracks a secret code, scores the winning goal
and saves the lives of sneaky Sybil and toady
Monica!

RNLI coffee morning on 22 July at the Town
Hall.

Craft fair on 31 July at the Town Hall.

From September, brunch will be served every
second Saturday of the month at the Methodist
Church Centre, Old Town from 10:00am, to
12 noon.

Heritage Open Days Friday 9 - Sunday 11
September. The Town Hall will be open on
Friday and Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm
and on Sunday 11:00am - 4:00pm.

Craft fair on 18 September at the Town Hall.

A free variety concert on 4th October at the
Arts House for anyone entitled to a bus pass!
If you would like free transport please ring
Maureen Beckett on 01789 299347.

Inner Wheel Charity Coffee Morning,
Thursday 13 October 10:15am - 12:15pm
at the Town Hall. There will be cakes and
books for sale as well as a tombola and
raffle. Please come along for a chat and
a coffee and help us raise money for our
charities.

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

AND FINALLY... Date for your diary... MAYOR'S CHARITY BALL

The Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, Cllr Juliet Short, will be holding her Charity Ball on Friday 7 October 2016 at the Arts House. Tickets will be available from September.

