



Picture provided by Kerry McGinn

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council Newsletter May 2025

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[Town Council](#)

[Town Hall](#)

[The Mayor](#)

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

VE Day Commemorations Thursday 8th May 2025



Thursday 8 May 2025

The Town Council and Stratford Town Trust are joining together to host a special event to commemorate this historic occasion.

2025 is also the thirty-year anniversary of the Peace Memorial Bandstand, constructed and installed by the Royal Engineers and opened in 1995 to mark 50 years of Victory in Europe Day. In honour of this anniversary, Stratford Town Trust have carried out a complete refurbishment of the Bandstand.

6:30pm Bells will ring at Holy Trinity Church

7:20pm Official opening of the Bandstand

Followed by a performance from the City of Coventry Brass Band

Procession to the Garden of Remembrance

9pm A short service of commemoration

Approximately 9:30pm the lighting of the beacon



Stratford Pursuits Festival

Live music 🎵 Delicious food & drinks 🍔🍷 Creative workshops 🧠 Incredible performances 🎭 something for everyone!



Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations

The town bloomed with pride on Saturday 26th April, as we celebrated Shakespeare's birthday - bands, parades, flags unfurled and flowers in every hand. A beautiful tribute to the Bard! Thank you to everyone involved in organising this event.

A lovely Shakespeare Service at Holy Trinity Church was held on Sunday 27th April. A thought provoking sermon was read by Peter Graystone, alongside performances from actors currently starring in Much Ado About Nothing at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Beautiful performances from the Church Choir and students of the Birmingham Conservatoire. The morning concluded with a procession back to the Town Hall.



Volunteers Reception

I was delighted to host a reception at the Town Hall to celebrate the incredible volunteers who give so much to Stratford.

Being the Mayor, gives a unique opportunity to witness at first hand the difference volunteers make to the community.

I'd like to take a moment to recognise one volunteer in particular - someone whose dedication and impact I have personally witnessed and deeply appreciate.

This year's Mayor's Award is presented to Lorraine Mansfield. Thank you, Lorraine, for all that you do for our town and its communities. Your commitment is truly inspiring.

Mayor, Councillor Jason Fojtik



Czech Ambassador Visit

It was an honour to welcome Her Excellency Ambassador Marie Chatardová to Stratford-upon-Avon recently as we marked Shakespeare's birthday in true style.

As a Mayor with Czech roots, it was a particularly proud moment to host her at the Town Hall and to join her at the Shakespeare Birthplace, where she cut the birthday cake alongside Rachael North, CEO of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, renowned Shakespeare scholar Dr. David Sterling Brown, and the Reverend Dr. Paul Edmondson, Head of Research for the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and our Town Council Chaplain. A truly special celebration of our town's most famous son!

Mayor, Councillor Jason Fojtik



Hubs in Stratford-upon-Avon

Hubs – Stratford upon Avon

Net Zero Climate Hub

30 Meer Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6QB
January and February
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 10am-4pm

Bishopton Social Warm Hub

Bishopton Community Centre, Drayton Avenue CV37 9PB
Mondays 11am-1pm

Arts & Heritage Hub

The Old Slaughterhouse, Sheep Street CV37 6EE
Mondays 1-3pm

RSC Warm Hub

The Welcome Space, Level 2, Royal Shakespeare Theatre CV37 6BB
Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm

Stratford Warm Hub

11 Guild Street (Office 1), Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6RE
Tuesdays 11am-12:30pm

Stratford Town Football Club – Community Cafe

Arden Garages Stadium, Knights Lane, Tiddington CV37 7BZ
Wednesdays 10:30am-12noon

Stratford Library

Henley Street CV37 6PZ
Wednesdays 1:30pm-4pm
This session includes a classic film showing
(general Library opening hours 9am-5pm Mon-Fri and 10am-3pm Sat)

Stratford Town Trust Community Hub

Venture House, Avenue Farm Industrial Estate CV37 0HR
Thursdays 9:30am-12:30pm

Clopton Connect Warm Hub

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

Net Zero : Community Kitchen

Ken Kennett Centre, Justins Avenue CV37 0DA
All welcome. Pay as you feel.
Fridays 5-6:30pm

Spotlight on...

Stratford-upon-Avon Men Walking and Talking Group

Stratford-upon-Avon Men Walking and Talking is the local group of a national men's movement initially started by our founder and director, Dan Reid in 2021.

To date there are 37 groups nationwide with over 360 men walking, talking and providing mental health to support to each other.

The groups were created to bring men (18+) together in a safe space, end the stigma around men's mental health by creating a forum where men can support each other, form meaningful friendships and combat loneliness, depression and anxiety.

Our philosophy in Stratford is very straightforward; we walk, we talk, we share, we support, and we bond.

Our walks last for approximately one hour per week and are for men of any age with no cost involved - just one hour of your week.

We meet every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm by the Swan Fountain, Waterside, near to the RSC, so please come and join us if you can.

We appreciate that joining a new group of complete strangers, especially for men, can feel daunting, but please remember we are all very friendly, everyone is welcome and the group is only 6 weeks old and before then, every one of us were strangers so effectively we are the friends you've just not met!

We have a main Facebook group and also run a local WhatsApp group, purely voluntary, in which we communicate, support each other, and share information including the peer support available and group events that are happening around the country.

We hope that you can join us soon!
Guy & Steve



GUY



STEVE

MEN WALKING AND TALKING
Est. 2021

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON GROUP
MEETING POINT - SWAN FOUNTAIN OUTSIDE THE RSC THEATRE
FROM WEDNESDAY 12TH MARCH @6:30PM

GIVING MEN A SAFE SPACE TO OPEN UP ABOUT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER.

- ✓ **NO NEED TO BOOK AND NO FEE**
- ✓ **NON JUDGEMENTAL, PEER SUPPORT**
- ✓ **PROMOTING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH**
- ✓ **WEEKLY GROUPS LOCATED AROUND THE COUNTRY**
- ✓ **ONLINE PEER SUPPORT GROUP AVAILABLE**

MENWALKINGANDTALKING.CO.UK



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

Townswomen's Guild

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 8th May 2025

Location: Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon

Time: 2:15pm (arrival from 2pm)

Speaker: Maureen Beckett, "Finding my sister".

Refreshments and raffle

New Members Welcome!

The Stratford-upon-Avon Townswomen's Guild are now on Facebook!

Click on the link to view their

page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573768105002>

Mayor's Engagements

Mayoral engagements attended during April 2025 include:

- Leamington Civic Dinner
- Brook Arts Hub opening
- Warwick Civic Dinner
- Sea Cadets Presentations
- Southam Civic Dinner
- NMTF Presidents Dinner
- Jubilee Club, Easter Tea
- Czech Ambassador Visit
- Volunteers Reception
- Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations

If you would like to request the Mayors attendance at an event, please click on the link and complete the online form stratford-tc.gov.uk/the-mayors-diary/

Once received we will check availability and contact you as soon as possible.



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

Fred Winter Centre Workshops: A series of creative workshops for adults will be held at the Fred Winter Centre, 1pm to 3pm on Tuesdays running from 15th April to 13th May.



Sporting Memories Club - Mondays (excluding bank holidays) 10am-12noon

Swans Nest Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon

Community Café

Entrust Care Partnership warmly invites you
to our new community café venue!

Open every Friday 10am to 2pm
from 28th February

Escape Arts & Heritage Centre
Off The Yard,
Sheep Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon,
CV37 6EE

Our new community café supports people with
additional needs into paid employment.

Why not purchase great coffee and food whilst
having a positive social impact?



"Bereavement Café 2025"

Our bereavement cafe is a drop in on the first
Wednesday of the month for anyone who would like
a coffee, a chat and the support of others who
understand what you are going through.

Wednesday 5th Feb

Wednesday 2nd Apr

Wednesday 5th Mar

Wednesday 1st May

Wednesday 4th June

Café Lomas @ Stratford Hospital 3.30-5pm




South Warwickshire University
NHS Foundation Trust



CARERS CONNECT

SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALL CARERS

3 Arden Court, Stratford upon Avon
10:30 - 12:00 every 1st and 3rd Saturday

Wellesbourne Village Hall
10:30 - 12:00 every 3rd Monday



The Library, Stratford upon Avon
10:00 - 12:00 last Monday of the month



FOR INFORMATION CALL 01789 777990

OR

EMAIL hello@vasa.org.uk

registered charity number 1067584



HELPING **EVERYONE** KEEP FIT AND HEALTHY

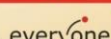
CHAIR-BASED EXERCISE CLASS

FRIDAY 2:30PM (STARTING 10TH JANUARY)
**KEN KENNETT CENTRE, STRATFORD,
CV37 0DA**

Chair-based class for those who prefer or require exercise to be seated. Ideal for those with mobility limitations and conditions or breathing challenges.

- Benefits:**
- Increased flexibility and strength
 - Increased coordination
 - Increased circulation
 - Reduced risk of falls because chair-based exercises improve posture and balance
 - Increased confidence and self-esteem

Bookable on the Everyone Active app (select Stratford Community site)
For more info call **077720 097447**
or email Amywidman@everyoneactive.com



STRATFORD TIME BANK

invites you to an afternoon of



PACCAR ROOM,
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE,
WATERSIDE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
CV37 6BB

2nd FRIDAY EVERY MONTH
2.30—4pm

Supported by



St. Gregory's Parish Warm Hub



Everybody is welcome to come along to our Warm Hub for refreshments, cake and a chat!

Every Thursday

11am-1pm

**The parish room at St Gregory's Church,
Welcombe Road, CV37 6UJ.**

We look forward to seeing you there.



Stratford
upon-Avon
METHODIST CHURCH

Brunch




**2nd Saturday of the month
10.00am to 12 noon**





**Join us for Cereals, Toast & Juice
Full cooked breakfast
Tea & Coffee**




No charge but donations please

Meadow View Coffee Morning

Join us on the first Friday of each month to meet our amazing community and discover what wonderful things we have to offer!

 There will be tea, coffee, and homemade cakes for all to enjoy. We can't wait to see you there!

**First Friday Each Month
10.30 am - 12 pm**





Coffee and Connect

Stratford Town FC

Knights Lane, Tiddington

Every Wednesday morning
10.30 - 12.00

Come along for a coffee and a chat. Our Community Connector will be on hand to offer support and information




email communities@vasa.org.uk



Registered Charity number 1075679

call our free phone
0800 988 2881

Grants
Heating
Insulation
Energy efficiency
Energy saving tips

Act
On
Energy

BIRMINGHAM · SOLIHULL · COVENTRY · WARWICKSHIRE · WORCESTERSHIRE

www.actonenergy.org.uk



Parenting Neurodiverse Teens

is a local peer support group for parents of neurodiverse teenagers to share their experiences, tips, advice and mutual support in parenting teenagers on the **Autism SPECTRUM**.

Join Us

In Person at 7pm:

Wednesday 9th January
Wednesday 5th March
Wednesday 7th May
Wednesday 2nd July
Wednesday 3rd September
Wednesday 5th November

scan here for more information:



or Online...



Request to join local
WhatsApp group:
07587 143 374



For more information phone/text: **07587 143 374**

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



Wellbeing for Warwickshire
An open door to supporting your mental health



WELLBEING DROP-INS

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

- Every Monday
- 10:00am - 12noon
- Friends Meeting House, 37 Maidenhead Road, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6XT
-
- Every Friday
- 10:30am - 12:30pm
- Fred Winter Centre, 41 Guild St, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6QY

WARWICK

- Every Wednesday
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Warwick Quaker Centre, 39 High Street, Warwick CV34 4AX

SHIPSTON

- Every Thursday
- 10am - 12 midday
- Shipston Community Warm Hub, Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston CV36 4EW

WELLBEING WALK

- First Tuesday of Every Month
- 10:00am
- Meet @ RSC Theatre, Waterside, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BB

Information from your Stratford District Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs)

The police encourage all residents to report any policing issues directly to us, as a direct report from a resident is logged onto our database and builds evidence for resources to be applied to issues.

Social media conversations do not contribute to this important data base and reports made by emails to others often delay the recording, action or update on what the police are actively doing to try to deal with incidents, reduce crime and tackle anti-social behaviour.

We would like to signpost and encourage the below ways to best contact us:

Points of contact

999

This is the number to ring if there is an emergency incident happening right now that needs an immediate police presence – if life is at risk, people are injured, offenders are nearby or a crime is in progress.

Reporting online

This is the preferred method to contact police and report any non-emergency issues that do not require an immediate response. This also includes reporting non-emergency collisions and anti-social behaviour. Online reporting is available 24/7 and can be accessed at <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/ro/report>

Just reporting

If you simply want to provide information or intelligence without speaking to anyone, this can be done online at <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/>

101

If you are unable to report an issue online but have concerns that do not need an emergency response, this is the number you can use. Please be aware that you may have to wait if the lines are busy, but make sure you have (or receive) an incident number.

Operation Snap

You can report and submit digital footage showing potential moving traffic offences online at <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/operationsnap>

Police Station

Stratford Police Station front counter is now back open seven days a week.
Opening times are:

09.00 to 17.00 – Monday - Friday

09.00 to 16.00 – Saturday

11.30 to 14.00 - Sunday

This information is also available on the Warwickshire Police website and is updated regularly at

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/area/your-area/warwickshire/stratford-on-avon-district/stratford-town/about-us>

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

If you want to report something anonymously, you can contact Crimestoppers. They are an independent charity working to help communities and your anonymity is guaranteed. Search for them online or visit their website at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

www.warwickshire.police.uk

 warwickshirepolice  @warkspolice  @warwickshirepolice

Future Meetings

06 May - Personnel Committee Meeting

13 May - Extraordinary Finance & Audit Committee Meeting
 16 May - Annual Meeting and Mayor Making
 20 May - Planning Consultative Committee Meeting

Our Calendar of Meeting Dates for 2025/26 is shown below.



**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL
 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025/26 AT THE TOWN HALL**

Community Services & Environment Committee	Planning Consultative Committee	Finance & Audit Committee	Civic, Heritage & Events Committee	Personnel Committee	Town Council
Tuesday (6:30 pm) 4	Tuesday (6:30 pm) 16	Tuesday (6:30 pm) 5	Tuesday (6:30 pm) 5	Tuesday (6:30 pm) 6	Tuesday (6:30 pm) 8
24 June 25	20 May 25 10 June 25 (4pm)	3 June 25		6 May 25	Annual Meeting & Mayor Making Friday 16 May 25 (noon) (Annual photograph) 10 June 25 (To approve Annual Accounts only)
	15 July 25		8 July 25	29 July 25	22 July 25
	12 August 25				
	2 September 25 23 September 25	9 September 25	30 September 25		16 September 25
7 October 25	14 October 25			21 October 25	
	4 November 25 25 November 25	11 November 25			18 November 25
	16 December 25	18 December 25	2 December 25	9 December 25	
	13 January 26		27 January 26		20 January 26
17 February 26	3 February 26 24 February 26			10 February 26	
	17 March 26	3 March 26	31 March 26		Town Meeting Thursday 5 March 26 7:30pm 24 March 26
21 April 26	14 April 26			28 April 26	
	5 May 26 27 May 26				

Annual Meeting and Mayor Making (unless General Election decrees otherwise)
 Friday 15 May 2026 at noon at the Town Hall. Civic Sunday – Sunday 17 May 2026.

Hire of the Town Hall



Looking for a celebration venue?

Contact us T: 01789 269332 E: info@stratford-tc.gov.uk



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. 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. Please call the Town Hall on 01789 269332.

[Find a Councillor](#)



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Our mailing address is:
Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6EF

