



Image supplied by Paul Roebuck

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council News March 2026

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

Annual Town Meeting



Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council Annual Town Meeting

Thursday 5th March 2026 - 7:30pm

Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon CV37 6EF

Ahead of the Annual Meeting from 6:15-7:15pm, come and meet the organisations proudly supported by the Town Council these include Stratford in Bloom, Christmas Lights Committee and CCTV.

An opportunity for Town electors to have your say on matters relating to the town.



Waterside Upmarket re-opens!

Expect family fun, delicious food, handmade artwork, artisan stalls and so much more!

**Waterside
Stratford-upon-Avon
Sunday 1st March | 10am-5pm**

New Town Website

Something new for Stratford-upon-Avon... and it's LIVE!

A brand new website dedicated to everything happening in the town – events, businesses, experiences and more all in one place.

Whether you're planning a visit, a weekend, or just looking for what's on, this is your new go-to!

stratforduponavon.org.uk



Mayor's Engagements

Mayoral engagements attended during February include:

- Rother Street Arts House - official opening
- ILEAP - late Christmas party
- Silent Disco events
- Holy Trinity Primary School / Willows Friends annual panto
- Tiddington Players Panto
- SEN Zone event

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.



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON HAS AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY!

The government is launching a competition to name the UK's first ever Town of Culture. The successful town will receive over £2 million to deliver an ambitious cultural programme in 2028.

Following passionate conversations across our community, the new Arts and Culture Strategy sets out a bold 10-year vision. You told us that Stratford needs more festivals, stronger creative industries, deeper collaboration and a broader cultural offer. You also told us to use Shakespeare as a springboard for new ideas.

We need your input to shape our expression of interest.

We would love to hear from you about:

- What makes Stratford special
- What you are most proud of
- What could make our cultural life stronger
- What a Town of Culture programme should look like
- How we can involve the whole community

Whether you are a resident, business, student, volunteer or part of a community group, your perspective matters.

Please take a few minutes to complete the short questionnaire by Wednesday 11 March
<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/townofculture>

Recreation Ground Play Area Refurb

The refurb at the Recreation Ground play area is underway! The new area will have over 75 features, many of which will be fully inclusive. The sandpit and paddling pool will both benefit from an upgrade and additional seating and shaded areas will also be installed. It is planned (weather permitting) that it will re-open in time for Easter.



Exciting news from Tiny Rebels Soft Play

Tiny Rebels have now introduced a **third dedicated SEN session** at their soft play unit in Bell Court, creating even more opportunities for children to play, explore and thrive in a space designed just for them. Their sessions are tailored for SEN children and they warmly welcome their siblings too, making it a supportive experience for the whole family.

You can join them on **Mondays from 9:00-10:30am, Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00pm and Saturdays from 8:30-10:00am.**

They also offer exclusive SEN-only birthday parties at the venue, giving every child the chance to celebrate their special day in a safe, understanding and joyful environment.

Find out more here: tinyrebelssoftplay.co.uk/



INTRODUCING

Our new dedicated **SEN SESSION...**

Wednesday 4:30pm-6pm

Our SEN times now are:

Monday 9-10:30am
Saturday 8:30 - 10am
Wednesday 4:30pm-6pm

We are dedicated to providing a space for SEN children and their families.



Finding Your Voice in Nature

The Stratford Family Club invites families to Chatter Patch, a new session where nature meets communication and community. Join us in the beautiful Lifeways garden in Stratford on Saturday mornings during term time. Whether you use spoken words, AAC, or gestures, every voice matters, and we want alternative communication to be seen.

In response to families seeking a safe space for non-speaking children outdoors, we hope the garden will foster exploration and connection. In our sensory garden, we might weed, plant, or prune. There's always the shady woods to discover trees, leaves, and buzzing bugs—plenty of new experiences await!

AAC (alternative and augmentative communication) uses signs or symbols to support our talking. We provide symbol boards and iPad talkers to enhance communication. Children need to see “talking symbols” to learn how to use the same.

We hope children and parents will connect as they check in with familiar faces like Debbie, Naomi, and Barney. Chatter Patch is an ideal place to meet new friends of pre-school and school age and share experiences that enrich our community.

At Chatter Patch, there are no expectations. We aim to create a space for children to truly be themselves.

Chatter Patch thrives in almost any weather, but sessions may be cancelled due to icy, windy, or extremely wet conditions. Follow our Instagram page for updates.

We look forward to meeting more families who embrace all forms of communication. For more information, please email chatterpatchsfc@gmail.com.



Police Community Drop-in Surgeries

Stratford Police are bringing back their community drop-in surgeries - a chance for residents to chat directly with officers about issues that matter in the town.

Location: Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

Time: 2pm

When: 17 March 2026

Come along and say hello!

Hubs – Stratford upon Avon

Net Zero Climate Hub

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

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

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

Stratford Library Henley Street CV37 6PZ
(general Library opening hours 9am-5pm Mon-Fri and 10am-3pm Sat)
Wednesdays 1:30-4pm

Stratford Town Trust Community Hub

Venture House, Avenue Farm Industrial Estate CV37 0HR
First Thursday of the month 10am-12:30pm

St Gregory's Parish Room

Welcombe Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6UJ
Thursdays 11am-1pm

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

Murder Mystery Evening

THE MAYOR OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON INVITES YOU TO



MURDER AND THE HIGHWAYMAN!



“A Murder Mystery Evening ?
with Comedy and a Fish & Chip Dinner
Rip-Roaring Event at Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall,
Sheep Street, CV37 6EF
in aid of the Mayor's Good Causes



Saturday 14th March - 7.30pm

Tickets: £25





NHS Services, Minor Injuries and Useful Contact Numbers

Choosing the right service



 A&E	Choking Blackout Blood loss Chest pains	An A&E department (also known as emergency department or casualty) deals with genuine life-threatening emergencies. People are seen and treated in order of need.
 999	Choking Blackout Blood loss Broken bones	Call 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk.
 Minor Injuries Unit	Strains Sprains Stitches	Visit a walk-in centre, minor injuries unit or urgent care centre if you have a minor illness or injury (cuts, sprains or rashes) and it can't wait until your GP surgery opens.
 GP/Doctor	Persistent symptoms Long term conditions Chronic pain New prescriptions	Make an appointment with your GP if you are feeling unwell and it is not an emergency.
 Pharmacist	Minor illnesses Headaches Stomach upset Bites & stings	Ask your local Pharmacist for advice – your pharmacist can give you advice for many common minor illnesses.
 NHS 111	Unsure? Unwell? Confused? Need help?	Call NHS 111 if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation. You can also call NHS 111 if you're not sure which NHS service you need.
 Self Care	Coughs & colds Grazed knees Sore throats Other minor issues	A lot of illnesses can be treated in your home by using over the counter medicine and getting plenty of rest.

The Minor Injuries Unit at Stratford Hospital is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9am-5pm.

- *Sprains and strains*
- *Broken bones*
- *Wound infections*
- *Minor burns and scalds*
- *Minor head injuries*
- *Insect and animal bites*
- *Minor eye injuries*
- *Injuries to the back, shoulder and chest*



Stratford Shopmobility

Level Two, Bridgeway Multi-Storey Car Park , Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6YY

T: 01789 414534 E: shopmobility@activemob.co.uk

Registered Charity number 1075679

call our free phone
0800 988 2881

Act On Energy

BIRMINGHAM THE BLACK COUNTRY SOLIHULL COVENTRY WARWICKSHIRE WORCESTERSHIRE

www.actonenergy.org.uk



Useful Contacts

Local Police (Non-emergency)	101
Severn Trent emergency line	0800 783 4444
National gas emergency service	0800 111 999
Power cuts	105 0800 6783 105
NHS	111
Late night pharmacy	01789 200920
Stratford Hospital	01789 205831
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
UHCW Hospital	02476 964000
Stratford Foodbank	07736 929029
Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council	01789 269332
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	01789 267575
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
Citizens Advice South Warwickshire	0808 250 5715
VASA – Community Transport	01789 262889 (Option 1)



Love your community?



**Could you be
our next Trustee?**

We're holding elections for 5 Trustees to help us create a vibrant and connected community in Stratford-upon-Avon

If you live in the town and want to make a difference, then we want to hear from you!

Nominations open 9 -27 March

For full details of this voluntary role, visit: www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk



2026 is an election year for the Town Trust. They are holding elections for five trustees elected by membership, to help them deliver their vision of *creating a vibrant and connected community*.

Being a trustee is rewarding! You'll be able to share your skills and be involved in running a historic charity that typically distributes around £2m each year to charities and good causes. You don't need to have previous experience as a trustee to add value – they'll ensure that you have all the necessary help and support to fulfil your role.

If you'd like to find out more, they'll be at the Repair Cafe at Stratford Methodist Church in Old Town on 7 March, from 10am – 2pm. Please pop along and have a chat or contact them for more information by calling 01789 207111 or emailing: admin@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk

If you're not a member, you will need to become one before you can apply to become a Trustee. If you are over 18 and a resident of Stratford-upon-Avon town you can [sign up to join as a member here](#) - it's free and only takes a couple of minutes.

www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk

Host your celebration at Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall



**A historic venue, ideal for celebrating life's
special moments...**

www.stratforduatownhall.co.uk

T: 01789 269332

E: emma.evans@stratford-tc.gov.uk

Townswomen's Guild

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 5th March 2026

Location: Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon

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

Featuring: Expression through Arts, Robert Williams

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>

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

6th-15th March

The Gathering
for water and Nature

International Day of
14th March
Action for Rivers

Join us to see local water differently –
as a living presence that connects people, place and Nature.

We are co-creating an opportunity for people to come together for listening, learning and planning to mark the International Day of Action for Rivers. Scan the QR or visit the link to book tickets and find out more.

riverhope.org.uk/the-gathering/

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS
Creating ripples of change - together

Friday 6 March ● 18:00 - 19:00 📍 Rother Street Arts House "Is a River Alive?" book talk Tickets via Stratford Literary Festival	Thursday 12 March ● 18:30 - 20:30 📍 Stratford-Upon-Avon Town Hall Workshop: Nature and river rights, charters and guardians	Saturday 14 March Various times and locations Community-led ceremonies by local rivers marking the International Day of Action for Rivers
Tuesday 10 March ● 19:00 - 20:30 📍 Brook Arts Hub Film night: Ice-river-sea	Friday 13 March ● 08:30 - 21:30 📍 Crowne Plaza Hotel Living with water, now and into the future - free day of speakers and discussions, and evening film "Jo in the Water" (ticketed)	Sunday 15 March ● 10:00 - 17:30 📍 Crowne Plaza Hotel Celebrating water and Nature - free day with an Interspecies Council, film, 'Waterbeings' book talk, poetry, and the birth of 'Ondine' (spirit of the river)

📱 [riverhope_movement](#) | [#gathering4water](#)



Partners and supporters include:

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Furple Square, AV11 1JL, Stratford Town Trust, Stratford Literary Festival, Stratford upon Avon Town Council, Stratford South Watercraft & Free Network (SWNF), For Wildlife, Warwickshire Libraries, Stratford Climate Action and River Rights Network, UK River Summit, Water Lodge, Lichfield & Stratford



Easter Wreath Making

Saturday 28th March

10am - 1pm

Stratford Baptist Church

Payton Street - CV37 6UA

(a short 5 min walk from the town centre)

Places are £15pp & includes
all supplies and refreshments!

There will also be a short Easter themed talk

To book your place please email Jan Furlong:

janfurlong86@gmail.com

£5 deposit required once booking confirmed



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
SHOP!**



Duties are simple and rewarding –
welcoming visitors and helping out in the
shop!

We have two shifts available each day:

- 10am – 1:30pm
- 1:30pm – 5pm

We welcome volunteers to commit to one
or more shifts each week.

If you would like to be part
of our team, please
contact the Parish Office
01789 266316

**HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH**
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 

**Cemetery opening hours:
8:00am - 7:30pm
1 March - 30 September**



Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council
Cemetery and Tranquility Garden



A place of peace and remembrance

For more information
T: 01789 269332 E: emma.evans@stratford-tc.gov.uk

REPAIR CAFE

Stratford-upon-Avon
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Donations
welcome!

10am - 2pm (last item 1pm)
Stratford Methodist Church

Limited parking - walk/cycle if you can

Refreshments
provided!

Repairs on offer can vary each month but usually include:
electrical, bikes, clothing & fabric, IT, tool sharpening.

Plus 'Give & Take' monthly swap event.



We advise you visit our website below before you visit to see any
up-to-date information.

www.stratfordrepaircafe.co.uk



Run in partnership by Net Zero Stratford & Stratford Town Trust.



SOUNDBITES RECITALS

The Friends of the Music of Holy Trinity Church present
Soundbites on Wednesday lunchtime featuring exceptional
musicians, many from top conservatoires and music colleges.
Refreshments available from 12.15pm. Recital 1pm – 1.30pm.

The recitals on 4th and 11th March are in the Parish Centre opposite the church

4 th March	Chapel Street Consort (clarinet and piano) Programme to be confirmed	
11 th March	Red Brick Brass Musicians from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Programme to be confirmed	
18 th March	Pei-Yu Chu - Piano Musician from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Programme: Liszt: "Années de pèlerinage - Première année: Suisse" 5. 160 No.3 Pastorale; No.6 Vallee d'Obermann; No.9 Les Cloches De Genève	
25 th March	Zoe Tan – Piano Musician from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Programme: Vallee d'Obermann – Liszt; Les Jeux Deau a la Villa D'Este – Liszt; Nocturne E-flat major, Op. 55 No. 2 - Chopin	

Free admission – retiring collection

www.htcfom.co.uk





FREE ENTRY **FREE STUFF**

GIVE AND TAKE

SAVE MONEY - REDUCE WASTE - RECLAIM YOUR SPACE

Bring along your unwanted, good quality items for the month's theme and help yourself to anything that has been given by others

2026 SCHEDULE

WHEN: First Saturday of the month from March 2026
WHERE: Stratford Methodist Church 10am - 1pm
 The Pavilion, Meon Vale 2pm - 4pm

MAR	Clothes & accessories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No need to give an item to take one - No electrical items - Clean and usable items only - No money required but donations welcome <p style="text-align: center;">2026 is the 'National Year of Reading' so there will be a small selection of books available to take every month</p>
APR	Plants, pots and seeds	
MAY	Kids stuff (toys, books, clothes)	
JUN	Books & magazines	
JUL	Homewares	
AUG	Anything!	
SEPT	Clothes & accessories	
OCT	Books & magazines	
NOV	Arts & crafts accessories	
DEC	Christmas stuff, toys and games	

Find us on Facebook - @giveandtakesua



Bards Strollers!



WOMEN'S WALKING FOOTBALL

- Weekly Training
- Tournaments
- League Matches

COMPETITIVE PLAYERS WANTED

STRATFORD TOWN WALKING FOOTBALL CLUB
stratfordtownwfc@outlook.com

Elmore String Quartet



The Elmore Quartet, an award-winning group of talented musicians, makes a welcome return to Stratford-upon-Avon where it has impressed its audience before.

From their first sight-reading session at the start of their studies in 2017, the Elmores were bitten by the chamber music bug and have been pursuing their dream of performing chamber music together for audiences across the world ever since.

Sunday 14th March 2026

7.30pm

United Reformed Church, Rother Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

Haydn: Quartet no. 5 in D major Op.76

Bartók: Quartet no.3 Sz.85

Beethoven: Quartet no.12 in E flat major Op.127

Tickets £25 (students £5) available on the door
or in advance via the website



This concert is part of the 2025/26 season presented by the Stratford-upon-Avon Chamber Music Society

18th October 2025 Emma Johnson (clarinet) with Carducci String Quartet: Weber, Brahms and Shostakovich
 16th November 2025 Fibonacci String Quartet: Haydn, Bartók and Beethoven
 7th December 2025 Rossetti Ensemble (piano quartet): Mozart, Ravel and D'Indy
 13th January 2026 Zemlinsky Trio (clarinet, cello and piano): Ireland, Rota, Brian Samuel, Brahms and Mendelssohn
 1st February 2026 Alasdair Beaton (piano): Beethoven, Schumann, Debussy and Riaz
 8th March 2026 Elmore String Quartet: Haydn, Bartók and Beethoven

Season tickets cost £120 (students £24) for all six concerts – these can be purchased in advance online or on the day at the door
For full details see www.stratfordchambermusic.co.uk



Registered Charity No 508874




Groups for 2026




MONDAY
KEN KENNETT TOTS
9.15-11.15

MONDAY
COFFEE AND CUDDLE CLUB @ HOORAY'S
13.00-15.00

TUESDAY
RIVERVALE TOTS WELFORD
9.30-11.30

WEDNESDAY
WESLEY'S TODDLER GROUP
9.45-11.30

THURSDAY
ARTS HOUSE TOTS
9.45-11.30

THURSDAY
TILLY'S METHODIST CHURCH
10.00-11.45

THURSDAY
BABIES AT THE COTTAGE ANNE HATHAWAYS CAFE
1.00-3.00

FRIDAY
WESLEY'S TODDLER GROUP
9.45-11.30

SATURDAY
CHATTER PATCH
9.30-10.30

Email us at
StratfordFamilyClub@gmail.com

Find out more
Facebook & Instagram
@StratfordFamilyClub

Supported by




NEW venue opening in Stratford-upon-Avon
Stratford Town Trust Community Hub, Venture House, Avenue Farm Road CV37 0HR
Open every Saturday evening, 6pm–11pm, from 1 November 2025



Struggling to cope? Feeling overwhelmed?

Safe Haven provides crisis intervention and emotional support for people aged 16+ every evening from 6pm–11pm.

Nuneaton: The Retreat, Bond St, Nuneaton CV11 4DA
Coventry: Wellington Gardens, Windsor St, Coventry CV1 3BT

Also available via phone, text, email, video chat and at other venues across Warwickshire. Please leave a message if calling out-of-hours to receive a call back.

(024) 7601 7200 | cwsafehaven.org.uk | support@cwsafehaven.org.uk



Mind
Coventry,
Warwickshire
and Worcestershire

Safe Haven
Coventry and
Warwickshire



CARERS CONNECT

SUPPORT GROUP FOR ALL CARERS

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

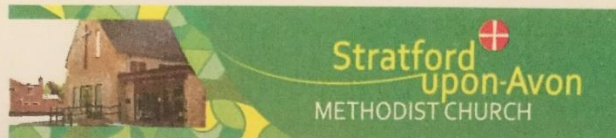
Wellesbourne Village Hall
10:30 - 12:00 every 3rd Monday



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



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

Future Meetings

Finance & Audit Committee

Tuesday 3rd March - 6:30pm

Annual Town Meeting

Thursday 5 March - 7:30pm

Planning Consultative Committee

Tuesday 17 March - 6:30pm

Civic, Heritage & Events Committee

Tuesday 31 March - 6:30pm

Meetings are held at the Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon
CV37 6EF

Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council are proud to support the following organisations.



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.



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