



Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council News April 2026

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

Town Hall - Easter closures



Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations 2026

Join us on Saturday 25 April as we celebrate the birthday of William Shakespeare in true Stratford style!

The celebrations promise a vibrant mix of music, parades and activities that bring the Bard's legacy to life. It's the perfect chance to immerse yourself in the magic of Shakespeare and the spirit of the town he called home.

Whether you're a lifelong fan or simply curious to join the festivities, come raise a toast to the world's most famous playwright and be part of an unforgettable celebration!

More information can be found here: www.shakespearescelebrations.com/

Free Activities
April 25th 2026

Shakespeare Birthday Celebration
FREE Events

1. **Stratford Town Council** | 10:00 - 12:00 PM | **Shakespeare's Birthday Parade**
2. **Stratford Town Hall** | 2:00 - 4:30 PM | **An Afternoon of Shakespeare Entertainment** | **Stratford Vocals** | **Behind The Headlines** | **Brimstone**
3. **Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust** | 12:00 - 4:00 PM | **Pop Up Shakespeare Performance**
3. **Henley Street** | 12:00 - 3:00 PM | **Stratford-upon-Avon BID** invites you to a **spectacular 60-metre birthday table**
3. **Stratford Library** | 10:15 - 2:15 PM | **Quill and Ruff Making** | 1:00 - 2:30 PM | **Tudor Music**
4. **Bell Court** | 9:30 - 3:30 PM | **Midsummer Night's Dream Nymph makeover- Pre booking via website**
5. **Escape Arts** | 12:30 - 3:30 PM | **Mad Hatters Tea Party**
6. **RSC Swan Theatre** | 12:00 - 7:00 PM | **The Play's The Thing Exhibition Opening**
7. **New Place** | 12:00 - 4:00 PM | **Picnic Spot & Tudor Games**
8. **Halls Croft** | 11:30 - 3:30 PM | **Free Entry**
9. **Rother Street Arts House** | 11:30 - 3:30 PM | **Crafts & Live Music**
10. **Holy Trinity Church** | 1:00 PM - 4:45 PM | **Free Entry**

Join the celebrations across Stratford!

Shakespeare's Birthday Parade 2026
Stratford-upon-Avon | Saturday 25 April

9:15 AM | Country Dancing on Bridge Street
Traditional dancing gets the celebrations underway.

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM | Live Music & Entertainment
Enjoy performances on Bridge Street before the parade begins.

10:30 AM | Primary Schools Parade
School children parade from Waterside to Bridge Street.

10:35 AM | Community Representatives Parade
Community representatives leave Waterside and make their way to Bridge Street.

10:40 AM | Dignitaries & Special Guests Arrive
The WMFS Band leads dignitaries and special guests from the Town Hall to Bridge Street.

10:46 AM | Mr Shakespeare Arrives
Mr Shakespeare arrives at Bridge Street for the main ceremony.

11:00 AM | Flag Unfurling Ceremony
Followed by the National Anthem.

11:04 AM | Primary Schools Parade to Holy Trinity Church
The procession continues from Bridge Street to Holy Trinity Church.

11:10 AM | Shakespeare Birthday Parade
Led by the Air Training Corps Band, KES students parade to Holy Trinity Church.

11:20 AM | The Civic Procession
Led by the WMFS Band, dignitaries, special guests and community groups parade to Holy Trinity Church.

11:28 AM | Spectators Invited to Join
Spectators are welcome to join the parade and lay flowers at Holy Trinity Church.

Roads and streets closed from 06.00am to 1.30 PM
Bridge Street, Chapel Street, Church Street, Henley Street, High Street, Meer Street, Old Town, Sheep Street, Southern Lane, Trinity Close, Union Street, Waterside, Wood Street

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON BID
A COMMUNITY FEAST FIT FOR A BIRTHDAY!

Join Stratford-upon-Avon BID for a spectacular 60-metre birthday table in the heart of town.

Saturday 25th April
Midday - 3pm
Henley Street

Drop in, take a seat, and celebrate together.
Bring your own picnic or party food, or pick up something tasty from one of the town's amazing businesses.

No formalities - come and go as you please
Sing Happy Birthday to William Shakespeare
With thanks to LSD Promotions, this event will go ahead rain or shine.

AN AFTERNOON OF SHAKESPEARE ENTERTAINMENT

Join us at Stratford Town Hall for an afternoon of live entertainment and celebration.
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Stratford Town Hall

Featuring performances from:
Stratford Vocals
Behind The Headlines - A Shakespeare Comedy
Brimstone

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of Shakespeare-inspired entertainment.

The Shakespeare Organ Recital
Thursday 23rd April
7:30 PM

Coffee, Cake & Sonnets!
Friday 24th April
10:30 AM

View the flowers in the Chancel
Saturday 25th April
1:00 PM - 4:45 PM

The Shakespeare Service
Sunday 26th April
11:15 AM

The Attic - Hamlet
Birthday weekend performances:
Saturday 25th April - 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM
Sunday 26th April - 5:00 PM
Tickets online

ROTHER ST. ARTS HOUSE

ROTHER STREET - ARTS HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Free Activities | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Enjoy a free crafting session
Page to Stage Workshop
Live music in the foyer
Featuring **The Ukes of Ale** and **Boe-Jigge**

Thank you to Warwickshire County Council (WCC), Heritage & Culture Warwickshire (HCW), and Stratford Town Trust for making these additional community activities possible.

www.shakespearecelebrations.com/whats-on

Road Closures

The following roads will be closed on Saturday 25 April from 06:00-13:30hrs:

Bridge Street (from its junction with Waterside)

Chapel Lane

Chapel Street

Church Street

Henley Street

High Street

Meer Street

Old Town

Sheep Street

Southern Lane

Trinity Close

Union Street

Waterside

Wood Street

**COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR
SHAKESPEARE'S
BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS!**

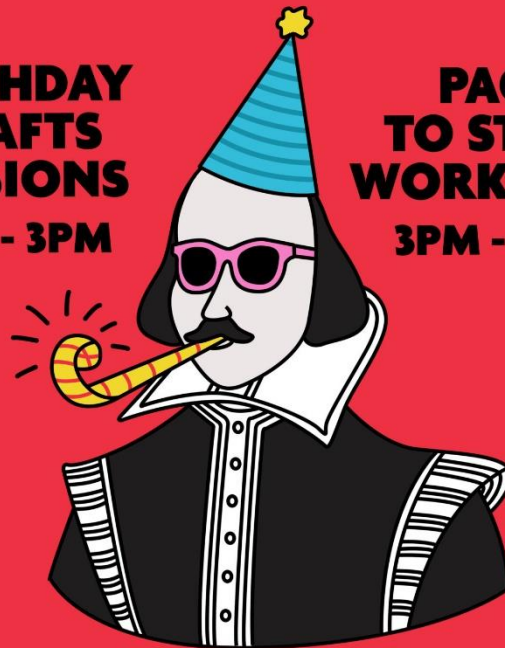
SATURDAY 25TH APRIL 2026

**BIRTHDAY
CRAFTS
SESSIONS**

1PM - 3PM

**PAGE
TO STAGE
WORKSHOP**

3PM - 4PM



www.rotherstreetarts.org

Bringing a little bit of Stratford to Ireland

At the end of February, I had the great privilege of representing Stratford-upon-Avon during a visit to Shannon in County Clare, Ireland. It was a wonderful opportunity not only to strengthen relationships between our communities but also to share the story of our remarkable town with new audiences.

Throughout the visit, I was very grateful to have been invited to spend time with a number of local organisations and institutions. I had the pleasure of visiting St Tola's Primary School, where I met pupils and staff and had the opportunity to talk about Stratford-upon-Avon, our history and what life is like in our town. The enthusiasm and curiosity of the young people was wonderful to see, and it was a joy to share a little of Stratford with them.

I was also kindly welcomed by St Patrick's Comprehensive School, where I again had the chance to speak about our town and its heritage. It was a pleasure to meet students and staff and to exchange stories about our communities. Moments like these are a reminder of how much young people enjoy learning about places beyond their own town and how valuable those connections can be.

During the visit I was also honoured to be welcomed by Clare County Council. Meeting with local representatives gave us the opportunity to talk about our respective communities, the role of local government and the importance of working closely with residents to support thriving towns and cities.

Wherever I went during the visit, I made a point of bringing a little bit of Stratford with me. Conversations often turned quickly to the place we all know and love at home. I spoke about Stratford's rich heritage, our vibrant cultural life and the strong sense of community that makes the town such a special place to live and visit.

Many people already know Stratford through Shakespeare, but it was a pleasure to share more about the wider story of our town. From our historic streets and beautiful riverside to the thriving independent businesses and organisations that bring Stratford to life today, there is so much that makes it unique.

The visit also highlighted the value of building friendships between places. I was struck by the warmth of the welcome everywhere I went and by the genuine interest people showed in learning more about Stratford. Many spoke warmly about visiting in the future.

As Mayor, it was a real honour to act as an ambassador for our town. Opportunities like this allow us to celebrate Stratford beyond our borders and to remind people just how much there is to discover here.

I very much hope that through conversations, connections and a little Stratford spirit shared along the way, more people will come to understand and appreciate our rich history and perhaps be inspired to visit Stratford-upon-Avon for themselves.



Town Hall Events

The following events are open to the public during April.

- 4 April - Vintage Vera Kilo Sale
- 15 April - Sheldon Bosley Knight Auction
- 29 April - Guide Dogs Coffee Morning

More information can be found on the Town Hall Website.

Mayor's Engagements

Mayoral engagements attended during March include:

- Official visit to Ireland
- Re-opening of Waterside Upmarket (Deputy Mayor)
- Choose Your Way, ND BrainSpace Group
- Stratford-upon-Avon Annual Town Meeting
- Entrust Care Partnership Community Cafe (Deputy Mayor)
- World Day of Prayer Service, St Gregory's Church
- Launch of Stratford District Crime Prevention Trailer
- Mayor of Warwick Charity Fashion Show
- The Gathering - For Water & Nature Workshop (Deputy Mayor)
- Mayor of Kenilworth - Charity Quiz Night
- Murder Mystery Evening (Mayor's Charity Event)
- Bear Pit Theatre - White Liars/Black Comedy
- Mayor of Leamington Spa Civic Dinner
- Mayor of Alcester Civic Dinner
- Stratford-on-Avon Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert, Greig Hall
- Shakespeare Hospice Furniture Store, Local Artist Event (Deputy Mayor)
- Stratford Choral Society, Mendelssohn's Elijah (Deputy Mayor)
- Shottery St Andrews Primary School, road safety signs
- Visit from the High Sheriff
- Shakespeare Schools Week - primary school visits to the Town Hall
- Henry V performance, RSC
- Mayor of Coleshill - fundraising 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.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

ALL WELCOME

29th March Palm Sunday

9am Bubble Church (Parish Centre)
10am Parish Eucharist with Procession of Palms
5pm Evensong with healing ministry

30th March Monday of Holy Week

7.30pm Witnesses - The Easter Story in Words and Music
Performed by Trinity Players

31st March Tuesday of Holy Week

7.30pm Holy Communion with Homily

1st April Wednesday of Holy Week

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

2nd April Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper,
followed by The Watch, concluding with: 11.45pm Compline

3rd April Good Friday

8am Morning Prayer
9.30am Journey to the Cross. All Age Service
12 – 1.30pm Church Open for private prayer
1.30pm Good Friday Liturgy

4th April Holy Saturday

8.30pm The Easter Vigil
*including lighting the Easter fire and Paschal Candles for the
Parish, and first Holy Communion of Easter.*

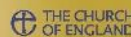
5th April Easter Day

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

8am Holy Communion
9am Bubble Church in the Parish Centre
10am Parish Eucharist - a service for all ages
5pm Festal Choral Evensong

www.stratford-upon-avon.org

Lives changed through God's love



Join in our
Easter Sunday Egg Hunt
in the churchyard after the
10:00 service on Easter Sunday
For ALL AGES of God's children!
A great opportunity to invite friends to church!
If you are able to donate any chocolate eggs of small to medium size
please leave them in the box at the back of church before Palm Sunday

HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Hubs in Stratford-upon-Avon

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

January 2026

NHS Services, Minor Injuries and Useful Contact Numbers



Choosing the right service

A&E	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	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

- Grants
- Heating
- Insulation
- Energy efficiency
- Energy saving tips

call our free phone

0800 988 2881

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)

Celebrate your special day in timeless style at the Town Hall



Your day, your way...

Contact the Town Hall for more information
T: 01789 269332 E: emma.evans@stratford-tc.gov.uk

Townswomen's Guild

Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 2nd April 2026

Location: Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon

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

Featuring: Qatar, by Josie Jeffs

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



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON 

COME AND JOIN US AND
ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES!

HOLY TRINITY
*Men's
Breakfast*

It's not served-its shared.
Cook and enjoy a hearty feast
and discover faith together.
£5 per person

**SATURDAY 4TH APRIL
IN THE PARISH CENTRE
9AM-11AM**

**TO BOOK
SCAN THE QR CODE,
OR CALL/MESSAGE JONATHAN ON
07772001369**



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



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

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.





FREE exercise classes
For adults undergoing or following cancer treatment

CANCER FITNESS CLUB

A free weekly class for people living with and after cancer. Cancer Exercise Specialist instructors will deliver the classes in an easy going, fun, and caring environment.

Free for adults in the South Warwickshire area, please register your interest via the Cancer Fitness Club Facebook Page or email stratford@cfcactive.org

CLASSES WILL HELP TO IMPROVE

- ✔ FITNESS
- ✔ FATIGUE
- ✔ TREATMENT SIDE EFFECTS
- ✔ ENERGY LEVELS
- ✔ QUALITY OF LIFE
- ✔ STRESS, DEPRESSION & ANXIETY
- ✔ CONFIDENCE & SELF ESTEEM

10:00-11:30 am, every Wednesday, Rosebird Community Hall, The Rosebird Centre, Shipston Road, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 8LU



email: stratford@cfcactive.org
Cancer Fitness Club, Call:01789 450011

Stratford-upon-Avon

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>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



SILENCE

or

Can You Hear me at the Back?

Holy Trinity Church
19th April – 7.30pm (doors 7pm)

A programme of readings, mime, puppetry and music in aid of the fundraising to renew the church sound system

Tickets £20
(unreserved seating)

Professional actors volunteer to perform in memory of Robert Lister. The group includes David Bradley, Michele Dotrice, and others.

To BOOK YOUR TICKETS scan the QR code or visit tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzcOOSo2NA/t



"Holy Trinity is not only a monument, but a living church. A donation towards a new sound system would be a welcome contribution to the life of this historic building."

Alfred Enoch, Henry V, RSC 2026

Groups for 2026

<p>MONDAY KEN KENNETT TOTS 9.15-11.15</p> <p>TUESDAY RIVERVALE TOTS WELFORD 9.30-11.30</p> <p>THURSDAY ARTS HOUSE TOTS 9.45-11.30</p>	<p>MONDAY COFFEE AND CUDDLE CLUB @ HOORAY'S 13.00-15.00</p> <p>WEDNESDAY WESLEY'S TODDLER GROUP 9.45-11.30</p> <p>THURSDAY TILLY'S METHODIST CHURCH 10.00-11.45</p> <p>THURSDAY BABIES AT THE COTTAGE ANNE HATHAWAYS CAFE 1.00-3.00</p> <p>FRIDAY WESLEY'S TODDLER GROUP 9.45-11.30</p> <p>SATURDAY CHATTER PATCH 9.30-10.30</p>
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Email us at
StratfordFamilyClub@gmail.com

Find out more
Facebook & Instagram
@StratfordFamilyClub

Supported by

Warwickshire
County Councillor
Grants

Stratford
Town Trust
creating a vibrant and
connected community



MEN WALKING AND TALKING
Est. 2021

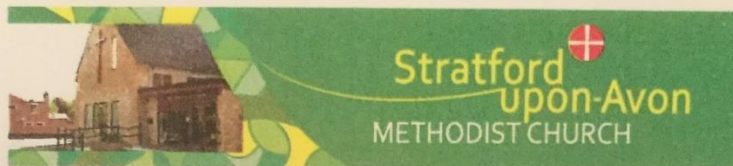


**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON GROUP
MEETING POINT - SWAN FOUNTAIN OUTSIDE THE
RSC THEATRE
WEDNESDAY'S @6:30PM**

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



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

Planning Consultative Committee

Tuesday 14 April - 6:30pm

Community Services & Environment Committee

Tuesday 21 April - 6:30pm

Personnel Committee

Tuesday 28 April - 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.



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