



Picture supplied by Stratford-upon-Avon Group Facebook Page

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## **Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council News May 2026**

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In this issue, you can read about:

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

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## Town Hall - May Bank Holiday Closures



**The Town Hall will be closed from 5pm on Friday 1 May and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 5 May**

**The Town Hall will be closed from 5pm on Friday 22 May and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 26 May**



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### Mayor's Farewell

As my year as Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon draws to a close, I have been reflecting on what an extraordinary twelve months it has been. It has been a real privilege to serve this town, and to be welcomed into so many organisations, schools, community groups and celebrations. Everywhere I have gone, I have been met with warmth, generosity and a genuine pride in our community.

One of the standout moments of the year, as it always is, has been the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations. From the parade through the town to the service at Holy Trinity Church, it is a weekend that captures the very best of Stratford. Seeing our streets full, our heritage honoured and our young people so proudly taking part is something I will never forget. The involvement of our schools, the performances, and the simple joy of people coming together made it truly special.

But beyond that weekend, there have been countless moments that have stayed with me. From volunteer receptions where we celebrated those who quietly give so much of their time, to school visits where I saw first hand the enthusiasm and potential of our young people. From community fundraising events to cultural celebrations, and from new facility openings to small local gatherings, each one has shown Stratford at its very best.

I have been especially proud to see how inclusive our town continues to become. Whether through community initiatives or simple thoughtful touches at public events, it has been wonderful to see efforts that ensure everyone feels welcome and able to take part. It was particularly special to see the introduction and use of Widgit symbols at events such as the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations, helping more people to navigate and enjoy everything on offer as we became the first town council to become a symbol-friendly organisation.

Being Mayor is a unique role. You step into it for a short time, knowing you are part of something much bigger than yourself. I have always seen myself as a custodian of the role, carrying it for a year on behalf of the town. That perspective has made the kindness shown to me and my family all the more meaningful. We have felt truly supported and included and I cannot thank people enough for that.

There are so many individuals and groups who make Stratford what it is. Volunteers, teachers, organisers, performers, fundraisers and quiet contributors behind the scenes. You are the reason this town thrives and it has been an honour to meet so many of you.

As I prepare to hand over the chains of office at Mayor Making, I do so with a full heart and a great deal of gratitude. I look forward to seeing many of you again in the months and years ahead, just without the bling!

Thank you for making this year so memorable.

Councillor Dani Hunter



# Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations 2026

A wonderful weekend - the sun shone brightly and everyone enjoyed the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations!



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## Volunteers Reception

A really special evening was held at Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall for the annual Volunteers' Reception. It was a chance for the Town Council, to say a heartfelt thank you to the many people who give their time so generously across our town. Volunteers are at the heart of Stratford. They support others, bring people together and make such a difference to everyday life in ways that often go unseen.

One of the highlights of the evening was presenting the Mayor's Award. Choosing just one person is never easy, but this year it became clear after visiting one particular group just how deserving the recipient was.

For over 20 years, Doug Wallace has given up his Sunday evenings to run swimming sessions for people with special educational needs and disabilities. People of all ages attend, whether with family, carers or independently, and all are

welcomed with warmth, respect and encouragement.

Doug and his team have created something truly special. A space where people feel comfortable, included and able to enjoy the simple joy of being in the water.

On behalf of the people of Stratford, thank you Doug for everything you have given to our community. It was a privilege to present you with the Mayor's Award.



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## **Proud to Lead the Way : Becoming a symbol friendly organisation!**

We're proud to be the **FIRST** Town Council in the UK to begin the journey towards being a symbol friendly organisation!

Our first steps have been to introduce signage at Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall to help make the Town Hall more accessible and a welcome place for everyone in

our community, especially people with learning disabilities, autistic people and those with speech, language and communication needs.

This step is part of our wider commitment to inclusion, ensuring that more residents can understand, engage with and feel confident accessing local services and information.

A big thank you to [Widgit Software](#) for their expertise and partnership in helping us lead the way.

**CROWNE PLAZA**  
BY IHG  
Stratford-upon-Avon

Stratford-upon-Avon  
TOWN COUNCIL

LOVE STRATFORD  
STRATFORD UPON AVON BID

**PURSUITS FESTIVAL  
STRATFORD  
UPON AVON**

**RETURNS**  
**9-10 MAY**

RECREATIONAL GROUNDS, STRATFORD  
SATURDAY 10-8 PM SUNDAY 10-5 PM

**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

**LIVE MUSIC    FOOD & DRINK**

WWW.PURSUITSFESTIVAL.CO.UK

## Town Hall Events

The following events are open to the public during May.

1 May 2026 - 7pm

Orchestra Of The Swan, Sheep Street Sessions: Death and the Maiden

Ticket Information can be found here: [orchestraoftheswan.org/](https://orchestraoftheswan.org/)

More information can be found on the Town Hall Website.



The poster is split into two main sections. The left section has a green background with a subtle pattern of white dots. It contains text about the dates (16th to 24th May 2026), an invitation to discover and learn about 1.7 million men and women commemorated by the CWGC, and details about the event location (Stratford Cemetery, Evesham Road) and dates (11am Saturday 16th May & 11am Saturday 23rd May). It also includes a QR code and the CWGC logo. The right section is a photograph of a man and a young girl in a cemetery, looking at a grave with purple irises. A circular logo with the text 'WAR GRAVES WEEK' is overlaid on the top right of the photo.

**16th to 24th May  
2026**

We invite you to discover, learn and remember about the lives of the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth commemorated by the CWGC.

Join us at:

Stratford Cemetery, Evesham Road

On the following date:

11am Saturday 16th May &  
11am Saturday 23rd May

Find out more and book your free ticket

[www.cwgc.org/war-graves-week](https://www.cwgc.org/war-graves-week)



or scan the QR code

**COMMONWEALTH  
WAR GRAVES**

**WAR  
GRAVES  
WEEK**

## Mayor's Engagements

Mayoral engagements attended during April include:

- Good Friday, Walk of Witness
- Easter Fair, Scholars Mews Care Home
- Mayor of Alcester, Charity Evening
- Civic Dinner, Mayor of Atherstone
- Anniversary of New Hope Counselling, Mayor of Warwick & Mayor of Kenilworth
- Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations
- Shakespeare Sunday Service, Holy Trinity Church
- Silence! Or can you hear me at the back?, Holy Trinity Church
- The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, RSC
- Hamnet Bramley Tree Planting, Anne Hathaway's Cottage
- St George's Day Celebrations, Mayor of Evesham event
- Launch of the Arts & Culture Strategy, Rother Street Arts House
- Volunteers Reception, Town Hall
- Shakespeare's Birthday Celebrations
- Official opening of the K.E.S. Manor Road Sports Ground
- Shakespeare Sunday Service, Holy Trinity Church
- National Market Traders Federation Annual Conference Dinner
- Show Time, Stratford Musical Theatre Company performance

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/](http://stratford-tc.gov.uk/the-mayors-diary/)

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





## Civic Diary 2026

**Friday 15 May**

Mayor Making, Town Hall

**Sunday 17 May**

Civic Sunday Service, Holy Trinity Church

**Saturday 27 June**

Armed Forces Day, Location TBC

**Monday 12 October**

Opening of the Mop Fair, Town Centre

**Sunday 8 November**

Remembrance Sunday, Garden of Remembrance

**Wednesday 11 November**

Armistice Day

## **Saturday 14 November**

Christmas Lights Switch-on, Town Centre

## **Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 November**

Stratford Christmas Markets (weekend 1)

## **Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 December**

Stratford Christmas Markets (weekend 2)

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## **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

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# NHS Services, Minor Injuries and Useful Contact Numbers

## Choosing the right service



<b>A&amp;E</b>	<b>A&amp;E</b>	Choking Blackout Blood loss Chest pains	An <b>A&amp;E department</b> (also known as emergency department or casualty) deals with genuine life-threatening emergencies. People are seen and treated in order of need.
<b>999</b>	<b>999</b>	Choking Blackout Blood loss Broken bones	Call <b>999</b> if someone is seriously ill or injured and their life is at risk.
	<b>Minor Injuries Unit</b>	Strains Sprains Stitches	Visit a <b>walk-in centre, minor injuries unit or urgent care centre</b> if you have a minor illness or injury (cuts, sprains or rashes) and it can't wait until your GP surgery opens.
	<b>GP/Doctor</b>	Persistent symptoms Long term conditions Chronic pain New prescriptions	Make an <b>appointment with your GP</b> if you are feeling unwell and it is not an emergency.
	<b>Pharmacist</b>	Minor illnesses Headaches Stomach upset Bites & stings	Ask your <b>local Pharmacist for advice</b> – your pharmacist can give you advice for many common minor illnesses.
	<b>NHS 111</b>	Unsure? Unwell? Confused? Need help?	Call <b>NHS 111</b> 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.
	<b>Self Care</b>	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



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH **Active**  
MOBILITY



Grants

Heating

Insulation

Energy efficiency

Energy saving tips

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](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk)



### Useful Contacts

Local Police ( <b>Non-emergency</b> )	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)



For your Weddings, Celebrations and Meetings  
please call 01789 269332  
or email [info@stratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stratford-tc.gov.uk)  
We look forward to welcoming you to our historic  
Town Hall.



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## Townswomen's Guild

### Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 7th May 2026

Location: Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon

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

Featuring: Foodbank, by Ian McClean

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>

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## 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](mailto:info@stratford-tc.gov.uk)



**Stratford  
Town Trust**  
creating a vibrant and  
connected community  
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

# FREE LIVE MUSIC AT THE BANDSTAND

THE RECREATION GROUND, SWANS NEST  
LANE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, CV37 7LS

**Summer weekends  
from 2pm**

**3 May – 20 September**



**For more information visit:  
[www.stratfordtowntrust.co.uk](http://www.stratfordtowntrust.co.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-it's shared.  
Cook and enjoy a hearty feast  
and discover faith together.

£5 per person

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
**IN THE PARISH CENTRE**  
**9AM-11AM**

*Please note, not the  
usual 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of  
the month*



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



*Bring your  
own drinks  
& snacks*



## Skittles & Pizza

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May**  
**5-8pm**

**Parish Centre**

Pizzas ordered, made & cooked fresh  
by Luca Loves Pizza on the day  
£11-13

Book your places using the QR code,  
the link in the e-bulletin  
or the sheet in church.



*Booking closes  
6<sup>th</sup> May, or fully  
booked*



SOCIAL  
EVENTS

THE PARISH OF  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

HOLY TRINITY • ALL SAINTS LUDINGTON • ST HELEN'S CLIFFORD CHAMBERS



# REPAIR CAFE

Stratford-upon-Avon

**FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

Donations  
welcome!

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

Refreshments  
provided!

Limited parking - walk/cycle if you can

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](http://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@cfactive.org](mailto:stratford@cfactive.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@cfactive.org](mailto:stratford@cfactive.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

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

Find us on Facebook - @giveandtakesua

**MISSOURI BAPTIST UNIVERSITY CHORALE**  
 Missouri, USA



**TUESDAY 12TH MAY 1PM**  
**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,**  
**STRATFORD**

A variety of classical, sacred and spiritual songs for mixed voices

**DIRECTOR**  
**JORDAN COX**

**FREE ENTRANCE**





# CHORAL CONCERT

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHARLOTTE SANCTUARY CHOIR

Director: William Phelps Young, III  
Organist: Dr. Adam Ward

An Americana focused program including works by Aaron Copland, Stephen Paulus, Moses Hogan and Elaine Hagenberg



## Holy Trinity Church

1 Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon

Thursday, 21 May  
1:00 pm



**FREE ENTRY**  
Donations welcome



Groups for  
**2026**



MONDAY  
KEN KENNETT TOTS  
9.15-11.15

TUESDAY  
RIVERVALE TOTS  
WELFORD  
9.30-11.30

THURSDAY  
ARTS HOUSE TOTS  
9.45-11.30

THURSDAY  
BABIES AT THE  
COTTAGE  
ANNE HATHAWAYS CAFE  
1.00-3.00

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

WEDNESDAY  
WESLEY'S TODDLER  
GROUP  
9.45-11.30

THURSDAY  
TILLY'S  
METHODIST CHURCH  
10.00-11.45

FRIDAY  
WESLEY'S TODDLER  
GROUP  
9.45-11.30

SATURDAY  
CHATTER PATCH  
9.30-10.30

Email us at  
[StratfordFamilyClub@gmail.com](mailto:StratfordFamilyClub@gmail.com)

Find out more  
Facebook & Instagram  
[@StratfordFamilyClub](https://www.instagram.com/StratfordFamilyClub)

Supported by





MEN WALKING AND TALKING  
Est. 2021

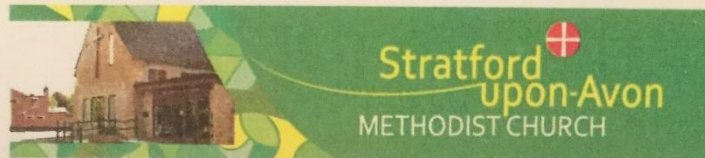


**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON GROUP**  
**MEETING POINT - SWAN FOUNTAIN OUTSIDE THE**  
**RSC THEATRE**  
**WEDNESDAY'S @6:30PM**

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



**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Annual Meeting & Mayor Making

Friday 15 May - 12noon

### Planning Consultative Committee

Tuesday 5 May - 6:30pm

Tuesday 27 May - 6:30pm

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

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



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## 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](mailto: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 office on 01789 269332.



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

Want to change how you receive these emails?