



Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council



October 2026 Newsletter

This issue's must-read articles:

- Mayor's Soup Lunch
- Local Government Reorganisation
- A big challenge for a special cause!
- Mop Fair
- Stratford Skatepark
- Cemetery and Tranquility Garden opening times
- Community Corner and much more...

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



Local Government Reorganisation

The Government has recently announced that its Local Government Reorganisation programme will be reviewed following updated legal advice. Warwickshire is one of 14 areas where the proposals have been paused while the Government considers whether the process is legally robust and aligned with its wider priorities.

The Government has also confirmed that the local elections scheduled for May 2027 will proceed on the existing council boundaries.

The Town Council will continue to monitor developments and consider the implications for the Town Council and the wider local government landscape as further information becomes available.

A big challenge for a special cause!

Councillor Dani Hunter is continuing her support for Birmingham Children's Hospital following the end of her year as Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon, this time by taking on an abseil at Birmingham Airport on the 17th of October.

Birmingham Children's Hospital was one of Dani's chosen charities during her mayoral year, having a particularly special place in her family's heart. Her daughter Alannah underwent open heart surgery at the hospital in February 2025 and the care Alannah and the whole family received inspired Dani to support the hospital throughout her mayoralty and beyond.

Dani said: "Supporting Birmingham Children's Hospital was never something I intended to do for just one year. Having experienced first-hand the extraordinary care they give to children and their families, it is a cause that will always be very close to our hearts.

"Alannah and her brother Simon have been doing their own fundraising for the hospital, so I decided it was time for me to take on a challenge too. On the 17th of October I'll be stepping over the edge at Birmingham Airport and abseiling down the building. I'm not entirely sure what possessed me to sign up, but it's all for a very worthwhile cause!"

Anyone who would like to support Dani's abseil and help raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital can donate here: <https://birminghamchildrenshospitalcharities.enthuse.com/pf/dani-hunter>

Every donation will help the charity support the hospital's young patients, families and staff.



Mop Fair

The **Mop Fair** rolls into town on Sunday 11 October / Monday 12 October.

Road closures will be in place for the event.

Temporary bus stops will be in use and buses will arrive and depart from Guild Street (behind Marks & Spencer).

The **Runaway Mop** rolls into town on Friday 23 October / Saturday 24 October.

More information can be found here: stratford.gov.uk/sport-leisure-arts/stratford-upon-avon-mop-fair-2.cfm



Road closures for the **Mop Fair** will come into effect at 00:01am on Sunday 11 October and will be in place until 07:30am on 13 October 2026:

These roads will be closed:

Greenhill Street
Rother Street (from Ely Street)
Wood Street
Union Street
Bridge Street
Windsor Street (from Mansell Street)
Meer Street
Henley Street
High Street

Road closures for the **Runaway Mop Fair** will come into effect at 00:01am on Friday 23 October and be in place until 06:30am on Sunday 25 October:

These roads will be closed:

Greenhill Street
Rother Street (from entrance to NCP car park)
Wood Street
Windsor Street (from Mansell Street)
Meer Street

Stratford Skatepark

Written by: James Gordo, Stratford Skatepark Project

Twenty. Seven. Summers.

Back in July 1999, Stratford opened the biggest outdoor skatepark in England. Tucked away beside the river, people have spent over a quarter century skating, falling over, getting back up and, every so often, doing something beautiful. To some - a forgotten patch of concrete built on an old waste dump. To others - a home away from home.

Nearly ten thousand sunsets have passed over this patch of concrete. Twenty-seven summers. An entire childhood, twice over. Long enough for kids who first skated here to come back with kids of their own.

People grew up here. Found purpose, confidence, resilience and belonging. They came to skate and stayed to talk. But time hasn't been particularly kind to it. The original skatepark disappeared. Surfaces have cracked. Ramps have sunk.

Repairs have been repaired and what was once something Stratford could genuinely boast about has been allowed to grow old and weary.

Still, people turn up. That's the thing about places like this. You don't need membership or an invitation. You show up with a board, bike, scooter or skates and, sooner or later, you know somebody.

That's why Stratford Skatepark Project exists.

We're a community-led campaign working to replace the ageing park with a future-proofed skatepark for all ages and abilities.

Now, we've taken an important step forward.

The Town Council have backed its redevelopment, agreeing that its future should be shaped around the needs of local users and involve experienced skatepark designers. Two Councillors have expressed an interest in working with us on the next steps.

It's a huge milestone - but the work is only beginning. Because this was never just about ramps. It's about having somewhere free, inclusive and physical to go away from chairs and screens.

Stratford once had something special here. It will again. Scan the code to get involved.

The Town Clerk reports that, at a recent Town Council meeting, Councillors heard from James and were broadly supportive of the refurbishment project. Councillors Rolfe and Rashwan were appointed as points of contact.



**Evesham Road Cemetery and
Tranquility Garden opening times**



**Evesham Road Cemetery
*and Tranquility Garden***

OPENING TIMES

1 October – 31 March
Open at 8am 🌿 Closes at 4:30pm

1 April – 30 September
Open at 8am 🌿 Closes at 7:30pm

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

Mayor's Engagements

If you would like to request the Mayors attendance at an event, please click on the link below and complete the online form. Once received we will check availability and contact you as soon as possible: stratford-tc.gov.uk/the-mayors-diary/

Civic Diary 2026

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)

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*



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



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)

Future Town Council Meetings

Tuesday 13 October 2026

Community, Wellbeing & Place Committee

Tuesday 20 October 2026

Planning, Environment & Transport Committee

Meetings start at 6:30pm and are held in the Town Hall, Sheep Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6EF

More information can be found here: stratford-tc.gov.uk

Our ballroom is the perfect venue for a variety of musical events.
Get in touch to find out more!



Tel: 01789 269332 Email: info@stratford-tc.gov.uk
Web: www.stratforduatownhall.co.uk

Townswomen's Guild



Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 1 October 2026

Location: Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford upon Avon

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

Featuring: Harvest Lunch

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

Want to see what's happening in the town? From live events and local theatre to family days out and festivals, the new Stratford-upon-Avon What's On website has it all. Click on the box below and start exploring!



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

OPENING HOURS
FROM
SEPTEMBER 7

*A place of welcome, worship and peace
in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon*

Monday	11am - 3.45pm
Tuesday	11am - 3.45pm
Wednesday	2pm-3.45pm
Thursday	11am - 3.45pm
Friday	11am - 3.45pm
Saturday	10am-3.45pm
Sunday	1pm-3.45pm



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

fun palace

Join us to celebrate our 25th anniversary with FREE fun activities for all!

Saturday 3 October
10am - 12pm
Rother Street Arts House

- Have a go at sports
- Mosaic making
- Bicycle fun
- Street Art and much more!

WWW.STRATFORDTOWNTRUST.CO.UK

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

TO BOOK
SCAN THE QR CODE, USE THE LINK
IN THE BULLETIN
OR CALL/MESSAGE JONATHAN
ON 0772001369

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER
IN THE PARISH CENTRE
9AM-11AM

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



 **Stratford
Tennis**

 **THE SHAKESPEARE
HOSPICE**

**24-HOUR
TENNISATHON**

 **FROM 12PM
3RD OCTOBER 2026
TO 12PM
4TH OCTOBER 2026**

We're coming together for
24 hours of tennis to raise
vital funds for
The Shakespeare Hospice.

 **PLAY**
Take part for an
hour or the
full 24!

 **SUPPORT**
Cheer on, donate,
and get involved.

 **MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**
Every pound raised
helps local families
when they need
it most.

 Supporting local children and families
facing life-limiting illness and bereavement,
providing expert care, comfort and
precious moments together.

 **DONATE TODAY!**
Scan the QR code
or visit:
justgiving.com/page/suatennisathon2026

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

 STRATFORD UPON AVON
TENNIS CLUB

 TOGETHER, WE CAN
SERVE UP CHANGE

#TENNISATHON2026



SOUNDBITES RECITALS

The Friends of the Music of Holy Trinity Church present Soundbites
on Wednesday every lunchtime featuring exceptional musicians,
many from top conservatoires and music colleges.

Refreshments available from 12.15pm. Recital 1pm – 1.30pm.

7 th Oct	Loxley Wind Quartet Programme: March from Folk Songs from Somerset - Vaughan Williams Quintet No.2 (1977) - Laura Kane Three Diversions for Wind Quintet (1990) - Joan Trimble	
14 th Oct	Yuanyu Chen (soprano) and Yun-Tzu Crystal Tsao (piano) Programme to be confirmed	
21 st Oct	Zaska String Quartet Programme to include works by Telemann and Janitsch	
28 th Oct	Julian Hellaby (piano) Programme to include works by Maria Hester Park, Liszt, Debussy and Billy Mayerl	

Free admission – retiring collection

www.htcfom.co.uk



Bereavement Café 2026

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

Wednesday 6th May
Wednesday 3rd June
Wednesday 2nd Sept
Wednesday 4th Nov

Wednesday 1st July
Wednesday 5th August
Wednesday 7th Oct
Wednesday 2nd Dec

Community Wellbeing Hub,
Ground Floor @ Stratford Hospital 3.30-5pm



SAMARITANS



FRED WINTER CENTRE

Shakespeare
birthplace trust

Join us for a talk by the
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

Discover more about
Shakespeare's life, his
family and the fascinating
history of his birthplace
and its gardens.

An engaging talk from the
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.



**Wednesday
7th October**



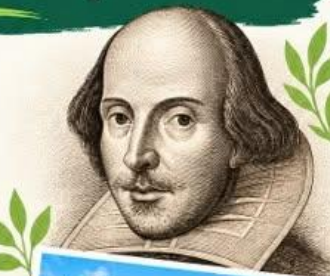
Talk starts at
12.30pm



Hot lunch served at
12.00pm



Fred Winter Centre



Please book your place with
Ali or Tina

or email alison@springhousing.org.uk

Learn • Connect • Be Inspired



The Friends of Shakespeare's Church
Annual Lecture 2026

'Shakespeare: Keep Calm, and Carry On'
given by Professor Emma Smith



Thursday 8th October – 7.30pm – 8.45pm
Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon
Tickets £15 from www.shakespeareschurch.co.uk or on the door
(For Members of the Friends of Shakespeare's Church the ticket price is £10)

**Come and Celebrate Harvest
Harvest Moveable Feast**

Book your place using the
QR code, or the link in
the e-bulletin



**Tickets £6,
under 3's free**

**Saturday 10th Oct
6-9pm
Holy Trinity Parish Centre**

**Booking closes
5th Oct, or fully
booked**

 **SOCIAL
EVENTS**

 **THE PARISH OF
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON**
PARISH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Being an Inclusive Church
7.30pm Wednesday 14th October Holy Trinity Church



**Inclusive
Church**

You are invited to an evening to renew our understanding of what it means to be an inclusive church, in the context of the ongoing discussions in the Church of England about same sex relationships and marriage. David Runcorn and Kate Massey (Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, Coventry Cathedral) will speak. This event has been organised by the PCC and is open to anyone who would like to attend.

NHS
South Warwickshire University
NHS Foundation Trust

CRAFTAFTERNOON

COMMUNITY WELLBEING HUBS AT SWFT

Please join us for an afternoon of crafts. A FREE monthly activity for people in our community to come together to share skills or to learn new ones. A space to meet and have a chat!

16 Jul – 17 Sept – 15 Oct – 19 Nov – 17 Dec



14:00 – 16:00
Stratford Hospital, Building One, CV37 6NX

If you would like more information, please email health&wellbeingcentre@swft.nhs.uk

Stratford Chamber Choir
Conductor: Stephen Dodsworth
Organist: Charles Matthews



AUTUMN CONCERT

A programme of French music including

Requiem - Maurice Duruflé
O sacrum convivium - Olivier Messiaen
Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël - Francis Poulenc
Hymne à la Vierge – Pierre Villette
Cantique de Jean Racine – Gabriel Fauré
and organ music by Maurice Duruflé

THE GUILD CHAPEL

Stratford-upon-Avon

Saturday 17th October 2026 at 7.30pm

TICKETS £20 (STUDENTS UNDER 18 £5)
Available online at www.stratfordchamberchoir.com,
by email stratfordchamberchoir@gmail.com,
from members of the choir or on the door from 7pm



CELEBRATE WORLD MENOPAUSE DAY

 FREEDOM TO
FLOURISH
-STRATFORD-
18 October
9am - 6pm
Crowne Plaza Stratford-upon-Avon

Tickets
£7




Expert Talks - Practical Workshops - 50+ Exhibitors

BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY

MenopauseKnowledge.org/2026



Beautiful World concert

A magnificent evening with electrifying
and world-class performers

Juliet Stevenson CBE
Wayne Sleep OBE
Janie Dee
Alexandra Gilbreath
(RSC Associate Artist)
Cassidy Janson
EM The Master
Mazaika Duo
Three's Company
and the Holy Trinity Choir
(artists subject to availability)

**18 October
2026 - 7pm**

Holy Trinity Church
Stratford-upon-Avon







Melvyn Tan (piano)



Melvyn Tan has established his international reputation with pioneering performances. Acclaimed for the wit and poetry of his playing, Tan has also received ovations for his bold programming and exceptional ability to switch from fortepiano and modern piano, even in the same recital.

"...the most thoughtful, elegant and refined of pianists... everything seemed to illuminate everything else." The Guardian

French Suite No 3 in B minor BWV 814 - Bach
Le Tombeau de Couperin - Ravel
Carnaval Op 9 - Schumann

Sunday 25th October
 7.30pm
 The Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon

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



This concert is part of the 2026/27 season presented by
 Stratford-upon-Avon Chamber Music

25th October 2026 Melvyn Tan (piano): Bach, Ravel and Schumann
 29th November 2026 Plant String Quartet: Schubert, Wolf and Dvorak
 10th January 2027 Erika Ensemble (soprano, flute and harp): Ravel, Debussy, Fauré, Boulienger, Wertheim and Chameade
 23rd February 2027 Postone Trio (clarinet, flute and piano): Copland, Debussy, Bartók, Weber, Coleman, Brahms and Schnittke
 27th March 2027 Cristian De Sa (violin) and Kengo Nakamura (piano): Beethoven, Prokofiev, Debussy and Ravel
 11th April 2027 Filwood String Quartet: Mozart, Haydn, Bridge and Berg

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 111737

WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

Contact us for a wide range of information relating to children and young people aged 0-25, including: childcare, money, debt and benefits, housing, SEND, health and wellbeing, and so much more.



Scan me

warwickshire.gov.uk/fis

FREEPHONE: 0800 408 1558

Email: fis@warwickshire.gov.uk



Stay up to date with the latest news to help your family at:

warwickshire.gov.uk/parentupdates



@WarwickshireFIS



Warwickshire
County Council



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH STRATFORD-UPON-AVON



Can you help us CREATE A SEA OF REMEMBRANCE POPPIES?

Last year our wonderful community helped us begin covering the tree trunks along the path to **Holy Trinity Church** with beautiful handmade poppies for Remembrance.

THIS YEAR WE'D LOVE TO MAKE THE DISPLAY EVEN BIGGER - AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!



If you can **knit or crochet poppies**, whether you make one or twenty, every poppy will help create a meaningful tribute to those who gave so much.



Please consider **joining in** and encouraging your friends, family, knitting groups or crochet clubs to take part too.



If you'd like to help or would like more information, please contact Marie at:
mariemcdougall73@gmail.com

Let's remember together
THIS NOVEMBER
LEST WE FORGET

*Together we
can make a
beautiful tribute*
Thank you!

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!

♥ EVERY POPPY MAKES A DIFFERENCE ♥

#Remembrance #Poppies #Knitting #Crochet #Community #LestWeForget
#HolyTrinityChurch #StratfordUponAvon



Coffee Morning

Every Tuesday 11am - 12.30pm
Swan House, 11 Guild Street
Stratford-upon-Avon

MUNICIPAL CHARITIES
OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

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.







GIVE AND TAKE

FREE ENTRY

FREE STUFF

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	- No need to give an item to take one - No electrical items - Clean and usable items only - No money required but donations welcome 2026 is the 'National Year of Reading' so there will be a small selection of books available to take every month
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



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

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, please call the Town Hall on 01789 269332.



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