

Stamford COUNCIL NEWS

Issue 11 Summer 2013

& Notices



Stamford Best Place to Live in Britain

It is nice to have official recognition as the Best Place to live in Britain by the Sunday Times throughout Britain which includes factors including education, crime. To quote the Sunday Times, "It's more than Essex and more than Surrey. Stamford is the

Stamford Georgian Festival

To celebrate Stamford's colourful heritage and architecture South Kesteven District Council are to host its first Stamford Georgian Festival in September. The weekend festival will run from September 27th - 29th to celebrate the Georgian era. SKDC and partners are developing a programme of speakers and events to include a costumed performance of the town's infamous Bull Run, a 700-year tradition where a single bull was chased and then slaughtered - halted in 1839.

Key speakers include Dan Cruickshank, art historian and BBC television presenter with a special interest in the history of architecture. Annie Grey, celebrated BBC food historian, will open the festival with a talk on the food and dining habits of the Georgian period - including food tastings - and there will be a Friday evening opening church recital. On Saturday a Georgian Street Fayre will combine craft and farmers markets, rural crafts, period street performers, food demonstrations and tastings, old fashioned children's games, arts and face painting. There will be storytelling, exotic animals which were popular in the Georgian period, live period music and dance and a Town Crier.

The weekend will stage talks on Georgian architecture, garden design, fashion, natural philosophy, literature and poetry, artists of the period and the alchemy of brewing involving Stamford's own Melbourne Brothers brewery. Popular children's favourite Horrible Histories is staging two shows in The Corn Exchange Theatre to portray their own popular brand of Georgian blood, battles, gore and glory.





Councillor Brian Sumner, the newly appointed Mayor of Stamford, has lived in Stamford for over 26 years. He worked on Stamford Main Post Office Counter and was relief manager for a short time. He later joined the Audit department and travelled around three counties with the Audit Team.

He has always loved singing and immediately joined Stamford Gilbert and Sullivan Society. His first role with them was Fairfax in "The Yeoman of the Guard" in their 1986 production. It was during this production that he met his wife Brenda. Brenda and Brian were married in Barn Hill Methodist church in May 1987 and have lived in Stamford all their married life. They both joined Stamford Town Bowls Club and Brian became Chairman of the club. Brian has served the town for over 12 years on Stamford Town Council and has represented the town on Lincolnshire County Council.

During his Mayoral year Councillor Sumner wished to continue to work with all local organizations for the benefit of all, both young and the more mature, who live and work in the town. He will continue to support the members of the Stamford Skate Park Committee and hopes to have the privilege of opening The Skate Park on the town's Recreation Ground this summer.

Councillor Sumner has named the following five charities as his Mayoral Charities: Teenzone, The Stamford Parkinson's Support Group, Stamford Street Pastors, The Evergreen Care Trust and Stamford Food Bank. Councillor Sumner wishes to work to both enhance and advertise Stamford as "The Best Town in England".



Stamford Hospital

Plans for the re-development of Stamford Hospital have been put on hold due to the ongoing financial difficulties being faced by Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals Trust.

Stamford Town Council had a meeting recently with Price Waterhouse Coopers who have been engaged by Monitor (the health care regulator) to look into the financial viability of the Trust. They are looking actively at ways to move forward and the Hospital Trust have committed themselves to the future of Stamford Hospitals but everything will hinge on the financial proposals and solutions to be put forward by Price Waterhouse Coopers in the near future.

Senior Citizens Concert

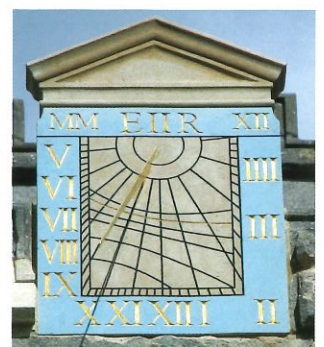
The annual Senior Citizens concert was held at the Town Hall on Friday 12th April. The Corby Choristers and Vox Mon Diale performed a range of world music, all provided voluntarily. Tea, coffee and cakes were served during the interval and huge thanks go out to Jo from the catering department of Stamford School for supplying such wonderful cakes.

The Events Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the performers and the volunteers for making the concert so enjoyable.



All Saint's Church Sundial

Almost exactly two years since it was first proposed the new sundial now adorns the south face of All Saint's Church while its predecessor has been mounted inside the church. If you go in through the north door you will see the old sundial on the left hand side and you will appreciate not only its virtual illegibility but also the dire state it was in, constituting a danger to persons passing beneath it. The interpretation board below it will give you details about the sundial and its conservation which was deemed imperative by English Heritage.



The general design of the new sundial is as close as possible to the original one but with three important differences. First the top border carries the inscription EIIR MMXII, thus marking the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth and honouring the fact that she visited Stamford during the year of celebrations. Secondly the curved declination lines mark dates different from those shown on the original sundial. The gold curve is the 6th February, the date of the Queen's accession and other are the solstices, the equinoxes, St George's Day and October 12th, the date of the foundation, fifty years ago, of the Stamford Civic Society which managed the sundial project. A full explanation of the sundial and how to read it will be carried on the interpretation board which will be placed by the path below it. Thirdly, of course the new sundial is coloured! While there is no evidence of the colours used on the original dial, if indeed there were any, many sundials of that date (early 18th Century) were painted and gilded and blue and gold were the most common combination of colours to be used.

The new sundial was funded, in large part, by a grant from the Skells Trust. The original sundial was conserved and the new one made by Cliveden Conservation whose Director, Spencer Hall ACR, lives in Stamford.

How Some of Your Money Was Spent - Grants by Stamford Town Council

As well as fulfilling its statutory duty to maintain the Cemetery, the Recreation Ground, the Meadows and the Allotment, STC has also supported grant applications from local organisations.

Projects funded in 2012-13 have included security fencing, driveway reconstruction and re-gravelling in the Cemetery; resurfacing of allotment driveways; repairing the Meadows access bridge; improving footpaths, installing additional lighting, repairing play surface and funding brass band concerts in the Recreation Ground. The total spent on these was £75,938.

In addition, grants were made to:
Christ Church PCC
(Teenzone summer holiday programme);
Stamford Kiwanis
(Jubilee Festival Parade of Floats);
Stamford Wildcats (Disability project);
The Riverside Festival
(Provision of toilets);
Stamford Choral Society
(Sir Malcolm Sargent memorial concert);
The LCC Cluster Group
(After school and holiday activities);
SAMS (Production of "Guys and Dolls");
The Second Town Scouts
(Repairs to the club house roof).
Grants totalling £5,730.

Total expenditure therefore on the 2012-13 programme has been in excess of £80,000 and this does not include the separate financial support given by the Skells Trust. which included:

Stamford Rugby Club
(Pitch entrance & external seating area);
Browne's Hospital
(Refurbishment of visitor's toilets);
Stamford Girls AFC
(Flooring for Club House);
Salvation Army
(The Shack youth centre);
St. Gilberts School
(Jubilee Sanctuary Garden);
St Peter's Community Group
(Tourist Interpretation Board);
All Saints' Church
(Sundial to mark the Diamond Jubilee);
St. Michael's Church Yard
(Installation of donated bench by Welland Gospel Halls Trust and the Brethrens Christian Fellowship);
Stamford Cemetery
(Restoring and rebuilding Williamson Cliff Memorial).

Skells Trust spent a total of £35,620 on these grants.

The Skells Trust was set up by the late Harry Skells who bequeathed a capital sum to Stamford which is

managed by a board of Trustees to generate income, this may be used to support projects which will improve and benefit Stamford. Essentially grants may be considered towards capital improvements that would not be considered part of the normal provision by local authorities.

The Trust welcomes applications for grants from groups within Stamford to help them with specific projects. Please address any applications to the Town Clerk, Stamford Town Hall.

Acknowledgement:

Stamford Town Council wishes to acknowledge a most generous bequest from the late Eric Winston Cook of £26,013.25 which has recently been received by the Skells Trust. The Trustees are most grateful for this bequest and will ensure that it is utilised for the benefit of the Town which was a focus of Mr Cook's life. In addition to Skells Trust, a number of other organisations and churches have also been supported through Eric Cook's generosity.

County Council Election Results - May 2013

The elections for Lincolnshire County Council were held recently and the three existing councillors were all returned.

The results were as follows:

Stamford North:

Hicks, J.R. (Independent) (775) 47.3%
Sumner, B.C. (Conservative) (517) 31.5%
Ashberry, M.T. (Labour) (343) 20.9%
Electorate: 7293
Turnout 1640 (22%)

Stamford West:

Brailsford, D. (Conservative) (744) 59.3%
Bisnauthsing, H. (Liberal Democrat) (327) 26.1%
Wisen, A.R. (Labour) (169) 13.5%
Electorate: 4726
Turnout: 1254 (26%)

Stamford Rural

Trollope-Bellew, T.M. (Conservative) (1511) 69.3%
Hammond, P.S. (Labour) (617) 28.3%
Electorate: 7762
Turnout: 2181 (28%)

Heritage Fair

Stamford Town Council (STC) was one of 20 local groups represented at the Heritage Fair in the Arts Centre Ballroom on Sunday 19th May. This event, organised by Leo Specialist Tours, was very successful, allowing Stamford and its environs to be showcased to a large number of visitors, many of whom were not local.

STC's booklets on Stamford's Almshouses, Archaeology, Racecourse & Theatre and the Town Hall & Regalia proved very popular.

Further copies of all four booklets available from the Town Hall.



Obituaries

Mr Mark Stott (Councillor 1970-1987) Mayor of Stamford 1977

Mark Stott was elected to serve on Stamford Borough Council in 1970, to represent All Saint's Ward. He was Mayor in 1976, retiring from the Town Council in 1987.

Mark was a Yorkshireman and he embodied the qualities of sound judgement, reliability and prudence often attributed to those who hail from that part of the country.

He could deliver a sound, well-reasoned argument in the Council Chamber and he was listened to with respect by his fellow councillors.

He had a great interest in and was Chairman of the cemetery and allotments committee. He represented the council on the South Lincolnshire Archeological Unit and the Stamford Development Committee.

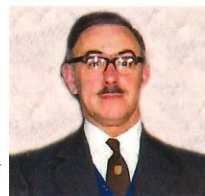
Mark was a stickler for correct procedure and order of precedence and could be depended upon to sort out the 'line-up' prior to entering the council chamber and in civic parades.

He worked as a manager for Coombs the shoe repairer's chain that had a shop in High Street and because he could not attend day-time meetings, he was unable to stand as a Councillor for South Kesteven District when Stamford lost its Borough status in 1974.

Dorothy, Mark's wife who predeceased him, spent the last years of her life in a wheelchair and was often seen in the town being pushed by her husband. They had no children or relatives living locally.

Mark's prized possession was a smart Mini with a personalised number plate "MS".

On the completion of his mayoral year Mark entertained his fellow councillors to a valedictory dinner in the court room, where his own homemade wine was served. He is remembered with affection by those who knew him.



Cllr John Binder (Councillor 2003-2013) Mayor of Stamford 2011

John was born in Oakham and joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1954, returning to Stamford after completing his service. He worked in several industries but is best remembered for his many years with the Ambulance Service as a paramedic. It was this work and the evolving changes which encouraged John to stand for the Town Council in 2003. He was instrumental in getting Stamford its own mobile paramedic. John remained committed to the provision of a good ambulance service and the re-development of Stamford Hospital. As a serving Councillor he also took an active interest in the recent proposed consultation with the East Midlands Ambulance Service. John was a keen member of the British Legion which he supported during his Mayoral year.

He was a member of the Planning Committee and the Amenities Committee where he was involved in the day to day management of the Stamford Cemetery.

He was enormously proud to be the Mayor of Stamford in 2011 and committed himself fully to the role. His only regret was his beloved wife Irene died before he became Mayor. John leaves four children, 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Forthcoming Events in 2013

29-30th June	<i>Stamford Festival</i>	Recreation Ground
29th June	<i>Town Hall Open Day with Tours</i>	Stamford Town Hall
6th July	<i>Festival Quiz</i>	Stamford Town Hall
13th July	<i>Our Big Gig (Stamford Festival Association)</i>	Recreation Ground
17th August	<i>Horticultural Autumn Show</i>	Recreation Ground
25th August	<i>Classic Car Show</i>	Stamford Meadows
13-15th September	<i>Antique Fair</i>	Stamford Meadows
15th September	<i>Pet Show & Companion Dog Show</i>	Recreation Ground
27-29th September	<i>Georgian Festival</i>	Throughout the Town
9-12th October	<i>Autumn Fair</i>	Recreation Ground
20th October	<i>French Market</i>	Town Centre

For further information on any items please contact the Town Clerk
Tel:- 01780 753808 or Email:- townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk