

# Stamford

## TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Issue 12 Winter 2013



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FREE  
COPY**

## Georgian Festival

The recent Georgian Festival organised by South Kesteven District Council held on 27th-29th September was a huge success. It is estimated that over 20,000 people visited the town over the weekend and was a great family day out on either day. Visitors came from as far afield as London, Brighton and Sunderland. The town hosted a variety of musical events, lectures, craft stalls, stilt walkers and face painters, with several shops having assistants dressed in Georgian costumes.

Stamford Town Hall was open for guided tours of the Hallway, Courtroom, Council Chamber, Malcolm Sargent Room, Mayor's Parlour and Dungeons and had over 1,400 visitors over the weekend – a record for Town Hall open days.



## 2013 Stamford Christmas Festival & Christmas Lights Switch-on

Sunday 1st December from 10am to 4.30pm



The ever popular Stamford Christmas Festival will be held on Sunday 1st December and will take place in the heart of the town, in Ironmonger Street, High Street and Red Lion Square. The town's car parks are free on Sundays, with the town centre easily accessible from any of them.

Stamford is well known for its exclusive and independent traders, so do come along and see what unusual gifts you can find for those very special to you! There will be traditional craft stalls offering a wide range of popular and stylish gifts, with treats and delights to excite and tantalize. The Stamford Artisans' Guild will also be holding their Christmas craft fair in the Arts Centre. So come along, join in the fun and be part of this ever-popular annual community event which attracts many thousands of visitors from near and far.

To add to the festive spirit there will be entertainments galore throughout the day, including Punch and Judy shows, School Choirs, Santa's Grotto, a children's Fun Fair, face painting and, of course, the Christmas lights switch-on!

There's something for everything. We look forward to seeing you there!

In addition to the Christmas Fair there will be late night shopping in the St Mary's Quarter when shops on St Mary's Hill, St Mary's Street and St Mary's Passage will be open until 8 pm on Thursday 21st November and 12th December.





## Best Kept Allotment Competition – 2013

The Stamford Town Council annual awards for the Best Kept Allotments were held on October 24th 2013. The competition has been running since 1976 and this year more than £600 in prizes were on offer.

The overall winner was Norman Bull who was presented with the W&J Brown Cup, £65 in prize money, a wheelbarrow and a year's subscription to Kitchen Garden Magazine. Mr Chris Bell scooped the open section and received the Open Cup and £80 prize money, a water butt and a trowel. Mr Ivor Hopkins was runner up in this section and was awarded £50, a leaf rake and a trowel. The winner of the senior citizen's prize was Mrs Archer who, in addition to the Wilkinson Shield, received £65, a grow house and a watering can. Mr Thorpe was runner-up and scooped £60, a kneeling stool and a leaf rake. The novice award went to Mr G Bull who picked up the Novice Cup, £35 and £25 in vouchers and a trowel.

The competition was judged by Emma Rawlings, Deputy Editor of Kitchen Garden. The town's Poet Laureate, Teresa Maclean wrote and recited a special poem for the occasion.



From left to right: Chris Bell, Geoff Bull, Stamford Town Mayor, Councillor Brian Sumner, Mark Murtagh, Civic Officer, Norman Bull, Ivor Hopkins, Chairman of the Amenities Committee Cllr Mike Exton and judge Emma Rawlings, deputy editor of Kitchen Garden Magazine..

In addition to the cash prizes presented by the Town Council the awards were also sponsored by

- KITCHEN GARDEN MAGAZINE
- CGM
- BURGHLEY ESTATES
- WOTHORPE NURSERIES
- THOMPSON & MORGAN
- JACKSON BUILDING CENTRES
- WILKINSONS
- TESCO
- LAMBS
- MORRISONS
- MR FOTHERGILLS



## Cliff's 100th Birthday

Stamford Royal British Legion Branch member Cliff Shepherd held court to his myriad admirers and friends at Hillary Court sheltered housing on Tuesday, 2nd July –



his 100th birthday. He proudly clutched his birthday card from Her Majesty, surrounded by ladies, two dozen Legion members, the Mayor and Mayoress, and family and friends. He received 120 cards from well-wishers and a bouquet of flowers from South Kesteven District Council.

Members of Stamford Branch formed a Guard of Honour with the Standard, while the President and Chairman presented Cliff with life membership of the Branch and a Branch wall plaque. All then joined in with three hearty cheers.

Born on July 2, 1913, in Laycock, Yorkshire, Cliff left school at 14 to work bagging up flour for the Leeds Co-op in Otley. He moved to the butchery department at the Burley in Wharfedale branch, delivering meat to customers on his bicycle.

He was called up in 1940 and trained as a ground gunner in the RAF regiment, eventually reaching the rank of Warrant Officer. He took part in the Normandy landings and served in France, Belgium and Germany. He was mentioned in despatches in 1944 when his gun crew, defending what is now Brussels Airport during the Battle of the Bulge, shot down five enemy aircraft during one attack. He says 'The silly blighters (or words to that effect) just came straight at us, one after the other'.

After the war he went back to the Co-op and was made a branch manager; worked as a bus driver in Leeds, becoming an inspector; and then an ambulance driver in Yorkshire, a role that included delivering babies. He finally became a Divisional Superintendent in the St John Ambulance Brigade. He is now also a member of Trinity Methodist Church, Barn Hill.



## Memorial Benches

Stamford Town Council has launched a new scheme which enables residents to remember their loved ones by donating memorial benches to be situated around the town.

This is an extension of the current scheme whereby people donate memorial benches for installation in the Cemetery.

The Council will try to accommodate requests for benches to be placed in areas which are of significance to those donating them, which should be of an approved design.

For further information on the cost please contact the Town Clerk on (01780) 753808 or visit the Town Hall.





## Stamford Foodbank

Stamford Foodbank was set up 14 months ago to meet the needs of people in and around Stamford. The Foodbank supplies 3 days' food to people in financial crises who have a voucher from one of the voucher holders. These include front line services such as doctors, Social Services, Department of Works and Pensions, health visitors, schools, Citizens Advice Bureau, Evergreen Care Trust, Alternatives and many more. People in difficulty can mean someone who is having to make difficult choices as to whether they eat or pay a bill, eat or buy clothes for their children or someone who has lost their job and whose benefits are taking several weeks to come through, during which that time they have no money at all.

The referring groups know the financial situation of their clients and are able to refer them to us if they meet our criteria. We have an increasing number of people coming to us for help: all ages and with a variety of different needs - families as well as single people. All the food given out is donated by the people of Stamford and the surrounding villages, and the financial needs are also met by the same group of people. No one receives payment for their work, all are volunteers so overheads are minimal, which helps to keep running costs down.

Since opening 14 months ago the Foodbank has fed a total of 843 people (543 adults and 309 children). This number includes some who have made more than one visit: not every crisis is resolved in a few days.



## Stamford Skatepark

The much awaited Skatepark is now nearing completion and awaiting the official opening. This state of the art concrete structure was built by Maverick to a design chosen by the young riders of Stamford and is a fine tribute to a dedicated group of people, members of the Skatepark CIC, who raised the money for this to be built.

They were determined to see a new facility on the Recreation Ground to replace the old wooden structure that was pulled down and they have worked for 6 years to raise the funds to build it. The Town Council has supported and worked with the Skatepark Committee to secure the planning permission and manage the building work. A joint management team is now in place to monitor the Skatepark in accordance with the Planning permission granted.



## Royal Arms

When the Williamson Cliff brickyard buildings were demolished in 2004 not only was the now restored war memorial reduced to rubble but also a 5' wide by 6' high achievement of the Royal Arms in terracotta brick. Fortunately the pieces were rescued by Chris Neal who took them to his home in Bourne for safe keeping. When Chris heard from Mike Exton that Stamford Town Council was looking for a suitable piece to commemorate the Queen's visit last year, he generously donated the Royal Arms to the Town. The pieces were collected, in their own time, by staff from New College and delivered to its construction department in Gwash Way, where they were pressure-washed and made ready for re-assembly. Stamford Town Council plans to re-build the Arms on the small paved area at the bottom of Castle Dyke, work to begin before the new year.



## Lincolnshire Credit Union

Lincolnshire Credit Union provides a safe and convenient method of saving, with loans at affordable interest rates and without hidden charges or fees. The Credit Union is owned

and run by its members, providing a safe and convenient method of saving and offering loans at low interest rates without hidden charges or fees. This is available to all people who live and work in Lincolnshire.

### Safe savings.

LincUp provides a great way to save small regular amounts, which soon build up; there is also a Christmas savings club and both accounts attract a dividend payment. Young people are not left out and a junior savers scheme is also in operation to promote the savings habit from a young age.

### Affordable loans

A loan can be applied for as soon as you join and, unlike other lenders, acceptance criteria are based on the ability to repay the loan rather than past credit history. Members also qualify for free loan insurance (subject to conditions).

Your local, ethical community bank access point is open at Stamford Citizens Advice Bureau, 39 High Street, Stamford  
Every Wednesday from 11 am - 2 pm







## The Shack

Stamford Festival on 30th June 2013 saw the opening of the youth drop-in called 'The Shack', which is run by Stamford Salvation Army Church. The Shack aims to provide a safe environment for young people aged 15

and above. The vision of 'The Shack' is to make a positive difference to the lives of young people. The Shack aims to do this by running different events and social evenings and focusing on some of life's big issues facing young people today.

In addition the organisers want to build relationships with the young people and encourage them to make The Shack 'a place for young people run by young people'.

The Shack is located on the Recreation Ground, which is quite a hub for the community in general. The highly anticipated opening of the skateboard park also means that The Shack should be ideally located to attract and serve young skateboarders.

On Friday and Saturday evenings in the last 4 months The Shack has attracted a regular attendance of on average 25 youngsters, with some evenings reaching 35-50 youngsters. There have also been a number of mid-week daytime activities in partnership with other youth agencies, which have provided specific youth-oriented education programs.

In order to serve the greater community of Stamford there have been fortnightly Messy Sunday creative activities targeted at children and families, which have been very successful.

The success so far has been down to dedication of the team of volunteers. If this project excites you and you want to volunteer or you require further information, contact Ian & Margot on: 07870 284131 or via The Shack Stamford on Facebook where you can find more details about when its open and what's on.



## Town Cleaner



A steady stream of complaints about the cleanliness of the lanes in Stamford led the Town Council to appoint a Community Cleaner specifically

aimed at improving the maintenance of the Town Centre. Since his appointment Raymond Sizer has transformed the state of the lanes and the Town Council is delighted with his work cleaning up the Town Centre and also with the dedication he displays in carrying out his duties.

## Stamford Young Peoples Charity

This was formed in 1996 from funds from the old St. Michael's Church estate and is designed to help individuals and groups up to the age of twenty five in their personal and educational development. They have to be residents of Stamford

The charity has given funds to schools for various projects, such as a book corner in classrooms in St. George's, a garden in St. Gilbert's and visits to Burghley Education centre and sculpture park for all the Stamford junior schools. Proper equipment for outdoor education at Queen Eleanor School was financed by the charity.

But grants are also made to individuals for their personal development, including one given to a young man to obtain a heavy goods driving licence which altered his life profoundly; one to a harpist; one for an interview suit and one recently to enable a gifted young lady to join a trip to New York covering Art Drama and Technology.

The charity's civic commitment has included a significant donation to the Skatepark project and £10,000 to the Salvation Army to furnish the "Shack" on the Recreation Ground where young people can meet and socialise. The "Shack" was opened officially by The Mayor and Mayoress on Sunday June 30th.

Look up Stamford Young People's Charity on the web for more detailed information <http://www.sypcgrants.org/> You can obtain the appropriate forms from Dalton's solicitors, 29 St. Mary's Street Stamford.

## Town Hall Cellars

As a result of the efforts of members of the Heritage Group, aided by a team of volunteers from Cummins, the Town Hall cellars have now been cleared of several years' accumulation of extremely dusty miscellaneous junk - two pick-up trucks' worth, as it turned out - and are now ready for the refurbishment project to begin, subject to satisfactory reports from the Health & Safety and Fire Officers. The first stage is the removal of the old boilers and associated pipework, which is likely to prove the most onerous task - volunteers with the requisite specialist knowledge would be most welcome.

Stamfordians may rest assured that the unwanted items were carefully examined before being sent for disposal to ensure that nothing of value and/or interest was accidentally thrown out!

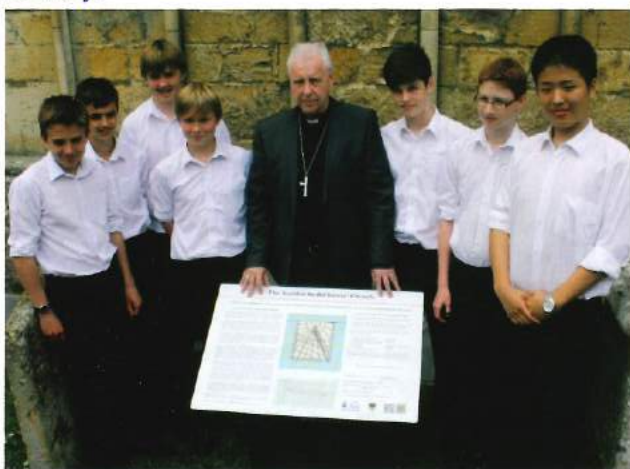




## The Blessing of the new Sundial on All Saints' Church

On Tuesday 25th June the Bishop of Lincoln visited Stamford to bless the new sundial on All Saints' Church which has been funded, in large part by the Skells Trust. Providentially the sun was shining so that the time registered on the sundial could be appreciated by all those attending the brief ceremony, including the Mayor of Stamford and children from St Gilbert's School and Stamford School.

The party then moved to St John's Church for refreshments and to see the excellent projects on sundials done by the Year 9 students at Stamford School under the Head of Mathematics, Kieran Nally. The children at St Gilbert's School have made their own sundial in the School grounds under the guidance of an expert from the British Sundial Society.



Besides registering the time and marking significant dates in the calendar, as is explained on the interpretation board which was unveiled by the Bishop, the sundial also commemorates the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen, who visited Stamford during the course of the year.



## Williamson Cliff Memorial



The Williamson Cliff War Memorial, feared lost in 2003 when the old brickworks were demolished, has been re-erected and re-dedicated. It was rescued by a team of volunteers, led by Barbara & Don Parker, whose members searched through the rubble, found the memorial pieces and pieced them together in Barbara and Don's garage.

In 2012 a project was initiated by Stamford Town Council, supported by New College Construction Department, to re-erect the memorial in Stamford Cemetery, where it now stands, topped by a splendid leaded roof (also by New College). The rededication ceremony on 18 June was attended by representatives of the Royal Artillery, the Royal Anglian Regiment, RAF Wittering, the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment Association, the Stamford and Barnack Branches of the RBL, Stamford Endowed Schools CCF, Stamford Town Council and, most importantly, relatives of those named on the Memorial.

The ceremony, conducted by the Very Rev. Mark Warrick, Dean of Stamford, began with a flypast of two Austers and a Tiger Moth, flown by members of Barnack RBL; this was followed by an introduction by Cllr. Max Sawyer; a reading by the Mayor of Stamford, Cllr. Brian Sumner; and hymns. Mr Elliott Philips (an SES CCF cadet) read the names of the six employees who gave their lives during WWII; then came the wreath laying, the Exhortation (read by Mr John Copeland, Chairman of the Stamford Branch of the RBL), Last Post (played by Miss Harriet Riley of SES CCF), The Silence, Reveille (played by Harriet) and the Kohima epitaph (read by Mr Charles Clark, Chairman of the Barnack & District RBL Branch). Mr Elliott Philips then read the names of the 35 employees who survived the War; the ceremony then ended with Jerusalem and the Act of Commitment, and was followed by a reception in the Cemetery Chapel. Fortunately the weather remained warm and sunny so there was ample opportunity for reminiscence.

## Ian Hall – Toastmaster

After many years waiting for the opportunity to become a toastmaster, Ian Hall (the Stamford Council Macebearer) has recently been given the chance to do so.

In September this year, he attended a training course at Eynsham Hall in Oxfordshire, and after almost three days of intensive training (thanks to Mr Peter York, the founder member of the guild), was elected a member of the Executive Guild of Toastmasters and Town Criers, and hence is now fully qualified.

Ian says it was a real personal achievement to see his name on the guilds website (under toastmaster for all areas)







## Stamford's WWI Commemoration, 2014

Stamford Town Council, in association with the Stamford Branch of The Royal British Legion and supported by the Stamford & District Local History Society, is planning to commemorate next year's 100th. anniversary of the start of WWI. Two of the events will be exhibitions of WWI memorabilia, civilian and military, in Browne's Hospital and in The Arts Centre.

We are intending to hold "viewing days" in February (dates to be advised) when items can be brought to a central location for cataloguing as an aid to planning and then taken away until June, when the exhibitions will be set up.

If required, we will be able to copy ephemera, either at the Town Hall or in the owner's home by means of a portable scanner, so that only the copies will be on show - and we can collect and return items to you as well, if transport is a problem.

If you have any items you would like to lend for the exhibitions, please contact me as it would be useful to have an approximate idea of what is available even at this early stage. Alternatively (or additionally), if you would like to be involved in the Commemoration in another capacity, please let me know.



*Cllr. Max Sawyer,*  
STC WWI Commemoration Group,  
44, Waverley Gardens, Stamford, PE9 1BH  
audsaw@aol.com 01780 765507



## Town Council Play Scheme

Stamford Town Council operated yet another successful Play Scheme this year, offering a wide range of activities for children between the ages of 5 and 11 years. The scheme operated over a two week period between 5th and 16th August in a two centre arrangement at Queen Eleanor and Bluecoat Schools. The objective of all activities is to provide an instructive, pleasant and happy experience in a safe environment. A highly acclaimed performance of the Lion King was achieved under the direction of the Polka Dot Theatre, in addition to arts and craft activities and a host of multi-sports activities including the ever popular swimming sessions to the Leisure pool.

The Stamford Town Council Play Scheme is hugely popular and offers excellent value. Places are limited - so do ensure you don't miss out next year by enrolling your children early.



Contact the Town Hall for more information.

## Forthcoming Events in 2014

### Events on Recreation Ground:

- i. Pinders Circus - Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 March
- ii. Stamford Festival - Saturday 21 to Sunday 22 June

### Events on the Meadow:

- i. Mid-Lent Fair - Monday 31 March to Saturday 5 April
- ii. Rotary Club of Stamford St. Martin's Garden Show - Sunday 11 May
- iii. Field Dog Antique Fair - Thursday 22 to Tuesday 26 May
- iv. Stamford Food Festival - Sunday 1 June
- v. Stamford Burghley Rotary Club Victorian Cricket Match - Sunday 8 June
- vi. Stamford Classic Car Show - Sunday 24 August
- vii. Field Dog Antique Fair - Friday 29 to Sunday 31 August
- viii. Pet and Companion Dog Show - Sunday 14 September

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