

# Stamford TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Issue 13 Spring 2014



## Events & Notices

Stamford WW1 Centenary Programme

Williamson Cliff Memorial Day

Skills Charity Trust

Stamford Skate Park

Senior Citizens' Concert

Town Council Website

Forthcoming Events

**PLEASE  
TAKE YOUR  
FREE  
COPY**

## The Mayor & Mayoress

What an honour it has been to be the Mayor of our lovely town, Stamford. It has been an inspiring experience to meet so many local people prepared to spend so much time and energy making life better for the rest of us. The Stamford Festival seems a long time ago now, but what a wonderful time we had. The Georgian Festival provided a spectacle, which all our visitors will never forget. Later in the year, we enjoyed the Christmas Festival. Stamford again showed its talent for recreating the traditional enjoyment of that special time of the year. Congratulations to the organizers of the Santa Fun Run, benefiting so many good causes. So much has happened during my mayoral year: it has been a great pleasure to represent the town on so many occasions.

The town is preparing itself for more sombre commemoration ceremonies in 2014. Stamford has always shown its close links with R.A.F. Wittering, with so many of its personnel active and retired living in the town. I had the pleasure of speaking to some of the families of the soldiers of the R.A.F. regiment returning from Afghanistan: they were visibly moved by the reception they received during their march through the town. Remembrance Sunday was an especially moving experience for me. I would like to thank all those responsible. I know that the town will continue to "remember them" with due respect, and support those still affected by the awful after-effects of war.

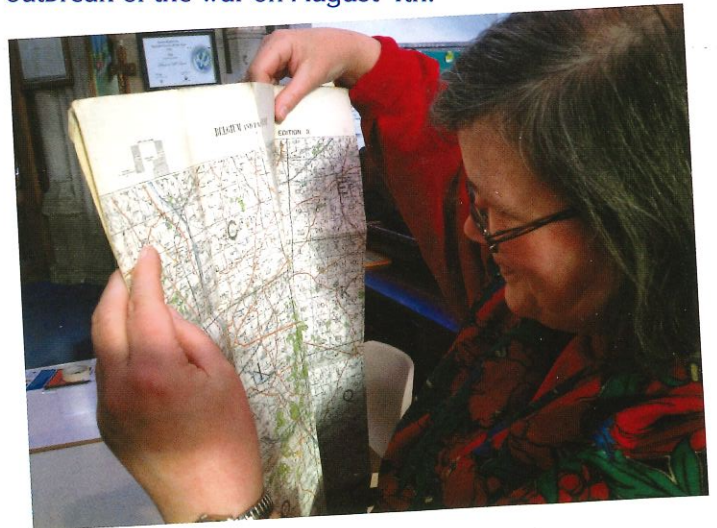


## Stamford's World War 1 Centenary Programme launches with a Heritage Lottery Fund award of £10,000



The WW1 Centenary Commemoration Programme in Stamford has been awarded £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a project focussing on the impact of the war on the town and local residents, beginning with Stage 1, looking at the events of 1914.

Volunteers are currently researching the local heritage surrounding the war outbreak, investigating over 24 archives and sources which will inform an education programme for the 2014 summer term. An artist-led installation, based on the research project findings, will create a temporary event space in the town centre where performances, activities and events for the whole community will be hosted in July, culminating with a commemorative event to mark the Centenary of the outbreak of the war on August 4th.



The project has also received a further £3,800 funding from Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) Big Community Fund, Stamford Town Council (STC), Dawson's of Stamford and Cllr. D. Nalson.

Organisers are keen to involve as many people from the local community as possible. Anyone interested in volunteering for any aspect of the project should

email:- [ww1@artpopup.co.uk](mailto:ww1@artpopup.co.uk),

or contact the Town Hall on:-

**01780 753808** or see:-

[www.Facebook.com/StamfordWW1](http://www.Facebook.com/StamfordWW1)





## Sandbag Advice

If your property is in an area susceptible to flooding, it is prudent to store sand and sandbags which are available from your local builders merchants.

- It is essential to fill and lay sandbags correctly.
- Do not over fill them (no more than half to three-quarters full).
- When laid, stamp them down well to force the upper bags to mould themselves to the lower bags.
- Build up the layers like brickwork with the bottom row butted up tight to each other, end to end, well stamped down before laying the second row on the top.
- If the wall is more than two sandbags high, use a double line of bags for the first two layers and a single line on top.
- Where possible, place plastic sheeting behind the sandbags as an extra defence.

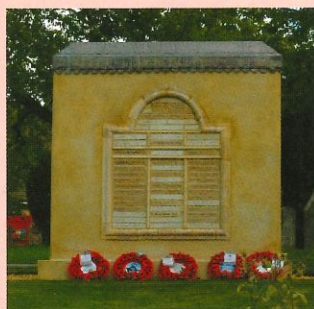
If you believe you are at risk, ACT NOW. Take precautions. Sign up to the Environment Agency's Flood Warnings Direct Service on **0845 988 1188** or follow online at:-

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods)

## Williamson Cliff Memorial Day

Wednesday 18 June is the 1st. anniversary of the dedication of the Williamson Cliff War Memorial in Stamford Cemetery.

It is proposed that a commemorative ceremony be held there to mark the occasion. Details to be announced later, but it is hoped that there will be a military presence and family members of those named on the memorial will be invited to attend.



## Skells' Charity Trust

Mr Harry Skells, a former Stamford Town Councillor, bequeathed a capital sum to Stamford in his will. He stipulated that the income generated should be spent on the 'appearance, utility and amenity' of public places, noting, in particular, parks, recreation grounds and what would today be termed 'street-scene improvements'.

Organisations are encouraged to apply to the Trust which has provided grant support towards many varied activities including:

- The Civic Society's sundial project at All Saints' Church.
- St. Peter's Community Group's initiative to erect an Interpretation Board on St. Peter's Green
- United Reform Church's request for support towards general improvements to the church hall which included the installation of disabled toilet facility
- The Salvation Army's application to support the creation of a social environment and a learning centre for 16-25 age group within the Recreation Ground.

To apply for a Skells Trust grant contact Stamford Town Hall **01780 753808** or visit the Town Council website [www.stamfordtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.co.uk) for details on the Skells Trust.

## Tour Guide Attendance List January - December 2013 & Jan - Feb 2014

Month	Tours	People
January	14	21
February	8	31
March	9	20
April	8	28
May	10	35
June	9	40
July	12	54
August	15	69
September	4	19
October	10	23
November	12	120
December	3	18
Jan-14	4	14
February	9	19
<b>Total:</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>511</b>

The Town Hall guided tours have continued throughout the winter months and, despite the inclement weather, they have proved remarkably popular, as the above table shows. The volunteer guides are to be complimented for their dedication and their expertise.

If you are interested in a tour of the Town Hall or have visitors who would enjoy the experience, the hour long free tours are held every Friday at 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm.

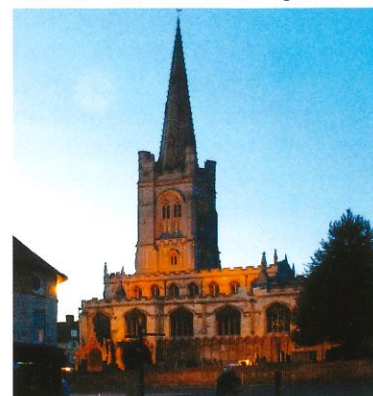
## Public Benches

Stamford Town Council is reviewing the supply and location of seating around the town centre.

If any members of the Public have suggestions as to where such benches could be sited to the benefit of the people of Stamford, please let the Council know. Sites in the Cemetery, or on the Meadows, Recreation Ground and Allotments are within STC's gift, but elsewhere approval must be sought by STC from LCC or SKDC.

## Floodlights

The Local Government Act 1972 section 137 makes provision for Stamford Town Council to provide financial support, up to a fixed amount, for the benefit of residents of Stamford. Recently, financial support has been provided to both All Saints' Church and St. George's Church towards upgrading their floodlighting equipment to improve the attraction of these important assets.





# Stamford's Skatepark

Stamford Skatepark opened its gates on December the 22nd, an early Christmas present for the local extreme sports fraternity. It was raining on the day, and has rained nearly every day since, but the inclement weather has not managed to dampen the enthusiasm of the Skatepark users. Now, instead of sitting at home watching TV, travelling to Peterborough, Corby or Leicester for their Skatepark fix, the young people of Stamford can be seen on the Rec' expending their energies partaking in the sport they love. On a weekday, typically there will be 2 or 3 users to be seen on the park, but as soon as school/college finishes, numbers rapidly rise to 30 – 40 users. At the weekend and holiday times the numbers have been seen to rise to 60.

As the weather improves and the evenings get lighter, there will soon be a call for longer opening hours from the users. Currently the park opens 9 - 9 Monday to Saturday and 10 – 5 on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Opening and closing of the park is currently being managed by two Park Keepers on a rota. They are contracted to stay on site during opening hours, and are funded by Stamford Town Council.

It is safe to say the young people of Stamford are very pleased to have a Skatepark back in the heart of the town, they have been treating the park and other users with respect. We are not aware of any instances of trouble at the Skatepark or complaints from residents or other users of the Recreation Ground. Talking to a local PCSO, he commented on how wonderful it was to have the Skatepark back on the Rec where the youngsters are able to enjoy themselves once again.



## Senior Citizens' Concert

The Senior Citizens' Concert will be held on Friday 25th April 6.30 - 8.30pm. This will be open to Stamford residents only and is free of charge.

The evening will be one of "sing along old time songs" with an interval and refreshments. There will also be a raffle.

Entry to the concert is by "ticket only" of which can be obtained from the Town Hall.

The evening will be held in the Town Hall Court Room and is hosted by the Events Committee, Stamford Town Council. Disabled access is available.

## QR Codes

The first fifty buildings in Stamford to be covered by QR (Quick Response) codes have been identified with descriptions provided by a large number of volunteers. It remains to be determined how the QR codes will be displayed on the buildings, all of which are listed. The QR code for the Town Hall is shown.



## Town Meadow Mill Stream Banks Restored

A £21,000 project to restore and reinforce the banks of the Mill Stream has proven to be invaluable during the recent extreme weather.

The work was undertaken by Cawley Woodland & Water Ltd and managed by the Welland Rivers Trust. Most of the funding came from Cummins Generator Technologies, together with the Town Council.

A special thanks to Mr Dave Sones for coordinating the whole project and bringing it to fruition.

The existing banks had become badly eroded in places and were in danger of further decline during bad weather. To minimise further damage, the banks were graded and then reinforced with woven willow panels. Together, these two measures have meant that the banks have not suffered any significant erosion during the recent high river levels.

In addition to the work on the banks, the project installed an additional fishing platform at the point opposite the Town Bridge and made improvements to the small weir by creating a graded gravel bed where fish will eventually be able to spawn.





## Dog Fouling

Recent complaints received by the Chairman of the Amenities Committee, Councillor Mike Exton, regarding dog fouling, not only in the Cemetery grounds but also on graves themselves, have prompted the Town Council to post notices within the grounds in an attempt to bring home to the Public that this is an antisocial practice. Cemetery Rules and Regulations clearly state that 'dogs are only allowed in the Cemetery if the owner is a bona fide visitor to a grave and then only if the dogs are on leads'. Imagine the distress this causes to relatives and then imagine how you would feel if it was your relative's grave that had been defecated upon.

Educating dog owners does not only stop at the Cemetery. Stamford's Amenity areas – The Meadows, Recreation Ground and Allotments - have also fallen 'foul' of the mess dogs leave behind. Please be aware that children playing in these areas and pregnant women are at special risk from diseases picked up from uncollected dog excrement.

The majority of owners do the right thing and clear up after their dogs. Dogs are wonderful companions, so don't blame the dog, blame the minority of owners who leave the mess behind.

In addition to Dog Wardens PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) are now authorised to issue on the spot fines for this offence.



## Stamford Town Council's Website

The Town Council's website has recently been redesigned to make it more user friendly, but also to try and make it serve three clear and different purposes, which are:

1. To provide the official information, documents and notices that are relevant to the Council's official business. This includes contact information, details of the Town Councillors, minutes and agendas of Town Council, committee and Skells' Trust meetings and relevant official notices emanating from LCC and SKDC as well as the Town Council.
2. To keep people who live in Stamford aware of what is going on in the Town, including official meetings and Council organised events, but also including links to other organisations and their aims and events.
3. To provide information for visitors to Stamford. This includes a brief history of the Town and practical information on visiting the Town including, of course, the Town Hall. There are many other sites about Stamford that provide tourism and historical information, and we link to them wherever possible.

The Town Hall has now become the repository for many Stamford related artefacts from the Museum. Future plans include expanding the website, providing more detail about collections and in the long term providing information for research projects.

In the meantime, if you haven't already taken a look at the revised website, please do - we would love to have your feedback. You can find the website at:-

<http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.co.uk>.

## Forthcoming Events in 2014

### Events on Recreation Ground:

Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 March – **Pinders Circus**

Saturday 21 to Sunday 22 June – **Stamford Festival**

### Events on the Meadow:

Monday 31 March to Saturday 5 April – **Mid-Lent Fair**

Sunday 11 May – **Rotary Club of Stamford St. Martin's Garden Show**

Thursday 22 to Tuesday 26 May – **Field Dog Antique Fair**

Sunday 1 June – **Stamford Summer Fayre**

Sunday 8 June – **Stamford Burghley Rotary Club Victorian Cricket Match**

Sunday 24 August – **Stamford Classic Car Show**

Friday 29 to Sunday 31 August – **Field Dog Antique Fair**

Sunday 14 September – **Pet and Companion Dog Show**

### Other Events:

Friday 25 April – **Town Hall Senior Citizens Concert**

Sunday 19 October – **French Market**

Sunday 30 November – **Christmas Festival**



Mid-Lent Fair

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)