

# Stamford TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Issue 21 Winter/Spring 2016



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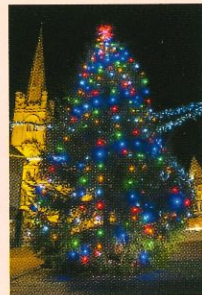
## Christmas lights switch-on

Unfortunately, because of the high winds predicted for Sunday 29th November, it was reluctantly decided that, for health & safety and insurance reasons, the Christmas Festival would have to be cancelled – a very disappointing decision for all those involved, but unavoidable.

However, the Christmas Light Switch On was rearranged for Thursday 3 December. The local primary schools choir started off the proceedings with carols which were enjoyed by parents, grandparents and many shoppers.

Rutland Radio were in the square to add to the occasion. Santa arrived on his sleigh with the Mayor, Councillor Susan Sandall, and local boy Seb Goad who had the special privilege of being chosen to switch the Christmas lights on.

The tree in the Square was donated by Burghley. Special thanks go to Peter Glassy and RAF Wittering for their help in putting the tree into place.



## "Clean for the Queen"

Burghley is joining forces with 9 other principal Historic Houses of the Treasure Houses group (including Chatsworth, Blenheim Palace and Woburn Abbey) to support the Country Life campaign 'Clean for the Queen'.



A campaign has been launched in Country Life to clear up Britain in time for The Queen's 90th birthday in 2016. It will mobilise an army of volunteers across the country to clean up their local areas and will include a special clean-up weekend on March 4–6 2016. Adrian Evans, who has been appointed as Campaign Director, ran The Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant in 2012. With the full backing of Keep Britain Tidy, the campaign already has the support of well-known national organisations with a total membership in excess of 1.5 million, as well as individual ambassadors. Now it's up to all of us.

Read more at <http://www.countrylife.co.uk/features/clean-for-the-queen-75772#V46gfAbEW6cyFo4z.99>

'I am horrified, as I am sure all of you are, about the dreadful quantities of litter that we see spread across the country. Burghley will be mustering staff for a big litter pick and we hope you will feel just as enthusiastic about marshalling troops to do the same on your streets and villages.' Miranda Rock, House Director, Burghley House. There is an excellent website that provides a wealth of information and downloadable resources. [www.cleanforqueen.co.uk](http://www.cleanforqueen.co.uk)



## Family Fun Day Sunday 26th June

Stamford & District Lions Club will be holding their annual Family Fun Day on Stamford Recreation Ground from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Everyone is asked to make sure they arrange the weather for a dry day after the wet day in 2015.

The Vikings will be in their Settlement and enact attacks during the day, the Fun Fair, Hog Roast, Car Boot Sale, games and stalls will be waiting for you and guarantee you fun, regardless of age. Please check out our Facebook page (Stamford and District Lions) or our website [http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/stamford\\_gb/](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/stamford_gb/) for further developments.

If you are a stall holder or a local charity and would like to join us please contact Jane at [rjr1947@virginmedia.com](mailto:rjr1947@virginmedia.com) or Gill on 0845 8334327

Stamford & District Lions Club Reg. Charity 1032398

For further information on any items please contact the Town Clerk  
T:- 01780 753808 E:- [townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) @stamfordtc

# Stamford Hospital parking charges consultation

Following a Freedom of Information (FoI) request, the responses below were received from the Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals Trust. A follow-up FoI request asking for clarification is currently with the Trust.

**Q1.** How many responses (including personal callers, telephone calls, emails, letters, twitter, facebook and any other method of communication) were received about the decision to introduce car parking charges at Stamford Hospital.

**A1.** We received 409 responses in total – either through the feedback forms made available at Stamford Hospital, or via emails to the Stamford Hospital Project address, or that of our Chief Executive, Stephen Graves.

**Q2.** How many of these responses supported the decision.

**A2.** The Trust made it clear that the comments-gathering exercise was to inform the parking strategy, rather than to ask whether it was supported or not. Therefore no figure is available on how many responses supported the decision. However, when asked their view about the Trust considering setting charges at Stamford Hospital on the same level as Peterborough City Hospital the responses were:

- (a) Agreed charges should be the same = 67 respondents (16.4%)
- (b) Disagreed = 251 respondents (61.4%)
- (c) Gave no response = 91 respondents (22.2%)

**Q3.** How many objected to the decision.

**A3.** Please see above.

**Q4.** How many suggested ways of solving the problem of "fly-parking" at no cost to either the Trust or the public.

**A4.** Those that disagreed with setting the charges similar to PCH, were asked to suggest their own proposal in a free text box on the comments form. The main themes from respondents were in order of popularity

1. Keep parking free
2. Reduce charges to a level similar to that of the public car parks in Stamford
3. Bring in charges on Fridays (market day) only
4. Make the first hour free, rather than the first 30 minutes
5. A single flat rate to park is more acceptable
6. Keep parking free for Blue Badge holders (disabled motorists)
7. Separate staff and patient parking areas
8. Install barriers and an intercom and only let in people who have an appointment.

Give all genuine patients and staff a permit to park for free

**Q5.** What these suggestions were.

**A5.** Please see above.

**Q6.** Why these suggestions were rejected.

**A6.** Not all suggestions were rejected. Some have been used in the recommendations set out on page 7 of the attached board report.



**Q7.** Why the decision to introduce charges was made and by whom.

**A7.** As set out on the top of page 7 of the attached board report, the Trust board had already agreed in principle to introduce car parking charges at Stamford Hospital.

**Q8.** If a vote was taken at a meeting, when was the meeting, who supported the decision and who opposed it.

**A8.** No vote was taken at the meeting. The board of directors were all in agreement with the recommendations made in the board report.

We completely appreciate that this is not a popular decision. However, you will see from the board paper that our Trust board has agreed to ensure Department of Health guidelines on car parking charges are followed to the letter when the time comes to set the parking rates. The Department of Health sets out that Trusts should ensure their charges are in line with that of the local authority car parks in the local area. We will ensure that this guidance is followed, so that a hospital visit will cost patients no more than, for example, a visit to the town centre to go shopping. In addition, we will ensure that blue badge holders will park for free – which sadly is not the case in some local hospitals.

**"Of the 409 responses, 178 respondents (43.5%) registered that they were against the Trust's plan to charge for parking."**

## Grant Availabilities

Applications are invited for grants from the Skells Trust for any projects that would improve the "appearance, utility and amenity" of Stamford's public spaces or street scene.

The Town Council also has a small amount available to groups for projects that would make the local community a better place in which to live, work or visit.

Further information on the STC website.

[www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Norman Arch update

STC would like to clean and restore the Norman Arch (Stamford's oldest gateway) on St. Mary's Hill. However, as it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, this is far from straightforward, requiring the services of accredited professionals both to assess the work and carry it out, and is likely to be rather more costly than initially thought – one estimate is approx. £4000. To their credit, the landlords of the building to which the Arch is attached have offered to help defray the cost. Watch this space!



## Senior Citizen's Concert Friday 22nd April

Please come along and join us to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

Call at the Town Hall to get your **FREE** tickets for the concert. (The tickets will be required for entry on the evening).

## Suggested Improvements to Town Bridge Lighting



The Stamford Urban Group/Civic Society noticed that the Town Bridge lights were in a really dilapidated condition and feels that replacement would be the best option. This is the first area seen when entering the Town from St. Martin's Without and the current state does not give a good first impression of "the Finest Stone Town in England" (Sir John Betjeman). It has been difficult to find out when these particular lights

were first erected, but it was estimated that it was sometime before 1880, when six were installed, three on each side of the Bridge. Two have since been removed and it has proved impossible so far to track them down – any information would be gratefully received.

The lamps and their standards are marred by a combination of green algae and traffic grime, and are in need of immediate attention. The Urban Group consulted with the lighting officers at LCC (Stan Hall and Gary Faraday), who agreed that the lights were probably past their "sell by" date, but replacing them was not a priority as funding was limited for projects like these. However, as an interim measure, LCC recently cleaned the lights and, although still not a credit to our Town, they do now look slightly better.

After further talks the Group asked if LCC would oversee the fitting of new housings and lights if the money could be raised - they agreed to do so and to take care of the ordering. Urbis, their recommended supplier, is able to supply the same traditional design, but with the now preferred low-energy LED lights, which are programmable and could be dimmed to reduce running costs. The cost of these lights is £700-00 each (plus VAT). The Urban Group, through the Civic Society, has applied for £950-00 from the LCC Big Society Fund and would like to express its thanks to LCC Cllr. David Brailsford for his considerable help in this matter. The group is also exploring other sources of funding, including approaching Stamford Town Council and the Skells Trust.

In addition to the new lights, the Group is also considering a project to illuminate both sides of the Town Bridge, from the Meadows and from the Wharf Rd./Water St. side, although the lighting on the Bridge remains the priority.

*Don Lambert, Stamford Urban Group*



## Town Hall Facilities

Stamford Town Hall is the ideal venue for a variety of events. Several rooms are available for private or company hire, ranging from small meeting rooms up to the beautifully restored Court Room for an impressive reception or a sit down dinner.



After a major renovation programme, (including the provision of a lift), this splendid grade 1 listed building retains its history but is firmly in the 21st century with a state of the art finishing kitchen, audio & video facilities and Wi-Fi capability. We can accommodate conferences, seminars, business meetings, training courses, business lunches, educational groups etc. Coffee and tea are available throughout the day, ensuring interruption-free meetings.

In addition, the building houses the Town's charters, civic plate and regalia, some of which date back to the 15th century. This collection is one of the most impressive in the country and a private tour could be incorporated within the hire.

**COURT ROOM:** Holds up to 80 persons seated

**COUNCIL CHAMBER:** Holds up to 35-40 people seated

**MALCOLM SARGENT ROOM:** Hold up to 16-20 people seated

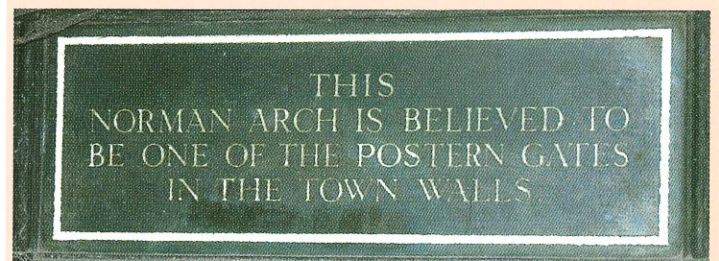
**ROBING ROOM:** Holds up to 6 people seated

For more information please visit our website or call Mark Murtagh, Civic Officer, to discuss your requirements – **01780 759324** or [townadministrator@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townadministrator@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk).

## Stamford's Information Plaques

20 bronze plaques with white lettering were erected in 1922 by the then Tradesmen's Association. Unfortunately, four are now missing - those formerly attached to Leet Hall, Red Lion Square, St Leonard's Priory, and Barn Hill. The Bastion plaque has been removed temporarily as it had become loose. It will be re-attached shortly.

Rivermeade Signs have been contacted about the cost of replacing the missing plaques. If this proves to be within the appropriate budget, STC would be interested in funding replacements – and possibly some additions. Ideas for new plaques welcome.



# Local Government Boundary Commission proposals for Lincolnshire

1. Stamford's representation to be reduced from 3 County Councillors to 2
2. Stamford to be divided into Stamford East and Stamford West
3. The non-town part of Stamford Rural to become part of a new division – Baston & Barholm – with separate representation.

STC feels that, although not ideal, given the target population per division this is the best Stamford could have reasonably hoped for - and it will allow our LCC Councillors to focus on purely Stamford matters.

Full report at:

[https://www.lgbce.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/27197/LGBCE-15121-LincolnshireDraftRecommendations-Final.pdf](https://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/27197/LGBCE-15121-LincolnshireDraftRecommendations-Final.pdf)



# Stamford Festival 'Parade of Floats' Saturday 2nd July 2016

You probably don't need any reminding but for more than 30 years Stamford & District Kiwanis have organised the Festival Parade of Floats through the centre of Stamford. You can take part on a float, as a walking group, or with a decorated vehicle. It is a fantastic way to show that your school, organisation or business supports the local community. The event starts and ends at the Recreation Ground playing field where there are all sorts of activities through the afternoon.



This year's theme is 'Cartoon Characters', so start thinking of your favourite cartoon films, comic books or even invent your own!

To take part, download the entry form from [www.stamfordkiwanis.org.uk](http://www.stamfordkiwanis.org.uk)

or email [parade@stamfordkiwanis.org.uk](mailto:parade@stamfordkiwanis.org.uk).

There you can register your entry and also let us know whether you will need us to provide a float for you to use (free of charge).

## Notifying highway problems

Either contact Lincolnshire Highways via the LCC website <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/report-highway-defects/41433.article> and use the online form or use the 'Fix My Street' website <https://www.fixmystreet.com>, which automatically passes on all entries to the responsible authority.

LCC will effect repairs, but lack the manpower to carry out regular inspections – they do rely heavily on notifications from members of the Public.



## Stamford Town Council

The Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2DR  
T:- 01780 753808 E:- [townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
[www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) @stamfordtc

## Forthcoming Events

### 2016 Events on Recreation Ground:

**Pindu's Circus - Thursday 25 - Sunday 28 February**

*The popular Pinder's circus is on tour and will be visiting Stamford in February. The show opens Thursday 25 February 2016 on the Stamford Recreation Ground. Don't miss this dazzling family circus show.*

### Other Events

**Mid Lent Fair – Monday 7 - Saturday 12 March**

*The famous Mid-Lent Fair will be returning to the streets of Stamford, with rides and attractions available for all of the family to enjoy. Over 100 rides, stalls and food and drink outlets will line the streets on Bath Row and Broad Street until Saturday. Come and enjoy those traditional attractions and thrilling rides.*

For an update on any events since the publication of this notice please visit our website. [www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)