

# Stamford TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Issue 34 March 2020



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## Stamford Mid Lent Fair

March 23rd - 28th 2020

Stamford's annual event the Mid-Lent Fun Fair is back. March 23rd-28th, with entertainment for all, including over 100 rides, stalls and food and drink outlets on Bath Row and Broad Street. It will start with an opening ceremony by the Mayor of Stamford at 6pm, at the Waltzer ride located in Broad Street at the top of Ironmonger Street. It lasts for a week and fills the streets and squares of the Town Center with stalls, amusements and 'all the fun of the fair'.

Today, the roundabouts and stalls stay for 5 days and block all the main streets of the town; during the Middle Ages, the fair lasted for two or three weeks and was a trading occasion of some importance to the nation. The King sent his servants to Stamford Fair to buy green and scarlet cloth for himself, his Queen and his household or to give as presents to other Kings or visiting dignitaries. Foreign luxury goods and other supplies were purchased there for the court and for parliament. The nobles and monasteries replenished their stocks and bought the newest fashions; merchants from abroad, doing the rounds of England's marts, always fitted in a visit to Stamford Fair.

A great national event, then, was under way in Stamford during Lent.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## Councillor Maxine Couch



Councillor Couch was born in Yeovil, Somerset, her father served in the Fleet Air Arm (The aviation branch of the Royal Navy). She moved to the locality as a young girl and attended Oakham Primary School. Her secondary education was at Uppingham School and she attended sixth form college in

Oakham. Maxine moved to Stamford in 1983 when she married an RAF Serviceman and enjoyed a tour of Cyprus whilst raising her two children, Ben & Amy.

Locally employed, her career has centred on design and home improvement.

It was during a local dispute that Maxine was recommended to join Stamford Town Council, having impressed councillors with her fight and determination. She was elected to Stamford Town Council on St George's Ward in 2011 and very much fights the corner on local issues. As Chairman of the Events Committee, she has developed the highly popular Christmas Fair and Festive Lighting scheme and is also serving as Deputy Mayor for the town. She would like to see Stamford Town Council gain control of more of its amenities.

Working full time and being an active councillor does not leave much free time, but when there is, Maxine enjoys nothing more than spending it with her grandson Freddie sharing the local family-friendly facilities the town has to offer.

## MP VISITS THE TOWN HALL



When Gareth Davies MP for Grantham, Stamford, Bourne (and local villages) visited Stamford Town Hall on Friday 7th February, he was welcomed by Councillors Breda-Rae Griffin and Mike Exton, Mayor & Consort of Stamford. He enjoyed a tour of the town hall, including the civic regalia, the mayor's parlour, the council chamber and the old court room.

Mr Davies MP said "It was a pleasure to visit Stamford Town Hall, a place of great significance and history in our country. Like many in our town, I am very proud of our wonderful cultural heritage and I look forward to helping the Mayor to promote Stamford as a great place to live, work, invest and visit."

## From the Town Clerk's Desk

The Town Council, like all Town and Parish Councils across the country, has a statutory duty to set its Precept which is the Town Council's element of your Council Tax.

It was disappointing that very few Stamford residents attended the public meeting convened November last to discuss this important subject. Whilst the Precept figure set for 2019/2020 was able to be slightly decreased on the previous year, an increase for the coming year 2020/2021 of £5.10 has been requested on a Band D Property: a 0.10p per week increase.

These figures are the result of increased costs which the Town Council must incur, like all households, such as increases in insurance cover, utilities and general inflation. In addition, this year there has been an increase in Employer Pension Contributions which is outside of the Council's control. The modest 2020/2021 increase, however, was mitigated by the Town Council initiating additional revenue streams, such as obtaining a licence for weddings to be conducted at the Town Hall, combined with continuing efficiency savings.

The Annual Stamford Parish Meeting was held on Monday 16 March 2020 at 7pm in the Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Parish Affairs. Parish Affairs can be any issue, or topic, that specifically affects Stamford and its community. It provided an excellent opportunity for Stamford residents to express their views and to engage personally with their Ward Councillors.

Patricia Stuart-Mogg  
Town Clerk

## Stamford Town Guided Tours The Mayor's Guides

The Mayor's Guides will be operating under the direction of Jill Collinge one of the Blue Badge Guides for the region. Jill has 35 years experience as a guide and has hosted TV, celebrity and royal visits to the town.

It was important to Jill, who has previously been a Blue Badge trainer, that the new generation of guides were always ready to promote the town, shared her passion for the town and were officially recognised by the town itself. She sought approval from the town council to use the Mayor's Guides title. The Town Hall was very pleased to support the group and have the pleasure of hosting their launch on the 16th March by The Mayor Breda-Rae Griffin. (tours start on the 18th March).

Jill didn't advertise the new roles, preferring to 'put out feelers' and speak to people she thought might be a good fit. *We now have a team of confirmed new Mayor's Guides,*" explained Jill.

The group has been taking part in rigorous and regular guiding practice. *"People think it's easy to be a town guide, I can assure them it's not. It's not just about repeating learnt information verbatim, it's about being able to engage the audience to give them the best possible experience".*

*"Every member of the team is taking the role very seriously, they are wonderfully enthusiastic and I am delighted with their progress. A combination of competence and enthusiasm is so important."*

*"I know that when the time comes for me to stop guiding, tours will be in good hands." says Jill "The Mayor's Guides will be my legacy."*

**[www.thestamfordtownguidedtours.co.uk](http://www.thestamfordtownguidedtours.co.uk)**

email: [thestamfordtownguidedtours@gmail.com](mailto:thestamfordtownguidedtours@gmail.com)

prebook tickets: [ticketsource.co.uk/stamfordguidedtours](http://ticketsource.co.uk/stamfordguidedtours)



## Town Hall Trivia

Currently on display at the Town Hall is a bust of the young Queen Victoria, produced by John Marriott Blashfield's Stamford Terracotta Company. Made of a fine-grained, unglazed yellow stoneware it is a copy of a bronze original created - according to a catalogue of Blashfield's wares held in the Phillips Collection - by Weigall. This is almost certainly the work of, sculptor Henry Weigall, born in London in 1798, died in Melbourne, Victoria in 1882.

John Marriott Blashfield, was born in Westminster in 1811 and by the 1840s he was operating an ornamental terracotta works in Millwall, with a showroom in Central London. In 1858, he was invited by the 2nd Marquess of Exeter to set up a factory in Wharf Road in Stamford; the Marquess owned land at Wakerley which had rich deposits of a clay particularly suitable for making terracotta.

Blashfield's Wharf Road site included four kilns and a 100 foot long showroom. The firm gained an international reputation for quality and design, won medals at the 1862 and 1867 Paris Exhibitions and gained numerous commissions in the U.K. and abroad. By 1870, the range had grown to over 1400 items, but poor business practices led to the downfall of the company; it entered voluntary liquidation in 1875 and the works and stock were sold off. John Marriott Blashfield died in London in 1882.





# Stamford Town Council, Holocaust Memorial Day 11.00am, Friday, 31st January, 2020 St. Michael's Churchyard, High St., Stamford

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2020 marked 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Stamford marked the event on Friday 31st January 2020 with an outdoor service at St Michael's Churchyard at 11am.

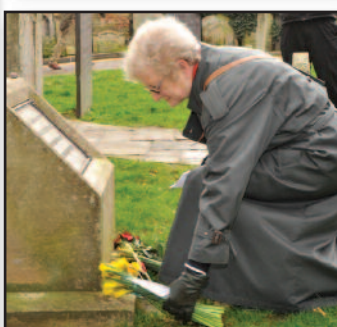
## Order of service

1. Introduction (Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin - Mayor of Stamford)
2. Poetry reading by Rob Elks
4. Laying of Daffodils (which represent the yellow badges Jews were forced to wear by the Nazis):

*Councillor Breda-Rae Griffin, on behalf of Stamford Town Council  
Chrissie Hassall, Chair of the Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community.  
Rev'd Dr Peter Stevenson, on behalf of Churches Together in Stamford*

5. Last Post (Lawrence Hayes)
6. 2 minutes' silence
7. Reveille (Lawrence Hayes)
8. Christian Prayer (the Rev. Andy Fyall, on behalf of Churches Together in Stamford)
9. Kaddish (Graham Berkman, Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community)
10. Blessing (the Rev. Andy Fyall, on behalf of Churches Together in Stamford)
11. Tekiah Gedolah played on the Shofar (Ram's horn) by Lawrence Hayes
12. Laying of individual tributes

All Stamford schools were invited were invited to consider this event for a creative piece, which could be a piece of literature, a poem, artwork, sculpture or a piece of drama, the theme for HMD 2020 was STAND TOGETHER.





## DANIEL LAMBERT: 200 Years of Memorabilia

### Stamford Town Hall - Friday, 13<sup>TH</sup> March, 2020

A travelling exhibition of items related to the great man came to stamford. Exhibits included contemporary paintings, a large Nineteenth century statuette, inkwells, teapots, crested china, several early Nineteenth century prints, a copy of a letter in Daniel's handwriting, a Velamour Toby jug, postcards, badges, mugs and several other rare and interesting artefacts.



These are all part of the personal collection of Roger Street, the author of the recent book 'The Daniel Lambert Picture Book', copies of which will be available to purchase for £9.95 at the exhibition. An experience not to be missed!



## Herbarium for Lincolnshire

In 2017 the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Love Lincs Plants project to work in partnership with the Natural History Museum in London, The Sir Joseph Banks Society, Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union and the University of Lincoln. Over the last three years, they have worked to inspire and train a new generation of botanists, to preserve a historic herbarium collection and to create a new Lincolnshire herbarium for the 21st century.

### So why are we creating a contemporary herbarium for Lincolnshire?

Herbarium specimens are essentially dried pressed plant samples conserved on archive quality paper and stored in a controlled environment for research purposes. Associated collection data are remarkable and irreplaceable sources of information about plants and the world they inhabit. They provide the comparative material that is essential for studies in taxonomy, conservation biology, biodiversity, ethnobotany, and paleobiology, as well as being used for teaching and by the public. They are a veritable gold mine of information and provide a valuable research tool for investigations into climate change, pollution and habitat change.

Creating a present day collection of plant specimens requires people to visit all parts of Greater Lincolnshire at all times of year to ensure a representative range of plant species is collected. This project is not only training volunteers in plant identification, but also in traditional archiving skills including the collection, preparation and mounting of botanical specimens.

Stamford Town Council first became involved with the project in Spring 2019, when it gave permission for plants to be collected at Stamford Cemetery. On 29th January a small group of botanists from the South Lincs Flora Group, accompanied by the Deputy Town Clerk, Sarah Dorson, met up to collect early flowering species from the site.



These included naturalised species such as Winter Aconite, Snowdrop and Sowbread, as well as more weedy species such as Annual Mercury and Petty Spurge.

Two specimens of each plant were photographed in situ and then carefully dug up, labelled with a unique reference number and placed in a plant press. It took some time to remove the rather sticky clay soil from the roots of some specimens and a freshening breeze made it difficult to place some of the specimens neatly, so a few were placed in plastic bags and curated later indoors. A small sample of leaf tissue was removed from one specimen and placed in a labelled bag containing silica gel, to be used for DNA analysis. The specimens will be carefully mounted by other volunteers, and then one specimen will be stored at the Natural History Museum and the other at the Sir Joseph Banks Centre in Horncastle.

If you would like to be added to the project events mailing list, please email [lovelincsplants@gmail.com](mailto:lovelincsplants@gmail.com) stating your area of interest e.g. 18-35 training, plant collection, herbarium specimen mounting etc.



**Stamford Town Council**  
**Senior Citizens' Concert**

**Friday 24th April 2020**  
**At The Town Hall - 7pm**

*Free tickets now available on a  
'First come first served basis'*

**01780 753808**



# Chapel Service & Celebration of Life

Historic locations for End of Life ceremonies in Stamford – memorial services at Cemetery Chapel and wakes at Stamford Town Hall.



## STAMFORD TOWN HALL FREE GUIDED TOURS



TOURS INCLUDE THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, CIVIC REGALIA, COURTROOM,  
MALCOLM SARGENT ROOM AND COUNCIL CHAMBER

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 21/02/20 TO 29/05/20 INCLUSIVE

EXCLUDING BANK HOLIDAYS – 10/04/20 & 08/05/20

11.00am (1 ½ hours)

\*1.30pm (1 ½ hours)\*

\*From 20/03/20 inclusive & ongoing this tour will commence at 1.00pm

NO BOOKING REQUIRED

GROUP BOOKINGS CAN BE TAKEN FOR TOURS OF MORE THAN 8 PEOPLE  
PLEASE CONTACT RECEPTION 01780 753808 FOR MORE DETAILS

For more information, call us on:

**01780 753808** 9am-5pm daily.

Or you can visit our website at:

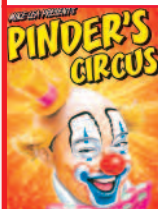
[www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)





# FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2020

- MARCH** 12<sup>TH</sup>-15<sup>TH</sup> **Pinders Circus**  
Various Performance Times  
Recreation Ground
- 23<sup>TH</sup>-27<sup>TH</sup> **Mid-Lent Fair**  
(Showmen's Guild)  
Stamford Town Centre 5pm - 10pm



- APRIL** 18<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup> **Stamford Free Wheelin' FEASTival**  
Market Square Group,  
Meadows 10am - 6pm
- 24<sup>TH</sup> **Senior Citizens' Concert**  
Town Hall - 7pm
- 26<sup>TH</sup> **St. Georges Day & Family Fun Day**  
Stamford & Bourne District Scout Council  
10am-3pm

**FEASTival**



- MAY** 8<sup>TH</sup> **V E Day Celebration**  
Royal British Legion, Stamford  
Recreation Ground 1pm - 4pm
- 10<sup>TH</sup> **Church outdoor Music & Fun**  
Stamford Methodist Church  
Recreation Ground 3pm - 5pm



- JUNE** 20<sup>TH</sup> **Stamford Festival Parade of Floats**  
Stamford Kiwanis - 12noon - 5pm  
Recreation Ground and Town Centre
- 21<sup>ST</sup> **Stamford Festival of Rock on the Rec.**  
Stamford & District Lions  
Recreation Ground 12noon - 7pm



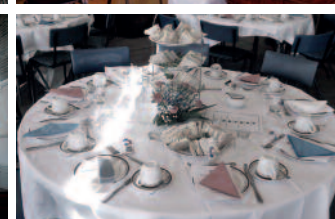
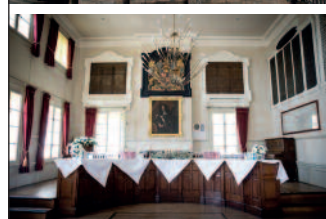
Stamford Town Hall, St. Mary's Hill, Stamford PE9 2DR  
Tel: 01780 753808 Web: [www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)



## Marriages & Celebrations

AT STAMFORD TOWN HALL

A memorable, historic location  
for weddings, civil ceremonies and  
other functions. Settings include  
Mayor's Parlour & Civic Ballroom



For more information, call us on:  
**01780 753808** 9am-5pm daily.  
Or you can visit our website at:  
[www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)



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TOWN COUNCIL**

