

# Stamford TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Issue 26 Autumn/Winter 2017



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FREE  
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## Remembrance Day 2017

The Annual Service of Remembrance and Laying of Wreaths took place at the War Memorial, Broad Street, Stamford, on Sunday, 12 November 2017. Please see page 3 for full report.



## Stamford Georgian Festival

Back again this year after the tremendous success of 2015. See full report on page 2.



## Stamford Christmas Festival 2017 The preparations begin!

Sunday 26 November from 10am to 5pm

The popular traditional Stamford Christmas Festival will be returning to Stamford. The event will be centered around High St, Ironmonger St, Broad Street, Red Lion Square, and Sheep Market.

Stamford is well known for its exclusive and independent traders so do come along and see what unusual gifts you may 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. So come along, join in the fun and be part of this ever-popular annual, community event which attracts many thousands of visitors from far and near. The town has good **FREE** car parking facilities on Sundays with the town centre easily accessible. Parking is free in car parks on this day, but please be aware that on street parking restrictions are still enforced.

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

For more information on how to become involved in this successful and strongly supported community event by trading, volunteering, sponsoring or just coming along to soak up the atmosphere, please contact Stamford Town Council at [townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) or go to the website on [www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) where a booking form can be downloaded.



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

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 Georgian Festival “a triumph”

Stamford's third Georgian Festival has been hailed the best and most successful yet by organisers South Kesteven District Council.

The four-day event, which took place from Thursday 21 to Sunday 24 September, was declared “a triumph” by festival goers, attracting tens of thousands of people over the four days to England's first conservation town.

The promise of a spectacular finale drew a crowd of more than 5,500 people to Red Lion Square to witness the story of Stamford and its infamous ‘bull run’ projected on to the side of All Saints Church.

The Saturday evening ‘illuminati’ event was a huge success, with hundreds gathering to join in the procession from St George's Square and along the High Street before finishing in Red Lion Square.

The procession included drummers, stilt walkers, dancers, the ‘gigante’ puppet of Ann Blades - historic Empress of the Bullards - as well as and hundreds of children and community participants carrying red torches.

St Mary's Church bell rang to start proceedings, as it had for centuries, to announce the boarding of shops and the barricading of the street with carts and wagons before the bull was let loose.

It was the cue for the finale to begin, introduced by ‘street pedlar’ character actor John White and with performers in All Saints' churchyard.

The church became the backdrop for a stunning sound and visual light projection telling the tale of early Stamford and its barbaric bull run tradition, which took place for 700 years from the time of King John.

Echoing through Stamford's historic streets was the story of the chase and slaughter and the blood and thunderous noise of the annual ritual, and how it was finally halted in 1839 with the Dragoon Guards' ‘arrest’ of the bull.

A five-minute fireworks display and confetti cannon concluded the programme, with rousing applause from the crowd.

It was a fantastic finale to a very busy weekend across the town. There was a craft market in Broad Street and a military encampment on The Meadows, street entertainers amused shoppers across the town and there were performances in Browne's Hospital, the Town Hall and the Endowed Schools, among others.

For sheer spectacle, the sight of an historic horse-drawn carriage making its way through the streets was hard to beat, but many other events came close including the acrobats on horses down on The Meadows and those who had dressed in Georgian costumes for the occasion.

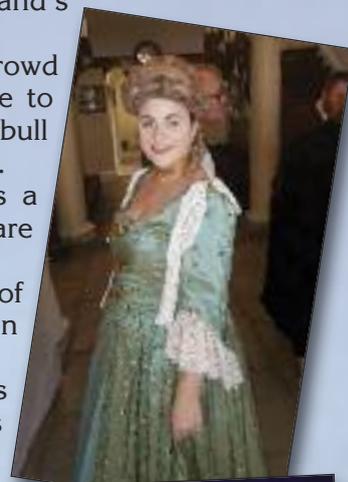
The Leader of SKDC, Councillor Matthew Lee, said: “The whole event was a triumph of colour, spectacle and entertainment – a real celebration of Stamford.

“Although we haven't had official confirmation of numbers, judging by the crowds, it was our biggest year yet. It was fantastic to see Red Lion square packed with people enjoying the finale on Saturday.

“Our last Georgian Festival in 2015 added nearly £1 million to the local economy and we hope to top that this year. As importantly, we hope that the festival will have left residents and visitors will fantastic memories this year,” added Cllr Lee.

“We would particularly like to thank the residents of Stamford for their support and patience during the festival. We are extremely grateful for everyone's cooperation during the festival.”

Social media was red hot over the weekend, with one comment really standing out. It was a complaint that “there just wasn't enough time to do everything!” Not a bad problem to have.



# Remembrance Day 2017



The Annual Service of Remembrance and Laying of Wreaths took place at the War Memorial, Broad Street, Stamford, on Sunday, 12 November 2017.

The Service began with a prayer by The Rev. Canon Dr Donald Gray, followed by the Exhortation, Last Post at 11.00am, the Two Minutes Silence, Reveille, and Kohima. The Stamford Brass Band accompanied the Service.

The Officer in charge of the Royal Air Force Detachment assumed overall command of the Parade at the War Memorial and marching units including RAF Wittering, 1 Military Working Dog Regt, North Luffenham The Royal British Legion, Stamford School Combined Cadet Force, 2071 (Stamford) Sqn ATC, Stamford Army Cadet Force, St John Ambulance, Welland Girlguiding, Stamford Girls Brigade & JC Boys Club.



The Mayor of Stamford, Councillor Anthony J Story presided and his guests included Air Vice-Marshal Peter Dodworth CB OBE AFC DL, Wing Commander Craig Watson, The President of The Royal British Legion, Mr Stephen Bonde and The Leader of South Kesteven District Council, Councillor Matthew Lee.



Photographs courtesy  
of Don Lambert  
Photography



## Fighting Vandalism

Vandalism continues to be an expensive problem for the people of Stamford, and the vandals are becoming more extreme in their behaviour. In the recent past they have cut a swing seat in half with a hacksaw and prevented access to the skateboard park by securing the main entrance with a combination lock. Here we see Councillor Alan Swan (Ind) fitting the last of 11 replacement bolts which vandals had mindlessly removed with a socket set from a panel which supports one of the walls in the skateboard park.



Here Councillor Swan has just re-secured the steel fencing which had been pushed over and rebuilt the fire escape exit route from the Shack on the Recreation Ground after the vandals kicked out the support spindles. Only a week previously the Councillor replaced a down pipe, adjusted the guttering and did extensive repairs to the external cladding of the Shack after yet another vandal attack. Vandalism costs STC Several thousands pounds a year.



## Parish Council

We're joining with other councils in Lincolnshire to campaign for a fairer funding deal for our area. If councils here received the average funding for council areas in England, the region would benefit from £116million extra funding for services, every year.

This could help pay for new infrastructure and valued council services. For example, £116 million could pay for a bypass scheme or a new hospital or major road improvement schemes across the area every year.

Councils in Lincolnshire have seen huge cuts to their Government funding and the cost of providing services is increasing. Council leaders are meeting with local MPs and government ministers to set out the case strongly for a fair deal for Lincolnshire.

You can help Lincolnshire councils get more money for your local services, by contacting your MP and joining the campaign for fairer funding at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fairerfunding](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fairerfunding)

## Battle of Britain Parade and Service

Stamfordians young and old turned out in healthy numbers with RAF Wittering personnel to mark the annual commemoration of the Battle of Britain. Fought in the skies over Britain over 70 years ago, it remains the defining engagement in the Royal Air Force's near hundred year history.



## Town Hall Tour - Winter Closure

The popular free Friday tours of the Town Hall will stop over the winter period. The last tour will be Friday 1st December 2017, tours will begin again on Friday 16th February 2018. For organised large groups wishing to visit during this period please call the Town Hall on 01780 753808 to make arrangements.



## Sir Malcolm Sargent

A Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the death of the world famous conductor Sir Malcolm Sargent was held at Stamford Cemetery and the Town Hall on Tuesday 3rd October 2017. Stamford Town Council expresses its gratitude to Sylvia Darley OBE (Sir Malcolms former PA) and Sir Malcolm's family and friends for their generosity in donating so many items of memorabilia to the Town Hall, where they can now be seen by members of the public.

## Restore Stamford Millstream

Stamford Town Council and the Welland Rivers Trust have submitted a funding application to restore the Stamford Millstream and create a wonderful new tourist attraction for Stamford town.

The work will involve cutting back or removing the trees that are blocking the stream, and dredging out the stream to allow the water to flow once more. We hope our work will improve the area for nature and nature-lovers alike.

The Aviva Community Fund relies on public voting to select which projects are awarded the fund. You can vote for projects between 24 October 2017 and 21 November 2017 at:

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk>.



## Allotment Competition 2017

The annual awards by Stamford Town Council were held on October 10th 2017 and having been run annually since 1976. The evening was enjoyed by the allotment tenants and members of the Amenities Committee who all help present the prizes for the competition. Fun was had by all with the challenging picture quiz won by Mrs Sewell and the evening was rounded off by a poem by Councillor Andy Croft.

This year the competition was judge by Steph Hughes from Burghley Estates, Councillor Gloria Johnson Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee and Deputy Town Clerk Sarah Dorson.

The prize winners received prizes from Stamford Town Council, Burghley Estates, Wilkos, Morrisons, Thompson & Morgan, Stamford Arts Centre, Waterside Garden Centre, Town Clerk, Sainsbury's, George Hotel, Harrison & Dunn, Sinclairs and Harrod Horticultural. We would like to thank all sponsors for their generosity..

The overall winner for 2017 was Mr & Mrs Mackinnon who received the W&J Brown Cup. The Novice Cup was received by Mrs Sewell and the runner up was Mrs Wheel. The Senior Citizens award was won by Mr I Hopkins who received the Wilkinson's Shield and the runner up was Mrs L Biddle. The Eco Award was won by Mencap who received the Eco Award Trophy and the runner up was Mrs J Wray. Finally, the Open Cup was received by Mr J Knighton and the runner up was Mr A Hart.



## Harry Skells Trust

The Harry Skells Estate Trust is constituted under the will of the late Harry Skells of Stamford and the income of the Trust is derived from the original endowment fund under this will.

### The objectives of the Charity are:

- The provision of parks and recreation grounds for the use, benefit and advantage of the inhabitants of Stamford.
- The improvement of streets and roads within Stamford.
- The improvement of the appearance, utility and amenity of buildings, walls, lamp posts, fences and other structures and of parks, car parks, bus stations and other open spaces in Stamford.

The Charity is run by a board of Trustees who are the Councillors of Stamford Town Council under the chairmanship of the Town Mayor. All grant applications are considered on their merits and the availability of funds.

Any enquiries or applications for a grant from the Charity should be addressed to the Town Clerk of Stamford who is Clerk to the Charity. Her name and contact address are:

Mrs Patricia Stuart-Mogg

Town Clerk, Stamford Town Council, Town Hall,  
St Mary's Hill, Stamford, PE9 2DR.

**Tel: 01780 753808**

Application Forms and or an extract of the will of the late Harry Skells may be obtained from Stamford Town Hall

## Civic Society Reception

50th anniversary of Stamford becoming the first Conservation Area in England.

Stamford Civic Society commemorated this occasion with an exhibition at the Arts Centre that explored how and why this happened and why conservation is still important today. The exhibition was supported by Colemans, The George of Stamford, Historic England and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation.

The exhibition illustrated Stamford's wonderful architectural heritage and highlighted the role of national and local people in tackling the threats to historic environments, prevalent in the 1960s, of rapid development and heavy traffic. Local people contributed their memories of the town before the Conservation Area came into being, and local photographer David Baxter provided aerial photographs of the town.

Archive photos from Historic England's collections showed representative aspects of Stamford's Conservation Area and we invited people to take part in a competition related to the places illustrated.

Gwyneth Gibbs

## Prison residents restore vandalised bench



Male residents at HMP YOI Peterborough have been hard at work helping to restore a commemorative bench that was vandalised in Stamford.

The bench was badly damaged just weeks after it was installed in memory of local teenager, Libby, who tragically died just before last Christmas.

The extent of the damage meant that the cost to repair the bench would be prohibitively high, but HMP Peterborough offered to take on the work at no charge. After carefully examining the craftsmanship of its construction and assessing the damage, the painstaking work to repair the bench began.

Residents worked hard in the Gaol Craft workshop, under the expert eye of tutor Tony Osmond, to rebuild the bench and restore it to its former glory. Several parts needed to be completely rebuilt because of the ferocity of the attack, which had all but destroyed some of the complex joinery.

"We were delighted to receive the help and support of the male residents at HMP YOI Peterborough to repair the cruel damage to the bench," said Mayor of Stamford, Tony Story. "The repairs will enable us to reinstate the bench and honour Libby's memory."

"Our workshops provide residents with purposeful activity, which helps with rehabilitation work to reduce reoffending," said Shashi Patel, Business Development Manager at HMP YOI Peterborough. "The poignant nature of this task made the men involved determined to do a good job and they were proud to be able to help."

The bench was one of four installed to remember Libby and bears the inscription 'Some legends are told, some turn to dust or to gold, but you will remember me Libby'.

Grateful thanks and appreciation are extended by the Libby's family and Stamford Town Council to both HMP YOI Peterborough and M W Edwards for their generous support and assistance in coordinating the logistics and installation of the bench on Vence Walk.

# Stamford Mayor, Councillors & Guests visit RAF Wittering

THE MAYOR OF STAMFORD was reunited with his old station on 5th September 2017 as Town Councillors and guests visited the Heritage Centre at RAF Wittering.

These days Councillor Anthony J. Story is the Mayor of Stamford but, not so many years ago, he was Sergeant Story of RAF Wittering's photographic section. Sergeant Story retired from RAF Wittering, but after 22 years in uniform, those days are not easily forgotten.

He said: "I love it! It's wonderful to be back at RAF Wittering again and you never forget it. It's very important for me that the people of Stamford understand the Royal Air Force is and what it does for us."

Squadron Leader Mark Hassall is the Officer in Charge of the Station Heritage Centre: He said: "The Heritage Centre has a significant educational role, but it also allowed us to show how the Station has developed and what RAF Wittering does on a daily basis."

RAF Wittering's history is recorded in the Station's Heritage Centre. It is the place where interested groups can learn about the base which has contributed so much

to the defence of the United Kingdom over the last 100 years, and continues to make a concrete difference to operations.

Today RAF Wittering embodies two principal roles. The Station's specialised engineering and logistics squadrons support deployed exercises and air operations, and the flying squadrons train to tomorrow's pilots and introduce cadets and university undergraduates to the RAF.

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing is an RAF veteran, having spent 12 years working on radars and computers. Speaking of the day, he said: "I'm enjoying this very much. We are fully supportive of the RAF and work they do and of the training they have to complete in order to do their jobs."

Three of the visiting party were ex-RAF photographers. In addition to Cllr Story, visitors Mick Steel and Don Lambert had served in the Royal Air Force.

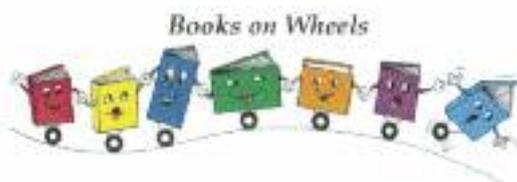
Positive relationships with nearby towns and villages is a priority for Defence establishments and RAF Wittering is no exception. Group Captain Tony Keeling is the Commanding Officer at the Cambridgeshire Station, for him the relationships with the Peterborough, Stamford and Wittering are vital.

He said: "We are fortunate indeed to have the friendship and loyalty of our nearest communities. People at RAF Wittering know that Stamford's townsfolk support them and the complex work they do in supporting operations and training the pilots of tomorrow. You can't put a price the positive effect it has on our fighting spirit



## Books on Wheels At Stamford Library

### Home Delivery Service



**Do you or anyone you know have difficulty coming to the library?**

Our friendly Books on Wheels Volunteers can visit you and bring books or talking books  
Please ask library staff for more information or telephone 01522 782010 and ask for Stamford Library

## COMPUTER BUDDY

FREE support available for surfing the internet, opening an email account, online applications or other general ICT 'trouble shooting' problems.



### Book your appointment today

Sessions are available for 30 or 60 minutes.

A Computer Buddy will be available on  
10am to 12.30pm and  
2pm to 4.30pm on Wednesday  
at Stamford Library

Please book a session with a member of library staff or telephone 01522 782010 (ask for Stamford Library)

# Stamford Christmas Festival & Lights Switch On

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017**  
**10am - 5pm**

Santa's Grotto  
 Real Live Reindeer  
 Craft/Food Stalls  
 Xmas Goodies  
 Entertainment/Music  
 Puppet Show  
 Children's Fun Fair

High Street  
 Ironmonger Street  
 Broad Street  
 Red Lion Square  
 Sheep Market




E: [townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)  
 W: [www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Praying On The Streets in Stamford

Since June 2016, observant people passing the corner of Red Lion Square outside St. John's Church would have seen a banner, some bright red chairs and some friendly faces for an hour every Friday morning between 11.00 and noon. The group comprises Christians from Churches Together in Stamford who are there to offer prayer and remind passers-by of God's love and care for them.

We are Praying On The Streets in Stamford ("POTSS"): volunteers from the eleven participating churches who simply remind people of the power of prayer in the name of Jesus. Anyone can ask for prayer - we have had an average of four folk each week since we began. The prayers can be for thanksgiving, healing and encouragement, and can be prayed for people present on the street or others far and wide. We have had people return with messages that the prayers have been answered in remarkable ways. Everyone receives God's blessing and is reassured of His love. A very warm welcome awaits you!

### 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](https://twitter.com/stamfordtc)

## Forthcoming Events for 2017/2018 (dates for the diary)

- STAMFORD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL & LIGHT SWITCH-ON ~ **Sunday 26th November 2017** ~ *In Town*
- STAMFORD MID-LENT FAIR ~ **Monday 12th March 2018** ~ *Town Streets*
- RAF FREEDOM PARADE ~ **Saturday 12th May 2018** ~ *Through the Town*
- STAMFORD FESTIVAL ~ **Saturday 23rd June 2018** ~ *In Town*
- REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY & ARMISTICE DAY (100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW1) ~ **Sunday 11th November 2018** ~ *The War Memorial*

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).



**STAMFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL**

