

# Stamford

## TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

First online-only edition!

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## The Sad Passing of Our Mayor

**William 'Bill' Turner, Mayor of Stamford passed away on Thursday, 4th February, 2021.**

Bill Turner became interested in Local Government during the 1970s and was elected a Town Councillor in May 2007, representing St. George's Ward. Bill had served for many years in the Army during which time he had been stationed around the world. He met his beloved wife Judith while on service in Belize and family became central to his being, doting on his children and grandchildren.

Bill's growing interest in economic history made him champion the less privileged and he always strived to bring equal opportunity to as many aspects of society as was possible. He also developed what became a lifelong passion for English literature with special interest in the works of Thomas Hardy and Gerard Manley Hopkins.

Bill Turner was a well-honed Stamfordian. As a young boy he was involved in the Stamford Army Cadets. He enlisted at the age of twenty-six and served for twenty two years. Bill became an active member of the British Legion, serving as Vice-Chairman for over five years.

He was elected Mayor in 2020 after 14 years' service on the Council. His experience and knowledge enabled him to Chair many a challenging meeting with considerable confidence and panache. His ill health did not curb his activities. He continued to contribute to Council issues right up to within a few days of his passing, despite his rapidly failing health, determined always to deliver of his best for Stamford residents. Many recognised and admired him for his commitment and his hard work over the years. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.



**Councillor Bill Turner  
Mayor of Stamford 2020-2021**

# From the Town Clerk's Desk

One of the Town Clerk's key tasks at this time of year is to prepare for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM). All English Parishes must convene such a meeting, between 1st March and 1st June inclusive, every year. The Stamford Annual Parish Meeting will be held, virtually, on Monday 22nd March at 7pm. This is not a Council meeting. The Stamford Annual Parish Meeting is called by the Chairman of the Council to provide an overview of Town Council activities. Residents of Stamford are encouraged to attend this important meeting as it provides an excellent opportunity to express views and to ask questions about Stamford issues that concern them.

Most regrettably, during the past year two Town Mayors have died. This sad loss has resulted in two vacancies arising, both in St. George's Ward. With the Government's announcement that Elections may proceed, a By-Election will be held on 6th May 2021. As a local councillor, you could become a voice for your community and work towards making real changes in Stamford. Councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities

they serve. If you are interested, email the Town Clerk at: [townclerk@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

The very essence of Neighbourhood Planning is public engagement and consultation with local residents, community groups, businesses and other interested stakeholders. Through such consultations, views are gathered. It is those views which have informed the drafting of Stamford's Neighbourhood Plan. Following a recent inspection by South Kesteven District Council, the Stamford Neighbourhood Plan will now be subject to a final public consultation starting Monday March 8th which will last for a period of 6 weeks. It is hoped many residents will engage and contribute their considered views towards this final consultation.

Links to Stamford's Neighbourhood Plan with its supporting documents and details of how to take part in the consultation process can be found on the South Kesteven website. Please visit <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15295>

PSM



## Laptops for Schools

Schools across Stamford have been contacted by The Town Council to ascertain any shortfall in laptops and devices needed by students to assist in home schooling. To help meet these needs, it has been suggested that unwanted devices could be donated, with the Town Council acting as an intermediary between the donor and the school. If you have a laptop or tablet you would like to donate to a school in Stamford, please contact The Civic Officer on 01780 753808.

## Report Dog Fouling

The Town Council has received numerous complaints regarding dog fouling. Dog mess is an eyesore and a health hazard. If you are a dog owner, you have a legal duty to clean up every time your dog messes in a public place.

The best and quickest way to report the matter is via the SKDC website, [www.southkesteven.gov.uk](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk). Click on 'Report It' within the blue banner at the top of the page and select 'Report Dog Fouling' from the drop down menu. On that page is another link to a form to be completed in order to report the issue direct to the District Council. They can then assess if an area is their responsibility and, if it is causing particular concern, may be able to take steps to address the issue.

If you have any difficulty reporting dog fouling, please contact Stamford Town Council on 01780 753808.



# Pride of Stamford Lions

Since 1975, Stamford and District Lions Club has been helping people in the Stamford area and around the world. Despite a year of Covid-19 restrictions, we have kept busy. A small, hard working group of volunteers - we have fun and hope we make a difference.

- We have provided an audio version of every edition of the Stamford Mercury. Our Talking Newspaper goes out on memory sticks the day after publication and is available to anyone with reading difficulties. Call 0345 833 4327 for more information.
  - In six hours at Morrisons, we collected £599 for the Australian Bush Fire Relief and sent £700 to Lions Clubs International Foundation for the disaster area. Every penny collected goes to the cause; nothing is taken out for administration.
  - Christmas gifts for a 6-year-old girl and her widowed mother. Second Helpings received 12 gift boxes of chocolates.
  - Donations made towards cost of defibrillator and to a family who lost their home in a fire.
  - Donations to GANF (Grantham Additional Needs Fellowship), St John Ambulance and St Barnabas Hospice.
  - MIAW, Message in a Wallet, a lifesaving card that gives medical information to emergency services if you are unable to tell them. Available at 13 locations in Stamford, free.
  - Spectacles and hearing aids are collected and recycled at two locations in Town, Boots Optician and The Stamford Eye Clinic.
  - Worked with Diabetes UK to bring online awareness/support meeting.
  - Provided medical aids for a gentleman with severe arthritis in immediate need of help.
  - Diabetes Awareness market stall to raise funds.
- Projects temporarily postponed due to the pandemic:**
- 'Rock on the Rec' 2020 or 2021, an afternoon of free music by local groups, enjoyed by all ages. Look out for 2022, it will be great!
  - Santa's Grotto 2020 at the Christmas Market, enjoyed by over 200 children every year.
  - The glorious Christmas Tree Festival at St John's Church when over 30 decorated trees can be enjoyed for two weeks. Donations are divided between local charities.
  - Decorating a local Care Home, including seven Christmas trees for residents to enjoy.

# Care in Stamford during lockdown

During the Lockdown, like all businesses, the **Evergreen Trust** had to 'think on its feet', and respond to new regulations on an almost daily basis in order to maintain operations safely and effectively. They committed to the care of those who were most at risk from the COVID virus and most impacted by the restrictions; the elderly, those with underlying health problems and a small number with mental health concerns exacerbated by the isolation resulting from shielding.

The Trust approached the pandemic crisis with a sense of committed unity. Their 'can do' attitude amidst their own anxieties and concerns for themselves and family, triumphed as they helped shield over 300 people in the local area. 130 new Crisis volunteers joined forces with Evergreen to help with doorstep prescription, food and hamper delivery, shopping or regular befriending phone calls. Many creative and fun ideas were initiated to ensure that people did not feel alone or forgotten. Last month, the Trust re-started its free of charge soup service. In partnership with Second Helpings and the Stamford Free Church they deliver soup to up to 20 people per day.

Like many charities, Evergreen will be facing the challenge of funding shortages this year. The trust began 15 years ago in quiet confidence and faith that as they stepped out to do what was right by their neighbours, the resources, personnel and finances would come. Nothing has changed, there is still a job to do and hopefully, moving forward they will continue to be supported in their quest to care for the vulnerable of Stamford.



## Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

Stamford's annual Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration was a pre-recorded event held on Wednesday, 27 January, 2021. There was an opening address by the Deputy Mayor of Stamford, Councillor Gloria Johnson, followed by the Laying of Daffodils. Kaddish was read by Graham Berkman and another prayer was read by Rev Andy Fyall, on behalf of Churches Together in Stamford. A two-minute silence was preceded by a bugle playing of the Last Post and followed by Reveille.

Once again, there was a poetry reading by Rob Elks, Stamford's very own Poet Laureate. Some of you may remember the poignant and very moving poetry from last year's event. Also, Schools and Colleges in Stamford submitted artwork (shown below), writings and creative pieces that were showcased in the video. You can view the event via the following link <https://youtu.be/o0MyyyiTquM>



# New Kitchen for Second Helpings

The main kitchen at Stamford Methodist Church, Barn Hill, is an essential facility for the entire community of Stamford and home to the food distribution charity, Second Helpings.



Established in 2015, **Second Helpings** is a project run in partnership with Stamford Methodist Church and the whole community. With the aim 'to feed bellies not bins', the project prevents surplus food gifted from local sources going to landfill by redistributing it within the community. Second Helpings also cook delicious and nutritious meals, made from the produce, which, prior to the first national lockdown this food was served in the Saturday Café, where young and old came together 'family style' to eat and catch up with friends.

Since March 2020, however, the kitchen has been used by Second Helpings cooks to make takeaway meals, which are distributed in the bunker and through partnerships with Support Our Stamford (SOS) and The Evergreen Trust. In the last year Second Helpings cooks have made over 10,861 meals prepared in the kitchen.

With so many within our community benefiting from the kitchen, the Stamford Methodist Church Property Committee alongside the Second Helpings Committee sought to refurbish the kitchen to ensure this essential facility is upgraded and able to serve the community for many years to come. So, with the generous help of ALLCHURCHES TRUST, Rotary Club of Stamford, St Martin's, The Harry Skells Trust, Lincolnshire Community Foundation, The Laing Family Trust and South Kesteven Community Fund, during the last two months of 2020, the kitchen was gutted and upgraded with brand new stainless steel catering quality fixtures and fittings. New equipment includes ovens and extractor unit, work tables, microwave and fridge, which will enable Second Helpings and other community organisations using the church facilities to cater for their group meetings and prepare restaurant quality meals.

Patricia Stuart-Mogg, Town Clerk, Stamford Town Council said: "The Harry Skells Trust was delighted to be able to assist by providing a grant of £3,000.00 towards the refurbishment of their kitchen to meet commercial standards. The support Second Helpings continues to provide is hugely appreciated by the Stamford community at large."



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

## Rotary and Covid-19

Like many organisations, the **Rotary Club of Stamford** has continued its business during lockdown by using Zoom to hold weekly meetings. Rather than circulating a monthly bulletin to sum up activities, a humorous weekly newsletter has served to keep everyone in touch and counter any grim news about the pandemic in the media.

President, Val Lofthouse, has arranged a number of coffee mornings and socially-distanced garden meetings raising over £300. These events in conjunction with a Christmas draw which made £265 was good news for local charities. Club members have also been encouraged to donate their unused lunch money to charity, so organisations such as the Evergreen Trust, Stamford Food Bank and Stamford Shakespeare will have benefitted.

To help draw attention to the international effort to eliminate polio, past President Fisher has once again organised the Stamford Rotary clubs' planting of crocuses around the town's green spaces in conjunction with Stamford in Bloom, so these beauties should be appearing very soon.

Rotary members have been lending a hand to friends at Stamford Inner Wheel by obtaining unwanted laptops or tablets for local schools to assist their pupils in home learning. Sadly, this year's competitions and activities organised for schools such as Young Chef, Young Artist and Young Photographer have been put on hold, but will resume next September. So, despite recent challenges, it is clear that the Rotary spirit of 'Service above Self' continues to thrive in Stamford.



## STC Skells Trust

The **Skells Trust** was established to administer money bequeathed to the Town by a former Mayor, Harry Skells. The Trust offers financial assistance in the form of grants to local organisations and projects which benefit Stamford and its residents as a whole. The Trust meets several times a year to consider grant applications. Application forms may be obtained from the Town Clerk: [townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

## 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.



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)