



BATTLE OF BRITAIN SERVICE & FREEDOM PARADE 19th SEPTEMBER 2021



September's parade marked the 60th anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of Stamford to RAF Wittering. The mayoral procession left the town hall and made its way through the historic Georgian streets to the United Reformed Church, where a special service celebrated the enduring relationship between the town and the Station. During his sermon, Reverend Dr Peter Stevenson spoke of the relationship between Stamford and RAF Wittering, embodied in the Stamford Spitfire which was paid for by the people of the town during World War II. RAF Wittering Station Commander Jez Case gave a reading, and there was an impassioned recitation of a special poem on the Battle of Britain by Rob Elks, Stamford's Poet Laureate. After the service, hundreds of Stamford's citizens lined Broad Street, where a series of rousingly familiar war-time tunes filled the air, courtesy of The Band of the Royal Air Force College Cranwell. RAF Wittering treated onlookers to a flawless display of precision drill, before the Mayor of

Stamford, Councillor Gloria Johnson led wreath-laying at the war memorial. 'Freedom of the Town' dates from the Roman times, when troops were not allowed to enter a town or city bearing arms without the express permission of the authorities. Nowadays, it is a ceremonial honour showing the ties between a borough and a particular regiment.



The Stamford Spitfire

In 1940 Stamford decided to buy its own spitfire, collection boxes were distributed all over the town and raised the £5000 required. This beautiful model is at Stamford Town Hall.



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From the Clerk's Desk



When a serving councillor steps down or is no longer able to continue, a council holds a by-election for the vacant seat in the Ward that the leaving councillor represented.

Registered voters are encouraged to vote for a new councillor to represent them and their Ward on the Town Council. Recently Stamford Town Council has had to hold four by-elections. Each seat was ably contested which demonstrated a healthy public wish to engage in council membership.

During my tenure as Town Clerk, this is the first occasion that Stamford Town Council has had female councillors serving as a majority on the council. Stamford Town Council has always upheld policies pursuing and supporting the important and essential elements of equality and diversity to ensure that it properly serves its wide-ranging electorate. Effective equality and diversity practices make sure that the services provided to the people of Stamford are fair, transparent and accessible to everyone. They determine that people are treated as equals, that people get the dignity and respect that they deserve, and that their differences are celebrated.

The warmest of welcomes to all of Stamford's new town councillors!

PSM

STAMFORD CIVIC SOCIETY SUMMER PARTY

On the 31st July, Stamford Civic Society resumed face-to-face membership meetings when it held its ever-popular Summer Party at St. Leonard's Priory.

Over 70 members gathered in the garden space outside the Priory to enjoy food and drink from 6-8pm. Fortunately for all those who attended, the weather stayed fine and the evening was pleasantly warm.

Stamford Mayor, Gloria Johnson, was cordially greeted as guest of honour, as was the Leader of SKDC, Councillor Kelham Cooke.

In his welcome speech, Civic Society Chairman Jim Mason said: "We last held this annual party in June 2019. For obvious reasons the 2020 event was cancelled, but we are delighted and relieved to actually meet with so many of our members again, after such a long time being only in remote contact. We look forward now to reviving our regular monthly programme of members' events."



Stamford Stitchers

Do you enjoy embroidery? Have you picked up needle and thread in lockdown? Would you like to meet with others who are interested in textile arts?

Stamford Stitchers group was formed in 2021 to replace the Rutland and Stamford Branch of the Embroiderers Guild. Meeting regularly on the third Thursday of the month in Stamford, there is a varied programme of talks, demonstrations, and mini workshops. These are presented and run by members or guest speakers, either in person or via Zoom.

Members enjoy access to a WhatsApp chat group where they can share what they have been up to, with a stitch and chat Zoom meeting in between the live meetings

They welcome anyone who has an interest in embroidery and textile arts, whether a beginner or more experienced stitcher.



For more information, please contact them on stamfordstitchers@gmail.com

Browne's Hospital "Windows 21" Project launched

Browne's Hospital Appeal, "Windows 21" was launched in June. The appeal will fund a project to encapsulate the stained glass windows in the Chapel at Browne's Hospital and preserve them for future generations. Browne's Hospital is an iconic building in Stamford which has stained glass dating from 15th Century. The glass is classified as being of national importance and is amongst the finest of its time. The windows date from 1475 and depict Saints, the Virgin Mary, and what is thought to be the face of the building's founder, the wool merchant William Browne. They are the work of a local craftsman named Glazier!

David Wallington, Curator of Browne's Hospital, said they were hoping to raise £100,000 to conserve the windows, having had a specialist survey carried out. The Almshouses at Browne's which offer flats, occupied by 13 residents and managed by Trustees are well-known to us, but the maintenance of this historic building, which is managed and funded separately, is often hidden and very costly.

Councillor Andy Croft, who is a board-member of the Browne's Hospital Trust, further explained the project. "The stained glass is recognised to be under threat from the environment in the next 30 years and it is recommended we encapsulate it; in modern terms to double-glaze the glass, to preserve its beauty but protect it from pollution and the elements."

The fundraising campaign has secured £10,000 from the town's Harry Skells Estate Trust, £5,000 from The Church of England's Church Care grants scheme, and £1,000 from Lincolnshire Historic Churches Trust. Other sources of national and local funding are being pursued.

The Browne's Hospital trustees, who are all volunteers, hope to be able to restart their tours of the building from July. They had proved extremely popular before the pandemic and are a way of raising money towards the upkeep of the building.

To become involved in supporting the "Windows 21" appeal, or to find out more about Browne's Hospital tours and visits, go to the website. A JustGiving page will be active shortly for public donations – this will be detailed on the website.

www.brownehospital.co.uk

or email David Wallington at :-
curator@brownehospital.co.uk



The windows date from 1475 and depict Saints, the Virgin Mary, and what is thought to be the face of the building's founder, the wool merchant William Browne.



Councillor Andy Croft, who is a member of the Trustees, launched the project with Curator David Wallington in June.

Another By-election for Stamford

Following the passing of Councillor Mike Exton, October saw the second by-election to be held in Stamford this year. Cllr Exton, was a long-standing member of South Kesteven District Council and Stamford Town Council, representing All Saints Ward, and his loss presented vacant seats at both. There was also another available seat on the town council, after Cllr Julie Clarke (St Mary's ward) stepped down in July.

SKDC Chief executive, Karen Bradford, said about the role: "Public service by being a district or town councillor allows people to raise issues they feel passionate about or use their skills to help shape the future of where they live.

An election date was set for Thursday, October 28th, and in accordance with local government regulations, candidates were each nominated by a proposer and seconder who are residents in the relevant ward. With four candidates standing for the District and five for town, the next month was set aside for campaigning by leafleting, door to door canvassing and on social media. Sadly, this process was interrupted by the death of MP Sir David Amess, which, out of respect, was marked with a temporary cessation of campaigns.

On the day of the by-election, even though turnout for both wards was only around 20 per cent of the voting population, voters were decisive and the following individuals were elected to office.



Stamford All Saints Ward, South Kesteven District Council

Richard Cleaver (Independent), 496 votes

Richard has lived in Stamford for over 20 years. In May, he was elected to represent Stamford West on Lincolnshire County Council. Since then, he has become aware that much more also needs to be done by conscientious hard-working councillors at district level. His priority is making sure that the people of Stamford are listened to and their concerns responded to. As a district councillor, he wants to improve the existing GP service in Stamford, ensure that development is sustainable and fit for purpose and ensure that all the town's transport needs are recognised. Richard believes in keeping local government local and opposes any single Lincolnshire super-council proposal which will further marginalise Stamford.



St Mary's Ward, Stamford Town Council

Lisa Brewin (Liberal Democrat), 379 votes

Lisa is a further education teacher, who has lived in Stamford since 2005. As a mother of two teenagers, She is keen to support local families with access to green space, support for local schools and better healthcare provision. She is also a supporter of local environmental projects, such as the Millstream Project and the Climate Action Group. This summer, she volunteered with Team Stamford to plant wildflowers on North Street and was a volunteer steward at the Stamford Diversity Festival.



All Saints North Ward, Stamford Town Council

Amanda Schonhut (Conservative), 255 votes

Amanda is a local independent business owner and wants to ensure our business community continues to thrive. A heritage photographer, she is passionate about conserving the town's historical importance for future generations, and that must include ensuring any development preserves that heritage. It is important to her that the community retains its healthcare services. She also believes families should be free to grow up in a safe and secure environment and that's why she supports our local police force. As a town councillor, Amanda wants to work with all other elected representatives to ensure Stamford remains the close-knit community it is famed for.

RUTLAND AND STAMFORD SOUND VOLUNTEER ROLES

We are seeking a volunteer who can help us to raise awareness of Rutland and Stamford Sound across the local area, with a view to maximising the number of people who are aware that there is a community radio station serving their area. As an online station, we also need to provide clear messaging on how to listen.

- Marketing Co-ordinator
- Volunteer Co-ordinator
- Communications and social media volunteer
- Fundraising researcher

Rutland and Stamford Sound is a not-for-profit community radio station serving Rutland, Stamford and the surrounding villages. The station launched in March 2021 and is seeking to recruit additional volunteers to help it build a sustainable future. For more information on Rutland and Stamford Sound and to listen live, visit: <https://www.rutlandandstamfordsound.co.uk/>

For more information on any of the above roles, or to apply, please contact David Lewis at Rutland and Stamford Sound, by email (david.lewis@rutlandandstamfordsound.co.uk) or by phone on 01780 721976.

News from Stamford Town Council's Climate Action Group



The UK has one of the lowest levels of tree cover in Europe - 13% vs an average of 37%. At a county level, Lincolnshire has one of the lowest levels of tree cover in England but, we're planning to change that fact with a town wide tree planting programme, in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council.


Trees are vitally important for so many reasons.

- They improve health and mental wellbeing
- They create vital habitats for wildlife – the Oak tree alone supports 2,300 different species
- They remove pollution from the air, and they are incredibly important for both climate change mitigation and adaptation
- They lock up carbon from the air in their branches, trunks and roots, helping to reduce levels of the greenhouse gas in our atmosphere.
- They will also be incredibly important to help us to adapt to the effects of global warming through flood prevention and reducing urban temperatures through shade and heat absorption.









Here in Stamford we're planning to plant trees in both street and green space areas, but planting them is only step one. We're asking local residents to adopt a tree. There's no money involved, all we ask is that you regularly water the tree and let us know if there are any issues with it.

If you know a great spot for trees, or if you'd like to adopt one please send a message to trees@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



HARRY BURTON: THE PHAROAH'S PHOTOGRAPHER

Famous Stamfordian photographer Harry Burton was born on September 13th, 1879, at 18 Burghley Lane. He was the fifth of 11 children to William and Annie Burton. According to the 1881 Census, William was a journeyman cabinet maker, joiner, carpenter and upholsterer. Harry was educated at St. Martin's School from the age of four, the family moving across to 5 Church Lane when he was about ten years old.

In 1890, the Burton family came into contact with Robert Henry Hobart Cust, a man of independent means and cousin to John Henry Cust, MP for Stamford. A philanthropist and art history scholar, Robert Cust offered to pay for Harry's education, moving the boy into his home for the duration of his schooling. Cust's area of expertise was Renaissance Art, and in 1896 when he moved to Florence to make a further study, he took Harry along as his secretary. It is during this period that Harry developed a keen interest in photography.



to abandon the project, when in November 1922, Carter finally discovered the elusive tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Realizing the importance of keeping a detailed photographic record of the excavation and its hoard of priceless artifacts, he engaged Harry to undertake the task. Harry's photographs were seen by millions of people around the world and caused an instant sensation. The images went on to influence contemporary culture and to this day are applauded for their vivid portrayal of this historic event.

During his time in Egypt, Harry met Minnie Duckett and married her in 1914. Minnie was his constant companion during his travels and she meticulously described the famed Tutankhamen 'dig' in her diary. Over the years, Harry returned to Stamford regularly, using his eldest brother John's home at 5 Belton Street as a base while in England. Harry died in 1940 at Asyut, Egypt, possibly due to diabetes, whilst Minnie died in Florence in 1957.

November 2022 marks the first centenary of the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb. To commemorate this, Stamford Civic Society will award Harry Burton a Blue Plaque in recognition of his contribution to the greatest discovery ever known in the field of Egyptology.



While living in Florence, Harry met wealthy American lawyer, Theodore Davis who was sponsoring various excavations in Egypt. When Cust returned to England in 1910, Harry decided to remain and travelled to Egypt as Davis's photographer. After some time, Harry was promoted to Director of Excavations and then later to Photographer in Chief for the Metropolitan

Museum's Egyptian Expedition. However, it was in 1922 that Harry embarked on what was to be the most important assignment of his career.

For some years, British aristocrat Lord Carnarvon had been funding an expedition led by archeologist Howard Carter to find the lost tomb of King Tutankhamen. After many unsuccessful attempts they were about

The Shack



The Shack is a purpose-built facility available to hire from Stamford Town Council. Situated on the edge of Stamford's Recreation Ground and adjacent to the Skate Park it is the perfect location for a community hub.

an ideal location for community groups etc to meet.

Measuring 18metres by 4.5 metres the facility includes a kitchenette, an attached private room and toilet and has wheelchair access. This is ideal for community groups weekly meetings, a business hub, theatrical rehearsals etc. The enclosed garden would also lend itself to children's birthday parties.

The hire charge starts from just £10 per hour, subject to terms and conditions. A £25 key deposit is required.


For further information please visit Stamford Town Council's website www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk - or to speak to the Civic Officer or a helpful member of the Town Hall team please telephone 01780 753808.



Tribute to Councillor Mike Exton, Stamford Town Councillor 1998 -2021

Former Stamford Town Mayor Mike Exton, died following a short illness, devoted much of his life to public service, both on Stamford Town Council and South Kesteven District Council.


Mike Exton was elected Mayor in 2003 after 14 years' service on the Council. His ill health did not curb his activities. He continued to contribute to Council issues right up until a few days of his passing. Despite rapidly failing health, he determined always to deliver for Stamford residents. Condolences of Stamford Town Council were extended to Cllr. Mike Exton's family, his colleagues and friends.




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





Stamford Town Council SKELLS TRUST

The Skells Trust was established to administer money bequeathed to the Town by a former Mayer, 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, email:
townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

STAMFORD TOWN HALL FREE GUIDED TOURS

TOURS INCLUDE THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR, CIVIC REGALIA, COURTROOM, MALCOLM SARGENT ROOM AND COUNCIL CHAMBER
EVERY FRIDAY FROM 03/09/21 TO 26/11/21 INCLUSIVE
11.00am (1 1/2 hours)
1.30pm (1 1/2 hours)

PRE-BOOKING IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH TOWN HALL GUIDELINES
Telephone 01780 753808 or email townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk to book a place

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

Aug 2021

Stamford Christmas Market

Sunday 28th November 2021
10am - 5pm

High Street
Ironmonger
Street
Broad Street

Santa's Grotto
Craft/Food Stalls
Festive Singers
Pennine
Bernese Dogs
Lots of
Xmas Goodies

Stamford Town Hall T: 01780 753808
E: townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk
W: www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

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For further information on any article please contact: Town Council T:- 01780 753808

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