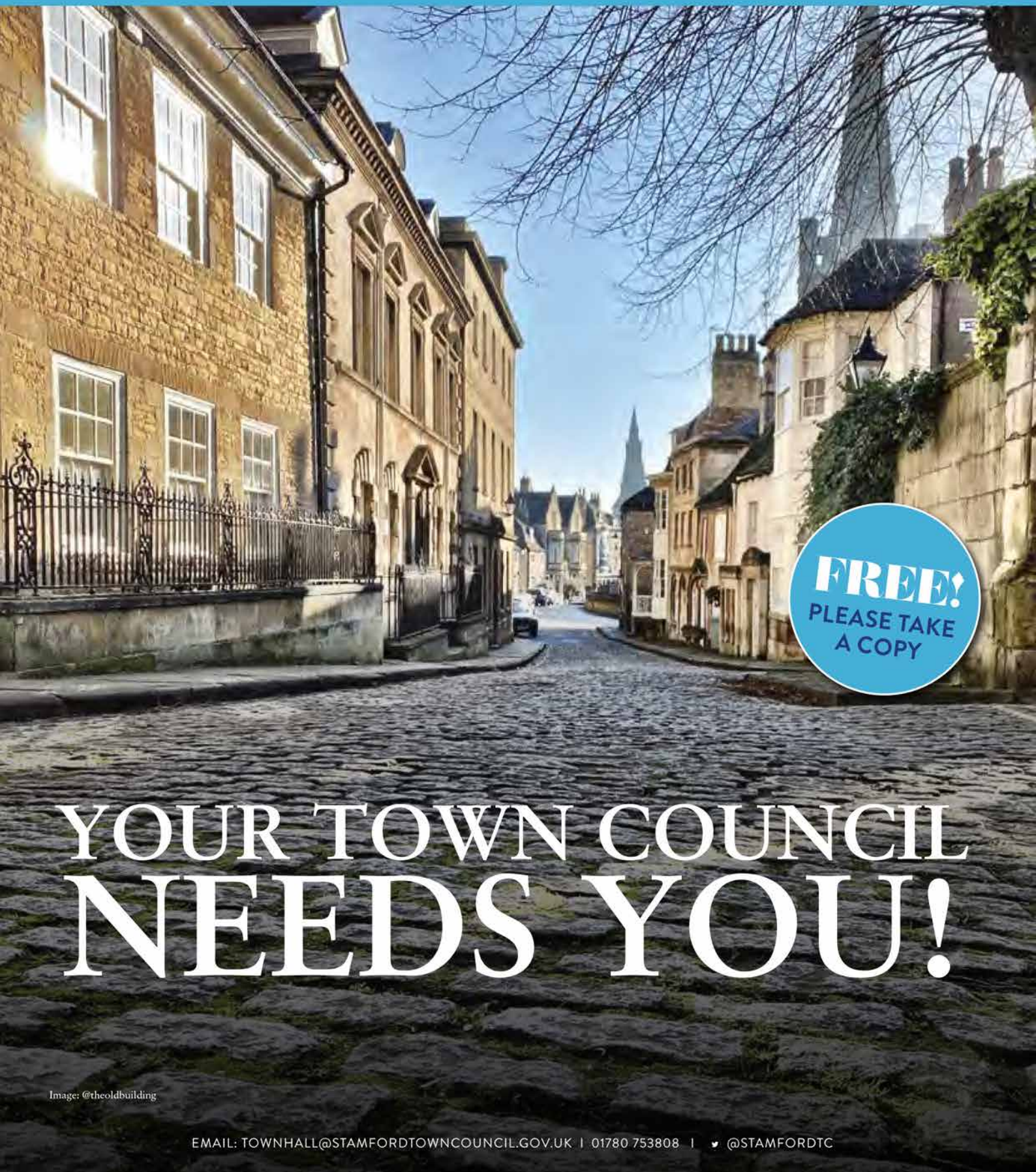




Stamford
Town Council

NEWS

INSIDE: WALKS | STAMFORD MILLSTREAM | ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR | STAMFORD'S YOUTH COUNCIL | ALLOTMENTS



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A COPY

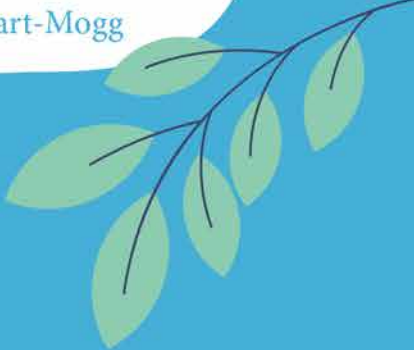
YOUR TOWN COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

Image: @theoldbuilding



FROM THE CLERK'S DESK

Patricia Stuart-Mogg



Over the years Stamford Town Council has focussed on working collaboratively with the other two principal Councils – Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and South Kesteven District Council (SKDC). During these challenging times cooperation between all these three tiers is even more important; so that partnership services may be delivered most cost effectively. Striving to focus on the needs of citizens is of paramount importance to Stamford Town Council.

Stamford Town Council continues to deliver grass verge cutting in Stamford, on behalf of LCC, enhancing the service to ensure that verges and open spaces are now fully cut and trimmed, not just cut to a metre from the kerb as hitherto. Recent discussions with SKDC will shortly result in the transfer of the Red Lion Square public conveniences to the Town Council. The Town Council is confident it will provide a much-improved facility and public service. Additionally, the Empingham Road and Uffington Road playing fields will also be coming under the ownership and management of Stamford Town Council.



Another initiative which the Town Council is currently exploring is the first Escape attraction in Stamford, to be constructed within the Town Hall – so watch this space! Listening to the feedback following the Spirit of Stamford consultation, the Council's decision to re-establish a museum in Stamford is considered paramount and the Council is confident that with the newly appointed Heritage and Cultural Officer in place, this will continue to progress with all due speed.

First Tier Councils such as Stamford are key to improving the quality of life in local communities, as they possess the vital local knowledge to ensure that the local economy develops and that public services are delivered successfully, efficiently and cost effectively.



Image: @thecoldbuilding

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

Spring is a time for renewal, and this spring, renewal comes to Stamford Town Council in the form of the local authority elections. Held once every four years, the elections offer the residents of Stamford an opportunity to elect Councillors from the local community to represent their civic interests and facilitate the running of the town.

Stamford Town Council is the executive body tasked by central government to oversee various aspects of the town's management and is given statutory powers to do so. Operating in conjunction with the District Council at Grantham and County Council at Lincoln, the Town Council remains first the tier of local government and closest to the people it serves.

The Council is composed of 21 councillors who represent Stamford's five neighbourhoods or wards – St. George's, All Saints' North, All Saints' South, St. Mary's, and St. John's.

All councillors are required to attend a 'full council' meeting once every month at the Town Hall to discuss council matters, while appointed councillors attend committee meetings during the month to progress initiatives, resolve conflicts and make recommendations.

In addition to civic duties, each Town Councillor acts as an advocate for their residents, keeping them informed on local issues and providing a voice to reach the people who make decisions which affect them. They will often lead on community campaigns to bring welcome change to the town, or conversely, to prevent any damaging initiatives.

Many town councillors are politically independent, but some do choose to represent a political party. In the course of their



Image: @theoldbuilding



work, a town councillor's activities may include; supporting local organisations, arranging civic events, managing amenities, and overseeing neighbourhood planning. It is an engaging and highly rewarding role which enables elected individuals to ensure well-being for their community and contribute to the ongoing success of the town.

On May 4th, Stamford Town Council will be 'renewing' itself at the local elections and are very keen that you should get involved. People from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they live in are being encouraged to put themselves forward for election – and we would like to invite you to join them. Councillors make a huge difference to the quality of life of local people and how local issues are dealt with. If you are passionate about your local community, the Town Council needs you!

Anyone who is interested in standing for election as a town councillor should email towndclerk@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk, or call 01780 759322. Closing date for applications is Tuesday 4th April.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ALSO NEEDS YOUR HELP

Residents of South Kesteven will be going to the polls on May 4th to elect an intake of new district councillors. As its title suggests, South Kesteven District Council administers a large district within the county of Lincolnshire and exercises greater power than town and parish councils. It is composed of 56 ward-elected councillors, with Stamford electing eight of those. Affiliation to a political party is usual at this level of government, although there are also candidates who stand independently.

The full district council meets monthly, with smaller, specifically tasked committees meeting at other times during the month. A district councillor's role, while similar to a town councillor's, is wider in scope and influence. Their responsibilities include; housing, planning, licensing, parks, leisure, environmental health, waste management, and provision of community services. They will often work in partnership with the town council to address more local issues. Indeed, many councillors sit on both councils, providing a valuable link between the two authorities.

If you are interested in standing for election as a district councillor, please email election@southkesteven.gov.uk



Time to get walking again!

Image: @theoldbuilding

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again. But where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Lincolnshire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/lincs features many walks that can be downloaded and printed free of charge. There are also books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (who maintains the website) said *'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Lincolnshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'*.

With walks from half a mile to over twelve miles long, and a suitability rating for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

Stamford Junior Knights Basketball Club

Stamford Junior Knights Basketball Club are celebrating the start of their new girls only session, thanks to a donation towards the cost of the new basketballs needed from Stamford Town Council.

Husband and wife team, Adam Maddock and Jordane Edwards-Maddock established the non-profit club in April 2019, with a one-hour session and just 10 children attending. Aably assisted by a wonderful team of volunteers, the club has



gone from strength to strength and has grown tremendously. This year, including the new girls only session they now have almost 100 children regularly attending. The club was also awarded the Basketball England East Midlands Community Club Of The Year - a testament to the whole community being involved with the club from sponsors and coaches, to parents and players.

www.sjkbasketball.com/  [stamfordjuniorknights](https://www.instagram.com/stamfordjuniorknights)

Mutts Nutts Rescue

The Mutts Nutts Rescue is a small, specialist rescue facility local to Stamford and Rutland, whose mission is to 'help the elderly and the terminally ill with their pets when they can no longer manage alone'.

A registered charity for more than 10 years, Mutts Nutts had existed before that, helping other local rescues behind the scenes with their services. As such, they have both the experience, and the track record to offer a service that is second to none in the local area.

They are also keen to make the distinction that they help people, as much as they help animals – a rare combination that distinguishes them in the world of animal rescue!

Contact us on 01780 654072
www.themuttsnuttsrescue.org



Stamford Millstream Improvement Project

East Mercia Rivers Trust

The Stamford Millstream Improvement Project, targeting approximately 55 meters of the millstream downstream of the Lammas Bridge in Stamford Town Meadows, was a new addition to the very positive work undertaken in this watercourse during the years by the Stamford Millstream Group – a group of local residents, part of the Stamford Civic Society – with guidance from the Welland Rivers Trust (now East Mercia Rivers Trust) and the Environment Agency, and support from the Stamford Town Council and South Kesteven District Council.

In November 2022, East Mercia Rivers Trust worked with Lions Environmental Contractors to increase the habitat for wildlife and amenity value of this part of the millstream. Coir roll planted with native British species was installed along the concrete bank, which will not only greatly improve habitat for wildlife, but also soften the views and give the bank a more natural appearance. When established, the plants will absorb nutrients from the waters and trap sediments, contributing to improved water quality. The opposite bank, previously damaged, was regraded to create a smoother gradient to the stream so that people can get closer to the water safely. The small weir on the watercourse was replaced with a rock ramp, a much more natural-looking structure



View of the millstream from the Lammas bridge before the works, showing bare concrete bank on Bath Row and damage on the opposite bank.



Rock ramp that replaced the small weir at this location.



View of the millstream from the Lammas bridge after the works, showing planted coir roll installed on the concrete bank (with temporary protective structure) and recently regraded banks.

which will allow for fish passage while maintaining broken, oxygenated water, further contributing to water quality. Upstream of the rock ramp, gravel was added to the watercourse bed and a small gravel “beach” area was also created, so children can paddle in the water.

Previous to the start of the works, EMRT conducted a public consultation asking the people of Stamford for their views on the proposed project. This gathered over 50 generally very encouraging responses. Positive feedback was also received during the works and following completion.



Work in progress: coir roll being installed to form a berm by the new rock ramp.



Gravel “beach” just upstream of the new rock ramp.



All the Fun of the Fair

Red Lion Square c1904



This March, Stamford will come alive with the smell of candy floss and the screams of youngsters daring to experience the latest white-knuckle rides. The streets will be illuminated by multi-coloured lights and the town abuzz with people from far and wide. Once again the Mid-Lent fair will roll into town, just as it has for many centuries, although not in the same shape or form.

The fair's exact origins are not known but it is thought to pre-date the Norman Conquest. It was very different to the one we know today, essentially starting its life as a trading fair. Such was its fame that it attracted merchants from as far afield as Italy and the Baltics, bringing with them spices, wines and silks. During the medieval period Stamford was internationally renowned for its production of fine cloth. The quality was so high, it was purchased by the King's servants for use in the royal household. On the back

of the Mid-Lent fair came the great cattle and sheep fairs of the town.



Along with the fairs arrived the jugglers and strolling players, who eventually would turn the fair into the one we know today. As the trading fairs started to dwindle, the pleasure aspect of the fair took over, mainly consisting of side shows, throwing games and games of chance. The biggest leap forward was during the age of steam, when rides became larger and more prominent. The introduction of electric lighting was another innovation, not only adding to the glitz and glamour, but also enabling faster rides to be produced.

Like most things, the fairground could not stand still and has moved with the times. One thing remains constant, however, and that is the fun that can be had. For further reading on both the history of the towns markets and various fairs, please see *'Stamford Fairs and Markets'* by Keith Hansell.

Volunteers sought to support service for grieving people

National healthcare and bereavement charity Sue Ryder is on the search for volunteers in Stamford and surrounding villages to help set up a new local initiative offering vital support to residents who are living with bereavement.

The charity is opening a series of Grief Kind Spaces across the country in 2023, with the first in Lincolnshire opening in Stamford in the coming months. But to get the grief initiative off the ground, the charity needs local volunteers, who would be willing to listen and support people in their own communities who may be struggling to come to terms with their loss.

Sue Ryder's Grief Kind Spaces will be free weekly drop-in sessions, run by trained volunteers who will provide a safe and supportive space for people who have experienced a bereavement to come together. Sue Ryder hopes the Grief Kind Spaces will go some way to reducing the isolation and loneliness experienced by people after somebody close to them has died.

Tina Parkinson from Sue Ryder is spearheading the development of Grief Kind Spaces. She said, "Almost every home in the UK has, or will experience the loss of someone. Yet, our research tells us two out of three people who are grieving are still not getting the support they need." Tina continued, "We spoke to 8,000 people who have been bereaved and many of them told us the support they really wanted was to meet and talk to others who had also been bereaved. That's why we're launching our Grief Kind Spaces."

"However, to open a Grief Kind Space here in Stamford, Lincolnshire we need local residents to volunteer with us," added Tina. "All volunteers joining us will be offered training which will equip them in their role. If you are interested in joining us in bringing Grief Kind Spaces to Stamford please get in touch. You don't need to have experience or have done anything like this before - just have a willingness to support others."

The Sue Ryder Grief Kind Space in Stamford will be held at Mindspace at 39 Broad Street in the town and will be a community service offering a trusted, safe place for people in the local area to meet and talk about their bereavement. To register your interest in becoming a Grief Kind volunteer in Stamford please email GriefKindSpaces@sueryder.org, call 07583 020594 or visit sueryder.org/GKVolunteer

For anyone who is grieving, Sue Ryder offers free online support at sueryder.org/grief

Further details on Lincolnshire's first Grief Kind Space will be shared soon.



Stamford Youth Council

Stamford Town Council now has a vibrant and enthusiastic Youth Council

Meeting twice every school term, the Youth Council comprises young people across the town from a range of different schools, all with an interest in making a difference and ensuring that younger voices are heard in the town.

So far, the council has looked at what powers the town council has and the various committees of the council. They have shared their ideas of what places matter to them in Stamford and what issues are important to them. The Youth Council will be putting together a mission statement based on the ideas contributed by the members.



They have shared their ideas of what places matter to them in Stamford and what issues are important to them.

Key things which members of the youth council would like to see more of are transportation links, student discounts in shops, food suitable for ethnic minorities, the creation of a social hub, better provision of sporting equipment and better integration between schools. There is also a concern that there is too much of a focus on Stamford being a tourist destination rather than a place where people live.

The next meeting is planned for Wednesday 8th March and anyone 18 and under who wants to find out more can call the town hall on 01780 753808 or email civicofficer@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Holocaust Memorial Day

A service took place at St Michaels church yard to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The service was led by Rev Andrew Hollins of Stamford Methodist Church.

Graham Berkman of Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community recited the Kaddish, a 13th Century prayer.

Scott Coe, Stamford's poet laureate, read a moving poem titled Scratch Marks on a Wall, which touched upon the atrocities millions of Jewish people faced in Nazi concentration camps.

Following the service The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Andrew Croft invited everyone back to the town hall to view an art exhibition themed 'Ordinary People'. Stamford College, Malcolm Sargent Primary School and St Gilberts Church Of England Primary School all contributed artwork.



Councillor Croft added "As Deputy Mayor of Stamford, it is a great privilege to attend this year's Holocaust Memorial Day. It was so nice to see so many people in attendance, this event has steadily gathered momentum year on year. I would like to thank Reverend Andrew Hollins, and Graham Barkman from the Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community for making this event possible but also a very deserved thank you to Max Sawyer who started this initiative many years ago."



STAMFORD TOWN HALL
FREE GUIDED TOURS

EVERY FRIDAY

Tours include:
The Mayor's Parlour, Civic Regalia, Courtroom, Malcolm Sargent Room and Council Chamber

11.00am & 1.30pm (tour lasts a maximum of one and a half 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

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

Climate Emergency Declared – So What Next?

In September 2019, South Kesteven District Council declared a Climate Emergency, as did Stamford Town Council shortly thereafter.

But what does Climate Emergency mean for us? And what practical action can we take?

On Wednesday 15th March, Stamford Climate Action Group will host a public meeting at Stamford Town Hall. This free event is for anyone living or working in the area who wants to know more about how climate change will impact our community and what we can do to help us prepare.

Our key speaker will be John Grant from Sheffield Hallam University, a specialist in Sustainability, Low Carbon & Climate Resilience. He will discuss his own experience of climate change – from irrefutable proof of the issues, to what he hoped would be a global rallying call, and his desire for greater action.

There will also be the opportunity to put climate-related questions to a panel of local experts, including Martin Ballard, Jo Kemp and Kelly Greer.

Martin, Group Head of Environment for the Wates Construction Business, has thirty years' experience addressing sustainability issues, especially regarding water, biodiversity, waste and carbon. He has led the Society for the Environment's Soils and Stones Report which sets out legal alignments and soil health improvements.

Jo, Owner and Chef at the Blonde Beet, has delivered sustainability engagement and behaviour change programmes with UK and international universities and colleges for eleven years before setting up The Blonde Beet, Stamford's plant-based restaurant with sustainability at its roots in 2020.



Jo Kemp



Kelly Greer



Martin Ballard



John Grant

Kelly, Head of Research at ACE Research, has worked on decentralised energy for twenty years, including with National Energy Action, leading projects to alleviate fuel poverty. She has also recently installed energy efficiency measures, photovoltaic panels and battery storage in her own home, and is an avid gardener and chicken keeper.



There will also be the opportunity to put climate-related questions to a panel of local experts, including Martin Ballard, Jo Kemp and Kelly Greer.



Doors open at 6:30 pm. Free places for this event can be booked by contacting the Town Hall (townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.org.uk or 01780 753808), by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/climate-emergency-declared-what-next-tickets-521135529397>, or by the QR code. Questions for the panel can be submitted in advance or at the door. Please join us and make your voice heard.

Town council welcomes new museum officer

Like a swan returning to the town's river after winter, the Stamford Museum project continues to move forward – serene on the surface, while below the water line there is much activity.

As mentioned in the last issue, Museum Accreditation, which ensures proper governance and future planning for the proposed museum, is now well underway. In addition, negotiations are being carried out for the transfer of the Museum collection, currently administered by Lincolnshire County Council, into the ownership of Stamford Town Council. Lastly, plans for an 'Escape Room' attraction to be created in the Town Hall cellars are proceeding full steam ahead.

Of all recent Museum news, however, the most exciting has been the appointment of a Heritage & Cultural Officer. This key role encompasses management of the museum collection and staff, planning of exhibitions and events, co-ordinating outreach – and most importantly, providing the vision to deliver an innovative and outstanding heritage offering in Stamford.

The position was advertised through Museum Development East Midlands and the Association of Independent Museums' web forum. A wide response was received, but following interviews with a number of exceptional applicants, the unanimous choice of the selection panel was candidate Victoria Newton. Welcoming her to the new role, we asked Victoria if she would share a few words to introduce herself:



“

I have always loved history and the meanings connected to objects and places, and I knew early on that I wanted to work in museums. I went to school in Stamford, so I know the local area really well and I now live in Woodnewton with my two boys.

I took my undergraduate degree at Durham University in Ancient History and Latin and then went on to Leicester University to complete an MA in Museum Studies. My very first museum job was cataloguing The Royal Photographic Society collections in Bath. I was Assistant Keeper at Bristol University's Theatre Collection, Keeper of Archaeology at Newport Museum, South Wales and Arts Heritage and Tourism Manager at Boston Borough Council. Most recently, I was Audience Development Manager at Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle.

I have worked with a wide variety of collections in a mixture of heritage locations – I've curated a lot of objects and run a lot of exhibitions and events!

I feel incredibly lucky to be entrusted with the next phase of Stamford Town Council's plans to re-establish and develop the town's museum and create the Escape Rooms. I fully believe that museums and heritage, the stories that collections hold, and the way in which people connect with all of them are the building blocks of a thriving and engaged community. I look forward to this new chapter and hope to make a positive impact for the town and its residents.

Regards,
Victoria

”

Looking for an allotment?

Are you looking for a green space to grow your own in Stamford? Look no further than our Town Council allotments! We currently have vacancies available for the upcoming year, with prices starting at just £10.40 per year, plus water costs with a variety of sizes.

Our allotments run on an annual term from October to September, with the option to renew at the end of each year. This means that you can enjoy your plot for as long as you want, as long as you renew!

We have six locations across the town, located at Uffington Road, Priory Road, Queens Walk and Water Furlong, so you can choose the site that's most convenient for you. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner just starting out, our allotments are the perfect place to get your hands dirty and grow your own produce. You can grow a range of fruit, vegetables, and herbs - and even some flowers to brighten up your plot.

In addition to the benefits of fresh produce, our allotments also offer a chance to connect with like-minded people in the community.

You'll have the opportunity to share tips and tricks with other gardeners, and make new friends in the process.

So why not join our community of green-fingered gardeners and rent an allotment plot today? Complete one of our allotment application forms, which can be found on our website www.stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk to get started on your gardening journey.



“Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner just starting out, our allotments are the perfect place to get your hands dirty and grow your own produce.”

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



SKELLS TRUST

The Skills 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, email: townhall@stamfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Upcoming Events



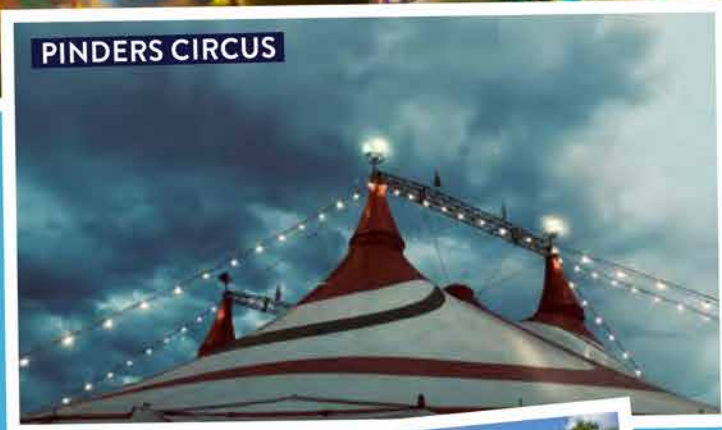
Monday 20th March 2023
THE MID-LENT FAIR
Within the Town

Monday 8th May 2023
**CORONATION
CELEBRATION**
Recreation Ground

27th March 2023
TOWN MEETING
Stamford Town Hall

11th April 2023
PINDERS CIRCUS
Recreation Ground

7th May 2023
THE GARDEN SHOW
Meadows



Stamford
Town Council