



# BRIDGING the GAP

## Stratford-upon-Avon

ISSUE 3

Quarterly Newsletter from Stratford-upon-Avon TOWN COUNCIL

## DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?



Courtesy of Civic Photographer, Simon Foster.

**Flooding is a natural process that can happen suddenly. For those affected, it is devastating. You can't prevent flooding, but you can prepare for it.**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to protect yourself and your family, so if you live in a flood risk area, do what you can now to prepare for a flood. Don't wait until it happens, you may not have time.

Following severe flooding in 1998, the Environment Agency established a National Flood Warning Centre to provide a central focus for improving flood forecasting, flood warning and communication. To find out if you are at risk from flooding, use the Environment Agency Floodplain maps on their website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) there is also a Floodline telephone number which is a 24 hour, 7 days a week facility which provides current flood warning information and general advice. Calls are charged at the local rate.

### Simple Steps to Prepare for Flooding

- Know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water mains supplies
- **Prepare a flood kit of essential items:**
  - ✓ A torch with spare batteries
  - ✓ A wind up or battery radio
  - ✓ Mobile phone
  - ✓ Warm, waterproof clothing, wellington boots, rubber gloves and blankets
  - ✓ A first aid kit and prescription medication
  - ✓ Wash kit and essential toiletries including toilet paper

- ✓ Bottled water and non perishable foods
- ✓ Baby food and baby care items
- ✓ Important contact telephone numbers
- ✓ Copies of your home insurance documents and other important documents
- ✓ Camera to record damage for insurance purposes
- ✓ Emergency cash
- Know who to contact and how
- Think about what possessions you can move to safety – don't forget those priceless photograph albums
- Think about what you want to move to safety during a flood, including out door pets
- Check your insurance cover

### If floods are forecast:

- Listen out for warnings on local radio and TV and phone Floodline on 0845 988 1188
- Move pets, vehicles, valuables, other sentimental items and important documents to safety
- Prepare your supply of sandbags – The Town Council has a supply of these but in an emergency, supplies are soon exhausted. If none are available from the Council (Tel: 01789 269332) purchase a supply from local builder's merchants. In an emergency, create your own from carrier bags or pillow cases just slightly over half filled with sand or garden soil
- Prepare food that can be eaten without cooking; obtain clean bottled water and a supply of emergency clothing
- Charge your mobile phone

### If floods are imminent

- Do as much as you can in daylight. Doing anything in the dark will be much harder, especially if the electricity fails
- Alert your neighbours, particularly the elderly
- Put sandbags, flood boards, and airbrick covers in place – but make sure your

property is ventilated. Put the plug in all sinks and baths to prevent flood water backing up the pipe

- Be prepared to switch off gas and electricity (get help if needed). Unplug electrical items and move them upstairs, if possible
- Co-operate with the Emergency Services and local authorities – you may be evacuated to a rest centre

### STAY SAFE

- Call 999 if life is at risk but only in an emergency. (Emergency services will already know about the flood)
- Do not be tempted to go and watch the water rising, it is dangerous and you will be putting yourself and possibly others at risk
- Listen to the local news and to the emergency services who will advise if evacuation is necessary and check on elderly relatives and neighbours
- Avoid contact with floodwater if possible – it may be contaminated with sewage
- Don't eat any food that may have been contaminated by floodwater. Only use crockery, cutlery and work surfaces once they've been disinfected
- Do not let children play in floodwater
- Wash cuts and grazes and cover with waterproof plaster
- Don't try to walk or drive through floodwater – six inches of fast flowing water can knock you over and two feet will float your car. Manhole covers may have come off and there may be other hazards you cannot see
- Never try to swim through fast flowing water – you may get swept away or be struck by an object in the water
- Don't walk on riverbanks or cross river bridges if possible, they may collapse in extreme situations
- Avoid electric shocks – keep extension cables out of water and wear rubber boots
- Gas and electricity supplies should remain switched off until a qualified professional...

**CONTINUED INSIDE...**





TOWN HALL

## FLOODING continued

...has checked the system thoroughly. Wiring appliances and pipe-work should also be inspected for safety and efficiency. Call the National Grid immediately in the event of a gas leak – **0800 111 999**

The Town Council has set up an Emergency Committee to liaise with the emergency services during floods or other emergencies. Each Ward has a representative who will be on hand to help or advise in times of emergency:

<b>Alveston:</b>	
Cllr Mick Crutchley	<b>01789 267564</b>
<b>Avenue &amp; New Town:</b>	
Cllr Maureen Beckett	<b>01789 299347</b>
Cllr Juliet Short	<b>01789 294247</b>
<b>Guild &amp; Hathaway:</b>	
Cllr Sheila Sandle	<b>01789 268322</b>
<b>Mount Pleasant:</b>	
Cllr Chris Wall	<b>07969 239753</b>
Town Council:	<b>01789 269332</b>

The Council would welcome willing volunteers from each Ward who are prepared to be registered contacts in times of emergency to inform and communicate with the emergency services and the community. If you feel you can help and want to find out more, or you would like to see a copy of the Town Council's Emergency Plan, please contact the Town Clerk: **01789 269332**.

**REMEMBER, it is your responsibility to protect yourself and your family. Don't leave it too late.**

11-14 Sep  
2008

## HOTTING UP FOR HODS...



heritage open days

The Town Council has participated in national Heritage Open Days since 2005 and the event just keeps getting bigger and better with ten other heritage organisations forming the 'Stratford-upon-Avon Heritage Trail':

It is still surprising how many local people have not visited Stratford-upon-Avon's beautiful Georgian Town Hall in Sheep Street. It's certainly worth a visit this year, not only for its historic value but also to see the wonderful display of Royal Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet costumes, now in private ownership and rarely seen outside performance.

To launch the event, Council is delighted to welcome international pianist, Viv McLean whose inspiring concert programme on Wednesday 10 September at 7.30 p.m. celebrates the wonders of dance through music – by ticket only from the Civic Hall Box Office Tel: 01789 207100 - £10.00 in advance, £12.00 on the door.

Heritage Open Days are open to the general public from Friday 12, Saturday 13 September, 2008 - 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and Sunday 14 September, 2008 – 11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. (Disabled facilities available).

Take the opportunity to find out about and enjoy:

- Royal Ballet and Birmingham Royal Ballet Costume Displays
- Ballet Lecture/Class by esteemed dance and culture studies director, Mrs Natalie Rogers P.G.CE. BA(Hons) from the University of Surrey on Thursday evening only 7.30pm – 9.00pm
- The Beadle and Macebearers – who are they, what do they do?
- Stratford Society Exhibition
- Serving Councillors on hand to guide and answer questions
- Refreshments
- Music
- 'The Town Council in Shakespeare's time' – Talk by Archivist, Mairi Macdonald (1.00 pm Saturday and Sunday only - lasts approximately half an hour)

When finished here, why not carry on with the heritage trail and visit all the other historic buildings:

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Guild Chapel, Holy Trinity Church, Masonic Hall, Royal Shakespeare Company, King Edward VI School, St Andrew's Church and School - Shottery, Stratford-upon-Avon Girls Grammar School - Shottery, the jail in Robert Lunn & Lowth.....

**All are open and it's FREE! (times may vary)**

Visit parts of Stratford's Heritage not normally open to the general public - FREE OF CHARGE

## POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!

Local resident, Mr George Sprawson lovingly fashioned a very special pillar box which appears outside the Town Hall in the run up to Christmas each year.

Fortunately, the calamitous closure of sub post offices does not affect this service. The magical and unseen collection of letters to Father Christmas occurs daily and each and every letter receives a personal response from the man himself.

The run up to Christmas is obviously his busiest time, so FC has asked that children 'post early for Christmas'. The service will start on Monday 17 November and he says he's 'sorry' but he 'just won't have time' to respond to letters if posted after Wednesday 17 December.

Such is the realism of the pillar box that last year it attracted genuine GPO mail. It's the sign of the times that try as he might, Father Christmas just hasn't got the resources to pay your gas bill!

## SOME CHRISTMAS PARKING CHEER

Stratford-upon-Avon District Council has agreed to waive parking charges in all town centre car parks within Stratford-upon-Avon, with the exception of Bridgefoot, from 4pm until Midnight on the Christmas Lights Switch-On night, 27 November, 2008 and from 6pm until Midnight on the other four Thursday evenings in the run up to Christmas.

## HANDY FIX.IT

The Gardening and Handy Person scheme is available to residents over the age of sixty, the disabled and their carers.

- Minor plumbing and carpentry
- New and replacement locks
- Grab rails
- Key safes
- Painting and decorating
- Shelves and curtain rails

All the jobs are carried out by trades people directly employed by Age Concern Warwickshire.

**For further information please contact Age Concern Warwickshire on Tel: 01926 458125**



## A VENUE OF DISTINCTION FOR EVERY OCCASION

Ballroom, Town Hall



Stratford-upon-Avon's Town Hall has been standing on its original site since 1634 and is situated in the very heart of this historic town of world wide acclaim. It houses not only the Town Council and its offices, but provides a superb venue for a variety of events.

The Town Hall can be hired by residents or visitors to the town, and the Hall rings to the sound of music and laughter, merriment and dance. Sober occasions such as memorial services and funerals are also accommodated with sobriety and respect.

The principal rooms are all licensed for marriages and other civil ceremonies and their variety and diversity makes this an ideal venue for weddings of distinction, from a grand affair for approximately 200 guests to an intimate affair with just two witnesses.

Christenings, conferences, corporate dinners, and coffee mornings, all have been accommodated at remarkably realistic prices for a venue such as this.

Please telephone Emma Evans on a Monday or Tuesday for further information, or for an appointment should you wish to view the Hall:  
Tel: 01789 269332.

## A COMMUNITY VENUE TOO

Hiring the Town Hall is remarkably inexpensive for such a magnificent venue. The hire of the hall increased by 46% last year and the Town Council actively markets the Hall commercially in order to recoup, as far as possible, some of its running and maintenance costs.

However, the Town Council is also very conscious that the Town Hall should be a venue available to all. Consequently, there are twelve occasions every year that are set aside for local societies and charitable organisations to use the Hall absolutely FREE, making it ideal for 'Coffee Mornings' or 'Bring and Buy Sales' etc. To find out more, please contact Emma Evans on a Monday or Tuesday on Tel: 01789 269332 but be prepared, there is a waiting list.

## THE TOWN COUNCIL AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEES - HOW IT OPERATES

The Town council conducts its business via four Standing Committees which report to Council. There are also eight sub-committees/working parties which report to the various Standing Committees. To get to know what each committee does, the newsletters will spotlight on the responsibilities and serving members of each Standing Committee.

If you have an issue that you consider should be an Agenda item for the Town Council, then please discuss this with a member of the Council or let the Town Clerk know. Better still, as all Town Council and Standing Committee Meetings are open to the general public why not come and voice your ideas or concerns personally during Public Participation at the start of every meeting. Only Agenda items can be discussed at the meeting, but can be put on the Agenda for a future meeting if necessary.

### General Purposes Committee

This committee has a wide agenda. It will consider matters ranging from a request for a litter bin or bus shelter, to awarding grants for special projects and events. It is generally responsible for the environment, including the River Avon mooring, the American Fountain, open spaces, street furniture and amenities.

It also considers matters relating to Burial in 21st Century, the cemetery and its chapel, Holy Trinity Churchyard, the Garden of Remembrance and Alveston War Memorial. It has responsibility for the general upkeep and repair of the Town Hall, its accommodation and facilities as a venue to be hired and as office accommodation for its staff.

#### Members of GP:

Chairman:	Councillor Jenny Fradgley	Tel: 01789 262522
Deputy:	Councillor Michael Crutchley	Tel: 01789 267564
Councillors:	Donna Barker	
	John Bicknell	
	Keith Lloyd	
	Sheila Sandle	
	Joy Seaman	
	Juliet Short	
	Clive Thomas	
	Chris Wall	

#### Sub-Committees reporting to GP:

- Cemetery Working Party
- Town Hall Commercial Management Committee
- Heritage Open Days and Heritage Trail Committee
- Emergency Plan Committee
- Christmas Lights Switch-On Celebrations Committee

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you want to feature in the regular 'What's On' spot in the next edition of 'Bridging the Gap', please e-mail your advertisement to [info@stratforduponavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@stratforduponavontowncouncil.gov.uk) by 17 December 2008. Regrettably, as space is limited, we cannot guarantee your entry but we shall do our very best to include it.

## AT LAST WE'VE BEEN LISTENED TO

The Town Council was always opposed to the proposed new pedestrian and cycle bridge across the River Avon. As it agrees in principle that Lucy's Mill Bridge should be replaced or refurbished, it is now lobbying Warwickshire County Council to concentrate on making it 'user friendly' for all people of this town.





TOWN HALL

# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COUNCIL

There are eighteen members on the Town Council and to enable you to get to know them better, we profile one of them in each newsletter.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs Fradgley was born in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire but lived as a child in Sutton Coldfield and well remembers frequent visits to Stratford-upon-Avon.



Councillor, Jenny Fradgley

She married her husband, Ian in 1969 and settled in London. Jenny states that it was "a bit like coming home" when they moved to Stratford-upon-Avon thirty years ago. Ian and Jenny have two children, their daughter choosing to return here after university with her partner, whilst their son still prefers the 'Big City'.

After seeing her children safely into local schools, Jenny was appointed to Stratford High School as an art teacher, after taking an active role in setting

up summer playschools and working at Tyler Street Youth Centre. She is proud to have played a part in the school's development over the past 25 years and is currently one of its Governors. Councillor Mrs Fradgley was mainly involved with the sixth form, working with students and local agencies to develop student's confidence and an awareness of their responsibilities to the wider community

Jenny loves Stratford-upon-Avon which she sees as a vibrant, exciting town. She believes that although the town is conscious of its history, it also moves with the times. The Deputy Mayor is mindful that her position on the Town Council enables her to be involved with this unique town's struggle to maintain the balance between tradition and developing and growing into the future. Jenny was first co-opted to Council but was returned as a liberal democrat candidate in the Guild & Hathaway Ward by a large majority in the May 2006 election. At this time, she was also elected to the District Council. She serves on the Town Council's Finance Committee and

is Chairman of the General Purposes Committee. She was appointed as one of the three Council representatives to the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Trust and as the Council representative to the Alveston Relief in Need Charity. Jenny is also a member of the Stratford Society and was appointed to the board of South Warwickshire Tourism and the Depot.

Her love of art, both paintings and art history was instrumental to her chosen career. Socially, Jenny and her husband enjoy eating with friends in the town's many local restaurants. They are keen visitors to the theatre and cinema and when they have a free weekend like to walk both locally and further a field. Jenny also enjoys her cats and her garden.

## COUNCIL CONTACTS

### Alveston

Cllr Michael Crutchley	01789 267564
Cllr Dr Rev Roy Lodge MBE	01789 204850
Cllr Joan McFarlane	01789 209033
Cllr Joy Seaman	01789 204633
Cllr Vince Seaman	01789 204633

### Avenue & Newtown

Cllr Donna Barker	01789 267216
Cllr Maureen Beckett	01789 299347
Cllr Keith Lloyd	01789 551856
Cllr Bill Lowe	01789 550767
Cllr Juliet Short	01789 294247

### Guild & Hathaway

Cllr Kate Dill-Russell	01789 205819
Cllr Bill Dowling	01789 293591
Cllr Jenny Fradgley	01789 266369
Cllr Sheila Sandle	01789 268322
Cllr Clive Thomas	01789 551648

### Mount Pleasant

Cllr John Bicknell	01789 550203
Cllr Joyce Taylor	01789 268491
Cllr Chris Wall	07969 239753

Town Council Office 01789 269332  
info@stratforduponavontowncouncil.gov.uk  
www.stratforduponavontowncouncil.com

## WARD WATCH SUPERSEDED

In issue 2, we reported on the success of Ward Watch, originally a Town Council initiative, which identified and directed problem issues straight to the appropriate councillor, officer or representative responsible from the various participating stakeholders.

Building on this success, the three local authorities have come up with a new opportunity to engage with the local community and feed its views back to the decision making body at WCC.

Locality Forums enables local organisations, lobby groups and residents to join with the key stakeholders and consider local issues, whether small or of major concern.

If you feel your organisation needs to be represented on this new Locality Forum which we hope will be in place by September, then please contact Martin Gibbins at WCC on Tel: 01789 290784 or have a word with the Town Clerk Tel: 01789 269332.

## WHAT'S ON...

**The Shakespeare Lions Club** is organising a concert to support the Samaritans in Stratford-upon-Avon. Performed by the Orchestra of the Swan on Saturday 20 September 2008, it will feature Mozart classics which have been used in hit movies. Tickets are available from the Civic Hall box office (01789 207100) priced from £13.50. There will also be a pre-concert champagne reception for members of the audience to meet the conductor and soloists (£6.00).

### Life Loving life, offering hope

AGM – Wednesday, 8 October 2008 at the Baptist Church, Henley-in-Arden. Drinks from 7.00 pm, meeting starts 7.30 pm. Speaker: Dr Carus

**Life caring** - offers free confidential counselling and emotional support on all matters concerning abortion and pregnancy

**Life housing** - provides a support service to pregnant women, mothers of small children and families who are in need of support

**Life education** - speaks to thousands of young people in schools and colleges every year about issues that matter to them and impact upon their lives.

**Life Fertility Care** – provides practical help for infertile and sub-fertile couples to conceive.

**Stratford Life Centre, 7 Windsor Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6NL**  
Phone: 01789 299 645

Opening Hours: Mon, Tues and Thurs 12.30-1.30pm, Sat 11am-12noon



Bridging the Gap is published by Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council  
Town Hall, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6EF  
Contact - Tel: 01789 269332  
E-Mail: info@stratforduponavontowncouncil.gov.uk  
Website: www.stratforduponavontowncouncil.com

## AND FINALLY...

In the early days, people were flabbergasted when somebody drove at 15 miles per hour; they still are.