

Stratford *View*

Winter 2015

Spotlight on Wootton Wawen

New and improved
Stratford Leisure Centre

Keep safe this Christmas

Recycling tips

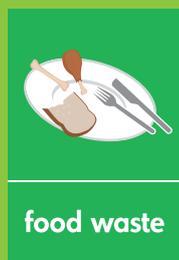


Have you fed your green bin today?

- Recycling food waste saves Warwickshire tax payers money - If everyone in Warwickshire used their green wheelee bin for food waste, it would save around £2 million every year.
- It gets recycled into a good quality soil improver and is used on local farmers' fields.
- It is good for the environment - Food waste in landfill creates methane gas, thought to be a major contributor to climate change.



All food and garden waste can go in to your green wheeled bin including:



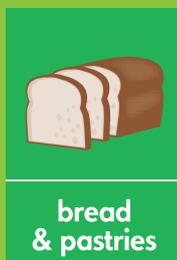
food waste



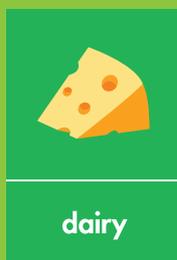
fruit & vegetables



meat & bones



bread & pastries



dairy



fish



garden waste

Request your free kitchen caddy now by visiting www.warwickshire.gov.uk/kerbside and select your local council.

Food waste can be wrapped in newspaper or contained in compostable caddy liners displaying the 'compostable' logo.

Caddy liners can be purchased from most supermarkets or on-line.





The editorial content of Stratford View is produced by Corporate Communications at Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

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Here to help

If you find the text in this magazine difficult to read we can supply it in a format better suited to your needs. We try to write everything in plain English and want to make sure that everyone has access to the information they need.

Tel: 01789 260105
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Wootton Wawen
courtesy of Mike Crowther.



Welcome

to the winter issue of Stratford-on-Avon District Council's magazine Stratford View. This magazine is produced twice a year to keep you informed about Your District Council services. You'll be pleased to hear that the cost of producing the magazine has been covered by advertising income and only a small amount of money has been spent on distribution. We are keen to receive ideas for content in future issues and receive feedback on the magazine, contact us at corporate.communications@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

Changes to refuse and recycling collections over the festive period

Only a limited number of properties will have changes to their refuse and recycling collection days over the festive period.
There will be no collections on Friday 25 December and Friday 1 January 2016.
On all other dates, collections will take place as normal.

Normal collection day
Friday 25 December
Friday 1 January

Revised collection date
Monday 28 December
Saturday 2 January

From Monday 4 January 2016 collections will return to normal. In the event of heavy snow/ice during the winter, services may be changed or temporarily suspended. For more information, please visit: www.stratford.gov.uk/winter or follow the District Council's Twitter account [@StratfordDC](https://twitter.com/StratfordDC) for all the latest updates.

Please note, services will be provided as normal on all other Bank Holidays.

News in Brief

Stratford's Christmas market is back

The Christmas Market on Bridge Street in Stratford-upon-Avon is back on Thursday 26th November, 3rd, 10th and 17th December from 10am to 8pm.

Join in the Christmas festivities, come along and join us - visit Stratford-upon-Avon for gifts galore this Christmas! Stunning Christmas lights, award winning light & sound spectaculars at Shakespeare's Birthplace, contemporary shops, delightful food, Christmas markets and traditional entertainment.

Free Christmas parking

Remember there is free parking in all District Council owned car parks (excluding the two Bridgeway car parks) from 4pm to midnight on the Thursday Christmas shopping nights in Stratford-upon-Avon, starting on Thursday 26 November for the Christmas Lights switch on.



Spot it - Report it - Sorted!

Have you spotted a fly tip recently? Let us know!

Your District Council launched a new app and website www.tellmycouncil.co.uk/stratford - giving residents the chance to report issues directly to them.

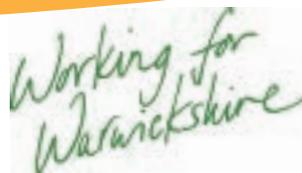
The easy-to-use technology, which allows someone to identify a problem, pinpoint its location and add pictures, has been designed to speed up the problem reporting process.

As well as fly tipping, residents can also use the website to report issues such as full street bins, dead animals on the road, litter on public land and graffiti.

Your District Council is on a mission to clean up the district - but it needs your help. Get involved! Call the Streetscene team on 01789 260616 for further information.



Read all about it!



If you are an avid reader and can't get out to the library, the books will come to you.

The Home Delivery Service is a free library service for patients who have long-term ill-health or disability problems and have no one who can collect books for them.

Have a telephone chat first to discuss your preferences - crime, romance, history, for instance, plus large print or spoken word.

Volunteers will call at your door every four weeks with a selection of books based on your personal preferences.

There is no limit to the number of books you choose at once - mostly a month's worth is anything up to 12 or 15 books. You can also order books free of charge.

If you think that you may qualify to receive this service and would benefit from it, please contact the Mobile Library Team on (01926) 851031 or by email at mobilelibraryservice@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Sign up to the Change Makers programme



change
makers

Family Lifestyle Programme

Do you want to make healthier lifestyle choices for you and your family? Your District Council is offering residents the opportunity to sign up to a FREE nine-week family lifestyle programme.

The Change Maker programme, for families with children aged between 4 and 12 years old, provides healthy eating advice and active games for the whole

family to enjoy, plus free food tasters and giveaways to help participants stick to their new healthy habits. Covering topics like healthy lunchboxes, shopping on a budget, and much more.

For more information please contact Change Makers by calling 07773 047327 or email fitterfutures@rugby.gov.uk



Change Makers course at the Stratford Leisure Centre from 13 January to 16 March from 4pm to 5.30pm

Core Strategy Update

Your District Council is preparing a series of planning documents to guide development and change in the District up to 2031. They will determine where new homes are built, where schools are situated, where new jobs are created and how people can travel to get to the things they need.

The Core Strategy is the document that will set the course for everything to follow. It will present a vision of how the District will look and function in future years.

As part of the adoption process this document has reached another milestone and has now been formally resubmitted to the Planning Inspector to reflect Your District Council's ongoing commitment to developing a sound Core Strategy.

All modifications considered by the Inspector to be necessary to secure full soundness of the plan will be formally proposed via



the Inspector's Final Report, which will be accompanied by a schedule of recommended Main Modifications.

All changes to the Submission Plan proposed by the Inspector that constitute 'Main Modifications' will be open to further representations when Your District Council publishes them, with a statutory six week representation period at that final stage ahead of adoption by June 2016.



Be **bright**, be **seen**.

With evenings and mornings getting darker, whether you are a driver, pedestrian or cyclist, it's more important than ever to be seen.

www.srpwestmercia.org.uk



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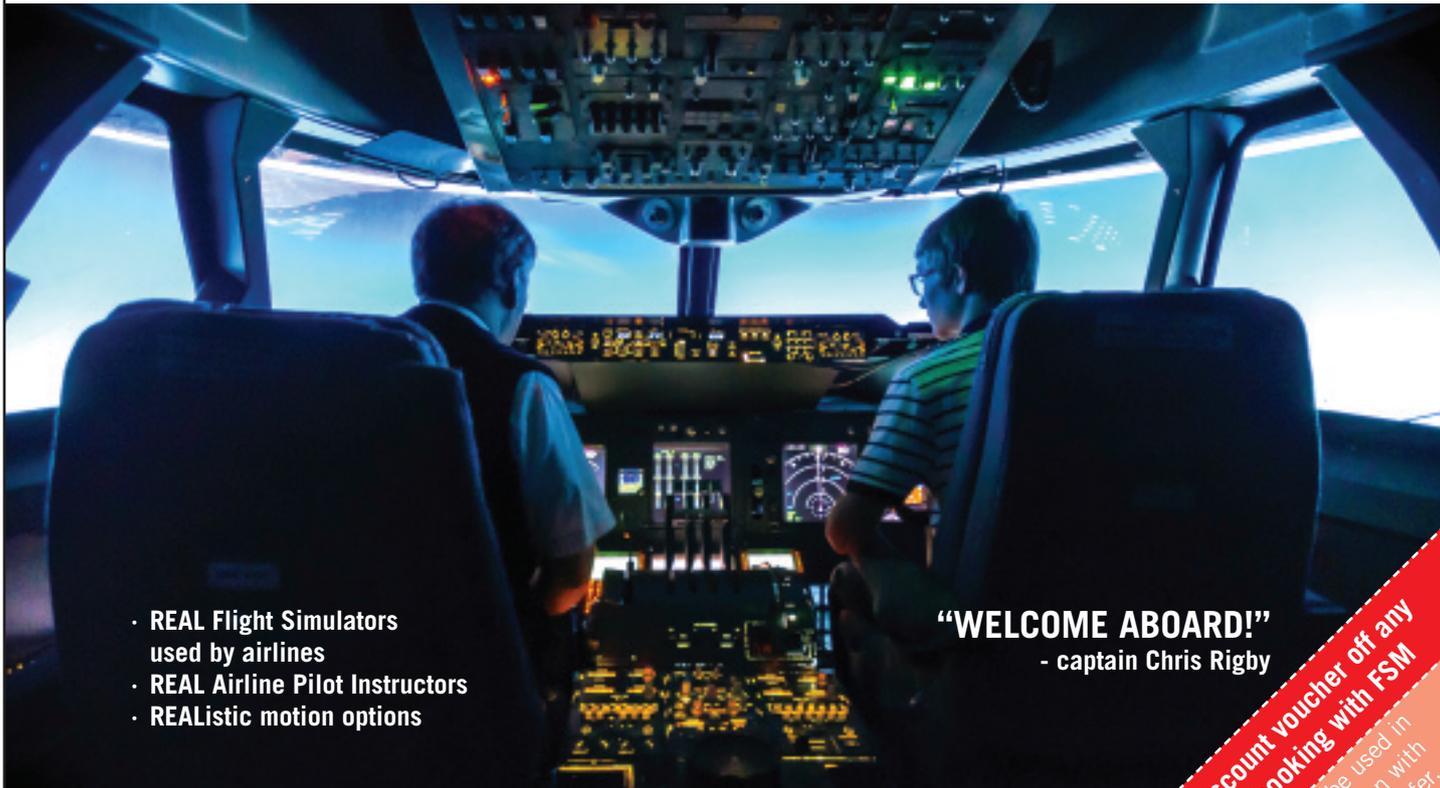


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Private Sector Housing Team

Are you a Landlord?

Did you know new legal requirements came in to force on 1 October?

- Do all your properties have smoke detection on each level?
- Have you installed carbon monoxide detection?
- Are you aware of the energy rating requirements for 2018?

We can also arrange training to help you learn about your legal duties.

We support Landlords by organising a Forum where you can meet other landlords, get legal updates – and get information from Landlord chosen speakers to help you run your business.

Are you a Tenant?

If your Landlord fails to make a repair – you can talk to us for advice.

- Is your landlord accredited?
- Is your deposit properly protected?
- Is your property up to standard? We can help if it isn't.

Our website contains information to help people choose the right property to rent – and what to do if things go wrong

Do you want some help to live independently?

We can provide advice and guidance to:

Identify what assistive technology will help make life more comfortable.

Discuss grants for essential repairs for those on means tested benefits

Provide energy saving tips to help you keep warm for less.

Housing Advice

The Council's Housing Advice Team is able to assist you if you:

- Need advice on your housing options
- Need help with any difficulties you may be having with your current housing
- Would like to be considered for housing association homes across the District
- Think you might be threatened with homelessness

The Housing Advice Team can be contacted on 01789 260 861 or via housingadviceteam@stratford-dc.gov.uk

**To discuss any of the above in more detail please contact the Private Sector Housing Team on 01789 260848 or email: psht@stratford-dc.gov.uk
Website: www.stratford.gov.uk**

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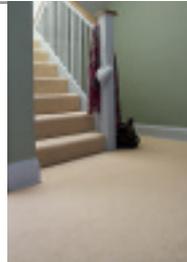
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Wootton Wawen - a jewel in the District



Wootton Wawen is located on the Birmingham Road 7 miles from Stratford-upon-Avon and 2 miles from Henley-in-Arden. Found at the south-western edge of The Forest of Arden and on the River Alne, Wootton Wawen was mentioned in the Domesday Book as 'Wotone'. It has been known as Wootton Wawen since the 15th Century.

Often bypassed as people travel between Birmingham/Henley-in-Arden and Stratford-upon-Avon, there is a lot to see in Wootton Wawen.

With easy access from Stratford-upon-Avon using the x20 bus or the train from Stratford-upon-Avon train station or the new Stratford-upon-Avon Parkway Station, there is no excuse not to visit.

As you come under the viaduct from Stratford, one of the first things you see is Wootton Hall, built in 1637 by Lord Carrington for his marriage to Lady Anne Herbert it was one of the first houses in England built in the Italian Renaissance style. Today, it is a Grade 2 listed building and the heart of a residential caravan park set in 50 acres of parkland with a bowling green, fishing and walks.

There has been a church on the current site of The Saxon Sanctuary since approximately 1000AD. Originally dedicated to St Mary, the now St Peter's Wootton Wawen incorporates elements from the original Saxon church into the current building, with the church representing many of the stages of English architecture. Over the years there have been many additions to the church including the south aisle, the clerestoried nave, the buttresses and many re-roofings. In the 1880s there was a major restoration by George Gilbert Scott Junior at an estimated cost of £5,000.

The Domesday Book says there were 23 villagers and 22 smallholders, while in 1861 there were 676 people living in Wootton Wawen. The population peaked around 1931 with 2,264 residents; in the 2001 census there were an estimated 2,000 people.

Wootton Wawen has always been home to a wide range of businesses and traders with millers, carpenters, builders, coal merchants, show makers and publicans at The Navigation Inn and The Bulls Head mentioned in the directories from the 19th century. In the 1940s there was even a motor engineering company as well as farmers and shopkeepers.

The Navigation Inn is a charming country family pub and restaurant situated beside the viaduct crossing the A3400 in Wootton Wawen. Originally built to service the 'navies' building the Birmingham to Stratford-upon-Avon Canal (Navigation), but the Inn today serves cask beers and homemade food in its restaurant and beer garden with children's play area.

Wootton Wawen has adapted and changed over the years and continues to make itself relevant while maintaining its rural roots. Despite its proximity to all the facilities offered by major towns such as Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick and Leamington, and to the City of Birmingham, Wootton can still boast several excellent shops; a Post Office; two Pubs; a Restaurant; two Social Clubs; a Ladies Hairdresser; two Garages; Art, Antiquarian Books and Furniture Restorers; several Craft Workshops and a Costume Hire business! In total, there are nearly 40 businesses operating in Wootton, employing over 300 people - ranging from one-man operations to major national/international organisations.

Wootton Wawen is also a destination for the shoppers and businesses alike. Yew Tree Farm Shopping Village offers shoppers a wealth of opportunities to satisfy that urge to buy something different. With everything including local produce at the Farm Shop and Cowshed Café, stylish luxury clothing, garden furniture, watch repairs, antiques, bespoke designed jewellery, beauty treatments and hairdressing, you can easily while away a few relaxing hours at the farm.

For business needs take a look at the beautifully restored barns at Wootton Park Events and Business Centre which house a variety of local and national businesses looking for a different outlook. Situated with views across 360 acres of Warwickshire countryside makes this a special place to work.

Wootton Park is also home to a stunning events venue that is perfect for weddings, parties, or corporate events. There are acres of outdoor space and they offer a wide range of activities including teambuilding and leadership activities. The luxury Bed & Breakfast (a recent competitor in the Channel 4 series 'Three in a Bed') occupies the 450 year old farmhouse and the cosy 'Glamping' pods mean everyone can stay in comfort.

For those wanting to enjoy outdoor activities, Equine Learning offer horse riding lessons, specialising in teaching and sensory experiences for children with learning difficulties. They also offer a unique picnic ride where novice (or more experienced) riders can enjoy a leisurely off-road ride and picnic in the Warwickshire countryside.

Credits

Information courtesy of Wootton Wawen Parish Council, The Saxon Sanctuary, The Navigation Inn, Yew Tree Farm Shopping Village and Wootton Park.

Photographs by Stuart Purfield



Links

Equine Learning -
www.equinelearning.org.uk

The Saxon Sanctuary at Wootton Wawen -
www.saxonsanctuary.org.uk

The Navigation Inn at Wootton Wawen -
www.the-navigationinn.co.uk

Yew Tree Farm Shopping Village -
www.yew-tree-farm.co.uk

Wootton Park -
www.woottonpark.co.uk

Wootton Wawen Parish Council -
www.woottonwawen-pc.gov.uk

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Contact The Matron, Dr Paula du Rand - 01926 641739
Kineton Manor Nursing Home, Manor Lane, Kineton, Warwick. CV35 0JT
Email: info@kineton-manor.co.uk www.kineton-manor.co.uk

The Recovery Partnership

Supporting recovery from drug and alcohol misuse in Coventry and Warwickshire

The Recovery Partnership provides a free and confidential service for anyone affected by drugs or alcohol, across Coventry and Warwickshire.

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"People recover from their drug and alcohol problems every day. You can, too"

Visit www.cw-recovery.org.uk for more information or call your local service below:

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8 Ironmonger Row CV1 1FD

Nuneaton T: 02476 641100
37-38 Coton Road CV11 5TW

Rugby T: 01788 569582
1 Regent Place CV21 2PJ

Leamington Spa T: 01926 885000
16 Court Street CV31 2BB

Stratford-upon-Avon T: 01789 206770
Stratford Healthcare Arden St CV37 6HJ

Out of Hours Support
Coventry - 0800 7830447
Warwickshire - 01926 425488

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- Kineton Mews, Kineton
- Harvest Meadows, Bidford Upon Avon
- The Orchards, Bidford Upon Avon
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Planning Enforcement News

Your District Council's planning enforcement team is a busy service area and are always looking for service improvements. Many time-consuming administrative functions have been done away with and the service is seeking ways to become more transparent and efficient.

Following the economic upturn and greater public interest in planning issues, demand for investigations has risen with more than 700 new cases opened every year – everything from domestic extensions to unlawful caravans to major housing estates.

What is the purpose of a planning investigation?

Complex new government legislation and guidance have rolled out in recent years meaning there is now much to interpret. One of the strengths of Your District Council's team is their ability to investigate the individual circumstances of each case before making a decision on its lawfulness, which in turn, helps provide a greater understanding for everyone involved.

What happens if there is a breach of planning regulations?

In the majority of cases, and consistent with national planning guidance, where a breach is identified the owner is given the opportunity to put the matter right for example to seek planning permission retrospectively. Sometimes however, it is necessary for the team to negotiate the outcome required and where negotiations fail to successfully resolve the breach, formal action often follows.

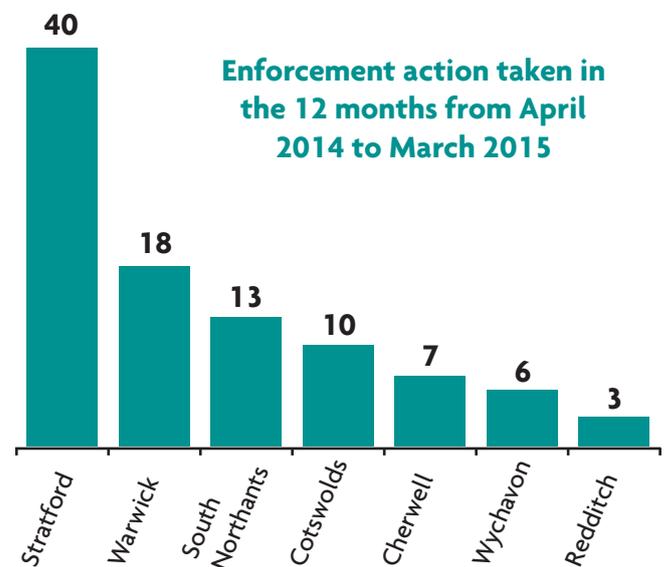
How does Stratford compare to other councils locally?

Your District Council is among the highest ranking councils in the West Midlands in terms of the number of formal actions taken

annually. In the last year alone the team has taken 40 formal actions. The graph below shows the numbers taken by neighbouring Councils.

However with finite resources in the team, it is still necessary to prioritise formal enforcement action on cases that result in the most serious harm. This means some cases that cause less harm may actually take longer to arrive at a negotiated solution. Your District Council's priorities are:

- Demolition and alteration of Listed Buildings
- Demolition of buildings in Conservation Areas
- Unauthorised works to trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order or in a Conservation Area
- Unauthorised removal of protected hedgerows
- All others cases (resources permitted)



Planning enforcement success stories:

Your District Council's planning enforcement team has had many successes in the last 12 months including:

Field Farm, Wootton Wawen - The owner was pursued through the High Court for failing to comply with an Injunction Order regarding an unlawful scrap business in the Green Belt. He was ultimately given a suspended prison sentence.

Lower Farm, Admington - A local architect was successfully prosecuted for unauthorised works to a Grade II listed barn.

Site on the northern edge of Fenny Compton - The team successfully secured a High Court injunction to prevent fields becoming an unauthorised gypsy and traveller site.

Land on the northern edge of Henley-in-Arden - An injunction was secured to prevent Green Belt land being developed into 168 leisure plots. And just because it has been built, doesn't mean it is staying up! The team have regularly taken action to have unauthorised buildings demolished where planning breaches have occurred.



For more information about Planning Enforcement please visit www.stratford.gov.uk/planning/enforcement.cfm



Over Christmas we generate around 30% more waste and most of this can be recycled.

All your wrapping paper, Christmas cards, wine bottles, glass jars and lids, plastic bottles, tubs, pots and trays, foil, tin and cans and drinks carton can all be recycled in your blue lidded bin.

If you have more recycling than will fit in your bin, please leave it in a rigid or recyclable box next to your bin for collection.



Top ten tips

1. Use up items in your freezer - you are going to need the space. Items suitable for freezing can be frozen up to their 'use by' date.
2. Avoid un-necessary presents - buy something you know your relatives and friends will definitely like or give them a gift card.
3. Send an e-card to friends and family and make a charitable donation of the amount of money you would have spent on cards.
4. Plan meals and do your shopping around them. Make a shopping list so you don't forget anything and also avoid impulse purchases. The main supermarkets will only be closed for a couple of days! When buying fresh and chilled items look for the longest 'use by' date.
5. Portion planning is important at Christmas to avoid cooking more than you need. The Love Food Hate Waste website has guidance - <http://england.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>
6. Recipes for using leftovers can be found on the Love Food Hate Waste website and don't forget to use your green bin for food waste.
7. Ebay and Gumtree are a useful ways of buying and selling items and don't forget your local charity shops as well. Some charities have Christmas gift catalogues.
8. If you're having a party avoid using disposable cutlery and plates. Ask guests to help with the extra cutlery and plates.
9. Check your Christmas lights early - if they are faulty recycle them in our kerbside service.
10. Don't forget you can freeze milk and hard cheese. You can also freeze an egg, by breaking it into a small airtight container.

Fact - Every year we throw out around 4,500 tonnes of tin foil over Christmas, enough to cover Suffolk! Please recycle clean foil in your blue lidded bin.

8 million Christmas trees are sold in the UK each year - laid end to end they would be an equivalent distance from London to New York and back again! You can recycle yours

by leaving it next to you green bin on your scheduled collection. Trees over 1.5 metres / 5 feet should be cut in half.

And remember you can recycle your household batteries by placing them in a small plastic bag, putting them alongside any of your bins for your next collection.



secure

https://www

Staying safe at Christmas

With Christmas just round the corner, many of us will be getting ready to start shopping online. But while we will all be trying to bag the best bargains, Your District Council doesn't want anyone to become a victim of scams or frauds.

So before you start filling your baskets, make sure you are cyber smart and look out for the following website features to help keep you safe as you are browsing online:

- Always ensure there is an 's' on the https prefix in front of a website. The 's' presents security and keeps your personal information private.
- Look out for the closed lock symbol on the webpage you are visiting as this also signifies the page is secure.

Don't become a target online this Christmas - enjoy your shopping by thinking cyber smart.



Take a few simple steps to avoid becoming a victim of burglary

- Set a timer switch to turn your lights on when it gets dark - unlit houses are a give away that no one is at home.
- Lock your doors, patios and downstairs windows - even when you are in. Make sure you double check them again before you go to bed.
- If you have a burglar alarm, make sure you set it when you go out and also when you go to bed.
- Don't leave car keys, ID cards or valuables near windows, doors or letterboxes, where burglars can reach through to steal them.
- Lock your garden gates and side entrances. Don't leave tools lying around in the garden which could be used to break in to your home.

www.warwickshire.police.uk
www.westmercia.police.uk

If you have information about a burglary phone the police on 101.

Get your property marked!

Your District Council's Rural Crime Prevention Co-ordinators and the Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams are working together holding property marking surgeries.

For further information of dates and locations of property marking surgeries, please visit www.warwickshire.police.uk

Some useful tips to keep your property safe:

- Cars, bikes, tools, sporting equipment and other valuable items are often kept in garages and sheds. Ensure you keep them secure by fitting an alarm and good quality locks.
- Keep tools secure - they could be used by a burglar to break into your home so keep them locked away or padlock them to a heavy bench or frame.
- Mark your garden tools and equipment with your postcode and house number.
- Fit grills or mesh to shed windows or cover them with curtains.
- Keep your fences, gates and walls in good repair to stop intruders getting in.
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Working together for a healthier community



To support small, local, health-focussed community projects in south Warwickshire Your District Council has teamed up with Public Health Warwickshire and South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group to provide funding to a number of diverse organisations.

AGE UK, Warwickshire has a programme called ‘**Maintaining an Independent Quality of Life**’, which aims to support older people to maintain an independent quality of life. They will be offering strength and balance exercises to maintain and improve mobility with personal training support; supplemented by tailored health improvement messages determined by an initial health assessment.

Another project, **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - ‘Fit and Healthy at Ufton’**, will provide a platform for local people to improve their mental and physical health through volunteering. Not only will it support the development of an existing volunteering group, but it will also allow people to meet regularly and take responsibility for maintenance and conservation tasks around the nature reserve at Ufton.



Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA meanwhile, is aiming to improve the health of young people between 16 and 25 - particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Through their **Young Health Champions scheme**, young people will be recruited to deliver bespoke and informal training to groups of peers on topics such as the risks of smoking, the importance of physical activity, sexual health and mental health.

Finally **Entrust Care Partnership’s ‘Who Cares, We Care,’** project will support parents and carers with a disabled child or young person. The initiative will help raise awareness as well as allowing parents and carers to understand their own needs. It will also suggest strategies for resolving their difficulties and give them the chance to gain strength from those experiencing similar problems

If you would like further information on any of the projects please contact Carol Roberts on 01789 260112.



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New waste collection and street cleaning fleet



Working with Biffa as part of the contract extension, Your District Council has a new fleet of vehicles for the refuse and recycling collections and street cleaning.

The new fleet of 20 vehicles from vehicle manufacturers Mercedes, completely replace the previous seven year old fleet. During their working life in Stratford District, the outgoing fleet of vehicles have covered 3,040,000 km and emptied more than 31 million bins, collecting 113,000 tonnes of refuse, 97,000 tonnes of recycling and 128,000 tonnes of garden waste.

The new vehicles have been replaced at no extra cost to Your District Council, and are much more economic to run, delivering a more efficient service for residents. They can carry ten per cent more than the ones they replace - around 12 tonnes each and also have fuel-efficient engines.

The vehicles are fitted with 360 degree cameras, this is an added safety feature, to protect the crews from the dangers they regularly encounter. The cameras will also assist with the collections, allowing working practices to be monitored and reviewed at all times.

The new vehicles are now also fitted with improved technology, which allows real time information to be exchanged between the vehicles and Your District Council's Customer Service team to enable a more effective service.



Earlier in the year, Your District Council in conjunction with Biffa, introduced collection changes to approximately 18,000 properties. The collection rounds had not changed since the start of the contract in 2008 and the increasing amount of properties in some settlements meant the rounds were becoming harder to complete. These rounds have bedded in and are now working well.

The street cleaning team have also benefited from new equipment - a mechanical pavement sweeper is now operating in the market towns of Alcester, Bidford-on-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Kington, Southam, Studley and Wellesbourne, replacing the previous manual sweeping giving a higher standard of cleanliness.

Biffa have also provided a hot jet wash for a high performance clean of the car parks and chewing gum removal.

The Barrow beats in Stratford town centre have also benefited from new equipment, with the addition of a vacuum section unit which allows them to pick up the smaller bits of litter such as cigarette ends and also allows them get into the tighter spaces.

Friday 4th
December is
Christmas
Jumper Day
for SMA!

Help Stratford-based charity Spinal Muscular Atrophy Support UK by taking part in their national Christmas Jumper Day for SMA on Friday 4th December.

We want to see as many local schools, businesses and families wear their favourite festive sweater to help raise awareness of SMA, an inherited neuromuscular condition.

You can also find out about our other Christmas activities on our website www.smasupportuk.org.uk



Request your **free** fundraising pack which includes handy tips, stickers and posters by emailing fundraising@smasupportuk.org.uk or by calling **01789 267 520** www.smasupportuk.org.uk

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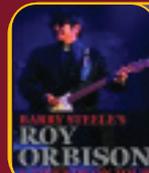
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Small Business Saturday Launch at Stratford Antiques & Interiors



SMALL BUSINESS
SATURDAY
5TH DECEMBER

For the third year running, Your District Council is supporting Small Business Saturday UK which takes place on Saturday 5 December 2015. This growing national campaign aims to celebrate small local independent businesses and encourage customers to support their local economy by shopping local.

On Saturday 5 December 2015 (and the rest of the year for that matter!) why not think about where you shop and consider using your local shops, tradesmen, services and suppliers as much as possible. Our towns, villages and rural areas offer a unique and extensive range of products and services from a wealth of independent businesses which are crucial to our local economy and your support is needed to keep our rural economies alive.

All kinds of small businesses are encouraged to get involved, so whether you are a family business, local shop, online business, wholesaler, business service or small manufacturer, Small Business Saturday is supporting you!

Some ideas for how businesses can get involved:

- Create your own special offer, a community discount scheme or a Pop-Up shop
- Join forces with other local businesses to organise your own event or market
- Take part in SBS Workshops & join the SBS Bus Tour
- Register your business on the free SBS Small Business Finder
- Link to the SBS website & follow SmallBiz100
- Tweet and Facebook about what you have planned
- Display the SBS posters & digital logo at your premises and website

For further information on how businesses and customers can get involved please visit:- www.smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com

Photo courtesy of Stratford Herald

State of the art business centre



Your District Council's forward looking vision to help energise the local economy and provide a unique environment for new and fledgling businesses, has taken a gigantic leap from an innovative idea into a reality with the development of the soon to be transformed Venture House.

Intended to inspire a new generation of entrepreneur and offer support to existing small and micro enterprises, the building's interior is being dramatically transformed into a centre to stimulate innovation, cater for a variety of needs and encouraging the interaction and collaboration within a new business community.

Venture House will hopefully become the template for additional facilities in the district, in order to encourage and support local business opportunities to take the first and early steps to establishment and growth.

The new business centre will be 'open for business' early in 2016 and new start-ups and business entrepreneurs are invited to find out more about the centre by contacting Nancy Singleton, Business Enterprise & Tourism Manager on 01789 260803 or email: nancy.singleton@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Working for you



Your District Council is committed to meeting the needs of all its communities. In April 2011, Your District Council's Corporate Strategy set out four main aims to help achieve this by March 2015.

These were:

- To address the local housing need
- To create a district where business and enterprise could flourish
- To improve access to services
- To minimise the impact of climate change

So how have we done?

- 84 empty properties have been brought back into use
- Delivered 538 affordable homes - exceeding the target of 427.
- Installed customer access points in Bidford-on-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Shipston and Studley
- 71% of residents have found it easier to access District Council services compared to 69% in 2012
- 80% of major planning applications were determined within 13 weeks
- 70% of minor planning applications were determined within 8 weeks
- 80% of other planning applications were determined within 8 weeks
- Installed solar panels on the District Council's offices in Stratford, providing a renewable energy source
- Reused, recycled and composted 60% of household waste



Your District Council has a new Corporate Strategy (2015-2019) now focusing on:

A flourishing local economy

Your District Council will work with partners and local businesses to create jobs through business retention, growth and new inward investment from the UK and abroad. The Council will encourage local businesses to remain and grow and welcomes new business investment.

Action Plan includes:

- To deliver the Business Incubation Unit at Venture House

People and their environment

Your District Council will work with partners to protect the character of the environment and support activities to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities.

Action Plan includes:

- Support the delivery of affordable housing
- Complete the Stratford Leisure and Visitor Centre Improvements
- Commence refurbishment of Alcester Lifestyles Sports Hall at Greig Centre

Responsible community leadership

Your District Council will support communities and the diversity of local interests within them, embracing innovative solutions to provide the best results for residents and the Council.

Action Plan includes:

- Install three more Customer Access terminals across the district
- Continue to support Broadband Delivery UK Project





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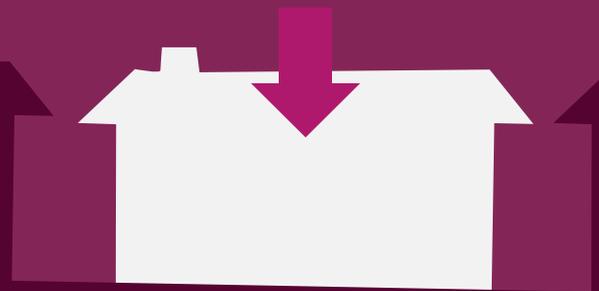
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