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Stratford

Winter 2018

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Victorian Christmas Market

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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.

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Front cover image: Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas lights by Stratford-on-Avon District Council



Stratford View



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. 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 always keen to receive ideas for content in future issues and receive feedback on the magazine, contact us at corporate.communications@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Christmas and New Year refuse collection changes 2018-19

If your normal collection day is	If it is your refuse week your grey bin will be collected	If it is your recycling week your blue bin will be collected	If it is your recycling week your green bin will be collected
Monday 24 December	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	Normal Collection
Tuesday 25 December	Thursday 27 December	Thursday 27 December	Saturday 29 December
Wednesday 26 December	Friday 28 December	Friday 28 December	Saturday 29 December
Thursday 27 December	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	Saturday 29 December
Friday 28 December	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	Saturday 29 December
Monday 31 December	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	Normal Collection
Tuesday 1 January	Wednesday 2 January	Wednesday 2 January	Saturday 5 January
Wednesday 2 January	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	Saturday 5 January
Thursday 3 January	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	Normal Collection
Friday 4 January	Normal Collection	Normal Collection	Normal Collection



Your pest control service



Did you know that Your District Council offers a highly trained and professional pest control service?

During the summer there was a huge surge in wasps' nests because of the warm and dry weather, and Your District Council's Pest Control Officers work tirelessly removing nests from local residents' properties.

Now the cooler weather is here, rats and mice will be looking for somewhere nice and warm to nest, so these are the main pests officers will be treating. To prevent these pests from entering your home it is a good idea to assess your property, sealing up any cracks or holes. Try to keep clutter to a minimum and gardens cut back to prevent shelter for pests. Store food correctly and dispose of it in an appropriate bin with a secure lid.

Rodents are not only unhygienic, but can also be dangerous. Rats need to continuously chew due to their ever-growing teeth and can damage household cables, which not only costs money to repair but can pose a fire risk.



Electric cable destroyed by rats

If you see evidence of rodent activity, Your District Council's Pest Control Officers will aim to visit your property within 48 hours to deal with the issue.

Pest Control Officers treat a wide range of pests including:

- Rats
- Mice
- Squirrels
- Fleas
- Bedbugs
- Wasps
- Hornets
- Cluster Flies
- Carpet Beetles
- Clothes Moths

Your District Council's pest control team also offers contracts to businesses and farms. Each contract is tailored to your needs and will help to keep your business pest-free throughout the whole of the year.

To book a treatment or discuss a business contract, please call Your District Council on 01789 267575 or visit www.stratford.gov.uk/environment/pest-control.cfm

Stratford-upon-Avon Thursday Christmas Markets on Bridge Street

Come and visit the fabulous Christmas Market on Bridge Street, on the Thursdays leading up to Christmas from Thursday 22 November until Thursday 20 December from 10am to 8pm.

Come and discover an eclectic mix of traditional gifts and crafts with street food aplenty! Find that unique Christmas present or treat yourself - there is something for everyone to suit all tastes and budgets.

Please be aware, there will be no market and no free parking on Thursday 6 December due to the Stratford-upon-Avon Victorian Christmas Market taking place over the weekend.



Remember there is FREE parking in all District Council-owned car parks (excluding Bridgeway multi-storey and Bridgeway surface) from 4pm to midnight on Thursday Christmas shopping nights in Stratford-upon-Avon, starting on Thursday 22 November for the Christmas Lights switch-on.

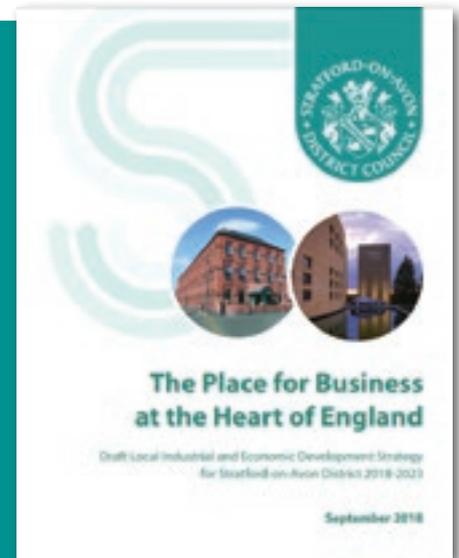
The Place for Business at the Heart of England



Your District Council is keen to work with businesses and partners to maximise investment opportunities across the District, helping existing businesses to grow and attracting inward investment. Your District Council would also like to maximise opportunities and benefits for Stratford-on-Avon district from across

the West Midlands, including once-in-a-generation events such as the Commonwealth Games and Coventry City of Culture.

To help achieve this, Your District Council recently consulted stakeholders



on its draft Local Industrial Strategy 'The Place for Business at the Heart of England' which is expected to be formally endorsed in December. Importantly, it includes an action plan setting out what priorities and action Your District Council will take to increase productivity and support economic development across Stratford-on-Avon District. The Strategy can be viewed at www.stratford.gov.uk/enterprise.

Planning Policy update

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

Your District Council has recently consulted stakeholders on its revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out how it will engage when exercising its plan-making and planning responsibilities. The revised SCI can be viewed at www.stratford.gov.uk/sci.

Canal Quarter Masterplan

In July Your District Council formally adopted its new masterplan for the Canal Quarter in Stratford-upon-Avon, to lead on the regeneration of this underutilised area of industrial land and create a vibrant new neighbourhood that celebrates the canal.

The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will sit alongside the Core Strategy and act as a guide to developers to ensure that planning applications deliver the additional homes, offices, commercial premises and open space required.

The masterplan can be viewed at www.stratford.gov.uk/canalquarter-spd.



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You are invited to...

Stratford-upon-Avon Victorian Christmas Market

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 December 2018

Your District Council, in partnership with Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council and LSD Promotions Marketplace Ltd, is delighted to announce that the award-winning three-day Victorian-themed Christmas Market is back for 2018.

The magical festivities will take place throughout the town centre with 200 stalls from local makers, producers and traders offering a variety of gifts and crafts, an international area and an extensive choice of street food including a traditional pig roast.

There will be merriment and entertainment with a plethora of street and staged entertainment supported by amateurs and professionals. Extra special touches will include a traditional vintage fun fair with a carousel.

Opening hours:
Friday 11am to 8pm
Saturday 10am to 8pm
Sunday 10am to 5pm

The civic opening of the Victorian Christmas Market will be held on Friday 9 December. The civic procession will leave the Town Hall at 6.30pm, making its way to the stage on Henley Street for the official opening. This will be a lantern procession, led by dignitaries and choristers from the Holy Trinity Church.

So come and join in the festivities and make Stratford-upon-Avon your must go-to Christmas destination.

In support of the Victorian Christmas Market, Johnsons are proud to be providing a **complimentary shuttle bus service** from the Park & Ride at Bishopton, with collection and drop-off points on Rother Street. Please note that the service will operate every half hour between 9am and 7pm on Sunday 9 December only.

There is something for everyone, the Christmas lights will be sparkling, and a warm welcome awaits!

Why not combine your visit with the historic Shakespearean attractions and exceptional range of independent shops, boutiques and popular high street names that our quintessential riverside town has to offer!



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ROAD CLOSURES

The following roads will be closed from 6pm on Thursday 6 December until 12.01am on Monday 10 December 2018:

- Bridge Street
- Sheep Street
- Meer Street
- High Street
- Rother Street Market (paved area)
- Waterside
- Wood Street
- Henley Street
- Union Street

Rother Street will not be closed and the access from Greenhill Street and Windsor Street into Rother Street will be maintained during this period.

ROAD
CLOSED





Have you visited our new look markets?

LSD Promotions Marketplace Ltd was appointed as market contractor in October last year by Your District Council and Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council. Since then residents and visitors to the town's markets will have seen a new look, with some of the same traders and some new ones too.

Rother Street on Fridays and Saturdays has grown in stature, and when you visit them you will see that the market offers something for everyone! On Fridays, find a range of international street food and fresh produce stalls alongside a selection of clothing, hats and scarves, silver



which saw entrepreneurs aged 16-30 from around the country compete to be crowned best young stallholder.

2018 saw the introduction of the Wonderland Summer Festival, a three-day market where the Wonderland story and tea party were brought to life with Alice, the Mad Hatter and the Queen. There were free activities for families and children, including flamingo croquet, hat making, giant chess, a mirror maze, and the 'big chair' for photo opportunities.

The town's Upmarket is held between April and December on Sundays and Bank Holidays and has now moved to a new location from Waterside to Bridge Street for a trial period. This vibrant market offers a wide and diverse variety of unusual products, selling the finest quality goods and a selection of street food and refreshments.

To find out more about our fabulous markets visit www.lsdpromotions.com

jewellery, leather handbags, accessories, beautiful flowers and fabulous gifts. On Saturdays, enter the world of the weird and wonderful with a range of stalls that include local makers, street food, cool junk, vintage and rare finds, hand-crafted jewellery, new stuff, old stuff and great quirky gifts.

A number of speciality themed markets have also been held. Those on Henley Street have ranged from the Make it or Bake it Market in September to the Chocolate and Prosecco Mystical Market and Cheese & Spice Festival in October, while Waterside welcomed both the Fright Festival and the National Youth Market,





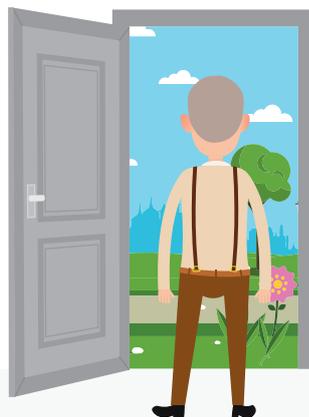
Be a Councillor!

With the District and Parish Elections being held in May 2019, now is the time to find out what's involved in being a Councillor and whether it's something you'd like to do.

Log on to the Council's website for more details www.stratford.gov.uk



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Sound advice from Specsavers



Do you struggle to hear properly? If so, you're not alone, as one in six people are affected by hearing loss in the UK - that's

some 11 million people*. And while our hearing often deteriorates as we get older, hearing loss can affect people of all ages.

As well as looking after your eye care needs, Specsavers in Stratford upon Avon also offers hearing advice and care, with the same commitment to

providing the very best professional and affordable service for its customers.

Hearing loss is often a very gradual process and can happen over several years, so often people don't realise their hearing is getting worse. Having the volume on the TV or radio turned up high, or regularly asking people to repeat themselves are common signs that someone might have an issue.



Hearing loss can affect every aspect of a person's life and can often be quite isolating. Most people know that it's important to get their eyes examined regularly as part of a full health check, but fewer people realise the importance of a simple hearing check.

Free hearing checks and tests

If you're not sure whether you have a hearing problem, you can pop into the store where the team can carry out a simple 15-minute hearing check using a tablet device called an AudioPad. This will indicate whether you have hearing loss and need a more in-depth appointment with an audiologist. If that's the case, then you can book an appointment for a full hearing test, which is non-invasive, and is free too, for a day and time that suits you.



If you do end up needing hearing aids, the audiologist can help you decide on a model that's right for you and your needs. The store offers a range of hearing aids, including the latest high-tech and discreet models, as well as free after care for as long as you need it.

Specsavers recommends that everyone over the age of 55 should have a hearing test every two years.

Pop into the store at 8 Wood St, Stratford-upon-Avon, for a free hearing check or call 01789 262606 or visit www.specsavers.co.uk/stores/stratforduponavon-hearing to book an appointment for a full hearing test.

*Action on Hearing Loss, Hearing Matters report.



Empty Homes myth busting!

There is currently a serious housing shortage in Stratford district and empty properties contribute to problems of overcrowding and homelessness. There are over 800 empty properties in the district, of which more than 200 have been empty for over two years. Your District Council is committed to finding solutions to address these long-term problems.

Here we take a look at some popular myths associated with empty homes and give you the facts.

MYTH: Why is the District Council interested in my empty property?

FACT: A home that is left empty may cause problems if it is left unattended and not secure. It can attract vandalism, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour, and may soon become an eyesore. If it becomes run down it may start to cause repair problems to the properties next door and will affect the market value of other homes in the area. It is a wasted resource!

MYTH: The District Council does not offer any help to empty home owners.

FACT: Your District Council employs an Empty Homes Officer who will provide advice and information on all aspects of empty homes, ranging from selling and renting to Council Tax discounts and VAT reductions. Advice is also available on financial assistance such as grants to help towards the cost of renovations

MYTH: The District Council cannot force me to bring my empty property back into use.

FACT: Where an owner persistently leaves a property empty, Your District Council has a range of powers at its disposal, including:

- Enforced Sales - where Your District Council is owed money for works carried out in default, the sale of the property can be forced to recover the debts.

- Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) - if granted by a Residential Property Tribunal, Your District Council can take over the management of a property for a period of up to seven years when a property has been empty for more than two years.



- Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) - used as a last resort where an owner has resisted all voluntary attempts to bring the property back into use, Your District Council can apply to the courts to purchase the property.

- Legal action - Your District Council can take legal action where owners fail to improve the condition of the property voluntarily.

MYTH: The District Council never takes enforcement action

FACT: In July this year the First-tier Tribunal granted Your District Council its first Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) on a problematic, long-term empty property in Stratford-upon-Avon. Your District Council will take over the management of the property for seven years and it will provide housing for a deserving, local family in housing need.

MYTH: Why does it take so long for the District Council to take enforcement action?

FACT: Enforcement powers are discretionary and Your District Council must demonstrate and be satisfied that it has explored all other options and methods before considering the use of legal powers.



Good news...

Renovation work has started on a property in Stratford-upon-Avon, which Your District Council has recently taken enforcement action against.

The property had been left empty by the owners and fallen into disrepair, impacting on neighbouring properties. It is now subject to an Empty Dwelling Management Order, which means that Your District Council will take over management of the property for a period of up

to seven years. On completion of the work, a family with a local connection will be offered a new home.

Local contractors R.D. & T.D. Swinnerton & Sons Ltd are undertaking the task of transforming the scruffy, tired house into a comfortable family dwelling. Works should be finished in time for a family to enjoy their first Christmas in their new home!

What's on - a selection of events across the district

Alcester

Alcester Christmas Lights switch-on - Sunday 25 November from 4pm to 5pm on Alcester High Street.

St Nicholas Night - Thursday 6 December from 5.45pm to 9pm. Christmas shopping, Santa's Grotto, children's rides, parade of classic and rally vehicles, White Hart Morris Men and a host of other attractions on Alcester High Street.

Town Carols - Sunday 16 December at St Nicholas Church.

For more information on any of the above events, see www.alcester-tc.gov.uk.

Bidford-on-Avon

Bidford Christmas Lights switch-on, Sunday 25 November, times to be confirmed.

Henley-in-Arden

Henley-in-Arden Christmas Lights switch-on - Saturday 1 December from 4.45pm to 6pm.

Saturday Social Dances - Saturday 15 December at the Church Hall, Beaudesert Lane, Henley-in-Arden from 8pm to 11pm. Please contact Alan or Vivian on 01789 204989 or email ilov2getherdancing@hotmail.com.

Kineton

Kineton Victorian Evening - Friday 30 November from 6pm to 8pm.

Carols in the Market Square - Friday 21 December from 6pm with mulled wine and mince pies.

Newbold-on-Stour

Christmas Tree Festival - Fun for all the family - Saturday 1 December from 10.30am to 5pm and Sunday 2 December from 10.30am to 4pm concluding with a candlelit Christingle Service at 4pm.

Shipston

Ekica (formerly New Hope) Fundraising - Saturday 1 December - A professional reading of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* by Peter Le Breuilly. Tickets £7.50 including glass of wine and mince pie, starting at 7pm at the Parish Centre, Catholic Church, Darlingscote Road, Shipston-on-Stour. All are very welcome. Contact: Sue or Tadge on 01608 662065.

Christmas Handmade Market Sunday 2 December from 12pm to 3pm at Shipston Townsend Hall

Shipston Rotary 2018 Victorian Evening - Friday 7 December from 6pm to 8pm.

Shipston Community Christmas - Tuesday 25 December at Townsend Hall, Shipston. Shipston Community Christmas brings together individuals on Christmas day who otherwise may find themselves alone. For more information see www.facebook.com/shipstoncommunitychristmas

Southam

Southam Christmas Lights switch-on - Sunday 25 November from 5pm. Southam town centre, Southam, CV47 0HA. Including a Christmas Market between 11am and 6pm in the town centre. There will be a Lantern Parade, stalls, games, rides, live music and much more.

Stratford-upon-Avon

Tea Dance - Wednesday 5 December at the Town Hall Ballroom, Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon from 2pm to 4.15pm. Please contact Alan

or Vivian on 01789 204989 or email ilov2getherdancing@hotmail.com

Shakespeare Hospice's Santa Scramble on Saturday 8 December.

Stratford-upon-Avon Christmas Lights switch on - Thursday 22 November from 4.30pm. For more information see www.stratforduponavonchristmaslights.co.uk.

Studley

Christmas in Studley - Friday 30 November - an afternoon and evening of festive fun!

- Studley in Business Christmas Market from 2pm to 8pm at Millennium Square, High Street
- Studley Village Hall Christmas Fayre from 5pm to 8pm at the Village Hall, High Street
- The Annual Studley Grand Christmas Lights switch-on from 6.30pm.

Tiddington

Charity Tea Dances - Wednesday 19 December at Tiddington Community Centre, Main Street, Tiddington from 2pm to 4.15pm. Please contact Alan or Vivian on 01789 204989 or email ilov2getherdancing@hotmail.com.

Wellesbourne

Wellesbourne Christmas Lights switch-on - Saturday 24 November from 5pm to 7pm.

Christmas at Chedham's Yard - Saturday 15 December. Christmas special with carols and songs by the wood stove, Christmas cheer, cakes and mince pies plus Father Christmas and children's activities. For more information see www.chedhamsyard.org.uk/event/202-christmas-at-chedhams.

All information correct at time of printing

If you'll be leaving Santa a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, don't forget to put the pie case and empty bottle in your blue bin.

When you take down your Christmas cards, put any non-glittery ones in your blue bin. Alternatively, cut them up to make gift tags for next year's presents.

The Love Food Hate Waste website has lots of hints on portion sizing and recipes for leftovers to help reduce food waste this Christmas. lovefoodhatewaste.com

Tis the season to #RecycleRight

Christmas is coming: there'll be lots of festivities and some of us may indulge more at this time of year!

With all the food, drink, cards and wrapped presents, there are recycling opportunities everywhere.

At Christmas we generate over 30% more waste, so here are

some of the hints and tips that you may well see on Twitter and Facebook as part of Your District Council's #RecycleRight campaign.



Most wrapping paper can be recycled from your blue bin. However, we're unable to recycle glittery or plasticised paper.

#RecycleRight

Check your Christmas lights early. If they are faulty, leave them in a standard size carrier bag next to your bin and we'll collect them for recycling.

It's the time of year to celebrate. With so many parties don't forget to put empty cans, glass and plastic bottles in your blue bin. Pots, tubs and trays need to be rinsed thoroughly before also being placed in your blue bin.

To keep up-to-date with #RecycleRight posts, follow Your District Council on Twitter or Facebook via @StratfordDC.

Residents can also find a full list of what can and can't be recycled at www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/our-recycling-collection.cfm, and suggest new topics for future #RecycleRight posts by emailing streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

If you do have more recycling than you can fit in your blue bin, Your District Council will be happy to take it away - just leave it in a rigid or recyclable box next to your bin for collection.

Put your real Christmas tree next to your green bin for collection in January. Trees over 1.5 metres/5 feet should be cut in half. We can't take artificial trees!

#RecycleRight

Think before you give

It's sad to say but sleeping rough and begging is on the increase in Stratford-upon-Avon and also in other parts of the district. It's a complex picture which can't be solved by just putting a roof over people's heads.

Your District Council is aware of all those who are sleeping rough in Stratford town and has offered all of them the support and help that is available, including:

- Emergency accommodation to those who may be vulnerable.
- Assistance with accessing hostel placements outside of the district, including arranging transport.
- Bed and Breakfast accommodation is offered to all those sleeping rough during cold weather.

Sadly some rough sleepers have refused offers of accommodation and some of those that have been given B&B accommodation have subsequently been asked to leave due to their behaviour.

To address the issue of people who sleep rough, Your District Council has:

- Created a post of Rough Sleeper Engagement Officer, who engages with all known rough sleepers in the town.
- Continued to run The Link Project, a drop in centre on Waterside in Stratford-upon-Avon for rough sleepers, former rough sleepers and those who are socially excluded.

Help and advice is available from Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm, along with access to a

number of activities, including music sessions, guitar and cookery lessons, use of an allotment, shower facilities and more. Free breakfast, tea, coffee and other food is available.

- Commissioned support provider P3 to run the Housing First project, which is where entrenched rough sleepers are offered tenancies and receive intensive support. There are currently six Housing First tenancies running.

Want to help?

You may think that giving money directly to those on the street can help, but donations are habitually used to fund drug and alcohol lifestyles. Giving food and drink also encourages rough sleepers and beggars to sustain this way of living and spurn any assistance from those organisations trying to help them.

There are also reports of a number of professional beggars who commute to Stratford from elsewhere because of the lucrative nature of begging in the town. Some of these beggars pitch themselves in shop doorways to catch the theatre goers in the evenings, and bed down with sleeping bags, even though they are not homeless and have accommodation they can return to.

Your District Council, together with partners including shops and businesses in the town, is currently looking at setting up alternative methods of giving so that members of the public can give financial assistance to support rough sleepers, but not cash directly to the rough sleepers and beggars themselves.

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SLEEPING TROUGH
DO NOT BEG
AND MOST PEOPLE
BEGGING DO NOT
SLEEP TROUGH.

The Link Project already has a Just Giving page, and those who wish to support this project can donate at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stratfordlinkproject.

JustGiving

THE FACTS

In a survey of those who beg in Stratford-upon-Avon:

- 70% of people who beg in the town have accommodation and benefits, and help is available to those who don't.
- 80% of people who beg do so to support a drug habit.
- A person begging can earn up to £100 a day.

Got a concern?
24/7 Hotline:

0300 5000914

to report concerns about
someone sleeping
rough.

Walking with wellness!

Did you know there's a shop in Stratford upon Avon dedicated to helping keep people active and healthy, by offering comfortable fitted shoes and shoe inserts?

ShoeMed have recently moved onto Henley Street, & have a wide range of footwear to accommodate many kinds of foot shapes, sizes & problems. Rocker soles are their speciality, helping ease the pain on feet and ankles. People travel from all over the country to visit ShoeMed as their service & shoes are unique, with many styles and colours exclusive to their shop. So if you or anybody you know has problems finding perfect shoes - visit ShoeMed, open 7 days a week.

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Call 01789 400 777 for details
nationaltrust.org.uk/coughton-court

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Be Cyber Safe At Christmas With Our Top Tips

Watch out for scams in emails, text messages and on social media. Always go directly to a website to claim any offer or 'bargain' advertised, instead of clicking on these links

When you visit a website, make sure the web address begins with https, and there is a padlock symbol within the address bar.

Take 5 before you buy! Do you know and trust the retailer? Does the offer look too good to be true? Trust your instincts and if it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

For more information about staying safe online, visit:

www.cybersafewarwickshire.com

If you are experiencing domestic violence, you are not alone.



Refuge-Domestic Violence Service Warwickshire Helpline **0800 408 1552**

Our services include:

- Emergency safe accommodation for women and children
- Independent domestic violence advocacy for men and women navigating the legal system
- Outreach support for men and women in their own homes, in the community
- Drop-in services
- A 10 week women's group work programme
- Sanctuary scheme - providing additional security within a property



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Consultancy firm set to expand its business

A Stratford-upon-Avon business with professional and IT
service clients all over the globe is set to expand its team
and client base.

Simon Teale, a founder and director
of Felber Consulting, set up the
business seven years ago, and since
then it has gone from strength to
strength. Within the next 18 months,
the firm is looking to double the size
of its team as demand for services
continues to rise.

Convenient base

To begin with Simon used coffee
shops as a base for operations, but
then decided to move into offices.

Due to the nature of the business, the team was often out on
the road and the offices were under-used and an unnecessary
cost. But Simon liked having somewhere that was very much
a work environment and didn't want to bring his work home,
which led to the search for somewhere he could take up a
small amount of useful space.

He discovered Venture House - Your District Council's
business centre, which opened on the Avenue Farm Industrial

Estate in Birmingham Road in 2016, after receiving £450,000
of funding from the Government's Local Growth Fund
through the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise
Partnership (CWLEP).

"I hot desk at Venture House and it proves perfect for me,"
Simon said. "Felber did have an office, but because the team
and I travel so much, it didn't really get used."



Anne Solomon from Venture House (left)
with Simon Teale, founder and director of
Felber Consulting.

Unexpected benefits

What has surprised Simon is
the benefits that he didn't think
would come from Venture House.

"What I didn't expect is that
being based at Venture House has
provided networking opportunities,
which have been very useful, and
the facilities are fantastic if you do
need to have meetings," he said.

Although growth is on the horizon,
Simon is keen to keep his relationship with Venture House
open as it has proved very valuable.

He added: "As we grow and expand we will need offices, and
I hope that we may be able to look at working with Venture
House as its services have proved to be very worthwhile to
the company and myself."

To find out more about Venture House, please visit
www.venturehousestratford.co.uk or contact 01789 207500.

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Stratford	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 9.00 - 17.00. Sat: 10.00 - 15.00
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Bromford.

Crime prevention advice for Burglary

W.I.D.E.

By following the simple guidelines of W.I.D.E. you can reduce the possibility of your home becoming the target of a burglar.

W - Window Locks

Fit key-operated window locks to all downstairs windows that can't be seen from the street and easily accessible upstairs windows, e.g. those above a flat roof or near a drainpipe. Locks should conform to British Standard BS7950 or EU equivalent.

I - Internal Lights

Table / standard lamps should be placed on timer switches in different rooms around the house. Set them to come on and go off at different times to give the impression that the house is occupied. You could also use a timer switch on a radio.

D - Door Locks & Bolts

External doors should be fitted with good quality locks which comply with British Standard BS3621 or EU equivalent - and always remember to use them.

E - External Lights On Sensors

External lights should be fitted with sensors. Dusk to dawn lights with low energy bulbs can be more effective as a deterrent than motion sensor controlled lighting. These should be fitted at the front and rear of your home to maximise your security.

Protecting individual items

Remember you can protect individual items within your property by marking them (see safeinwarwickshire.com for more details).

Warwickshire Police advise that overnight, valuable items, such as car keys, are not:

- taken upstairs
 - left in locks
 - or kept in plain view
- but should be kept downstairs, out of plain sight (e.g. in a drawer).

Warning: Commercial vehicles are being targeted by criminals

There has been a recent increase of commercial vehicle crime in this area involving theft of tools and equipment from unattended vans.

Vans are often used for work requirements and, as a result, transport a range of technical goods, tools and equipment. These items are often valuable and easily sold on by criminals.



To avoid property being stolen from your van, ensure all valuable items such as tools are removed from the van overnight.

You can
contact your
local **Police Safer
Neighbourhood Team**
for a Van Security
Pack

Protect your vehicle, secure tools and equipment

Please help the Police to tackle this crime

Take steps to reduce the chances of your vehicle being targeted. The Police need to know about any suspicious activity around parked vehicles. Please contact them with any information about what is happening in your area.

Please call 101 to speak to your safer neighbourhood team.
(Call 999 if you witness a crime in progress.)

Contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on
0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org to report
information anonymously.

For more information, please visit:
www.warwickshire.police.uk

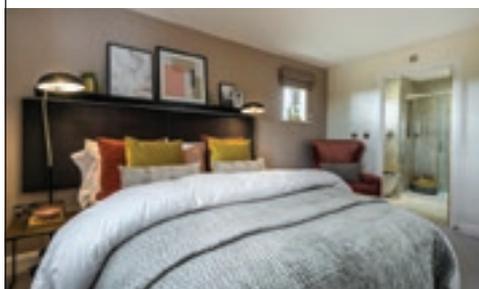
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Burgis & Bullock has recently expanded its presence in Stratford after merging with another local accountancy firm, Guard D'Oyly.

All of the existing Guard D'Oyly staff, including its Principal, Nick White, have moved into Burgis & Bullock's Elm Court offices.

The move is the latest success for Burgis & Bullock after moving into the town two years ago, and will allow the Guard D'Oyly team to help their clients cope with the requirements of the forthcoming Making Tax Digital (MTD) initiative.

As more and more financial procedures move online, Burgis & Bullock's expertise in cloud accounting and online book-keeping software will be ideal to assist clients with the new MTD requirements.

Burgis & Bullock also offer a wide range of specialist advisory services, including VAT consultancy, audit, tax planning, business sales and acquisitions, as well as a team of experts advising not for profit organisations.

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