

STRAT > FORWARD

NEWSLETTER

Issue 11: 23 March 2017

Ambassador Tour

It was wet, but good fun!!

The first of two Ambassador Tours took place yesterday (22nd March) and the participants and hosts deserve a medal for their fortitude in appalling weather conditions. Those on the tour ranged from staff of independent businesses, to front of house at hotels, to RSC and Birthplace staff and they all really enjoyed a whistle stop tour around Stratford-upon-Avon.

The Tour started at Creaky Cauldron on Henley Street, took in the Birthplace, MAD Museum, the Town Walk, New Place and RSC, and finished at The Butterfly Farm. The tour also tried to give **an idea of "hidden" Stratford by going through Shrieves Walk, Red Lion Court and The Minories** that attendees might not have been to before.

A big thank you to all the businesses who supported the tour by hosting and a big thank you to those businesses who released their staff.

Hopefully, it won't be as wet for next weeks tour!



L-R Town Hosts Terry & Shan with participants of the Ambassador tour

Vigilance

Warwickshire Police are urging the public to work with them to help combat terrorism following **yesterday's attack in London.**

A spokesperson for Warwickshire Police said: "The thoughts of all who serve within Warwickshire Police are with everyone affected by **the events in London yesterday afternoon.**"

"We feel it is important to emphasise that there is no specific intelligence relating to any threat to our communities that we serve and we regularly review our security measures to ensure we are doing **all we can to keep you safe.**"

"It is important that the police and the public work together to combat terrorism. If you have any information about suspicious activity or behaviour you can report it in confidence by calling the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321 or by using the secure form at www.gov.uk/ACT.

In an emergency situation call 999."

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BID Members Saddling Up For Bike Challenge

Two of our BID members have already saddled up for a brand new charity bike ride taking place in and around Stratford this summer.

The Ride for Bikes 60km Hilly Challenge – in support of Heart of England Mencap – takes place on Sunday, June 25th.

Starting and finishing at Meon Vale Leisure Centre, the route will see cyclists taking on a 60km route through Warwickshire and Gloucestershire, including the challenging climbs of the Cotswold hills.

All money raised by the event will support Heart of England Mencap's cycling project; funding adapted bikes to allow Mencap's customers to enjoy riding too.

Two of our BID members are already involved in the inaugural event. The Rosconn Group is sponsoring the challenge, while Lisa Preston, who runs ShoeMed in The Minories, is also supporting the event. Lisa, who has been supporting Heart of England Mencap for a number of years, trialling a small Ride for Bikes last year to start the ball rolling ahead of this year's big event, when it is hoped around 200 cyclists will take part.

Heart of England Mencap is still on the lookout for more sponsors - as well as as many cyclists as possible to sign up for the challenge.

Registration for Rides for Bikes is open now – and costs £30 per cyclist, to include food and refreshments. People who don't want to take on the full challenge can take part in an indoor static ride taking place on the day at Meon Vale.

For more information and to register please go to

www.heartofenglandmencap.org.uk. If you're interested in sponsoring the event, please call Cath on 01789 298709.



Ride for Bikes Team



Mail Boxes Etc are growing their 'mops' for charity

One BID business has embarked on a mammoth fundraising effort to raise money for the **Huntington's Disease Association**.

Kerry and Cynneht Bonanos of Mail Boxes Etc on Greenhill Street started growing their hair in January last year for charity and will carry on until an official 'Mop Chop' in October.

The couple are also holding various events throughout 2017 and hope to raise big chunk of money to help the **Huntington's Disease Association (HDA)**, which supports people affected by the rare disease.

Cynneht said: "In January 2016 we both decided to grow our hair and since it wasn't gonna happen overnight, we had some time to decide which charity we were going to support. In April we met an inspirational man who has a family member who suffers from Huntington's Disease.

"Not many people have heard about this disease and it is nowhere near as funded or supported as much as it should be. You can find out more at hda.org.uk."

All money raised will be going to the **Huntington's Disease Association** and the hair will be donated to the little Princess Trust. Their fundraising page can be found here uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/HuntingForACure

They're also opening their fundraising page for anyone else who wants to raise money for the cause. So if any other BID members want to get on board, just contact them.



Birthday Celebrations

The Town Council is still seeking prizes for the Lucky Sonnet competition that will be handed out to members of the public attending the Birthday Celebrations on the 22nd April.

The Town Council is asking for BID members and town businesses to support the Lucky Sonnet **initiative and donate prizes. It's an opportunity to get involved in the Shakespeare Birthday celebrations** as well as getting some acknowledgement in the coverage of the event.

To get involved, contact Civic Secretary Charles Wilson at the Town Hall on 01789 269332 or by email charles.wilson@stratford-tc.gov.uk.

Last year's milestone celebrations drew an extra 45,000 visitors to Stratford and we are expecting significant numbers of visitors for the event this year.



Footway Works

It can't have escaped your notice that Warwickshire County Council have started footway resurfacing works on certain streets in the town centre. The works, which are needed because of failing footpaths and trip hazards, are covering Bridge Street and High Street. The work is being done in four sections and will hopefully be done by Easter.

To be honest, the timing isn't ideal and we are talking to WCC about the planning and notification of future works in the town centre.



Launch of the Warwickshire Retail Crime Initiative (WRCI)



Stratford has moved back to WRCI for our Day and night-time Bard-watch initiatives. The launch event – particularly for retail – was well attended and our businesses were excited about WRCI and the renewed ability for Warwickshire Police to share information with us. Stratford has always been targeted by shoplifters and this will rejuvenate our response. The system is open (and free) to all BID businesses with a retail radio.

Please contact Shan Smith if you would like more information townhosts@stratforward.co.uk

Jobs and Vacancies ...

We've noticed that a lot of businesses are currently hiring and are advertising in shop windows. Please don't forget that the Stratforward website has a free to use [Vacancies page](#)* on it – we can then ensure that partners like the Universities, the College and DWP know that the site is a live resource. All we need to know is your business, the job (or a description of the job), the hourly rate (if you want to), and a contact number.

It's free to use for BID members so please let us know via info@stratforward.co.uk or tell a Town Host.

(*<http://www.stratforward.co.uk/job-vacancies-external>)

Dates for your diary!

If you have an event you would like us to list here please email Sandi - sandi@stratforward.co.uk

March

20th to 26th	Shakespeare Week
24th	Red Nose Day
25th	Stratford Races
26th	Mothering Sunday
26th	British Summer Time begins (Clocks move 1 hour forward)
26th	England v Lithuania (World Cup qualifier – Football)
29th	Closing date for pitch applications for the River Festival
29th	Ambassador Tour
30th	The Hypocrite opens (Swan)

April

8th	Grand National
1st to 18th	Northants & Buckinghamshire schools Easter holidays
8th to 23rd	Coventry & Warks schools Easter holidays (Also Oxon, Brum & Leicestershire)
14th to 17th	Easter bank holiday weekend
1st & 15th & 23rd	Stratford Races
22nd	Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations
23rd	St Georges Day
23rd - 30th	Stratford Literary Festival
30th & 1st May	Stratford Festival of Motoring

May

1st	May Day
4th	Local Elections
7th	Stratford Marathon
13th	Get it Glow Moonlit Walk
8th & 21st	Stratford Races
27th	FA Cup Final
26th - 24th June	Ramadan
29th	Spring Bank Holiday



30th April & 1st May 2017

www.stratfordfestivalofmotoring.co.uk



1st & 2nd July 2017

www.stratfordriverfestival.co.uk



23rd to 24th September 2017

www.stratfordtowncentrefoodfestival.co.uk

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