

STRAT > FORWARD

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

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Make Music At The Stratford River Festival Thanks To Costco's Acoustic Stage



Whether it's drumming, Morris dancing or playing the harp, aspiring musicians can get a taste of performing live thanks to the Acoustic Community Stage at this year's River Festival.

The stage, kindly sponsored by Costco Wholesale, will showcase some of the region's finest musicians - with the chance for visitors to have a go as well.

The River Festival - **one of Stratford's most popular events** - returns to Stratford on July 1st and 2nd for its ninth year, bringing tens of thousands of people to the town.

World-class music is always a key part of the multi award-winning extravaganza, and this year soul band Kinky Farnham returning as headliners on the main stage, the Bandstand, along with TRADarr.

And thanks to Costco, the Acoustic Community Stage will be back showcasing a lengthy line-up of talent, both regional and national.

Acts will include the Coventry Singer Songwriters as well as local soul duo Wilson Wright, Cotswolds-based folk group Brimstone, KES trio The Mannequins and a showcase by Stratford Music Centre.

But it's not just about watching - a range of acts will give musically-minded punters the chance to get involved.

Harpist Jasmin Earnshaw will host a Celtic Harp Workshop, giving people the chance to have a go on the unusual instrument, while light-footed visitors can join in with Shakespeare Morris and try their hand - or feet - at Morris dancing.

And acclaimed drummer Bo Davies will be hosting a drumming workshop, with those involved getting a feel for the spotlight, performing the results of their labours in front of the Bandstand before the headline act on Sunday.

Stratforward Events Manager Ruth Wood said: "The River Festival is all about getting people involved, and this is a great way to do that - giving visitors of all ages the chance to make, as well as listen to, music.

"We owe a big thanks to Costco Wholesale for sponsoring our Community Acoustic Stage, allowing some of the finest musicians from the local area to share their talents."

The Stratforward-organised River Festival is a highlight of the calendar in Stratford and the wider region, attracting more than 60,000 people to see 100 boats moored up on the Avon along

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with an array of entertainment from live music and food and drink to a fabulous fireworks display on the Saturday night.

Danny Lang, General Manager at Costco Wholesale, said: "Costco are delighted to be given the opportunity to sponsor The Stratford River Festival, one of the region's premier events of the year.

"At Costco we pride ourselves on always providing top quality goods and services at the lowest possible price, we are looking forward to having the opportunity to display our unique range of goods to potential new customers.

"Events such as this are an integral part of our business and we hope the festival will again provide a vehicle for us to demonstrate the advantages of Costco membership."



The [River Festival brochure](#) has hit the streets, packed with business listings and a load of reasons to visit Stratford.

The brochure for this year's event includes a full round-up of everything going on at the River Festival, what's on in Stratford throughout the rest of the year, plus seven pages of business listings in the town.

We've printed 50,000 copies of the brochure - 35,000 will be distributed to 35,000 addresses within a 20-mile radius of Stratford-upon-Avon.

The rest will be distributed by Town Hosts and local businesses so make sure you let us know if you want some - they're the perfect way of showcasing everything Stratford-upon-Avon has to offer and tempt River Festival visitors to wander into town while they're here. For more information contact info@stratforward.co.uk or pop into the Stratforward office on Sheep Street.

BID Business Opens Second Shop in Bell Court

Established Stratford business Hidden Garden is set to open a second outlet in the brand new Bell Court development.

Local florist Shabnam Ghezelbash is opening a 'grab and go' concept of Hidden Garden Floral Designs, based in Old Red Lion Court, in a newly-built unit at the High Street entrance of Bell Court.

Bardia's, set to open in the middle of June, will offer hand tied, fresh flower bouquets and locally grown plants, as well as a range of cards, gifts and seasonal products - all targeted at people on -the-go.

It will also offer a range of wedding and event services, including floral displays and complete styling packages comprising chair and table décor, props and centrepieces, as well as free consultations.

Shabnam, a local resident and gold award-winning florist with more than 22 years' experience in



the industry, said: "The newly developed kiosk is an ideal location for our 'grab and go' florist and will be perfect for people wanting to pick up a ready-done bouquet on their way home from work or find a last minute gift. We're very excited to be welcoming our first customers to Bardia's later this month."

Bardia joins other independents at Bell Court, including The Naildressers that opened this spring. Any independent operators interested in the remaining smaller units at Bell Court should contact Nashbond on 020 7290 4555 or Time Retail Partners on 020 7408 0900.

John Stacey, Asset Management Director at UK & European Investments, said: "We specifically built the new unit at the High Street entrance to appeal to a local independent operator so we're delighted to be welcoming Bardia's into this space.

"Having a beautiful florist in that location will create a vibrant and welcoming entrance to Bell Court and provide yet another reason for people to visit and shop.

"Shabnam is a great example of a local entrepreneur and is just the kind of person that we were hoping to attract to Bell Court. The development is set to be a thriving mix of national and independent operators that will bolster the current leisure and retail offering in Stratford-upon-Avon."

Hidden Garden
Floral Design

Bobbi Brown Launches at Debenhams



Debenhams are thrilled to welcome Bobbi Brown to the Debenhams Stratford Upon Avon store.

Previously the nearest stockist was Birmingham so being able to offer such a premium brand to the people of the town is a real coup.

Maria Warters, Manager of the Stratford-upon-Avon store said "Over the 20+ years since Bobbi

Brown entered the market, she has created numerous best-sellers including handy foundation sticks, excellent brushes, and the hugely popular range of shimmer bricks (one of which is apparently sold somewhere in the world every minute). Long wear cream eye shadows, so quick and easy to apply with your finger, no creasing and they really won't shift. The creamy concealer is also another must have. It's the perfect consistency and come in 14 colours to ensure a great match for **every skin tone. So many amazing products, so little space in my make up bag!"**

Debenhams would like to extend an invitation to any BID member who would like to come in and have a "How to session" with one of the make-up artists and are thrilled to be welcoming Bobbi Brown Pro artist "Lampros" to the store on June 22nd. Appointments are available, so please pop in and visit the Bobbi Brown counter in store to make sure you don't miss out.

Poetry Festival Set to Bring Literature Lovers to Stratford

The Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival returns this Sunday, bringing a line-up of readings, performances and workshops from award-winning artists.

Organised by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the event is the UK's longest-running poetry festival and this year - it's 64th - takes the theme of 'Crossing Borders'.

It launches this Sunday, Father's Day, with a special programme of poetry for Dads and highlights will include appearances by Simon Russell Beale and Alexandra Gilbreath, Inua Ellams, and multi award-winning Kurdish poet and journalist Bejan Matur.

The 64th Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival runs from June 18th to 25th. For the full programme and to book tickets, visit www.shakespeare.org.uk/poetryfestival. Tickets can also be purchased from any of the Shakespeare houses.



Rowers Ready for Regatta This Weekend

The annual Stratford Boat Club Regatta is back this Saturday, with hundreds of spectators expected to gather by the banks of the Avon.

The event, organised by Stratford-upon-Avon Boat Club and supporting Heart of England Mencap, attracts competitors from across the UK including Bewdley, Cardiff, Nottingham, Leicester and Monmouth.

Racing takes place on the town stretch of the river from Holy Trinity Church to the club grounds by The Tramway Bridge. Spectators will be able to watch from Bancroft Gardens and the Recreation Ground, with a barbecue and beer and tea tent in the club grounds as well as fundraising fun and games.

For more information, visit www.stratford-rowing.co.uk/regatta-2017



Rosconn Group Stratford Boat Club Regatta
Saturday 17th June 2017

BID Businesses Set to Shake It Purple for Shakespeare Hospice



Stratford businesses are being encouraged to 'Shake it Purple' next week for The Shakespeare Hospice.

The charity is holding its purple-themed fundraiser next Friday (June 23rd) with local companies, shops and pubs, as well as schools and community groups, encouraged to get involved.

Join them and help to paint the town purple by grabbing one of its collection tins or buckets and Shaking it Purple for the hospice.

Only 7% of the money the Shakespeare Hospice needs comes from the government, with 93% raised by the **charity's friends and supporters who** work tirelessly to raise the £2 million needed to keep its doors open.

On Friday, June 23rd the hospice is calling for the whole area to come together and raise as much money as possible for its staff and volunteers.

To find out more or to get involved, please call the Fundraising Team on 01789 266852 or visit www.theshakespearehospice.org.uk where you can also download your Shake It Purple Pack.

George Pragnell Patek Philippe Exhibition



Dates for your diary!

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

June

12th - 16th	Tiddington Road & Bridgefoot Road closures
12th - 17th	George Pragnell Patek Philippe Exhibition
15th - 23rd	Bridgefoot car park closed
17th	Stratford Boat Club Regatta
18th	Father's Day
18th to 25th	Poetry Festival
20th	Stratford Races
22nd	Bobbi Brown "How to" sessions @ Debenhams
23rd	Shakespeare Hospice Shake it Purple day
23rd - 2nd Sept	Titus Andronicus opens @ The RSC Theatre
24th	Midsummers Day
24th	Armed Forces Day
28th - 30th	Stratford Schools perform Julius Caesar

July

1st & 2nd	River Festival
3rd to 16th	Wimbledon
4th, 16th & 23rd	Stratford Races
7th to 9th	British Grand Prix @ Silverstone
9th	Stratford Boat Club Fun Regatta
20th	Showcase Stratford @ The Artshouse
21st to 4th Sept	Warwickshire schools summer holidays
23rd	Stratford Lions Club Raft Race
26th to 4th Sept	Birmingham schools summer holidays



1st & 2nd July 2017

www.stratfordriverfestival.co.uk



23rd to 24th September 2017

www.stratfordtowncentrefoodfestival.co.uk



6th & 7th May 2018

www.stratfordfestivalofmotoring.co.uk

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