

STRAT > FORWARD

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER

Issue 25: 28th June 2017

Safety Top of the Agenda At River Festival



As Stratford gets ready to welcome tens of thousands of people to town this weekend for the 2017 Stratford River Festival the Stratforward team are asking that members lay on the best possible welcome but also that they remain vigilant to ensure safety is paramount.

Footfall of 60,000 is expected over the two day celebration of summer in Stratford. However, following recent tragic incidents around the country, the BID team have been working with the emergency services to implement additional safety measures to ensure the event is as fun and safe as ever.

There will be extra security around the site including trained security staff and dog handlers. Random bag searches will also be in place.

BID Director Joe Baconnet said: "Our visitors' safety is our priority and we've put in place all necessary measures to maximise public safety, working closely with authorities.

"We'd ask everyone to be vigilant, visitors and BID members, and to comply with of our security team's requests.

"Warwickshire Police are keen to stress there remains no intelligence of any specific threat in Warwickshire, but we, and they, are taking all reasonable measures to keep our community safe.

"Our message to visitors is very much come, have fun, stay safe and go home happy."

Here's some of the great things on offer at the Festival this weekend

Music & Entertainment

World-class music is back on the bill for this year's festival, with the return of Kinky Farnham to the stage at the multi award-winning event in the headline Saturday night spot.

The popular Cotswold based 9 piece band are just one of dozens of acts that will fill the main stage and Community Stage from 11am until 10pm on Saturday and 11am until 7.30pm on Sunday.

And over on the Acoustic Community Stage, sponsored by Costco Wholesale, aspiring musicians can get a taste of live performance with a series of workshops, from drumming to Morris dancing and harp playing.

The stage will showcase some of the region's finest musicians, including the Coventry Singer Songwriters as well as local soul duo Wilson Wright, another Cotswolds-based folk group Brimstone, KES trio The Mannequins and a showcase by Stratford Music Centre.

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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.

Food and Drink

There are no fewer than 14 hot food traders on offer at this **year's River Festival, with new treats to tickle the tastebuds** with everything from pies, pancakes, pizza and pasta to bbq's and baps.

BID members Barry the Butcher, Bella Italia, Carluccio's and the One Elm are among the food traders setting up on site for the two days.

And for thirsty festival-goers, **three of Stratford's own local** businesses are running the alcohol concessions at the event. The One Elm, The Keys & Kitchen and The Encore won the tenders for the bars at the event after a rigorous and competitive process that saw applications from far and wide.

The Keys & Kitchen will be serving up Pimms, wine and champagne, while The Encore will offer spirits and cocktails, and The One Elm will be serving ale, cider and lager.

Fireworks

One of the highlights of the Festival will as usual be the fantastic fireworks display over the river on the Saturday night at 10.15pm.

Shopping

There will be a craft market on the site with a selection of stalls offering up everything from art to artisan cheese. BID members to watch out for here will include: Bright Ideas, For Something Different and Shabby Chic Sister.

Other stalls on site will offer an array of products, food and services. Again, BID members to hunt out include: Hathaway Tea Rooms, Huffkins Tea Rooms, Roly's Fudge....and not forgetting our friends from The Stratford Herald.

Family and Charity Zone

The Family and Charity Zone will be bigger and better than ever and will feature other BID businesses such as CAB, the Town Trust, Shakespeare Hospice and Acorns.

On both days our Family Zone will include children's activities from Kate's Story Boat and Craft Activities to activities from local charity Escape Community Arts.

This year, the River Festival has attracted more charity stalls than ever before reflecting the positive impact that the event has on engagement with local charities. There are over 30 charities attending and some are within a Stratford Town Trust funded area for smaller charities to raise awareness and look for recruits.



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Treasure Trail

New for this year will be a Town Centre Treasure Trail, organised by BID Business Magic Alley. **The forms for "The Great Stratford River Festival Treasure Hunt" will be available at the River Festival and will take participants around the town and to local businesses picking up clues.** There will be fabulous prizes available for those that take part.

Brochure & BID card

50k River Festival Brochures have now been distributed throughout town and the region. If you need extra copies please call the BID office as soon as possible.

The brochure includes a special River festival BID card valid until 16 July - so don't forget to check your offers and brief your teams.

A big thank you to The River festival's partner The Avon Navigation Trust, its sponsors Stratford Marina, Costco and Avon-Boating and its supporters Bancroft Cruises, The Canal & River Trust, Forest Firework Ltd, The Inland Waterway Association, Magic Alley, Stratford District Council and the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal Society.



Stratford Streets Set For Students Performance

Hundreds of Stratford students will take part in promenade performances of Julius Caesar through the **town's streets this week.**

Around 400 students Stratford **schools and the town's college will** take part in performances of the historic Shakespeare classic through the town and its venues on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (June 28th, 29th and 30th).



Performances will start on the Bancroft with a procession through the gardens towards the **Royal Shakespeare Theatre, travelling up Chapel Lane to Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall, then on to Shakespeare's New Place, to the Town Hall Ballroom, down Sheep Street to Weston Square, and finally to The Other Place, where the second half of the performances will remain in the Studio Theatre.**

They will make use of both indoor and outdoor spaces and music students from the local secondary schools and Stratford College will help move the audience between venues.

Measures have been put in place to ensure noise and disruption are kept to a minimum, but some music may be heard at short intervals throughout the week as the performances move between venues. The RSC has apologised in advance for any inconvenience it may cause.

Tickets can be booked through the RSC's Education Box Office on 01789 403434. Please quote "Stratford Schools' Festival" and ask for the date and time you would like.



BID Card Offers

Please let us know of any revised BID Card Offers and of any events you are running which we can promote.



Stratford-upon-Avon's Beer & Cider Festival

CAMRA's Shakespeare Branch is holding the 11th Stratford upon Avon Beer and Cider Festival at the Stratford racecourse again this year on the 7th and 8th July.

Opening times are 7th July: noon to 11pm and 8th July: 11am to 11pm

BID Members The Bear and The Stratford Alehouse are supporting the event which is in aid of The Shakespeare Hospice.

Walking Really Is Free.... Stratford Town Walk Marks Anniversary With Free Walks for Charity

The popular Stratford Town Walk is offering free evening walks to mark its 15th anniversary and raise money for a local charity.

The first of four free evening walks was held on Saturday, with three more taking place over the next three Saturdays (July 1st, 8th and 15th).

The one-and-a-half hour guided walking tour around Shakespeare's historic Stratford will cover the Shakespeare story and Stratford's amazing history through fire, flood and plague.

The walking tour passes Shakespeare's Birthplace, New Place, Hall's Croft, Harvard House, Shakespeare's School, Guild Chapel, River Avon and Holy Trinity Church.

There is no charge for the walking tour but any donations will be passed to the Aylesford cancer unit at Warwick Hospital.

Walks are wheelchair and dog-friendly and start at 7pm outside Shakespeare's Birthplace. Each person will be given a ticket with five tear-off vouchers that can be used to get discounts at selected shops, restaurants, pubs, coffee shops and attractions in Stratford.

To book tickets call 07855 760377.



Stratford Building To Win

Several historical Stratford buildings have been recognised in prestigious building awards.

The project to conserve and restore Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall, carried out by specialist contractors Croft Building and Conservation Ltd, has been shortlisted as the Best Small Commercial Project and Best Educational Building in the West Midland Awards LABC Building Excellence Awards. The ceremony for the West Midland LABC Building Excellence Awards takes place at Telford International Centre on Friday July 7th.



Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall

And the Royal Shakespeare Theatre has scooped the Conservation Award in SDC's Stratford-on-Avon Building Excellence Awards, announced last week, with the Guildhall also being commended by the judges. The restoration to The Guildhall was carried out under overall control of the King Edward VI School Trust with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Chairman of the Trustees Tony Bird said: "The richness of the history of Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall was matched by the challenges that restoring this complex building presented and which were met with expert craftsmanship and quality authentic materials.

"The aim of the Trustees was always to maintain the authenticity and atmosphere of this remarkable Tudor building, whilst sharing its story and experiences with the visitors, which our team and the builders worked extremely hard to achieve and also to ensure that this project opened on time and to budget; a great indicator of success in itself and we are now hosting visitors from many parts of the world."

The Stratford-on-Avon Building Excellence Awards ceremony took place on Thursday and builders, architects and owners of developments were drawn from more than 2,000 completed projects over the last two years from across Stratford district.



RSC Winners - Photo courtesy of SDC

RSC Special Offer!!

Cool off with a £5 ticket to see *Titus Andronicus* - but get in there quick, with limited availability these will go like hot cakes!

This brand new production brings Shakespeare's goriest play bang up to date in a chillingly contemporary interpretation that asks how a society can govern itself when it is oppressed.

So don't sweat it, get on down to the RSC and enjoy a great night out for only a fiver, without having to worry about the heat. Use the link below to book your £5 tickets or enter promo code 17307 before choosing your performance. **Click here to find out more**



Dates for your diary!

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

June

28th @ 6pm Henley Street & Meer Street Traders Meeting @ Shakespeare Centre
28th - 30th Stratford Schools perform Julius Caesar around town

July

1st & 2nd River Festival
1st Mark Thomas Jewellers redevelopment sale starts
1st, 8th & 15th Free [Stratford Town Walk](#) 15th Anniversary Charity Walk
3rd to 16th Wimbledon
4th, 16th & 23rd Stratford Races
7th & 8th Stratford [Beer & Cider Festival](#)
7th to 9th British Grand Prix @ Silverstone
9th Stratford Boat Club [Fun Regatta](#)
11th Stratforward Networking Event
12th - 15th 4 Plays and an Interval @ [The Bear Pit Theatre](#)
13th Marie Curie Information Evening @ Shakespeare Street Cocktail Bar
15th Bhangra Dance Workshop @ [The Shakespeare Centre](#)
20th Showcase Stratford @ [The Artshouse](#)
20th Shipton & Co Summer Gemstone Event (See BID Card Newsletter)
20th Closure of applications to participate in the 2017 [Food Festival Trails](#)
21st to 4th Sept [Warwickshire schools summer holidays](#)
23rd Stratford Lions Club Raft Race
26th to 4th Sept Birmingham schools summer holidays

August

3rd & 24th Stratford Races
10th to 13th Bulldog Bash (TBC)



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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