

BUSINESS NEWS

Stratforward Newsletter

Issue 25 - 29 June 2016

Let The Fun Flow - Thousands Expected to Flock to Stratford for River Festival

Stratford's award-winning River Festival returns this weekend, with thousands of people expected to descend on the town to take in this unique event.....one of the highlights in the annual Stratford town calendar.

The Stratforward-organised festival will see up to 100 narrow boats moor up along the banks of the Avon - opposite the iconic Royal Shakespeare Theatre- providing a colourful backdrop to two days of full-on free family fun on the Recreation Ground.

Alongside all the boats, the eighth annual Stratford-upon-Avon River Festival will feature a fantastic firework display that will light up the river and town at around 10.15pm on Saturday night and nearly 40 world class acts that will dazzle crowds on the two stages. Saturday will be headlined by six-piece party band **Mister Shakes** featuring **Brian Ferry's** sax play and the event will close on the Sunday with one of the UK's leading Glenn Miller tribute groups - the Ashby Big Band.

Nearly 100 charity, craft and food and drinks stalls will provide plenty for people of all ages to eat, drink and do. Stratforward members involved in the festival include: Hathaway Tea Rooms, Home of The Sofa, Huffkins, Karl Stallard Furniture, Roly's Fudge Factory, Barry The Butcher, The One Elm, The View, Bright Ideas, For Something Different, Shabby Chic Sister, Shakespeare Hospice, Sue Ryder, and Avon Boating.

Since it was established the River Festival has become one of the region's leading free festivals. Last year's event was not only a record-breaking year, bringing nearly 60,000 revellers into Stratford, but also scooped the Tourism Initiative of the Year Award in the Touch FM Pride of Stratford Awards.

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Some 50,000 River Festival brochures, packed with information about the event, have been printed this year. 40,000 have been delivered direct to households throughout South Warwickshire and another 10,000 have been distributed to Stratforward members through the Town Hosts. If you require more copies of the brochure please ring Sandi at Stratforward to arrange for them to be dropped down to your premises before Friday.

The brochures all contain temporary BID member cards to encourage revellers to venture into BID businesses over the weekend and during the weeks following, to take advantage of special offers. BID businesses who participate in the scheme are requested to check their offers are up- to- date and alert the Stratforward team to any required alternations

[Download the brochure](#) [View the flip book](#)



SITE MAP

VOTE
FOR YOUR FAVOURITE BOAT TO WIN A DAY AFLOAT
By entering the Best Boat Competition (see details at festival)

www.stratfordriverfestival.co.uk

STALLS LIST

CHARITY & FAMILY

- Air Ambulance
- Army Benevolent Fund
- Avon Navigation Trust
- Bancrafts
- Canal & Rivers Trust
- Climbing Wall
- Escape Community Arts
- Fairy Fun - face painting
- Friends of the Earth
- SEAF
- Island Waterways Assoc.
- Kate's Story Boat
- Little Badford Model Boats
- Mid Warwickshire Yacht Club
- Rethink Mental Health
- RNI
- RSPB
- Severn Rivers Trust
- Shakespeare Hospice
- Shakespeare Dons
- SONACS - Stratford-upon-Avon Canal Society
- Stratford Ambulance Association
- Stratford Sea Cadets
- Stratford Sub Aqua
- Stroke Association
- Sue Ryder
- Traditional Swing Soles
- Transition Stratford
- Warwickshire Reminiscence Action Project
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- Waterways Recovery Group
- Youth Model Association

EXHIBITORS

- Abacus Chiropractic
- Anglo Webb - Narrow
- D & S Sweets
- Excellence Afloat of Valley
- Crabes - Narrow Boat
- Halloway Tea Rooms
- Home of the Sofa
- Huffins
- Kat Stuard Furniture
- Siders Honda
- Maison Boutique
- Native Crafts
- Poppo Galore
- Red Coffee Co
- Kate's Fudge Factory
- SA Spaces
- Stratford Fancy Dress
- Tewkesbury Marina
- Willow Wren Baiting - Narrow Boat
- Will Alexander's Cardboard Gondola
- Umigae Italian Food

CRAFT MARKET

- 3 Blue Stars
- Bright Ideas
- Claire Brerley Art
- Claire Henley Art
- Classy Art and Craft
- For Something Different
- reBeat books
- Julia Margaret Handbags
- tymn bank Farm
- Muslimi Fire
- Worwood Art
- Rebecca Louise
- Shabby Chic Silver
- Shakespeare's Sister's soap
- Silverfields
- listerne
- Spoons from the Shed
- The Bam
- The Pod
- Tilly Fox Designs

HOT FOOD

- Sally the Butcher - BBQ
- Souche Bakehouse - Pies, Tarts and Sausage Rolls
- Charlotta - Chums
- Jabberwocky - Toasties
- One Bin - BBQ
- Ross & Ross - Slow cooked BBQ
- Shakespeare Tiff Food - Pork baps
- Spice It Up Caribbean - BBQ
- Stonehoke Smoke & Grill
- Italy Thai Cuisine
- The View - Fish & Chips
- We Wash Good Grub - Wraps
- Wild Oven - Pizzas

CHARITY & FAMILY

- The One Bin - Cider & Lager
- The One Bin - Pimms & Prosecco
- The One Bin - Real Ale
- The Little Gin Company - Gin
- The Ulla Kim Company - Rum

What's on Saturday 2nd July

Official Opening with the Mayor	11:45 - 11:50	Bandstand
Kate's Story Boat & craft activities	11:00 - 4:00	Family Zone
Escape Community Arts 1960's inspired children's activities	11:00 - 4:00	Family Zone
Escape Arts Showcase	12:00 - 12:40	Acoustic stage
London International Gospel Choir	12:00 - 12:45	Bandstand
Celtic Harps	12:45 - 1:25	Acoustic stage
Swan Tai Chi	12:45 - 1:00	Bandstand
The Grimaldis	1:00 - 1:45	Bandstand
Sunny Side Up Ukulele Orchestra with children from Bridgetown Primary - bring your ukule and join in!	1:30 - 2:15	Acoustic stage
Roxie T Dance Academy - Juniors	1:45 - 2:00	Bandstand
Daniel Nestlerode and Paul Ballanlyne	2:00 - 2:45	Bandstand
Stomping on Spiders	2:30 - 3:25	Acoustic stage
Mezza Dance	2:45 - 3:00	Bandstand
The Male Evans Band	3:00 - 3:45	Bandstand
Swan Tai Chi	3:30 - 3:45	Acoustic stage
Mearmar	3:45 - 4:00	Bandstand
25 Years Late	4:00 - 4:40	Acoustic stage
The Redhills	4:00 - 4:45	Bandstand
London International Gospel Choir Workshop	4:45 - 5:45	Acoustic stage
Just Dance	4:45 - 5:00	Bandstand
Midnight Sapphires	5:00 - 5:45	Bandstand
Roxie T Dance Academy - Seniors	5:45 - 6:00	Bandstand
Battered Soul	6:00 - 6:45	Bandstand
Small Doses	7:00 - 8:15	Bandstand
Mister Shakes	8:45 - 10:15	Bandstand
Spectacular Firework Display	10:15pm	Bandstand

What's on Sunday 3rd July

Kate's Story Boat & craft activities	11:00 - 6:00	Family Zone
Escape Community Arts 1960's inspired children's activities	12:00 - 4:00	Family Zone
Jen Dobson	12:00 - 12:45	Acoustic stage
Matt Bond	12:00 - 12:45	Bandstand
Just Dance	12:45 - 1:00	Bandstand
Chasing Deer	1:00 - 1:40	Bandstand
Jessica Rhodes Band	1:00 - 1:45	Acoustic stage
Chris Cleverley	1:45 - 2:30	Bandstand
Wilson Wright	2:00 - 2:40	Acoustic stage
Roxie T Dance Academy	2:30 - 2:45	Bandstand
Triangle	2:45 - 3:25	Acoustic stage
Stratford Rocks	2:45 - 3:30	Bandstand
Folk Friendly	3:00 - 3:45	Bandstand
16 Strings and a Dead Goat	3:30 - 4:25	Acoustic stage
Linda Watkins Band	3:45 - 4:30	Bandstand
The Big Sing - Stratford Rocks Choir workshop	4:30 - 5:15	Acoustic stage
Occasional Orchestra	4:45 - 5:45	Bandstand
The Big Sing - the results!	5:15 - 5:45	Acoustic stage
Ashey Big Band	6:00 - 7:30	Bandstand

Click here for the [E-BROCHURE](#)

River of Ale Will Not Run Dry As Elm Takes Helm



River Festival visitors don't have to worry about going thirsty this weekend, with thousands of gallons of beer, cider, lager, prosecco and Pimm's being laid on for the event.

Stratford member The One Elm won the tendering exercise to run the cider and lager tent, the Pimm's and prosecco tent, the ale tent, and a barbecue at this weekend's festival.

And after the record-breaking number of visitors last year literally drank the bars dry, general manager Mat Faulkner said there's no chance of that happening this year.

"We've ordered something like 12,000 pints of ale," he said. "We've got 46 11-gallon containers of lager, 30 11-gallons of cider, 15 11-gallon containers of draught Pimm's, and 15 barrels of fruit cider. We've also got 2,000 bottles of Prosecco and 3,500 pieces of meat for the barbecue."

Mr Faulkner said preparations have been underway for months, with staff drafted in from other Peach Pubs in the area.

The One Elm has been involved in previous River Festivals, he said, including last year when he was left gob-smacked by how much beer they sold.

"We were completely overwhelmed. We thought we'd ordered in enough beer to last through to Sunday night with maybe some to take back with us. We sold out of the beer on the Saturday night by 7pm.

"I remember we had one ale left on the rack and there was a queue that reached all the way round the beer and lager tent.

"There was the last guy and he ordered three beers - I poured two-and-a-half and then it ran out. I literally had to tip the barrel up for him to get the very last drop out to make it up to the third point. I'll take that moment to the grave with me, it was brilliant."

The One Elm, which earlier this year scooped the Best Customer Care award at the Touch FM Pride of Stratford Awards for the fourth year running, has been planning for months for the River Festival with final preparations underway this week.

Mr Faulkner said: "To be involved in the months that lead up to it, and then right up to the day itself, it's just superb.

"In a way, the most important thing for us is being down there in the community. Since I've been general manager the one thing I focused on is getting ourselves back out there.

"I like to do things for the community and Stratford is a great community to be involved in. Our main aim is making sure that the people of Stratford-upon-Avon enjoy themselves, whether they're in the pub, at a street party or at the River Festival."





Barry the Butcher says "Let's Meat Over the River"

The owner of long-running Stratford business Barry the Butcher has come up with a **novel idea to make sure his stall doesn't run out of hotdogs at this weekend's river festival.**

Adam Lucock, who set up Barry the Butcher 32 years ago with his late father, is not only supplying several other stalls at the Stratford-organised festival this weekend but will be running his own - **Barry's Barbie** - selling their own homemade hotdog sausages, burgers and marinated chicken wings.

But with a thousand sausages prepared for each day of the two-day festival and only room in his cool boxes for 150 at a time, Mr Lucock has had to come up with a cunning plan to get the food from his fridges in Chapel Street to the stall on Waterside - take to the water!

"We'll probably sell about a thousand hotdogs on Saturday and a thousand on Sunday," he said. "We're making them fresh on Thursday and Friday and I can keep them in the fridge but our cool boxes can only take about 150.

"I thought, how am I going to get them from my fridge on Chapel Street? And jokingly I thought I can use the chain ferry, but actually it is probably going to be the best way. **It's pointless trying to get the our van through town, so we have to find other ways and as many of my loyal customers know we do like a challenge.**"

It's not the first time Stratford member Mr Lucock has found a novel way to get produce across Stratford, regularly using shopping trolleys to deliver supplies to his customers on festival and mop days.

As well as his own stall, he's also supplied lamb to Ross & Ross Food for its slow-cooked pulled lamb and pigs to The Shakespeare Spit Roast Company for its hog roast.

This is the first year Barry the Butcher has had a stall at the River Festival and it comes after a successful stint at the 2015 Food Festival, also organised by Stratford.

"I've been asked before to do the River Festival, but because we're busy 52 weeks a year I have always looked at the calendar and I've had to decline. If I'm going to do something I've got to do it properly and it's not been the right time.



"I did the food festival which was a great success and the PR that that gave me was unbelievable so this is the year to take it on."



RIVER FESTIVAL REVLLERS AND THEATRE LOVERS INVITED TO TAKE STAGE LEFT FOR OTHER PLACE OPEN DAY



River Festival revellers and theatre-lovers are getting the chance to travel back in time, with tickets for the RSC's **The Other Place** up for grabs this weekend for just 70p - the same price they were in 1974.

Stratford member the RSC is holding an 'open house' at the recently-reopened studio theatre this Saturday from noon to 10pm.

The event will add to the host of activities on offer to thousands of visitors set to descend on Stratford this weekend for the town's annual River Festival.

The open house is offering a range of special activities for the whole family including the chance to buy tickets for the RSC's forthcoming **Making Mischief Festival of new plays for just 70p** - the price when the original **The Other Place** opened more than 40 years ago.

The Other Place was the RSC's original studio theatre and the starting point for some of the company's landmark productions. It shut in 2006 to make way for the temporary Courtyard Theatre while the main theatre was revamped, and reopened this year to coincide with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

It is now home to a brand new 200 seat theatre space, the RSC's extensive costume store, a new theatre tour dubbed 'From Page to Stage', and a café bar.

Saturday's Open House event includes a range of free events to give a flavour of the special atmosphere at **The Other Place**.

There will be 20 minute taster theatre tours, with glimpses into **The Studio Theatre**, a rehearsal room and the **Costume Store**, which holds more than 30,000 of the RSC's costumes. Tours run on the half hour between 1pm and 3.30pm, with half the tickets bookable in advance, and half available on the day.

The taster theatre tours will last 20 minutes, and will run at 1pm, 1.30pm, 2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm and 3.30pm. Half of the tickets for each tour are pre-bookable by calling the RSC Box Office on 01789 403493 and limited to two tickets per person. The other half will be available on the day, 15 minutes before each tour, from the box office in **The Other Place**. Tours begin at **Susie's Bar in The Other Place**.

As part of the open day, former Head of Wigs and Make-Up **Brenda Leedham** will lead **Blood, Guts and Gore** - a session showing how the RSC creates fake scars and bruises. The event will take place at 12noon in **The Events Space** at **The Other Place**. Free tickets will be available 15 minutes in advance from the Box Office at **The Other Place** on a first-come, first-served basis.

People who come to the Open House event will also get the chance to buy a ticket for the RSC's forthcoming **Making Mischief** festival of new work at just 70p.

The festival, which runs in **The Studio Theatre** at **The Other Place** from July 27 to August 27, includes two new plays: **'Fall of the Kingdom, Rise of the Foot Soldier'** by **Somalia Seaton**, and **'Always Orange'** by **Fraser Grace**,

plus the return of the award-winning **'Revolt. She said. Revolt again.'** by **Alice Birch**, and **Clean Break's** critically-acclaimed one-woman show **'Joanne'**, performed by **Tanya Moodie**.

A hundred 70p tickets will be available to purchase at the Open House from 12 noon. Tickets can only be bought in person at the Box Office at **The Other Place**, on a first-come, first-served basis.

A further 300 70p tickets will be available throughout the festival, with a selection on sale



Photo courtesy of Stewart Hemley - copyright RSC

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every morning from 10am between July 27 and August 27, again in person at the Box Office at The Other Place. The 70p tickets are limited to two tickets per person.

Saturday's Open House event will also include activities for younger visitors, including a dressing-up box, special colouring sheets, and a playcart with fun craft activities. There will also be a Big Pub Quiz from 7.30pm-9.30pm. Most of the questions will be general knowledge, though there will be one Shakespeare-themed round so come and test your knowledge in this free-to-enter quiz. Just turn up on the night and form a team.

And on top of all this, there will be live music from Birmingham-based musicians and singers, Alima, Rochaé, Ed Geater and Barbella, and poet Raza Hussein, in the foyer between 5.30pm and 7pm.

Susie's Cafe Bar in the foyer of The Other Place will be open from 10am, offering teas, coffees, sandwiches and cakes and from 5pm it transforms into a bar, serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. For the Open House event, from 12 noon to 5pm Susie's Café Bar will be offering a free filter coffee or tea with every slice of cake or cookie, and a free babyccino when a drink is bought for the adult in the party.

This weekend, a visit to the Open House can also be combined with a performance at the RSC's outdoor theatre, The Dell, just a few metres from The Other Place. On Saturday the Brit School performs Titus Andronicus at 1pm and Much Ado About Nothing at 3pm. Entrance is free and no booking required.

Rosconn Named as Raft Race Sponsor and challenge fellow Stratford members to Row in



If this weekend's River Festival inspires you to take to the river then now is your chance.....in a few weeks time teams will take to the River Avon for the 40th annual Raft Race. And organisers have just announced that Stratford member The Rosconn Group are to be this year's headline sponsor for the event.



The company's support will pay for the safety teams on hand on the day to look after the competitors – and to help them negotiate the two weirs enroute.



This year's 40th anniversary Raft Race – organised by the Wellesbourne and Shakespeare Lions - will take place on Sunday July 24th. The main beneficiary for 2016 will be Heart of England Mencap, working to support local people with learning disabilities. The race fundraises for different local causes each year, banking an amazing £750,000 since it first began back in 1976.

The Rosconn Group was founded almost 11 years ago and has two arms to the business, Rosconn Developments and Rosconn Strategic Land, striving to create sustainable developments that enhance local areas.

Daniel O'Donnell, The Rosconn Group Managing Director, said: "Working with local communities is very much at the heart of what we do and we are committed to supporting that community in every way we can. We feel very honoured to be the headline sponsor for this year's Raft Race, supporting the Lions and Heart of England Mencap - a charity we have formed a very strong link with. They do such great work with a broad spectrum of individuals and we applaud that dedication. Our aim is to work closely with such organisations as they make such a difference to the lives of vulnerable people who need some support."

Cath Errington, Fundraising Manager for Heart of England Mencap, said: "We are so grateful to Rosconn Group for their support, which makes a real difference to a small charity like ours. We are so grateful to the Lions too for choosing us as the main beneficiary this year – and to all of the teams busy getting their rafts ready for the day."

And Stratford members were this week urged to think about pulling together teams for the event. The race sees teams paddling their homemade rafts 7.5 miles down the River Avon from Wasperton to Stratford.

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Race Committee Chairman Kelvin McIntosh said: "This is a milestone year for the race and we need our local businesses and groups to get behind us and sign-up for the challenge – there's still plenty of time to enter and get raft building. It's a huge amount of fun on the day."

Entry forms for this year's Raft Race are available online. Please go to www.rafrace.org.uk for all of the details or call Lion Kelvin McIntosh: 07889 164765 or email enquiries@rafrace.org.uk



LEGAL LEGS AT LODDERS LACE UP

LACE up your running shoes and sign-up for **Stratford's Big 10k..that's the call from Ladders** – confirmed as headline sponsor for the annual town fundraiser once again.

2016 is the seventh consecutive year the firm - a Stratford member - **has supported Stratford's Big 10k** race, which takes place on Sunday 11th September.

Organisers are expecting around 1,500 runners will take part in this **year's race, which starts on the Recreation Ground** and then heads out to Clifford Chambers, with the runners returning to Stratford along the Greenway.



Born to run - (left to right) are the first of the Ladders team to sign up for the Big 10k in 2016: James Mottram, Kate Higginson, Steven Baker, Maria Fitzgerald, Harry Edgington-Furlong, Nicola Eaton and Scott Parmenter.

Anyone can get involved, they are just asked to raise sponsorship or to make a charity donation.

Stratford members can follow in the footsteps of Ladders, which is already putting together its Big 10k team, headed by partner Steven Baker.

He said: "The Big 10k is an important feature of Stratford's annual events calendar, and Ladders is delighted to take a lead role once again in 2016 as a main sponsor of the event."

Charity partner of the Stratford 10k is Shipston Home Nursing, a local service helping to support people with terminal illness who want to be nursed at home.

Founded in 1997, the specialist nursing is free to patients and their families, making local fundraising absolutely crucial.

The Big 10k is run by Tempo Events; for more information and to sign-up please go to: <http://www.tempoevents.co.uk/running/stratfords-big-10k/stratfords-big-10k.php>

RAIN STOPS PLAY FOR NEW PLACE PARADE - BUT NOT FOR LONG!

The reopening of Shakespeare's New Place may have been delayed, but the CEO of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has assured people that everyone involved in the project is "pulling out all the stops" to make sure it opens as soon as possible.

The trust announced last week that the reopening of Shakespeare's New Place, scheduled for this Friday, has had to be postponed due to record-breaking levels of rain in Stratford.

The site was Shakespeare's family home from 1597 until he died there in 1616 and it is believed he wrote later plays, including *The Tempest*, there. The house was demolished in 1759 and now a garden has been designed to commemorate the site's importance.

Due to open this summer to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the playwright's death, New Place will allow visitors to follow Shakespeare's footsteps through a new entrance on the site of the original gatehouse and get a sense of the scale of the house.

However, despite ambitious plans to reopen the site this Friday, torrential rainfall in the past few weeks has made it impossible for groundwork to be finished, which in turn has delayed the installation of the new garden on the footprint of Shakespeare's family home as well as the extension to the exhibition centre.

But Dr Diana Owen, CEO of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, said although the project has hit a stumbling block, everyone involved is working as hard as they can to make sure visitors can enjoy the newly-revamped site.

She said: "We had an ambitious timescale for this ground-breaking project to re-imagine Shakespeare's New Place for the 21st century.

"We have met many unexpected challenges along the way, but the record rainfall has slowed things down in the final phase. We are naturally very disappointed that we are not able to re-open as scheduled.

"Everybody working on this extraordinary project is pulling out all the stops, to ensure that visitors will be able to experience this inspirational and enduring testament to Shakespeare's legacy as soon as possible."

A revised date for the reopening will be announced shortly.



STRATFORD TURNED PURPLE ON FRIDAY - AND IT WAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE REFERENDUM RESULT!

Stratford turned purple on Friday as businesses in the town centre put **their weight behind the Shakespeare's Hospice new fundraiser - Shake It Purple.**

More than 100 local businesses and community groups from Stratford and further afield across South Warwickshire and North Cotswolds came **together to paint, play and 'Shake It Purple'** to raise cash for the charity.

Wacky purple-themed activities included the creation of a superpower **purple ice cream by Hooray's British Gelato Kitchen**, while staff at Fountain and White Stuff raised funds.

Another Stratford member got on board with the event, was Barclays Bank, whose staff **'shook it purple'** in Stratford and across other branches in Warwickshire.

Lauren Holt, Assistant Manager of Barclays Stratford, said: "All the staff in our local branches got involved with Shake it Purple, baking purple cakes and wearing purple – we all had great fun. We were able to raise lots of money for The Shakespeare Hospice thanks to the generosity of our customers."

Sam Jackson, manager at fellow Stratford member The Dirty Duck pub, said staff had donned purple for the day and customers had donated their change to collecting tins on the bar.

"We often support the Shakespeare Hospice," he said. "It's one of our biggest charities, along with Macmillan."

The event is hoping to raise over £10k for The Shakespeare Hospice, which last year supported nearly 900 patients and their families. The hospice relies on the generosity of the local community to raise £2 million each year to keep the vital and unique services running.

The hospice thanked everyone who took part in this year's event and encouraged anyone thinking of getting involved in next year's Shake it Purple to contact the fundraising team.





Stratford-upon-Avon
TOWN COUNCIL



STRATFORD JOINS NATION IN SALUTING ARMED FORCES

Stratford joined the nation marking Armed Forces Day at the weekend, holding its own open-air ceremony.

The Mayor and members of the Town Council, along with members of local cadet forces and the Royal British Legion, gathered outside the Town Hall on Saturday morning to salute the men and women of the armed forces.

Centred around the Town Hall, the event organised by Stratford Town Council involved music from the Air Training Corps Band before a short ceremony at 10am.

Following a short prayer, spoken by the Mayor's Chaplain, and a fanfare, the Armed Forces Day flag was raised on the Town Hall and the Mayor asked for three cheers for the brave men and women of the armed forces.

The ceremony was one of thousands that took place throughout the country to mark Armed Forces Day, a day set aside to show support for the men and women who make up the armed forces community, from currently serving troops to service families, veterans and cadets.

This year's commemoration came just a few days before the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, when thousands of young men lost their lives in the fields of northern France in July 1916.



Fairy Portal

Hundreds of visitors descended on Stratford last week seeking the magic of midsummer.

To mark what Shakespeare saw as the most magical time of the year, the RSC commissioned the Slung Low Theatre Company - specialists in theatre in unusual places - to create a unique 'Fairy Portal Camp'

The camp on the Avonbank Gardens was inspired by the RSC's current production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which runs until 16 July, and the meaning of Midsummer in Shakespeare's time.

Visitors - many of them young - enjoyed an array of drop-in activities and the camp was rounded off with a special ceremony on Saturday night including a feast of live music, theatre, pyrotechnics and poetry.

Geraldine Collinge, RSC Director of Events and Exhibitions, said: "Midsummer was believed to be the most magical time of the calendar in Shakespeare's day and we wanted to draw on this to create a special event as part of the 400th anniversary year and continue to make Stratford *the* destination for 2016.

"We were delighted to have welcomed many school groups and around 100 people a day to the camp finishing off the week long celebrations with a special ceremony for 300 revellers."

To continue the summer celebrations the RSC has also teamed up with leading musicians from across the region to present a series of free mini-concerts responding to the themes in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The concerts will be performed in the Swan Gardens and in the foyer of The Other Place on Sundays until 16 July. For more information visit www.rsc.org.uk/events/midsummer-music



Photo courtesy of Sam Allard - copyright RSC

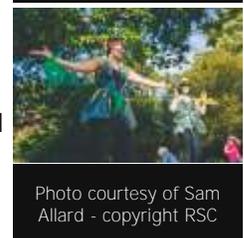


Photo courtesy of Sam Allard - copyright RSC



Photo courtesy of The RSC

Escape to the swinging sixties

Stratford returned to the Swinging Sixties at the weekend, with an array of 60s-inspired activities by Escape Arts to mark the launch of its summer exhibition. Held at its home The Old Slaughterhouse in Sheep Street, the activities for children and families included flower power headdresses, a 60s-themed cafe and the chance to spin some nostalgic vinyl.

On Saturday evening there's a swinging sixties themed party, complete with cocktails, live music from Blackwater Ridge, a chance to learn the twist and a fancy dress competition.

And on Sunday, a scooter meet brought the sounds of genuine 1960s scooters to Stratford, along with a barbecue and refreshments.

Escape Arts Artistic Director Karen Williams said the evening was a great success, with "lots of music and merriment".

"The band Blackwater Ridge rocked the night away with lots of Hendrix, Cream and Fleetwood Mac. On the Sunday we had a fantastic turnout of scooters from across Warwickshire, they roared into town and were a great feature!

"The 60s exhibition is open all summer, come and see the fantastic textiles create with Stratford College, spin some vinyl in our 60s café and try out our milkshake summer specials."

And If you missed the weekend's return to the 60s, fear not! At 6.30pm tonight, Stratford Picturehouse will host a one-off screening of the 60s classic Saturday Night and Sunday Morning.

The film was deemed to be "injurious to public morals" by the Warwickshire County Cinematograph Licensing Committee back in the day – it was in fact the only county in Britain to ban it.

Fifty-five years later that ban has been lifted so you can judge for yourselves – and the screening will be followed by an informal discussion in the bar.

Stratford In The 1960s runs at The Old Slaughterhouse throughout the summer, alongside summer art camps for children and full day arts and media activities inspired by the 60s. For more information go to www.escapearts.org.uk



Dates for your diary!

25th June - Escape Arts Exhibition
27th June to 10th July - Wimbledon
28th June - Stratford Races
2nd & 3rd July - River Festival
TBA July - Reopening of New Place
9th July - Fun Regatta

19th July - Stratforward Networking Briefing TBC
23rd July - Warwickshire Summer Holidays
24th July - Lions Raft Race
11th September - 10K Run
23rd to 25th September - Food Festival



Organised by Stratforward & Geraud

Stratford Food Festival on September 23rd, 24th & 25th 2016?

It's a fantastic opportunity for food and drink businesses particularly.

Ways to be involved:

- ◆ Book a festival market stall – 10 members will receive 50% discount – book now
- ◆ Be part of the Taste Trails or Real Ale Trails
- ◆ Advertise in the Food Festival brochure – member discounts. Deadline 13th August.
- ◆ Show off your chefs - run a demonstration or workshop in the marquee.
- ◆ Sponsor the festival – **do talk to us if you're interested**

There will also be opportunities for local producers to book a smaller tables top in the local produce marquee.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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Visit us on the web at
www.stratforward.co.uk

2017 STRATFORD FASHION SHOW

WEDS 15 MARCH @ STRATFORD ARTS HOUSE

CALL US IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED