

Talk Rubbish, Save Money!

The launch of Stratforward's preferred waste supplier partnership with Waste Solutions has gone very well so far. The team lead by Sales Manager, Jennifer Taylor, have seen over 35 businesses in the town centre, with identified savings ranging from £200 to £2,500 per annum. They are happy to come and talk to you in your business, assess your waste needs, and if you are still in contract, note the time when they need to come back and talk to you. Waste Solutions are also assisting with the waste disposal for this years River Festival.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Taylor, Sales Manager on 07908759044



Contents

Page 1

- Talk Rubbish, Save Money!
- Markets Update
- Mop Update

Page 2

- Events update
- RST Dark Period
- Member Updates

Page 3

- Board Updates
- Working Groups
- Security
- Town Hosts

Page 4

- What's On and Visitor Numbers

Markets Update

Stratforward is committed to representing all its members and as part of this, we have been asked to look at the impact of the markets on a Sunday on Bridge Street. Our initial focus was those businesses directly on Bridge Street, but the outcome of the last Hospitality Huddle (see later) was to widen the net. A questionnaire is attached to this newsletter.

We're not anti-markets, we run a Food Festival after all, and LSD Promotions are a BID member, but we will represent the views of members when asked to. The survey will provide the facts to feed back to the market operator and the Town and District Councils – please help us frame the discussion using facts.

Runaway Mop Update

It looks as if the District Council is sticking to the decision to allow the Runaway Mop to move to a Friday and Saturday this year.

This has been described as a pilot, but we believe (as many of our members have told us) that the decision is flawed and could lead to the Runaway Mop always being on a weekend. If the matter had been consulted on then we might have a different view.

It would be cynical to suggest that this is a push to run both the Mop and the Runaway Mop on more lucrative weekends – a move that would go against tradition and ride roughshod over the needs of town centre businesses and residents. A number of BID members have said they will continue to agitate for the decision to be reversed.

Events updates

Stratforward's award-winning events continue this year. Here are a few reminders:-

The River Festival - This year's festival takes place on July 6th and 7th and all the stalls have been allocated including the taster pitches to BID members who were interested in participating. The brochure is due to hit the streets and households over the next three weeks.



The Town Centre Food Festival—bookings are going well for the event over the weekend of 21st & 22nd September. The ever popular **Food and Ale Trails** return on the weekend, but we are looking to extend the 'event' so that we use it as a launch pad to try and counter the dark period at the RST. We'd love as many BID businesses to get involved as possible—this isn't just about our food businesses.



The Festival of Motoring took place on May 5th and 6th and the separate survey (attached) is intended to get your feedback about how the event could be improved for 2020.



RST Dark Period

Work is continuing in the BID working groups to look at ideas and initiatives that will help the town-centre during the RST's dark period. The main theatres is dark (with the exception of the Comedy Festival) from w/c2nd September until 8th November. Please contact the office if you are interested in working with us.

Member Updates

We want to share your news ... please let us know so we can shout about your businesses

- Seasalt opened it's doors in Bell Court on 11th May and reported very strong sales on their opening Saturday. The opening has sparked renewed interest in Stratford from a number of other occupiers.
- New Touch Barber opened on Greenhill St
- Otus Mortgages opened on the corner of Windsor Street and Rother Street
- Myton Hospice Charity Shop opened on Wood St
- Ladders Solicitors were crowned Best Private Client Law Firm in the SME News Legal Awards! Well done!
- Shakespeare Hospice Bookshop made it into the top 10 TripAdvisor list of places to visit in Stratford.
- Hotel du Vin has been shortlisted for Boutique Hotel of the Year in the Midlands Food & Hospitality Awards.
- Stratford Town Walks have received a Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence for the 9th year in a row.
- We said goodbye to Crabtree and Evelyn who have withdrawn from direct physical retailing in the UK. It was also a sad goodbye to Stephen Ramm Fabrics who had traded on Greenhill St since 1993

Board Updates

Change is constant, and the Stratford Board is no different to the rest of the world.

Philippa Rawlinson (pictured), our Chair, has announced that she will be leaving the Birthplace (and us) in the middle of August to join the National Memorial Arboretum as Chief Executive.



Also, Lisa Preston of ShoeMed, has moved away from Stratford to launch a Canterbury ShoeMed outlet and has now stepped down from the Board.

As a result, here are now two vacancies on the board: a Large Employer representative and an associate member. Please contact any Board member or the office if you would like to find out more about these positions and what it entails.

Working Groups

The development of our **Sector Working Groups** is going well, with the **National Retailers** meeting scheduled for 11th June (am) and the **Hospitality Huddle** (hotels and hospitality) scheduled for that afternoon (3pm El Greco).

Jo Welch of M&S chairs the National Retailers Group, whilst Josefine Blomqvist & Flair Gougoulia chair the Hospitality Huddle. Contact them or the BID office for further information.

Commercial Agents Group, our BID director recently met with the commercial agents operating in Stratford and it proved useful. The agents are our vital link to the occupiers looking at Stratford, so it's essential that we understand what they need and what the occupiers are looking for.

The **Professional Sector meeting** will take place shortly and Mark Bullock from Murphy Salisbury is chairing this group.

For further information, please contact the office or any of the chairs mentioned.

Security Updates

The last retail radio group was very well attended with a lot of interest in unknown criminals targeting Stratford-upon-Avon. The good news is that WRCl is now including an "unknown offenders" section on ACISweb which will mean that over time our partners should be able to help us identify the travelling criminals. ACISweb is also available on mobile phones which should make reporting crimes a lot easier.

Contact Shan Smith, Town Host Manager on 01789 268291 or townhosts@stratforward.co.uk

The Police and Stratford District Council are also looking at means of making WRCl more effective by the use of targeted Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) or Community Protection Notices (CPN). Good news if they can make it work as it's another lever to try and stop people offending in our town.

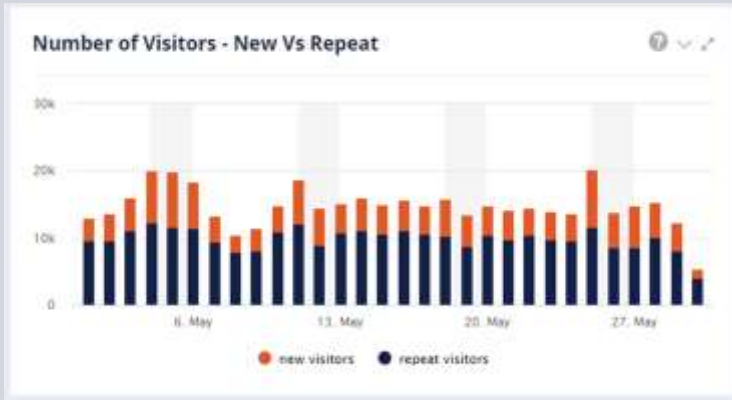
Town Host Vacancy (Part Time)

How far does a Town Host walk? On average they are doing **12km** a day at the moment!

We have a **vacancy** for a part time town host, with up to 8 hours a week available at the moment. If you know of anyone that is good with people, likes walking (!) and has a love of Stratford and business then please point them in our direction.

Visitor Numbers

May (to date)



April



What's on

Markets

Friday and Saturday's – Rother Market
Sundays – Bridge Street Markets

Stratford PlayHouse

visit www.stratfordplay.co.uk

- Until 15 July** Cricket World Cup
- 10 June** Stratford Horse Racing
- 18 June** Stratford Horse Racing
- 2 July** Stratford Horse Racing
- 6 & 7 July** Stratford River Festival
- 14 July** F1 Silverstone Grand Prix
- 1 – 14 July** Wimbledon
- 19 July** Warwickshire Schools break up
- 23rd July** School holidays (Non-Warwickshire)
- 1 Aug - 16 Sept** Ashes Test Series
- 2 Aug** Deadline for advertising in the Food Festival brochure
- 13 – 15 Aug** Stratford-upon-Oz Summer Holiday Market Event (LSD Promotions)
- 26 Aug** - August Bank Holiday Market
- 20 Sept – 2 Nov** Rugby World Cup
- 21 & 22 Sept** – Stratford Town Centre Food Festival
- 7 Oct** Deadline for advertising in the Christmas brochure
- 6 – 8 Dec** Victorian Christmas Market

RSC Productions 2019

- Ian McKellen on Stage: 21st July (sold out)
- The Taming of the Shrew: until 31st Aug (RST)
- As You Like It : until 31st August (RST)
- Venice Preserved: until 7th Sept (Swan)
- The Provoked Wife: until 7th Sept (Swan)
- Crooked Dances: 20th June- 13th July (TOP)
- Measure for Measure: 28th June—29th Aug (RST)
- King John: 19th Sept—21st March (Swan)
- Merchant of Venice: First Encounters: 30th Sept—5th Oct (Swan)
- A Museum in Baghdad: 11th Oct—25th Jan (Swan)
- The Boy in the Dress: 8th Nov—8th March 2020 (RST)