

# STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

## CIVIC, HERITAGE AND EVENTS

### Town Clerk's Open Report 12 March 2024

#### 1) Shakespeare Schools Week

- **To note details for the Tuesday 19 March for the Shakespeare Schools week.**

Confirmation has been received from the organisers at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust that three schools have signed up to visit the Town Hall in connection with Shakespeare Schools Week.

The visits will take place at the following times:

**10.00 - 10.45 am** - Chetwynd Junior School, Nuneaton  
Group 1 - 32 children - Year 4

**11.00 - 11.45 am** - Chetwynd Junior School, Nuneaton  
Group 2 - 32 children - Year 4

**1.15 - 2.15 pm** - Stratford Primary, Stratford upon Avon  
Group 1 - 29 children Year 5

The Honorarium Personnel: Emma Sorrell, Graham Beard, Ken Ryman and Maureen Beckett will be on duty to guide the students. **It is hoped that Town Councillors will also be available to assist.**

#### 2) Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations – 20/21 April

- **To note information relating the Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations 2024.**

#### **Diplomatic Representatives**

Arrangements are proceeding well for this year's event and all the formal invitations have now been issued. Pragnell have received a good response from the Court of St James and currently 11 diplomatic representatives have accepted. The current list of diplomats who have accepted are:

Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States.

The final closing date for attendance by diplomats isn't until 22 March, so the final number attending the Celebrations will not be known until then.

A delegation from Fuzhou, China, is also attending, who have requested two flag positions. The Fuzhou guests have been invited by the Mayor to attend the Coffee Reception and the Birthday Parade, but they will contact Pragnell directly regarding tickets for the luncheon.

### **Birthday Parade**

The Shakespeare Club, the oldest Shakespeare Club in the World, is commemorating its bicentenary in 2024. As a concession to the Club, it has been agreed that the Shakespeare Club can lead the Birthday Parade, followed by KES and the primary schools.

### **Marching Bands**

Following a useful contact from Michael Collie, the Compere, we have been put in touch with the Warwickshire & West Midlands (SS) ACF Cadet Band. Any additional music in the parade would be welcome, following the demise of the Royal Engineers Band back in 2013 and the Coventry Corps of Drums, due to Covid.

An application form has been submitted for the band, and we look forward to receiving a positive response.

### **Additional Sponsorship**

McCarthy Stone have recently set up an office in Stratford and have indicated that they would be interested in offering sponsorship in connection with the Birthday Celebrations. The Town Clerk and Civic Officer held an informal meeting with a company representative to find out more details, who will send through a proposal in due course.

### **Open Mic Opportunities**

Following the T & F group in January, when a suggestion was put forward to see if an open mic space in Bell Court for local musicians or amateur dramatic groups to perform might be possible, the Clerk contacted the Bell Court Manager, Rich Jones. A very positive response was received and steps will be taken to move this forward once it has been established what sponsorship is on offer.

3) Volunteers Reception – Friday 19 April

- **To note information regarding the Volunteers Reception, 19 April at 6:00pm.**

Invitations for the Volunteers Reception on the 19 April have been distributed.

4) Avon Bowls Club Centenary 1924-2024

- **To note the date for the Mayor's Centenary Bowls March, Wednesday 3 July at 6:00pm.**
- **Members are requested to determine how best to commemorate this special anniversary.**

The Avon Bowls Club was established in 1924, when on Thursday 3 July an official opening of a new bowling green by the Mayor, Alderman Cox, took place. Following the ceremony, the Mayor captained a team against the Avon members which the Mayor's team won by 28 shots. This annual match between the Mayor's team and the Avon has been a firm fixture in the civic diary to the present day.

The Mayor's Match is scheduled for **Wednesday 3 July**, one hundred years to the day since the club was officially opened, a chance for the Town Council past and present to celebrate the Clubs history during the last century and to drink its health for the future.

5) Mayor Making, Civic Dinner and Civic Sunday

The usual arrangements for Mayor Making are well in hand, and the new Mayor will attend a meeting with the Vicar of Holy Trinity in due course to discuss arrangements for Civic Sunday.

Civic Dinner and Volunteers Reception catering

Shakespeare Kitchen have been engaged to provide the catering for both the Civic Dinner and the canapes for the Volunteers Reception on the 19 April.

Civic Officer  
06.3.2024