

STAMFORD FEAST

As most people know already, the Riverside Festival will not be taking place this year – in fact, it seems there are still some doubts about whether it will return to the Meadows at all.

But a new event will be taking place on the Meadows – the Stamford Feast, a festival of all that is interesting, exciting, yummy and fun around the topic of FOOD. Ali Hawley-Smith, who is organising the event on behalf of the Stamford Town Partnership, describes it like this: “Our banner is ‘Bringing the Community together - Celebrating Culture through Cuisine’. This is without doubt an exciting event and an opportunity for the community of Stamford and its local economy to benefit from the expected 15000 footfall it will bring to the town”.

This is a menu of what will be happening:

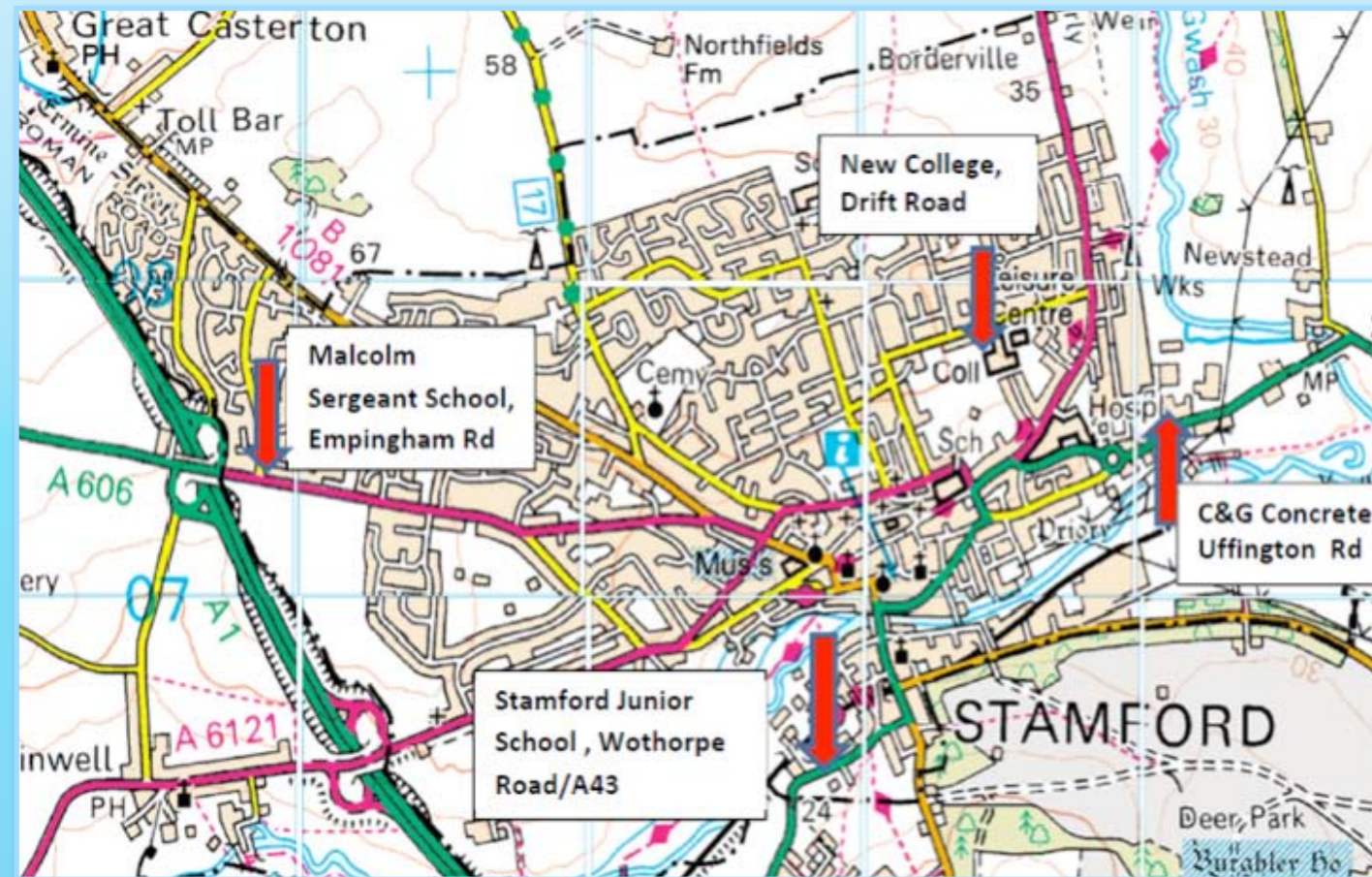
- Locally grown food from farmers and allotment societies
- World Food and cultural awareness
- Healthy eating and living
- Cooking Demonstrations from international and local chefs

- Health checks and nutritional advice
- Competitions run through our schools
- Fun and exciting exercise through world music including Jazz, Salsa, Cuban, Steel, Zumba and Belly Dancing
- Community Cohesion

What is the Chamber's role in all this? We have taken on the task of setting up and running a Park & Ride scheme – Stamford's first – as a way of reducing environmental impact and also minimising traffic congestion in the town centre and on the approach roads, as happened during the Christmas Festival last year.

Four parking locations have been identified at New College Stamford, SES Junior School, Malcolm Sargent School and C&G Concrete. A charge of £2 per car will be made to contribute towards costs and a fleet of small buses will ferry people back and forth to the Meadows. This means, for instance, that a family of 4 could use the service at a cost of only 50p per head.

We are not sure how many will take advantage of this service, but we feel this will be a useful 'test market' for future large in-town events. See our location map below:



STAMFORD

England's most dug-up town!

During April and continuing into May our High Street and St. John's Street looked as though a major archaeological excavation was in progress. Pipe and cable renewal projects for both National Grid (gas) and Central Networks (electricity) were implemented simultaneously, causing mainly pedestrian disruption but also, for a while, traffic confusion in the Red Lion Square area.



The good news was that both the energy companies worked in parallel, thus saving us from two separate up-diggings!

The bad news was that the schedule kept changing as the contractors found things that they hadn't expected. It seems incredible in this technological age that the energy companies don't actually know the exact location of their pipes or cables until they dig a trench to find out. This was most painfully obvious in the case of the St. John's Street/Red Lion Square narrow road entrance, when National Grid announced that the anticipated road closure was not needed as they only needed to dig up one side of the road, only to discover that their pipe was actually in the middle of the road, so they had to close the road for a few days after all!



The Chamber worked closely with Adam Freear of Lincolnshire Highways to try to keep members updated on progress, especially as the situation changed. We issued 4 bulletins in total. As we write, the area outside New Look is still not finished, but this is a separate job to do with the provision of adequate power for this retailer.

More new members join the Chamber

Since the last newsletter, we welcome 2 new members:
 EAM Consulting: nick@eam-consulting.co.uk
 Simply Health and Safety:
oliver@simplyhealthandsafety.com

We also welcome Hillbrooke Hotels, owners of the Bull and Swan and the shortly to open William Cecil Hotel, which has replaced the old Lady Anne's Hotel:
paul@hillbrooke.co.uk

chamberchatter

Stamford Chamber of Commerce Newsletter



Spring 2011

Stamford Chamber of Trade & Commerce,
 PO Box 175, Stamford PE9 1XN

Chamber events

This winter/spring we have held three breakfast events, the first being the Energy Breakfast in Stamford Endowed Schools dining hall.

Members and guests were treated to a full English breakfast and a most interesting update on the various sources of alternative energy now available for both domestic and business use.

Michael and Brian Sampson (pictured with Tim Lee) delivered the presentation and took a number of questions afterwards. There is no doubt that businesses will have to continue to look to the long term feasibility of alternative energy sources now that they are becoming increasingly affordable and relevant in many situations.



In March, the annual Budget Breakfast, sponsored by Duncan & Toplis was another sell-out, with well over 30 members and guests receiving an expert briefing on the implications of the latest budget plans and tax implications deriving from them.



In April, another Speed Networking breakfast was held at the Garden House Hotel. This proved very popular, with close to the maximum possible number attending. Proceedings started with a coffee, juice and bacon buttie, later supplemented by Danish pastries.

After an initial chat over coffee, attendees sat down and began a relentless process of 4-minute face-to-face sessions with every other attendees. Proceedings were master minded by the President with stopwatch and whistle!



Getting to know you ...in 4 minutes

An initial chat-up

A Member with Style



Lee Smith, editor

Stamford Style magazine, previously known as Community Times Stamford, was started by Lee Smith of 2F Media as an alternative advertising medium in the local area.

"Whilst running my design business 2F Media, I wanted to advertise my services locally but found that the cost of advertising in the local area was an expensive option that I could not afford at the time, so when the opportunity arose to start a local magazine came along I jumped at the chance."

Lee continues, "The idea behind the magazine is that we wanted it to be a useful local resource with plenty of articles that appeal to most members of the general household, and also to give the smaller independent businesses a more cost effective way to advertise their businesses.."

Since the launch in April 2008 they have made several improvements to the magazine and have built up a good mix of customers and readers. One such improvement is in their online strategy. In order to be of maximum benefit to customers they have developed a strong online presence through their website and social media networks - this enables them to keep on promoting the companies - that advertise to people who may not have picked up a printed copy of the magazine.

Some people said that they must be mad to start free magazine during the recession, but after three years in business they are still going strong and currently in the process of launching a second magazine in Bourne.

So, what does the future hold for CT Stamford? Lee is optimistic: 'We are always looking to grow the magazine and help promote local businesses and charities so we look all the time for new content and press releases that we can feature. As for our online strategy we are developing an online business directory and an online voucher website, which will enable people to publish their special offers through the use of vouchers which will also give them a way of tracking which promotions are working best for them'.



Latest front cover

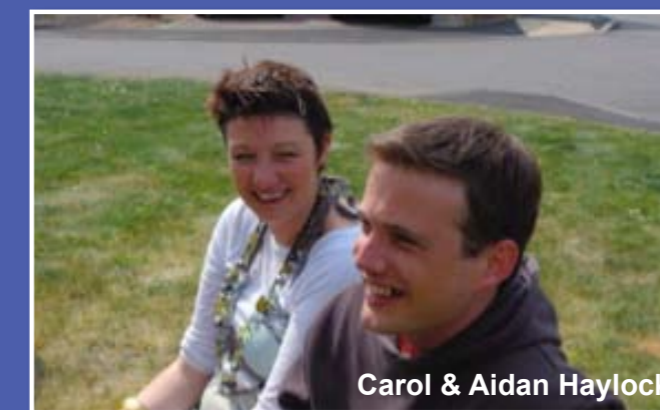
This issue kindly sponsored by Richardsons Surveyors Tel 01780 762433 email aleech@richardsonsurveyors.co.uk



Street Party

On the day of THAT wedding, street-party groups in and around Stamford went into action. In the President's own residential cul-de-sac neighbours joined together in the sunshine for a gargantuan feast. Each participant had prepared far too much food, so for most it was egg sandwiches, pork pies and sausage rolls for the next week.

Even the drinks were over-supplied, despite strenuous efforts to deplete them and so avoid having to carry bottles and tins home! Near neighbours to President Tim Lee are Carol and Aidan Haylock of 23ccc, shown below in relaxed mood.



Carol & Aidan Haylock

With luck, the weather will be as kind on 29th May (the day of the Stamford Feast on the Meadows) as it was on 29th April! This group of local residents all agreed to do the same again on the Queen's Jubilee next year. Bring it on!