

## FORWARD EVENTS DIARY

### STRATFORD-UPON-AVON AND SURROUNDING AREA

#### 2012

Welcome to Discover Stratford's forward events diary which we hope will give you an idea of the breadth and diversity of proposed events for the next 12 months.

Please check back for new events each month as the diary is constantly being updated.

#### How to use this Diary

The Diary will show events that we have on our events pages for the next twelve months. Each month will contain items scheduled for that month. This means that if you are looking across months you may see an event listed twice. We hope that this will make it easier for you see everything 'at a glance' and that it helps you to plan your visit.

If you have any questions please contact us on [info@discover-stratford.com](mailto:info@discover-stratford.com)

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***We hope you enjoy your stay!***



## ***January 2012***

### **THE FALSTAFF EXPERIENCE'S TREASURE TRAIL**

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The trail covers a distance of approximately 2 miles and visitors should allow up to 2 hours to solve all the clues. The 'Murder and Mystery Treasure Trail' covers all of the main sights in Stratford and is the perfect introduction to the historic town. The trail is free to download from the museums website [www.falstaffexperience.co.uk](http://www.falstaffexperience.co.uk) . Visitors are asked to complete the trail then had their completed map into the museum and receive a certificate and small prize. All completed entries will be then entered into a monthly prize draw for some exciting prizes such as merchandise, ghost tour tickets and museum tickets.

Creative Director Janet Ford said: "This trail which can be downloaded for free by visitors before they come to Stratford provides a much needed free experience. It is also good for the whole of the town as it allows visitors to see what is here ensuring they do not miss any of the fantastic attractions Stratford has to offer. We feel this will prove a valuable resource for engaging families when they visit Stratford."

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Email: [info@falstaffexperience.co.uk](mailto:info@falstaffexperience.co.uk)

Tel: 01789 298070



## ***February 2012***

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### **Falstaff Experience Valentines Haunted Pub Walk and Themed Shows**

During the day guests will be able to participate in live shows. Over the Valentines period visitors to the Falstaff Experience will be able to enjoy a fun show dedicated to the life and loves of William Shakespeare. In the evening those feeling romantic will be able to book on the Haunted Pub Ghost Tour, where Dashing Jack the famous Falstaff guide will lead you through the streets of Stratford telling tales of love, death and murder. During the evening guests will be taken into 3 pubs for a drink and nibbles all included in the price.

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**Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Best of British February to August 2012**

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Heritage Motor Centre

01926 645029

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Exhibitions this months are:

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Into the light: French and British painting from Impressionism to the early 1920s – 31 March – 10 June 2012

We will be running creative family activities to tie in with our exhibitions and collections  
Tuesday 3 April – Sunday 15 April for Easter

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**Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012**

The Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations have been taking place in Stratford upon Avon for over two centuries. The town's streets overflow with pageantry, music and drama and over the three day birthday period you can enjoy a packed programme of special celebratory activities - great days out at Shakespeare's historic houses, literary and music events and amazing theatre. Led by the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers, international dignitaries, schoolchildren, performance artists and community groups come together in a colourful walking spectacle through town that culminates in the laying of flowers on Shakespeare's grave at Holy Trinity Church.

Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations Committee

Liz Flower

Shakespeare Centre, Henley Street,

Stratford-upon-Avon

Warwickshire CV37 6QW

Tel: 01789 204016

[birthday@shakespeare.org.uk](mailto:birthday@shakespeare.org.uk)

<http://www.shakespeare.org.uk>

<http://www.shakespearesbirthday.org.uk>

**World Shakespeare Festival 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

The World Shakespeare Festival, produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, will run from 23 April to 9 September 2012, celebrating how the world performs, teaches and engages with Shakespeare. It will form part of the London 2012 Festival.

It will focus on the relationship between the many communities of the world represented in the UK and will include major collaborations between leading UK and international theatre companies, artists and large-scale premieres of international Shakespeare productions. Major UK partners already include the National Theatre and the Shakespeare's Globe, which will be producing its own Shakespeare project as part of the Festival.





Schools and communities across the UK will be linked with their peers in other countries, culminating in live performances at regional festivals.

The main hubs will be Stratford-upon-Avon, London and Newcastle, with further regional centres for community and schools performances, as well as touring and online activity worldwide.

The Festival will run from Shakespeare's birthday on 23 April 2012 until the start of the Olympic Games on 27 July 2012.

<http://www.worldshakespearefestival.org.uk/>

**Stratford Literary Festival 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

A selection of events and workshops running throughout the week featuring an array of writers and performers, so there is plenty to keep everyone entertained, whether you are a budding writer or poet, are keen to meet favourite authors and celebrities, or want to be involved in workshops and creating original pieces of work.

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01789 207100



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01789 207100

**Continued ...**



**Alcester & Forest of Arden Food Festival 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

Alcester really puts the flags out for visitors! There is nothing we like better here than putting out the bunting, closing the High Street to traffic and having a ball. And the Alcester Food Festival is the best excuse for a good day of fun. All the shops contribute, the cafes are on the pavements, pubs are thronged and the exhibitors given their all. There are cheeses, pies, breads, cakes, fresh and cured meats and sausages, fruit and vegetables, a pig roast and ox roast, handmade chocolates, local beers and wines and as many local food products as we can squeeze on to the stalls.

<http://www.alcesterfoodfestival.org.uk/>

**Shipston Wool Fair 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012**

The Wool Fair commemorates Shipston on Stour's long heritage in the sheep trade - in fact the name 'Shipston' derives from the old 'sheepwash town', as for many centuries Cotswolds farmers brought their sheep here to be washed in the River Stour, and livestock markets were held in the town. Demonstrations of weaving, sheering, stalls, crafts, music, games.

<http://www.shipstonwoolfair.org/>



## **June 2012**

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Beyond Gravity – 30 June – 7 October 2012

We will be doing a special father's and grandfather's go free when they visit with their family to celebrate father's day on Sunday 17 June

We will be running creative family activities to tie in with our exhibitions and collections Sunday 3 June – Sun 10 June for half term and the Queen's Diamonds Jubilee

<http://www.comptonverney.org.uk/>





Tel : +44 (0)1926 645500

**Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Queens Diamond Jubilee event 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

The Heritage Motor Centre will be celebrating the Queens Diamond Jubilee over the official Jubilee Weekend of the 2nd-5th June 2012, with a display of Royal cars and the lighting of one of many of Her majesty's official Birthday Beacons on the evening of the 4th June.

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Schools and communities across the UK will be linked with their peers in other countries, culminating in live performances at regional festivals.

The main hubs will be Stratford-upon-Avon, London and Newcastle, with further regional centres for community and schools performances, as well as touring and online activity worldwide.

The Festival will run from Shakespeare's birthday on 23 April 2012 until the start of the Olympic Games on 27 July 2012.

<http://www.worldshakespearefestival.org.uk/>

**Stratford Fringe 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

The Stratford Fringe is a 9 day celebration of performance and modern culture. We've got venues in pubs, on the street, in theatres and a variety of acts from poets, plays etc.



<http://www.stratfordfringe.co.uk/>

### **Stratford Poetry Festival June/July**

The longest running poetry festival in the UK, set in Shakespeare's hometown in celebration of the bard himself as well as poetry past and present. A fabulous line-up of actors perform plays and poetry. Stratford's annual Poetry Festival is held at the Shakespeare Centre and Shakespeare Institute. Both venues host poetry evenings with RSC actors and poets reading the works of William Shakespeare and other famous British poets.

<http://www.shakespeare.org/>

### **Stratford River Festival 30th June – 1st July 2012**

The highly successful Stratford-upon-Avon River Festival brings the waterways of Stratford alive, with boatloads of family fun, on the first weekend of July. On Saturday and Sunday the banks of the River Avon play host to this free and vibrant event, which brings together boaters and the local community to enjoy a feast of entertainment.

Based on and around Stratford's Recreation Ground, both days feature a full programme of events and activities. You'll find there's something for everyone, from live music to a range of interesting stalls, market traders and delicious food and drink outlets.

<http://www.stratfordriverfestival.co.uk/>

### **CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF HENRY VIII WITH THE FALSTAFF EXPERIENCE TUDOR WORLD 26th June - 4th July**

This year the Falstaff Experience Tudor World Museum in Stratford upon Avon is hosting a week long celebration for the birthday of England's most notorious monarch Henry VIII. Born on the 28th June 1491 Henry VIII would have been 521 years old in 2012. The celebrations begin on Saturday 26th June and run until Sunday 4th July. Visitors will be able to meet Henry VIII himself and some of his wives at various times throughout the week. Every visitor shall also receive a small present from Henry VIII to say thank you for coming to his week long birthday party. The museum is offering free entry to anyone who can demonstrate proof they are called Henry and as a special treat groups of 8 (must be 8 no more or no less) can enter the museum for an 8th off the price just £20.00. It is a unique way to mark the Birthday of England's most notorious monarch. There will also be a Beheading show at weekends.

Creative Director Janet Ford said " We love Henry VIII. He is one of our most popular exhibits and certainly one of our most recognisable characters. Stratford is a Tudor town and as a Tudor museum we see it as only fitting to mark this most famous of Tudor's birthday."

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### **Stratford River Festival 30th June – 1st July 2012**

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Based on and around Stratford's Recreation Ground, both days feature a full programme of events and activities. You'll find there's something for everyone, from live music to a range of interesting stalls, market traders and delicious food and drink outlets.

<http://www.stratfordriverfestival.co.uk/>

### **Stratford Poetry Festival June/July**

The longest running poetry festival in the UK, set in Shakespeare's hometown in celebration of the bard himself as well as poetry past and present. A fabulous line-up of actors perform plays and poetry. Stratford's annual Poetry Festival is held at the Shakespeare Centre and Shakespeare Institute. Both venues host poetry evenings with RSC actors and poets reading the works of William Shakespeare and other famous British poets.

<http://www.shakespeare.org/>

### **Global Gathering 27th – 28th July 2012**

Global Gathering is an annual dance music festival by Angel Music Group. Festivals are held in countries such as the UK, Poland, Russia and Belarus- the UK event is held just outside Stratford-upon-Avon. 80,000 festival goers and party people descend on Long Marston Airfield in Stratford-upon-Avon over the weekend to rock their socks off to every genre of electronic music including live acts, house, trance, techno at the UK's Biggest Ever Dance Weekender.

The two-day camping festival takes place at the height of summer attracting tens of thousands of music and style aficionados alike to Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon. Over 100 artists play the sixteen stages, arena and terraces delivering an unforgettable music marathon.

<http://www.globalgathering.com/>





## **August 2012**

### **THE FALSTAFF EXPERIENCE'S TREASURE TRAIL**

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We will be running creative family activities to tie in with our exhibitions and collections  
Tuesday 24 July – Sunday 2 September – we have our summer space for the summer hols

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### **Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Best of British February to August 2012**

For 2012 the Heritage Motor Centre will be celebrating the Best of British! Being the year of the Olympics, the Centre will open a new Record Breakers exhibition in February to run to the end of the summer 2012, presenting the best of British motoring record breakers. Things like some of the



fastest British cars, the smallest, the most economical etc, will all be on show, along with a few more whacky British motoring record breakers!

Heritage Motor Centre

01926 645029

<http://www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk>

<http://www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk/contact-us/>

### **World Shakespeare Festival 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

The World Shakespeare Festival, produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, will run from 23 April to 9 September 2012, celebrating how the world performs, teaches and engages with Shakespeare. It will form part of the London 2012 Festival.

It will focus on the relationship between the many communities of the world represented in the UK and will include major collaborations between leading UK and international theatre companies, artists and large-scale premieres of international Shakespeare productions. Major UK partners already include the National Theatre and the Shakespeare's Globe, which will be producing its own Shakespeare project as part of the Festival.

Schools and communities across the UK will be linked with their peers in other countries, culminating in live performances at regional festivals.

The main hubs will be Stratford-upon-Avon, London and Newcastle, with further regional centres for community and schools performances, as well as touring and online activity worldwide.

The Festival will run from Shakespeare's birthday on 23 April 2012 until the start of the Olympic Games on 27 July 2012.

<http://www.worldshakespearefestival.org.uk/>

### **Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire & West Midlands Fair August 2012**

The Warwickshire & West Midlands Game Fair is now a three day event. Set in front of the majestic Ragley Hall, there is plenty to see and do for country enthusiasts and families looking for a great fun-packed day out.

<http://www.ragleyhall.com/>



## **September 2012**

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**Continued ...**



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**Stratford Food Festival September 22 & 23 September 2012**

Make a date in your diary and join us on the banks of the River Avon for Stratford upon Avon's 2011 Food Festival. Visitors to the Food Festival can enjoy:

- Exceptionally good food
- Beers, wines and ciders to sample
- Market stalls throughout the town
- Local Warwickshire produce
- Cookery demonstrations

<http://www.stratfordfoodfestival.co.uk/>





## **October 2012**

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Tuesday 30 October – Sunday 4 November for October half term

We will be celebrating the premiere of the film Gambit sometime in October when it is released in the UK as part of it was filmed here with Cameron Diaz, Colin Firth and Alan Rickman

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### **Stratford Mop Fair 11th & 12th October 2012**

Held on 11 & 12 October each year, the Stratford Mop Fair is a tradition that can be traced back hundreds of years. On this day the streets in the town centre are closed to traffic, and filled with funfair rides, stalls and tents. The fair is opened by the mayor who holds a pig roast and the mayor is then led around the fair by the master of the mop. On the first morning of the fair, local children can enjoy rides free of charge.

<http://www.stratford.gov.uk/community/community-2912.cfm>

### **Stratford Music Festival 15th – 22nd October 2012**

Stratford-on-Avon Music Festival presents an eight-day feast of classical, jazz, folk and world music in Stratford-on-Avon, featuring international artists and talented young musicians. Every October, Stratford-upon-Avon venues are filled with chamber music, early music, jazz bands and orchestral concerts for the Stratford on Avon Music Festival. There are also concerts in nearby venues including the Guild Chapel and the Shakespeare's Birthday Trust.

<http://www.stratfordmusicfestival.com/>

### **23rd October - 31st October 2011 The Stratford Halloween Affair Part II**

Located in the dead centre of Stratford, the 'day of the dead' will be celebrated in a unique style the year.

The Falstaff Experience Tudor World, housed in the historic Shrieve's House is described by 'Horrible Histories' author Terry Deary as the most haunted building in England. This year's Halloween festivities are entitled the 'March of the Plague Doctor'.

The Falstaff Experience's very own plague Doctor will be marching the streets leading a grizzly procession every day of the October half-term. There will also be daily shows including Vile Villains and Crime and Punishment as well as the chance to meet the other many character at the famous museum and a special Halloween Quiz Trail around the museum.

During the evening the actions hots up with Grim Reaper Lantern Lit Tours of the building, all night ghost hunts and a town ghost tour led by the famous Dashing Jack.

<http://falstaffexperience.co.uk/>



## **November 2012**

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## ***December 2012***

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We will be celebrating Christmas on the 3 weekends in December – 1st & 2nd, 8th & 9th and 15th & 16th December

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