

**A very warm welcome to you from the committee.** Our latest newsletter includes exciting news about Heritage Ports, our Autumn programme and information on recent planning applications. Not forgetting a membership form for your renewal which we look forward to receiving. A few changes to the committee and charges are shown below.

At the AGM Pauline Annis stepped down as Chair and will replace Will Scott as President. Will continues as an advisor to the Society.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Chairman          | Andrew Booton  |
| Vice Chairman     | Dixon Shephard   |
| Treasurer         | Richard Annis  |
| Committee members | Ann Taylor, Annette More, Paula Rayner, David More,<br>Phil Trow (who will take a special interest in planning issues),<br>Richard Cory and Tim Richards |

### **Annual Subscriptions — due 1st September 2023.**

Membership £12 individual, £20 joint (two members at the same address).

A new Corporate membership is available at £50.

Admission Members at £2.50, Guests £4.

**Meetings to be held at the Elizabeth Mills Centre.**

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## **Stourport on Severn Heritage Inland Port**

**Stourport has recently been recognised as a Heritage Inland Port and has joined Bristol, Chester, Exeter, Sandwich and other Heritage Harbours around the country.**

Heritage Inland Ports, a new initiative from the [Maritime Heritage Trust](#) as part of its Heritage Harbours scheme, is organised jointly with National Historic Ships and European Maritime Heritage. The scheme aims to breathe new life into historic buildings, moorings, and facilities while connecting with local communities. It is hoped that this recognition for the town will be the start of further investment including the development of the old Lloyds garage ( Georgian car park )site, and the general smartening up around the town.



Stourport Civic Society, Stourport Yacht Club, Stourport Forward, Inland Waterways Association and Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Society have come together to organise a celebration day, **Saturday 9 September 10am—5pm**, with many events going on.

The Yacht club will house a display on the history of the basins by Stourport Civic Society. There will also be displays from IWA and S&WCS. Historic boats will also be on show, trips on Bramble and guided walks available. The Chandlers in Engine Lane plan to give a talk and there also be activities for children. Please spread the word and support this event. **We will also need volunteers to man our stand, give out leaflets and information on the society.**

# Talks Autumn 2023



**14<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**Hubble Bubble ... Witchcraft in Worcestershire**

***Doug Smith***

**12<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Ida Lovelace: Countess of Computing**

***Rob Broadbent***



**9<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**The Origin of The Stourport Basin**

***Geoff Shaw***

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**The Real Dad's Army**

***Ray Sturdy***



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**7.30 pm Thursdays, at the Elizabeth Mills Centre,  
New Street, Stourport**

**£2.50 members, £4 non-member (including light refreshments)**

**All welcome**



## A date for your diary



On Wednesday 30 August 2023 at 7pm, The Tontine Gardens will host the Mikron theatre performing their latest production - Twitchers. A superb outdoors musical theatre event. As usual, Mikron events are "free to get in and pay to get out!"- There is a collection at the end. Bring your own chairs or rugs to sit on.



**Nest(le) down with Mikron in this flight through RSPB history, feathered with birdsong and laughter. You'll be giggling from heron in and you won't 'egret coming!**

[Never seen Mikron, have a sneak preview here!](#)

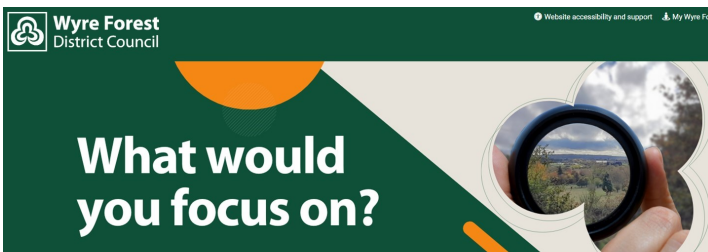
Mikron will also perform their other show "A Force to be Reckoned With" Sunday 27 August at 1pm In Springfield Park, Kidderminster. In this arresting tale of 1950s law and order, join forces with Mikron as they investigate pioneering women in the police.

## Planning Update

*by Phil Trow*

There have only been 6 planning applications with Stourport during July. Two relate to the Bridge Inn, one was for tree works at St.Bartholomew's, one for car park amendments on Kingsway, one for solar panels in Mitton Street and another for replacement offices on Wilden Industrial Estate.

The Bridge Inn applications are mostly non-structural and cosmetic. They involve the installation of two new external signs, one illuminated and one not. There are also some other works to the garden area to make it more aesthetically pleasing and private. Internally, the works involve cutting back the bar servery to make more space and re-tiling the floor. The Bridge is grade II listed and in the Conservation Area so even minor works require approval, but as far as I can tell, none of the proposals are detrimental to the building and will most likely be welcomed by customers.



### Our priorities for 2023-2027

It is important that our priorities and vision for the district are clearly defined to help people understand why we make the decisions that we do.

Every four years we set out our corporate plan. This is the opportunity for the newly elected Council to work with our corporate leadership team and other colleagues to decide where we should focus our energies for the immediate future.

We run a consultation, open to the public, staff and councillors, to find out what people think is important to the district and where they would like to see us focus.

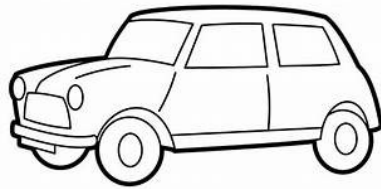
## HAVE YOUR SAY

Wyre Forest District Council is running a consultation asking what is important to local people and what are their priorities for 2023— 2027.

**It closes on Friday 18 August at 5pm, having been active since mid July.**

[Click here to have your say.](#)

Email [Stourport.Civic.Soc@gmail.com](mailto:Stourport.Civic.Soc@gmail.com)



## Transport to meetings

Can you help? We are aware some of our members are struggling to get to our meetings due to lack of transport.

If you need transport or can offer a lift please contact one of the committee or email: [Stourport.Civic.Soc@gmail.com](mailto:Stourport.Civic.Soc@gmail.com)



## Stourport Civic Society Application for Membership 2023/24

**£12.00 (Joint £20)** valid until August 2024

*Cheques* payable to Stourport Civic Society

*Bank transfer* Enquire for details

|                     |                  |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Please PRINT</b> | <b>Mr/Ms/Mrs</b> | <b>Mr/Ms/Mrs</b> |
| Name .....          | Name .....       |                  |
| Address .....       | Address .....    |                  |
| .....               | .....            |                  |
| Postcode .....      | Postcode .....   |                  |
| Telephone .....     | Telephone .....  |                  |
| e-mail .....        | e-mail .....     |                  |
| *Signature .....    | *Signature ..... |                  |

\*GDPR By signing this form you consent to Stourport Civic Society retaining these details and sending out Society information to you (by email if supplied).

**Please return to:**

David More, Membership Secretary  
91 Manor Road, Stourport on Severn, Worcs, DY13 9DW

**Or Email to** [Stourport.Civic.Soc@gmail.com](mailto:Stourport.Civic.Soc@gmail.com)

Charity No: 1092842



## A couple of local items of concern ...

### Closure of railway ticket offices

*by David More/ Pam Amos*

As a retired railwayman of 29 years, 15 of those in ticket offices. I feel I must make you aware of government proposals to close over 95% of ticket offices in England.

The local train operator, West Midlands Railway, will close all but 6 station offices. Both Kidderminster and Stourbridge ticket offices will shut meaning Worcester Foregate Street station will be our closest station with a manned ticket office.

Closure of ticket offices will mean:

- Tickets can only be purchased online, on a Smartphone or at the station, on an ATM ticket machine.
- No face to face information and ticket planning.
- Many ATMs at stations are card payment only.
- ATMs are notoriously slow to issue even simple tickets and go out of service.
- When services are disrupted, reliance on information from the screens and public address can be confusing.
- Problems for people who have no access to the Internet or Smartphones.

Please consider signing the online petition and send your comments to [Transport Focus](#).



*The consultation closes 1st September 2023*

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### Canal and River Trust funding cut

*by David More*

As a volunteer Lock Keeper in Stourport I'm sure you'll agree how smart and well maintained the Stourport basins look. However, following a review by DEFRA on behalf of the Government, the grant for the 10 year period from 2027 will be cut by £300 million pounds.

The Canal & River Trust warn that cuts of this scale "*will threaten the future of the nation's historic canals, leading to their decline and to the eventual closure of some parts of the network.*"

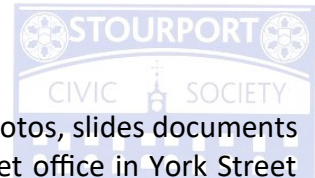
Since COVID all groundwork and light maintenance in Stourport is already only done by volunteers. You wonder what else is left to cut in Stourport!

Please consider writing to your MP to register your feelings.





## Two pictures from our Archive



We urgently need to find a permanent home for our Archive. All the photos, slides documents and other items are temporarily housed in a room underneath the ticket office in York Street and upstairs above the CRT office in the basins.

Unusual items we have include micrometers from Parsons Chain varying in size from tiny ones to those almost too big to hold as well as a ledger from an Undertakers!

**Can you help us rehome our archive? or do you know somebody who can?**



Curved end warehouse at end of Mart Lane



Nos 1 Broad Lock damaged by a hopper crash in 1980's