



Shipston Forum



September 2024

Heady heights

This year's winner of the Tallest Sunflower Competition was eight-year-old Joshua Allen. His bright yellow bloom measured an incredible 15 feet and three inches! It was the loftiest sunflower ever to be grown since the annual competition, which is organised by the Shipston on Stour Rotary Club, began in 2015. Joshua received a certificate and an Amazon voucher. See page 9 for his growing tips and more sunny sunflower photos.



Pre School is Outstanding

Shipston Pre School has been awarded an Outstanding in its most recent Ofsted inspection. The report, published in June, gave them top marks for the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership.

'We are all really proud that the hard work we have put in has been recognised and celebrated,' says manager Charlotte Langford.

A parent added their own praise: 'We can see through the children's joy every day that it's not just a job to the team! They have created a space for all the children (and their families) to feel totally safe and loved.'

The Pre School has also recently achieved a Gold WInCKs award from the Warwickshire Inclusion Kitemarking Scheme, which recognises the need for flexible inclusive early years provision in Warwickshire, supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The WInCKS award recognises and celebrates those settings who go even further.

Shant-astic fundraiser

Seven friends who got together to form Shipston Shanty Group have now raised £870 for Shipston Community First Responders. 'We had practised for several weeks before our performance on 27th July at the Black Horse to raise funds via a raffle and a bucket collection,' says Noel Nickerson. 'The plan was for the performance to be a one-off, but it proved so popular we've been asked to do it again! The money raised is fantastic and way above the £250 we had hoped for. Thank you to all who supported us, and the Black Horse staff and customers in particular.' The group members are Paul, Rose, Del, Merryn, Jim on mandolin and Nick and Noel on guitar. The group will be playing again at the Black Horse on 21st September, 3-5pm.



Colour fun!

Over 300 Shipston High School students enjoyed taking part in an end-of-term riot – a riot of colour, that is! Staff and students raised £1,661 during the school's first Colour Run. More schools news on page 11.



In this issue:

Remembering Harry Bailey – page 4
Museum season round-up – page 5

Bookfest comes to town this month – pages 8-9
New name for Shipston Proms – page 13

Mayor's column

Dear Shipston,

I hope you all have been able to have an enjoyable break over the summer. The weather improved somewhat during August, giving us all an opportunity to spend time with friends and family.

My own family engagements meant that unfortunately I missed the Rugby Club Beer Festival. By all accounts, this was a great occasion and the handing over of the First Responder's new car was well celebrated. Thank you to all who kindly donated and congratulations to the campaigning group who so ably co-ordinated the fundraising activities. This shows the power of volunteering and collaboration to the benefit of our community.

Sadly, my own trip to Wales before the weather got better caused me to miss the Historic Pub Tour organised by the Historical Society in aid of the Museum. I am pleased it was so well supported and hope this will be a foretaste of further cultural events of this kind.

On the civic side, I have attended the Civic Service in Alcester and an enjoyable race night at the Grieg Hall in Alcester.

Following up on the visit by the Integrated Care Board, I was pleased to receive a definitive if high level timeline for the public consultation on the change to service proposed for the Ellen Badger Community Hospital. This was followed by the publication on their website of a review into community rehabilitation beds. Locally, the campaign to retain inpatient beds at the EBH is gathering momentum. Watch out for the launch of the website and Facebook page in September. I cannot support the campaign in my official capacity but will be supporting it personally with as much energy as I can muster.

To recover from the disappointment, I had a great morning working with the SAFAG volunteers on the newly refurbished dams on Pigbrook.

I am really looking forward to the Food Festival and the many events in Bookfest. I hope to see you all there.

Your town Mayor,

John

John Dinnie, Mayor, Shipston Town Council



Shipston Town Council

Community Grant Awards

Shipston Town Council is inviting grant applications for the 2025/26 financial year. Grants are made to support a wide range of community initiatives across the town, delivered by voluntary groups and charities.

The scheme is open to any voluntary group or charity based in Shipston, or those who actively work in the town.

Applications must be made for specific projects, for example, the purchase of equipment or to support a planned event.

Grants typically range from £250 - £2,000.

Larger sums may be awarded for certain causes.

The closing date for applications is 31st October 2024

Application packs are available from:
New Clark House, West Street, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire, CV36 4HD
enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org
01608 662180

News from Shipston Town Council's August's meeting

Roadworks

The ongoing roadworks to replace a gas mains were discussed, including the disruption to the town, the inadequate signage and lack of proper diversions. Although this is a matter outside the remit of the Town Council, it was agreed that representing the views of the town and the businesses was important. Cllr Barker has been liaising with the contractor, Cadent, and letting local businesses know they can apply for compensation. She will write to the head of Highways about how roads and footpaths have been left in a poor state, to make sure action is taken to restore them properly when the work is finished. Cadent has already extended the time on its permit.

Housing

Cllr Hatch reported that 1,080 new houses per year have been allocated to Stratford District under the new government's housing plans. The previous provision was for 700. The new National Policy Planning Framework is out for consultation until 30th September and Stratford District Council will present its views.

Flowers in town

Councillors are liaising with Shipston in Bloom about continuity as the current team steps down after their many years of contribution to the appearance of the town with its 80 tubs, troughs and baskets. The discussions include using more perennial plants and reducing the burden of bulb removal.

Residents' Association

Cllr Corless reported that a residents' association has been formed for Herdwick Gate and Herdwick Fold, and that a constitution has been drafted.

Blue light update

A new PCSO, Katie Brooks, has joined Shipston Beat. The First Responders' new vehicle is now in action, doubling availability at times. Cllr Barker wanted to stress that the fire station has not been mothballed or closed but will be used based on activity. Lack of ability to recruit firefighters to man the station had been an issue.

Ellen Badger

Council has been invited to be shown round the new building. This will be in September. The Integrated Care Board has put a notice on its website that three studies have been carried out in the site – council will ask for these to be published.

Shipston Business Group

On behalf of the group, Sarah raised the following issues: the roadworks have been an 'absolute disaster' with signage indicating the town is closed particularly unhelpful. Businesses are keen to understand such plans in advance and to have an input. The Sainsbury's planning application is also of concern and they would like to maintain communications with the planning committee. Street safety and antisocial behaviour is another recent issue where they would welcome support from the Council in raising with community policing. She also made a plea for markets to be held on Sundays so businesses can participate.

Shipston Flood Action Group

A volunteer force will finish off repairs to dams at Pigbrook and the group believes that further ponding near Sutton-under-Brailes could be a good solution both to prevent silting and for flood prevention. There is goodwill to further develop relationships with Severn Rivers Trust and other agencies. Work is ongoing to clarify financial responsibilities and contributions between Environment Agency and WCC.

Environment

Proposal to add plantings to the track will not go ahead due to environmental concerns. The plan to train volunteers on hedge laying was not approved due to cost, but the purchase of drought-resistant plants and restoration work at the sensory garden is to go ahead.

Planning

Target dates for review have been set as 23rd August for the High School and Sainsburys' plans, and 14th August for the old power house. No date yet set for Tilemans Lane industrial estate. Review date for reserved housing is 24th September, where 62 objections have been lodged so far.

Heritage and leisure

The alleyway plaques have been put up, with lots of positive comments. The Trail Tale will resubmit its plans after further engagement with local history organisations. The Cecil Sandford plaque will be installed outside Harry's Barbers at noon on 21st September.

New councillor

Council welcomed Jerry Corless as a councillor and noted that for the first time in several years, there are now no current vacancies for councillors.

Communications

Cllr Howarth attended a meeting about extending a network which provides real-time data on the demographic profiles on towns in Warwickshire. He also attended a Love Shipston meeting to talk about different forms of funding and support for the website.

Meet the new councillor – Jerry Corless

Jerry has been resident in the area since 1968 and is an engineer and businessman. He is keen to play a part in the council and says he would like to contribute to any aspect of the council's work where his skills would be useful. Jerry is married with two adult daughters and four grandchildren. His wife is local and went to Shipston High School. He says: 'In my spare time I make model engines with little success and I enjoy cooking.'



Shipston Fallen

We remember those who sacrificed their lives in the two world wars in the month of their deaths.

7888698 Trooper Francis Harry Bailey

Harry Bailey was born on 21st October 1910 and was the son of Francis James Bailey and Emily Bailey (nee Wells), then of Mill Street, Shipston-on-Stour. In the census the following spring, young Francis and his mother were living with Emily's in-laws in Stourton. On 15th June 1914 Harry was enrolled into the Infants School, but on 21st December 1914 he is noted as leaving school and he went to live with his grandparents in Stourton. Harry returned to Shipston and re-joined the Boys School on 18th May 1919. The 1921 census records the family living in Green Lane. Francis Senior worked as a carpenter and wheelwright at the Mayo and Sons timber yard. The school log book notes that Harry was absent from school in December 1921 as there was scarlet fever in the family.

Harry completed his education on 24th October 1924 just after his fourteenth birthday, the school recording that he left for full time employment. He subsequently joined the RAF, possibly when he was sixteen, as an Apprentice and served for a number of years.

At the time of signing up Harry, who is listed as living in Coventry, joined 'A' Squadron of the Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons) Royal Armoured Corps. They moved off from their marshalling yards on 6th June, D Day, embarked at Stokes Bay and landed on the morning of the 7th near Mont Fleury about three miles west of their allotted area.

On 5th September, 4th Armoured Brigade came under the control of the 7th Armoured Division. At first light on 6th September the Scots Greys were at the Courtrai to Bossuyt Canal near Avelghem. The enemy had left Courtrai and were heading towards them. During an eventful day, the war diary reports that Harry was wounded.

Harry Bailey died on 10th September 1944 of the wounds received on the 6th. He is buried in the Brussels Town Cemetery, Evere, Brussels, Belgium and is remembered on the Town War Memorial.

Cornmill Meadows update

The community orchard is developing well and the fruit trees are taking shape naturally. We hope to sow wildflower seeds in the meadow beside the River Stour on Saturday 5th October with the help of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. We'll need volunteers for that please! If you're interested in helping, please contact Hilary Kelly on hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org

Another part of the plan for the management of the meadows includes cutting back and laying an existing



hedge. We are looking for volunteers who have experience of doing this and other people keen to take on the task. Again, please contact Hilary on the email address above if you can help.

Two study tables are now in place, one in each meadow and thanks to Lawns2Mow for installing them. We hope the schools or uniformed organisations will be able to make good use of them.



There are still problems with some dog owners not clearing up after their dog and others who do not keep their dog on a lead. Cornmill Meadows is primarily a wildlife site, and many small mammals, invertebrates, amphibians etc may suffer if dogs are not controlled.

Sensory garden

Volunteers have been working hard in the Sensory Garden in Mayo Road, cutting back a lot of dead vegetation and discovering some lovely shrubs that have been planted a while ago. New plants will be added in the future to fill some of the cleared ground, so if you have some suggestions about what you would like to see in there, or you would like to help with looking after this area, please send ideas or contact details to Hilary Kelly. hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org

Shipston in Bloom update

You may have heard that the committee of Shipston in Bloom are retiring. They, together with their team of volunteers, have made a very positive contribution to the attractiveness of our town. The responsibility for our various tubs will pass to the Town Council who will be taking over the ordering of plants.

Shipston Town Council has a duty to have regard to biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. The environment working group has a plan for planting which will be more able to cope with climate change and help avoid the decline in insect life. In Bloom groups are encouraged to use native UK and pollinator-friendly plants.

As a consequence, the tubs may look different in the future, reflecting significant changes in our environment, but we hope you will help us to keep Shipston looking lovely. If you have some ideas or would like to join the volunteers who look after the flower beds and tubs you would be most welcome. Please let Hilary Kelly know. hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Museum attracts visitors from far afield

'A credit to Shipston' was just one comment from the 500-plus people from near and far who will have called into our Museum before it closes for winter at the end of September.

Many were from our Shipston community while others from as far afield as China and Australia. We know how much they enjoyed visiting from comments: 'truly fantastic – a gem' said one. A local appreciated home history: 'lovely to see lots of memories.' There were thanks for the behind-the-scenes efforts: 'well done, a lot of hard work putting it all together' and the volunteers: 'great collections and friendly staff.'

All three displays – Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston retail and Romans vs Celts – were popular and you just have time to see them in September before new displays go up at the Easter opening 2025.

As well as the Museum, there was an outreach programme of walks and talks including to the Banbury Historical Society while the pop-up picture of schoolchildren from 1970 enabled many to be named by relatives and friends.

One very popular walk was around old Shipston pubs – no, the group did not call in at each for a drink! Most of the original 29 are long gone but many of the 60 strong group led by Martin Russell managed the whole tour to end with a refreshing glass at the Black Horse. Next on the agenda is spooky Shipston for Halloween. Let us know if you have any ghostly or dark tales to share.

Even when the doors are closed, work is going on behind the scenes preparing for next year's displays. They will continue to reflect our community which has taken the Museum to its heart. Asked what she personally loves most about the Museum, Trustee chair Bekky Hillman explains: 'It's not like a traditional museum where people come and quietly look around things in silence. People come in to reminisce and tell us their memories and history.' She notes that they often come back to help us understand how they fit into the tapestry of Shipston through the ages adding, 'I really love seeing people getting together in the Museum having a natter!'

You can keep up to date via the lively Shipston Museum Facebook page and contact us on shipstonmuseum@outlook.com

Shipston Museum is open until 24th September at Old Clark House West Street beside the Town Council offices, New Clark House. Hours: Saturdays, Sundays and bank holiday Mondays from 12-4pm.



Trustee chair Bekky Hillman with the Shipston map that attracts much visitor interest.

WI fruit fun

Shipston WI had a great day at the Brailles Show with their Human Fruit Machine! To the sound of kazoos, the ladies would produce random pieces of fruit from the holes in the boxes! Three the same won a prize. Great fun, and a good fundraiser. Interested in joining the fun? Ring Bridget Smith, President, on 0781035201 to find out more.



Regular Events

Monday

Seated Exercise Class:
11am Townsend Hall

IT Help!:

10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:
6:50pm for a 7pm start.

The Church Room, Darlingscote Road,
Contact Matthew Hunter: 01608 684499

Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group:
7-9pm, Low Furlong

Tuesday

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12:30pm

Community Hub: Shipston Methodist Church, 10-12pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

Age Concern Lunch Club: Stour Court 12pm. Contact Jill Case 01608 662226

Stour Valley Stitchers: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Wednesday

Seated Tai Chi:
9.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Standing Tai Chi:
10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

GLOSS Coffee Morning:
11am, The Garden Room, The George Townhouse

Indoor Kurling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

U3A weekly scrabble: 2-4pm at the George Townhouse. Free for all U3A members

Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, 1st & 3rd Wed, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Thursday

Shipston Community Warm Hub:
Every Thursday 10am-12pm, The Scout Hut, New Street.

Story stomp: 10am, Shipston Library

Scrabble Club: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

Age Concern Lunch Club: Rainbow Fields 12pm. Contact Christine Grant 07939 595600

Community Social Prescriber drop in: 10am-12pm, Scout Hut, New Street

Boxercise:

5-6pm Townsend Hall, Yr 9-11 & ages 16-18. Every other week from 5th Sept

Friday

Pilates for Complete Beginners:
9.30am Townsend Hall

Walks with a friendly group:
10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616

Shipston Stitchers:
Every fortnight at The Church Room, Darlingscote Road. Contact Anita Spencer on 01993 832665

Age Concern Lunch Club: Fortnightly, Rainbow Fields, 12pm. Contact: Maryann Dobbin 07779 730774

Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group - Friday afternoons in Mrs. Browns from 2-4.30pm

Club Night at Shipston Sports Club: 6pm-9pm, London Road

Saturday

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

Shipston Food Bank:
10:30am-12pm, St Edmund's Church, Shipston.
No referral or voucher needed

What's On Calendar: September 2024

3rd. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.

4th. Shipston Widows: the first Weds each month at the George. Coffee from 11 and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304

4th. Shipston WI: A Slightly Rude History of English Place Names by Penelope Brown. Meetings held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscott Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7.00 pm. For more information contact: Gill Smith – Telephone 07759 232899

4th. Singing Down Memory Lane: the first Weds of each month, 2.30pm-3.30pm, Shipston Lodge. See ad on page 7

4th. & 18th. Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesday

5th. 'Dance for Joy' Monthly Circle Dance Group in Stretton on Fosse 2.30 – 4pm. First Thursday of each month. Dances from around the world – all taught from scratch. Please contact Geri Hunting geraldinehunting@icloud.com or 07968 338848

7th. Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Children's equipment available

8th. Shipston Food Festival: See ad on page 16

8th. Shipston Home Nursing: Walton Hall Run/Walk, Walton Hall, CV35 9HG. Registration 8.45am, start 10am. www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events

9th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

10th. Shipston Flower Club presents Autumn Treasures - a demonstration by Claire Bond. Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30 pm start at Shipston on Stour Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor entry £6. There will be a raffle of the demonstrated arrangements. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month.

10th & 24th. Stour Valley Stitchers: 6.30pm-8.30pm The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

12th. The Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch: Committee Meeting of the Shipston Branch of the RBL, St Edmund's Church. If you would like to know more, become a Committee member or a member of the Branch call or message the Branch Secretary Alex Black on 07789 968733 or email alblack32@hotmail.com

13th. Stour Valley Lions Cinema: Colette. See ad on page 7

19th. Drop In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Scout Hut. Every third Thursday

20th. Shipston Home Nursing Golf Day: Feldon Valley. www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events

20th. Royal British Legion Social Evening: The Shipston on Stour Branch of the Royal British Legion meet on the third Friday of each month for a social gathering. We meet in the White Bear Inn from 7.30 pm onwards. Do please come and join us and share your stories with like-minded people. For further information contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com.

20th. Shipston Music Society: Catriona Bourne Jazz Quartet. See ad on page 10

20th. Townsend Hall: Richard Leach's Street Band. See ad on page 7

21st -29th. Shipston Bookfest - see article on page 8-9

24. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm- 9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, CV36 4DR. Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month. All ladies welcome. Entry £2.00

26th. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

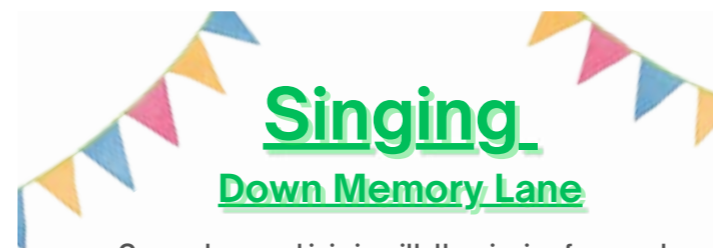
STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



Romantic Period Drama - Certificate 15
Supporting Shipston Book Fest

Colette is pushed by her husband to write novels under his name. After their success, she fights to make her talents known.

TOWNSEND HALL
FRIDAY 13th September, 2024 at 7.30pm
Tickets on sale from **The Flower House, Shipston** for cash £5.00, or pay on the door.
Drinks, chocolate and raffle.



Come along and join in with the singing for people with memory issues and their carers.

First Wednesday of the month.
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Shipston Lodge, Tileman's Lane
Shipston on Stour, CV36 4QG

Accompanied by Nick Nickerson on guitar

Refreshments provided
Contact Fay Ivens 01608 662133
Alternative Contact Pat Hutton 01608 664648



Shipston on Stour - A Dementia Friendly Community. www.shwp.org.uk



SEATED EXERCISE CLASS	Mondays	Townsend Hall	11am
STRICTLY FITSTEPS FAB	Tuesdays	Townsend Hall	10am
SEATED TAI CHI	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	9:30am
STANDING TAI CHI	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	10:30am
INDOOR CURLING	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	2pm
PILATES FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS	Fridays	Townsend Hall	9:30am

For more information or to book a place please contact Vanessa Compton on 01608 663320 or e-mail admin@shwp.org.uk





52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. CV36 4AE
Charity No. 522997

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...



Richard Leach's Street Band

Friday 20th September 2024
Doors Open 19:00 for 20:00
Fully Licensed Bar

Tickets £12.50 from

- The Flower Shop, 3 Market Place, Shipston, CV36 4AG, 01608-544336, or
- For online booking, visit ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or townsendhall.co.uk

Get ready for Shipston Bookfest!

With less than a month to go until the first Shipston Bookfest, we're shining a spotlight on some of the big events.



21 - 29 September

Tickets on sale now!

@ShipstonBookfest



Launch party

On Sunday 22nd September, following our Psychological Thrillers panel event, Bookfest is hosting a free launch party and creative showcase from 5pm at the Townsend Hall. Celebrating books and championing local talent, a number of local authors will discuss their books, including those based in and around Shipston and the Cotswolds.



You'll also have the opportunity to meet other authors, some of whom feature in events later in Bookfest week. There will be author tables, as well as stalls featuring local businesses and Bookfest partners. The launch party also sees the launch of the Festival Bookshop, offering over 40 books from the authors appearing at the Bookfest.

With live music from the Mechanicals, a local band whose tracks are inspired by poetry and literature, and a bar, this promises to be a fun and varied evening, both celebrating the love of books and providing a lovely start to the Bookfest week.

The launch party and creative showcase is kindly sponsored by Rotary Club of Shipston.



Adele Parks

On Saturday 28th September, Sunday Times bestselling author Adele Parks will be joining us at the Townsend Hall. Author of 23 books, Adele will be discussing her latest gripping thriller, *First Wife's Shadow*, a twisting tale of deceit, desire and obsession, exploring modern themes of love, jealousy and friendship against the backdrop of alcoholism and gaslighting. With over five million copies of her books sold in the UK alone, Parks has established herself as a master of psychological drama. Don't miss the chance to hear one of the UK's top writers!



Tickets are £12 and can be booked online via www.shipstonbookfest.org/events or at the Richard Harvey Collection. Book and ticket packages are available online and save you £5, if you were to purchase the book separately.

And more!

Check out the programme to discover more events and visit the website to book tickets.

Shipston Bookfest is a community-run festival celebrating books and the joys of reading. Taking place between 21st and 29th September 2024 in venues across Shipston-on-Stour, there are events covering crime and psychological thrillers to gardening and rom-coms. Whether you're a devoted bookworm or simply looking for a different way to spend your time, we hope there is something for you!

Bringing book characters to life

How does an actor interpret a character from a book? Actor Anton Lesser will be telling us how he does it, at a Shipston & District Literary Society event on Tuesday 24th September at St Edmund's Church.

TV journalist Carole Foster will be interviewing him about how he approaches parts ranging from Qyburn from Game of Thrones to Sir Thomas More from Wolf Hall to the (spoiler alert!) bad priest in the latest Dalglish series.

The bar will be run by Shipston Home Nursing while Shipston Literary Society's vice chair Alison Hook will be on hand with news about Society membership and its forthcoming programme. She says: 'People often mistake us for a book club, but we are a friendly and informal group who love all kinds of literature and welcome new members and ideas.'

Tickets are free for members and £10 for guests from Richard Harvey in Church Street, Shipston and Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/page-to-screen-tickets-941815975937/>

Dark side of canals exposed by local author

In her book *Dark Side of the Cut* local historian and author Sue Law reveals a history of crime on Britain's canals. Uncovering the secret world of the waterways, her true stories of violence, drunkenness and rough justice bring a host of forgotten characters from the past to life. Sue says, 'We are lucky today that canals are such peaceful places. But it was very different in the nineteenth century, and I was surprised to discover their dark, hidden history and the full extent of alcohol-fuelled crime.'

Sue delved deep into the research archives from court records to old newspaper reports. A brutal murder in 1839 first raised public fears about boatmen, a tough breed of men surviving in harsh conditions, branded as outlaws by the press which gleefully reported their misdeeds.

The canal network of the Industrial Revolution was the major trade route underpinning the rapidly growing Victorian economy. As a social historian, Sue puts this vital link with our past in an engaging and exciting way, which has drawn favourable reviews:

'Sue Law fills in a long-neglected area of waterways scholarship. and has created a superb, rattling read.' *Waterways World* magazine.

'A good read for the fireside, just stay off the gin!' *Towpath Talk*

Sue unearthed the story of PC Hine, a Shipston police constable living in New Street 1881, who was savagely attacked by two local poachers. He feared for his safety saying: 'You may depend on it, they mean to do for me sometime, that will be my end.'

Did his forebodings come true? You will have to wait for Sue's talk at the Bookfest on 25th September – or if you can't delay till then, *Dark Side of the Cut* by Susan C. Law is published by The History Press.



The sunny side of summer

As well as Joshua's astonishingly giant sunflower shown on our front page, five other enormous flowers could be seen towering above garden fences around town. Here they are with their proud growers.



Harvey Yorke 10ft 6ins Cheska Yates 10ft 3ins Millie Yates 8ft 5ins

Want to know how to win? Here's a comment from the winner, Joshua Allen, who is a bit of an old hand at the competition:

'I was very excited to win as in the past I've come second and third. This was my fourth year to enter the Rotary Tallest Sunflower Competition.

'I think it was a lot of luck this year. Usually I grow my sunflowers in the back garden, but this year we put it in a pot in the front garden and the sun helped it grow and it didn't stop. Our neighbours have helped look after it when we've been away, so I've liked having their support. I think I will save the seeds and see if I can grow one even taller next year!'

Darragh and Etta Quinn both grew 8ft specimens





Catriona Bourne Jazz Quartet in concert for the Triquetra album release tour.

Multi-instrumentalist Catriona Bourne marries technical virtuosity with unique sound-worlds to create exciting and original programmes. Her performances on flute and harp blend elements from classical, folk and jazz traditions, carefully curated around themes of nature and mythology.



Friday 20th September, 7.30pm
Methodist Church, 52 New Street,
Shipston-on-Stour

Tickets £10 on the door
or in advance from E.H. Spencer
Free entry to Shipston Music Society members
New members always welcome
Information: ph 01608 662514



Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)
www.shipstonmusic.org.uk

Shipston Primary School



Class of 2024

Well done to all our Year 6 children for their hilarious production of Pirates of the Curry Bean. It was a brilliant show and the funniest end of year production I've seen so far in my 15 years at Shipston Primary.



Our Year 6 children embodied our Shipston Spirit in their end of primary school speeches to parents and siblings at the Leavers' Assembly. Our SATs results this year are once again significantly above the national average and shows their academic determination and responsibility, as well as the quality of teaching and our expectations right the way from Reception to Year 6.

Year 4 camp out

On the penultimate Friday of the academic year, the children in Year 4 enjoyed a night sleeping under the stars when they camped on the school field. For many, this was their first time away from home overnight without family members. They enjoyed toasting marshmallows at Forest School and playing lots of games together. The children had a wonderful time and the teachers actually got some sleep this year!

Thanks to all the staff who gave up their Friday evening to make memories for our children and to Shipston Scouts for lending us their tents.

The camp-out is part of Shipston Primary's 11 Before 11, our promise to provide 11 wonderful childhood opportunities alongside our exceptional curriculum, leaving children with numerous memorable and powerful moments during their time at Shipston Primary. We want our children to be inspired, challenged and have broad horizons by the time they leave for secondary school (aged 11).

Bikeability Award

Shipston Primary is one of only three schools achieving Bikeability Awards earned by Warwickshire Schools this year. The school was nominated by the cycle instructors from Outspoken Training who deliver our Bikeability cycle training on behalf of Warwickshire County Council. They said: 'We want to nominate Shipston-on-Stour, they have booked with us multiple times and are always very welcoming and friendly to our instructors and are helpful to our office team.' Well done to our staff and children.



Summer Reading Challenge

All children were invited to sign up for this year's Summer Reading Challenge where they could sign up at their local Warwickshire library. The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest reading for pleasure programme for children aged 4-11. The Challenge runs through the summer holidays until Saturday 7th September. This year, the theme has been Marvellous Makers, aiming to fire up children's imaginations and unleash storytelling and creativity through the power of reading. So there may still be time to sign up via the official Challenge website. <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>

Shipston High School

Trips

Our final two weeks of the summer term were dominated by trips and fundraising. Students spent days out at Carding Mill Valley completing some research and gathering data for Geography fieldwork, some of our Food Technology students spent the day in London sampling foods from small bespoke businesses of all cultures and learning about small scale manufacturing on a food tour and others went to Coventry Cathedral and Oxford History Museum on Maths and RE trips. School felt extremely empty most of the week!

Fundraising for the Food Bank

We held our second fundraiser of the year for the Shipston Food Bank and had a non-uniform day in return for an item of non-perishable food. We were extremely grateful for the generosity of the students as we were able to hand over a substantial amount of dried and canned goods to the food bank. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated. It was gratefully received at a time of high demand during school holidays.

Colour Run

Our big event of the final week was the Colour Run. It is the first time we have run such an event and it was so much fun! Over 300 students took part and we had a fabulous team of staff who were willing to get themselves into a multi-coloured mess as they threw the coloured powder over the students! Students paid to enter and were provided with a white t-shirt and a certificate and ice lolly at the end. Some students opted to purchase additional bags of powder to throw, just to ensure they and their friends were properly coloured at the end. Everyone had a fantastic time and we raised £1,661 to spend on student rewards and incentives in school. I am sure we will be repeating this event again next year.



Shipston Music Society

The society meets eight times a year at 7.30pm in the Methodist church on the third Friday of every month other than December, January, July and August. We aim to present a varied programme of live music. Tickets for single concerts cost £10 and an annual membership £48, giving entry to all meetings in the season. If you would like to give us a try before committing to a full year the cost of a single ticket can be offset against an annual membership.

Our next season gets under way on Friday 20th September with a concert by Catriona Bourne and her recently formed jazz quartet. Catriona is a local girl who has played for the society several times in the past, albeit in a different genre. Her new venture promises a fascinating evening.

Other concerts planned for the new season include music for two pianos by Lynn Arnold and Charles Matthews, recitals by musicians from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and a programme of music by young cellists studying under Chris Wimpenny. In addition to seven musical evenings, we shall have an illustrated talk by Simon Smith from the Shakespeare Institute on how the Bard used music in his plays and how he inspired later composers.

If you would like to know more, please either come and join us on 20th September or ring me on 01608 662998.

Laurie Grove

Chairman

Astronomical Society News

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a Club Night, in September that will be on 3rd September and the speaker on the third Tuesday, which is on 17th September 2024, is due to be Dr Vincent Eke from the University of Durham with a talk called 'How did the Moon get there?' Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Each month one of our members, Adrian Wakeham, writes an article on aspects of astronomical observation. This month it is the second part of his look at summer stars.

Autumn stars

Now September has arrived, the nights are lengthening, and astronomers are happier creatures.

Some of my favourite stars are reappearing. A good place to start is Cassiopeia (the 'W') which is fairly high in the northeast. To the right of the first 'v' is the constellation of Perseus. It is described as a pith helmet shape. The Double Cluster is to be found in the gap between the two constellations. You'll need binoculars, but the area of sky is part of the milky-way and is full of stars. The Double Cluster is two areas of even more dense stars, 1500 light years away.



Also in Perseus is Algol. It's also known as medusa eye, or the winking demon. It's a red giant in an eclipsing binary, so appears to dim and brighten over a three-day period.

At the other end of Cassiopeia is the 2nd 'v'. 2.5 times the length of the 'v' is a fuzzy blob. This is the Andromeda Galaxy. With binoculars you'll see an oval shape. It is always considered to be the furthest thing visible with the naked eye, at 2.5 million light years away. (In other words, the light you see started travelling 2.5 million years ago, when our ancestors were still in the trees!)

Further to the right are four stars in a square. This is the square of Pegasus, sometimes known as the Great Square. One test of how clear the night sky is, or how strong is the light pollution, is to count the number of stars visible within the square.

Club nights offer more information on what to look out for each month and if it is clear we do some observing just outside the Village Hall, so please join us. There is no charge initially to come along and find out more, but if you do want to become a member then the fee is just £15 a year and it's free if you are in full-time education. For more details go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk>, or contact the Chair John Waller john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

Happy observing

Shipston SCAN

The speakers at the June meeting were Andrew Revell and Kate Bamford of Shipston Home Nursing, who gave a comprehensive presentation about the work of this invaluable local asset.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 10th September. The meeting will, as always, be held in the Townsend Hall, starting at 10am with free tea, coffee and biscuits followed at 10.30am by a talk by Emma Daniell (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire) about the role of the PCC. This is a topic which, to many of us, is a bit of a mystery so this promises to be a very illuminating morning. Meetings last until around 12 noon.

We look forward to seeing our regulars and hopefully some new faces. Though the Constitution limits membership to the over 50s, we don't check birth certificates so, if the subject interests you, please do come along.

If you would like any further information, please ring me: 01608 662998 – I always respond to messages if you leave one.

Laurie Grove

Chairman



Proms looks ahead to next year

As the 27th Proms is being quietly contemplated, now is the time to get in touch with your feedback for next year. The committee has already booked the headline band for summer 2025 as they were in high demand and might have been lost to another festival. Otherwise, there is plenty of room for your input and to make sure the Proms committee get it right.

The committee wants to build on the success of events like the Ibiza-on-Stour night but need the help of the younger audience to reach out. They would love to hear from someone who could help out throughout the year on social media and marketing.

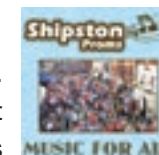
They would also like to get together a team of people who can help with the clear up after the Final Night. That would be a huge help to the committee who, by the end of the two weeks, would really appreciate the extra manpower!

We are tweaking the name slightly and we are now the Shipston Proms Music Festival, we hope that this opens up the reach and for people to understand a bit more of what we are about.

The Committee are delighted that next year will be another FORTNIGHT of music and the dates are 14th June - 28th June 2025, so get the dates in your diary!

The Proms will be holding Christmas events this year, so keep your eyes peeled for details of these.

The Proms look forward to hearing from you and contact details can be found on www.shipstonproms.org or on our Facebook page.



Medical Centre news



RSV vaccine for older adults

From 1st September 2024, those who turn 75 and those age 75 to 79 will be eligible for a free vaccine to protect them from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

RSV is an infectious disease of the airways and lungs. RSV infection often causes symptoms similar to a cold, including:

- cough
- sore throat
- sneezing
- a runny or blocked nose

It can also make you become wheezy or short of breath and lead to pneumonia and other life-threatening conditions. There is no specific treatment, and most infections will get better by themselves. Every year thousands of older adults need hospital care for RSV, and some of them will die. RSV can be more severe in people with medical conditions such as heart or lung disease or a weakened immune system.

RSV infection is common in young children but is most serious for small babies and for older people.

Almost all older adults will have had several RSV infections during their life. A single dose of vaccine will help to boost protection as you reach an age group at highest risk of serious RSV infection. Unlike the flu vaccine you do not need to have the RSV vaccine every year.

Eligibility for the RSV vaccination

Everyone turning 75 years old on or after 1st September 2024 will be offered a single dose of RSV vaccine. This is because older adults are more at risk of serious complications from RSV. You can still get the vaccine up to the day before you turn 80.

For the first year of the programme, the vaccine will also be offered to those who are already aged 75 to 79 years on 1st September 2024 as part of a catch up programme.

If you are not yet 75 the NHS will invite you for vaccination once you turn 75.

Having the RSV vaccine at the same time as other vaccines

You may be offered your shingles or pneumococcal vaccine at the same time as the RSV vaccine, it is safe to do so and reduces the number of appointments you will need to get protected from these diseases.

The guidance is to avoid having flu or covid vaccines within four weeks of the RSV vaccine as this can impact on the efficacy of each vaccine.

How is Shipston Medical Centre vaccinating against RSV?

We have about 800 people who are 75-79 as of 1st September 2024 when the vaccination programme begins. We are aiming to vaccinate the oldest people in this group during the first week of September before pausing the vaccination campaign for 6 weeks. This is because we will be offering flu and covid vaccines from the beginning of October and it is advised that at least 4 weeks are left between vaccines. Once the covid and flu campaigns have occurred we will once again invite patients. Where possible opportunistic vaccination will occur (ie, if you come to see us for something else, we will look to vaccinate you at the same time if we are able).

When booking your appointment please ensure:

- you leave four weeks between your RSV vaccine appointment and any flu/covid appointment
- you are aged 75-79 on the day of your appointment. If you come before your 75th birthday or after you turn 80, we will not be able to vaccinate you as you will not be eligible.

County Council

I've got to share my favourite word with you! It's petrichor: you know that smell when rain hits dry ground? Love the word and love the smell. As you can tell, I'm still just in holiday mode – hope all of you have had time to stop this lovely summer.

Being a bit more serious, now, I've spoken with Chief Fire Officer Ben Brook this week to clarify what is happening at Shipston Fire Station under their new operating model. He has stressed to me that contrary to what has been said elsewhere, our station is not being 'mothballed' or closed, but that it will be used based on the risk and activity levels in our area.

Most of the time now, Shipston is covered by fire engines from elsewhere (eg, Stratford), because the Shipston fire engine is only available 10.5% of the time (0.74% during the day when most incidents occur, and 20% at night). Under the new model, we'll still be covered by fire engines from elsewhere, because these are continually being moved around the county based on where they are needed most.

We'll also still see prevention and protection work being done in Shipston to prevent incidents from happening in the first place, and when needed, the fire engine that will be based at Shipston Fire Station will be used with a crew that can be called in within two hours for major incidents. So, the station will definitely continue to be used, and I hope you'll continue to support our fire and rescue service and all the amazing work that they do.

99% of primary school applicants got their 1-3 choice places and 95% at secondary. Good luck with your next stage whatever you are doing! If you have any reason to be dissatisfied, please contact me.

I am all over the local Highways issues like a rash. WCC is getting chapter and verse on the lunacy of diversions/non-diversions/closures/work ethic and anything else I can throw in. Compensation is available and I am happy to help any businesses who need it.

A plea to younger, green-fingered types: we need help with Shipston in Bloom. Hilary has mentioned this elsewhere, but my principle is to keep asking. Let's keep Shipston looking stunning.

Finally, as summer steams to an end, there is Bookfest coming up, which I was delighted to help fund from my delegated budget; and the Food Festival - where I will be demonstrating how to cook Food Bank bag contents for maximum bang for very few bucks! Come and sample. Coffee on me at The George on Thursdays. Contact me to check as other venues around the area will be featuring soon!

Yours ever, Jo

Councillor Jo Barker (she/her) Shipston Division

Chairman of Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk | @jmvbarker

Letters

We are not ostriches

Most people in Shipston are concerned about climate change, otherwise we would not have had the two active Green Party Councillors, Olivia Hatch and Dave Passingham, returned to Stratford District Council at the last Local Elections.

We now have a Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament, which shows that the constituency as a whole is not complacent about climate change, either. Manuela Perteghella has already demonstrated that her action on local issues is coloured by concern for the environment.

Members of SAFE (Stourvale Action for the Environment) are encouraged by the success of Great Big Green Week in Shipston, particularly the Town Trail on 8th June. More and more people are genuinely keen to take steps as individuals, and with others, to care for our local environment, and make an effort to counteract the effects of climate change regionally, nationally and beyond.

Verity Richardson

Stourvale Action for the Environment

Keep up the good work

Congratulations from a very 'old' Shipstonian, in many ways. The recent issue of the Forum was a really interesting and varied publication. It cannot be easy but do keep up the good work.

Pat Sandford

District Council

I've had a couple of conversations recently that I wanted to share. One started in the pub, when someone said to me, 'I don't agree with all this green b****ks.' The other was when doing council work and someone asked 'Why has the council declared a climate emergency?' In situations like these, I always try and find the common ground. It's even more important now when social media is so effective in polarising situations into 'us and them'. So here are some things that I brought up in these conversations, and hopefully we can all agree on: we don't want to pollute our rivers and air, we want to reverse the destruction of habitats, (where are all the insects?), we want sustainable local businesses, we want to reduce waste, we want fresh and local food to be more accessible, we want affordable, well-built homes that are efficient to heat, and most importantly we want less social inequality (it is after all the most wealthy who consume the most: the richest 1% of the global population create 50% of all carbon emissions). So although these conversations didn't end with us being great buddies, there was some amicable agreement.

But recent surveys show that actually the vast majority of adults are concerned about the climate emergency (the 2021 ONS census and a UN global survey from this year), and the percentage goes up when talking about young adults. For the younger generation, it's much scarier seeing those in power not making the changes needed and leaving it up to individual action. Feeling like this is all on our own individual shoulders is crippling, and leads to doomism and putting our fingers in our ears.

As Antonio Guterres of the UN said: 'We need climate action on all fronts – everything everywhere all at once.' This includes all levels of government, and that is why I've been helping to organise the District Council's Climate Assembly – to show what they are doing to help address the climate emergency in their sphere of influence, and to invite the public and stakeholders to engage with this process. A linked-up effective strategy has still not been put into practice, but there are seeds, and we all need to help them grow.

Olivia Hatch, District Councillor, Shipston North

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Useful contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	111
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
Team: shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
Churches of Shipston:	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01295 257193

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Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Laura Parker, by email: forum@shipstononline.org or call 07989 530069 (if you don't have email access).

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org

Forum copy deadline:

Second Monday of the month

- but the sooner you can notify the editor of a potential story the better.

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LARKS MEADOW FARM



North Cotswold Brewery



Shipston on Stour Food Festival

Sponsored by Shipston Town Council

Sunday

8th Sept 2024

Shipston Town Centre 10am to 3pm



Even more choice than last year!

More details at www.ShipstonFoodFestival.org/foodfestival

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