

Shipston Forum



Shipston Food Festival

The second year of Shipston's Food Festival was a resounding success. Run by the Stour Valley Lions, all profits from the event go towards local good causes. This year the event raised over £5,000, all of which will be donated to support the surrounding area.

Opened by Mayor John Dinnie and our Town Crier, Marion Lowe, trading was brisk from the time of opening with the town centre full of stalls selling quality food and drink for the thousands of visitors who attended across the day. The weather held fair and there was a real buzz about town with a local musician adding to the atmosphere. The goods on sale were so popular that several stalls sold out before the end of the day.

Visitors took part in games run by the Lions who also sold 3,000 tickets in the best raffle yet. The amazing prizes were kindly donated by local residents and businesses including Max Warner, The George Townhouse, Pinnock's Distillery and Tesco. The lucky winners are off to enjoy a glider flight, a supercar experience and a family day at the Cotswold Wildlife Park.

"The Food Festival couldn't have happened without help and the Lions would like to thank Shipston Town Council for their grant which helped us to get started on the planning process back in the depths of winter," said Lions' treasurer Sue Bains. "We want to offer special thanks to those who donated prizes, to all local businesses who opened up on the day and made the event even better and finally to the people of Shipston who flocked to the town centre to support the event!" Photographs of the event are available at (www.shipstonfoodfestival.org/gallery). Next year's Food Festival will be on Sunday 14th September 2025 – a date for your diary!

Lions can help you

A reminder that the Lions can help non-profit making organisations, groups and individuals in the Stour Valley area in need of some financial support. Look out for applications for the next Lions' Den this autumn.

Meadow up for award

Cornmill Meadows has been shortlisted as a 'Best Green Business' project in the Stratford Herald Business and Tourism Award. Winners will be announced on 18 October at a black tie event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Stratford. The others in the category include the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and the Shakespeare Distillery.













Town Band remembers

Members of the Town Band have paid tribute to cornet player, arranger and conductor Peter Stevens, who helped the band to numerous contest successes. There is an obituary by David Birch on page 12.



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Mayor's column

Dear Shipston,

September certainly cooled down a bit from the late summer sun. Thank goodness it lasted for the Food Festival and the rain held off. The Lions excelled themselves again by organising an amazing range of local providers for us all to enjoy.



I was recently invited to a meeting with the Youth Club Committee. This hard-working group of volunteers has successfully enabled weekly meeting attendance to increase to the point where they would run two sessions per week if the staff could be found. The wide-ranging discussion on the needs of young people considered necessary repairs to the Hub in Pittway Avenue as well as improvements to enhance its suitability.

The Climate Assembly event at Elizabeth House in Stratford was well-attended and the thought-provoking workshops resulted in a plenary session identifying real opportunities for both District and Parish/Town Councils to work together on addressing the multiple facets of climate change. There was a lot of interest in the work of SAFAG (Shipston Area Flood Action Group) in mitigating the effects of climate change.

I attended the SCAN meeting on 10th September. The talk by Emma Daniell, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, was most interesting. We heard that the police are sticking with a universal maximum response time of 15 minutes for category one responses. This contrasts with WCC's decision to use average response time as the measure of performance for the Fire Service. I also welcome SCAN's intention to focus on Community Awareness and intend to support their meetings whenever possible.

On the civic side, Bryony and I attended an enjoyable walk through Southam with their mayor Angela John and two very knowledgeable local historians. I look forward to sharing their approach with our own historical society.

At the invitation of the South Warwickshire Foundation Trust, I and other Councillors visited the site of the Ellen Badger Hospital to be shown the inside of the building and the proposed facilities including community rooms, doctors' rooms and the proposed area for outpatients.

And it was a pleasure to join a crowd of around 50 people at the unveiling of the plaque to commemorate World Champion Grand Prix Racer and two-time Isle of Mann TT winner Cecil Sandford.

By the time you are reading this, Bookfest will already be over. I hope you enjoyed all the various events. The organisers are to be congratulated on such a wide variety of literary occasions.

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

Town Council News

News from Shipston Town Council's September meeting

Food Festival

Councillors agreed that the Food Festival had been a great success in terms of turnout and atmosphere and wanted to record their thanks to the Lions for their unstinting hard work.

Environment

Cllrs Dinnie and H. Kelly, and Olivia Hatch went to the climate assembly event held by Stratford District Council and attended various workshops including ones on looking after town trees, and on the need to provide cool spaces for the community as well as warm hubs in the future. The SAFAG stall attracted a lot of interest.

Cllr H. Kelly reported that a few volunteers have come forward to help run Shipston in Bloom, and that more are needed. She will hold a meeting for those interested on 2nd October at 6pm.

She will also meet heads of department from the High School to look at how they might use Cornmill Meadows for school projects and learning.

Road closures

These continue to be a matter of debate, and irritation, as councillors pointed out that the scheduling and close distance of the traffic lights have caused delays in the town. The matter is for Highways at WCC, which says that the number of different contractors needed to ensure good services to the town makes the situation complex, and that unexpected emergency works can arise. Communications do not always seem joined up: Cllr Barker will ask Highways how things can be improved.

Assets

Cllr Walters is compiling a database of the town council's assets and the levels of risk within each site. Work is nearly completed.

Discussions are ongoing with the district conservation officer about repairs to the roof of the twin chapels, with grant options being examined. Proposed essential repairs to cemetery lodge are to be approved by the finance committee at the next meeting.

Blue light report

Cllr Barker to find out if the regular Tuesday training is still continuing for the firefighters who are based in town, and also the date when the new operating model will be put into effect. First Responders reported there were two defibrillator activations and one bleed kit used in August. They are looking into putting defibrillators into the new housing estates. CPR training sessions have continued and a new First Responder has been recruited.

Forum

A reminder that the Forum policy does not accept advertising from commercial organisations.

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Ellen Badger Hospital

Councillors attending a viewing at the new site on 23rd of September.

Sports and facilities

Cllr Barker has met with the Rugby Club on behalf of the Mayo Road Trust to discuss proposals for additional parking.

The High School head is aware the council has stipulated that community access is a condition of the school's planning application for the new sports hall.

Options and recommendations for improving access path to Cornmill Meadows are to go through the finance committee. An opportunity to acquire land near the sports club using S106 monies for community use is to be considered by the finance committee as part of overall strategy.

The next annual precept is being drafted and will include longer-term and costed plans. Cllr Cooper gave a reminder that grant applications close on 31 October.

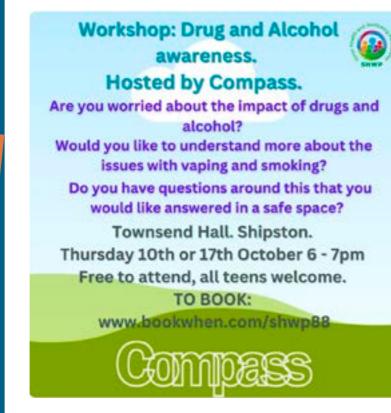


SHIPSTON ON STOUR TOWN COUNCIL

Vacancy for a Town Councillor

If you would like to be considered for co-option to the Town Council, and would like further information, please email the Town Clerk at clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org Adverts Page 4







Academy Trust News

Wilmcote C of E Primary School, in Stratford-upon-Avon has become the latest primary school to join The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust. The academy trust provides a robust support system for its member schools, with Acorns Primary, Brailes C of E Primary, Kineton C of E Primary and Shipston-on-Stour Primary School all committed to professional collaboration in order to provide excellence for our children, ensuring we continue to provide the very best education for all our children in the Trust so they can flourish and succeed in all aspects of life.

The Stour Federation celebrated its 10th birthday as a multi academy trust at the beginning of this academic year, as it was on 1st September 2014 that Acorns Primary School and Shipston Primary School became its founding academies, having previously federated in 2011. The aim has always been developing a collaborative approach to school improvement, and a commitment to preserving the unique identity of any schools that join enables our schools to focus on the key priorities of teaching and learning that are specific to their own school and communities, whilst feeling a sense of belonging and support from a larger organisation.

Glyn Roberts, Headteacher,

Shipston Primary School

Have you considered being a school governor?

Shipston Primary school is looking for a co-opted governor to join its Local Academy Council governing body. As a governor you will be a volunteer who makes a vital contribution to the success of the school.

School governors have three main roles.

 Governors ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

The governing body helps to set long-terms plans for the school, decide where improvements need to be made and how to make them.

• Governors hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.

The governing body looks at the quality of education being offered and ensures the head is doing everything possible to improve results.

• Governors oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

Governors examine budgets and spending proposals to monitor whether the school is getting value for money and ensure the money is spent in the right areas.

This role may be particularly of interest if you have skills in finance/accounting, human resources, data or education but we invite applications from anyone who is interested in helping the school be the best it can be. Full training is available and governors are encouraged to attend regular

training sessions, either in person or online.

We are looking for someone who can attend approximately four full governing body meetings per year. Meetings are held in school, usually on Wednesday evenings from around 6pm to 8pm. Governors also spend time in school during the day making governor visits and attending school functions where possible.

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You must be 18 or over to apply and all governors must have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. If you would like to find out more please email the clerk kpsclerk@welearn365.com for an application form.

Medical Centre news

Flu vaccination and autumn covid booster campaign

The autumn campaign to vaccinate those adults eligible against flu and covid starts on 3rd October. This is a little later than usual and is a decision applied nationally by NHS England. It is Shipston Medical Centre because the latest scientific evidence shows

that protection from the flu vaccine decreases over time in adults. It is therefore better to have the vaccine closer to when flu typically circulates.

The eligible populations for both flu and covid boosters are

- Those aged 65 and over
- Those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- Pregnant women
- Carers
- Those who live with someone who has a weakened immune system

Where possible the Medical Centre will send invites by email or text message with a link you can follow to book your own appointment. We will be providing over 7,000 vaccines in an eight-week period, so really appreciate those who are able to book via the link provided in their invite as this will help reduce the wait on the telephone for those who do not have that option.

Child flu vaccinations

Children's vaccinations are available from September, and the practice will be vaccinating two- and three-year-olds and children in a clinical risk group.

We are unable to vaccinate those who miss the vaccination at school. The schools will offer a later vaccination date to those who missed the initial date.

Ellen Badger Hospital latest

The campaign to return inpatient beds to Ellen Badger Hospital continues apace. A petition is being prepared for presentation in Parliament by local MP and a question is to be asked in the House of Lords.

What's On Page 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

Club Night at Shipston Sports Club: 6pm-9pm, London Road Alcoholics Anonymous: 7.30-9pm, Blackwell Village Hall, CV36 4PQ

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: October 2024

1st. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.

- 2nd. Shipston Widows: the first Weds each month at the George. Coffee from 11 and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304
- **2nd. Singing Down Memory Lane:** the first Weds of each month, 2.30pm-3.30pm, Shipston Lodge. See ad on page 10
- **2nd. Shipston WI:** Witchcraft by Kathryn Jackson. 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
- 2nd & 16th. Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd
- 3rd. '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
- 4th & 18th. Shipston Probus: 10.30am at Shipston Sports Club, London Road, for a talk followed by optional lunch. Fortnightly
- 5th. 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
- **5th. Cornmill Meadows:** Come along and help plant wildflower seeds in River Meadow from 10.30am. It will probably still happen even if it rains, so come prepared please!
- 5th. Preston-on-Stour Antique & Collectables Roadshow: 10.30am-1pm and 2pm-4pm. Renowned TV auctioneer, valuer and raconteur, Mark Ashley will be at Preston Village Hall. £5 entry to present 2 items (photos of large objects) or just come along, tea/coffee included. Enquiries to Margaret Brocklehurst tel: 01789 450710 or e: prestonbrocks@gmail.com
- 8th. Shipston Flower Club presents Inspired by Music a demonstration by Ruth Mahon. 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
- 8th & 22nd. Stour Valley Stitchers: 6.30pm-8.30pm The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

10th. Citizens Advice will be attending the Warm Hub. Scout Hut. 10am-12pm

10th & 17th. Workshop: Drug and Alcohol Awareness for Teens - see ad on page 4

11th. Stour Valley Lions Cinema: Swede Caroline - see ad on page 16

14th.Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

17th. Drop In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Scout Hut. Every third Thursday

- **18th. 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.
- **18th. Shipston Music Society:** An Hour of Mello Cellos see ad on page 16
- 22nd. 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. Shipston Dark Tales Guided Walk: See ad on page 7
- **26th. Townsend Hall:** The Andy Hooley 7even. See ad on page 16
- **30th. Shipston Literary Society:** Creative editing makes a good book great by Judith Leask 7.30pm, Halford Bridge Inn. Members free, visitors £8. Tickets from Richard Harvey, Shipston or via Eventbrite ttps://editinggoodtogreat.eventbrite.com
- 31st. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat
- 1st Nov. Long Compton Local History Society presents: 'Witches of the Cotswolds'. An illustrated talk by Julia Phillips PhD, Hon Senior Research Associate, University of Bristol.7.30pm, Long Compton Village Hall. Entry: £1 (members) / £3 (guests) All proceeds will support the Village Hall
- 2nd. GLOSS Halloween Bingo: Townsend Hall, doors open 18:30 eyes down 19:30. Prize for best fancy dress.

Adverts

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES VALUATION ROADSHOW

Preston on Stour Environmental Group present

With Mark Ashley of BBC's Bargain Hunt



Saturday 5th October 2024 Two Sessions - 10:30 till 1:00pm and 2:00pm till 4:00 PRESTON ON STOUR VILLAGE HALL Tickets £5.00 including two valuations

BBC's Bargain Hunt







Long Compton Local History Society presents: 'Witches of the Cotswolds'

An illustrated talk by Julia Phillips PhD Hon Senior Research Associate, University of Bristol Friday 1st November, 7.30pm Long Compton Village Hall Entry: £1 (members) / £3 (guests) All proceeds will support the Village Hall

Events

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Some dates for your diaries

...for the green-fingered

Shipston in Bloom

Would you like to help make the town look blooming lovely? Are you a keen gardener with a bit of spare time? Keen to help out and meet people?

A meeting will be held at 6pm on Wednesday 2nd October at the Council Chamber in New Clark House for anyone who would like to volunteer to help look after the flower tubs in town. If you are unable to attend but would like to help, please send Hilary Kelly your details. hilary.kelly@ shipstontowncouncil.org

Cornmill Meadows reminder

If you are free on Saturday, 5th October, please help plant wildflower seeds in River Meadow from 10.30am. It will probably still happen even if it rains, so please come prepared! Contact hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org

...for music lovers

Shipston Proms

The Committee is holding its first AGM under the Shipston Proms Music Festival 2025 banner at The George on 2nd October at 7pm. If you would like to join in with this exciting community driven event, please come along. There are a lot of different



aspects to get involved with like booking performers, hiring venues, applying for licenses etc. as well as the more physical jobs during the festival such as front of house, providing refreshments, selling raffle tickets and the big one, cleaning up afterwards! As the Committee is a small team, each member is valued.

The Committee is still on the lookout for someone to handle the social media side of things so if you're interested, do get in touch for more information.



RPJ Band performing at the 2022 Shipston Proms. Photo credit: Chris Roberts/Widerview Visual Media

The first exciting announcement for the Proms Music Festival is that the RPJ band, one of the best covers bands you are likely to see, are returning to headline the Final

Night. Anybody who saw them play in the High Street in 2022 will not forget the showmanship and the sheer energy of Rick Parfitt junior. Due to popular demand from Shipston, and the RPJ band themselves who absolutely loved the Shipston vibe, they are coming back to the main stage for what will be another memorable Last Night. Support acts are being lined up and will be announced over the next few months.

There will also be some Christmas concert fundraisers to look forward to as the Committee start to raise money towards next year's Proms. For any updates and for more general information, please go to www.shipstonproms or see our Facebook page.

Dates for next year are 14th June - 28th June 2025.

...for festive fun

Victorian Evening

Plans are well advanced for this year's Victorian Evening, the start of the festive season. Father Christmas is believed to be attending but one can never be sure, it is his busiest time, after all, but it is expected that he will process, with his accompanying elves, to his grotto. The attractions lined up so far include lots of music, a stiltwalker balloonologist called Charlotte (she will be making balloon shapes while on stilts) the human fruit machine, town and Christmas Tree lights switch-on, lots of festive stalls and of course the Primary School choir singing Christmas tunes.

Put the date in your diary: Friday 6th December 6pm.

...for young people

Boxercise

Do you know a young person who wants to learn a new skill and let off a bit of steam? Well, boxercise is back with a bang at the Townsend Hall on a Thursday, 5-6pm. In addition, this month we have a series of workshops from Compass, a charity specifically focused on children and young people's drug and alcohol services. This is a fantastic resource to allow people in a safe environment to understand the risks and effects of drugs and alcohol including smoking and vaping. The workshops are from 6-7pm on 10th and 17th October. See the adverts on page 10. All details can be found on the booking site, www. bookwhen.com/shwp88

Toy Library

Want to be of value to the community and give back some of your time? Want to help the environment and make a more sustainable world? The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership is working to make this possible. We are starting a Toy Library in Shipston and we need your help. Could you spare a few hours a month to help distribute toys to young families and have a friendly chat? If so, please get in touch with Rowena at shipstontoylibrary@ gmail.com and express an interest. We will be able to explain everything in more detail and will help with all training and DBS checks. See also the advert on page 4.

News

Shipston Museum

Shining a light on dark tales

As we walk through bustling Shipston streets, we are unknowingly passing shadowy characters from tales of our town's past. Now these stories and dark deeds are being revealed by museum trustee Stephen Hartley in a guided walk - appropriately around Halloween time.

Witches, ghosts, murders, and poltergeists will be among the dark deeds and supernatural stories you will hear about. What drew Stephen to the dark side? He explains: "Shipston has an abundance of dark tales which have passed out of living memory."

Planned around the uncovered stories and mysterious tales, starting at the Museum 4pm, our walk follows on from the popular old pubs walk in August. It should last about an hour of gentle walking, ending for refreshments at the Black Horse and - to avoid stirring up unquiet spirits - will be on Saturday 26th October rather than Halloween itself.

The origin of Halloween was the feast of All Hallows, dedicated to remembering the departed ancestors and holy saints. There is debate about how it started: probably from Celtic festivals, then celebrated in Ireland and Scotland for centuries and circulated around the world, and is especially popular in the US where it has deteriorated into trick or treat.

There is one mysterious ghost that has evaded all identification: the headless ghost on Shipston Bridge. It has been a mystery for some time: a reader's letter in Stratford Herald in 1937 asks for more information about this shadowy figure – but answer came there none.

Unknown Warwickshire, a 1924 book, tells us: 'One thing to be aware of, especially if you go to Brailes fair from Shipston and return in twilight over the bridge, is the headless ghost! Take hands then and run! The number of bogies hereabouts passes belief...there is the ghostly coach at Tysoe where a man sits...deserting his expectant bride...and the one-wheeled coach at Ilmington...Listen! the bells at Brailes should put all spectres to flight!'

To weed or not to weed?

Verity Richardson writes: following our very successful Great Big Green Week, the members of SAFE were thrilled to see how passionately people want to protect our wonderful natural environment.

We now have some questions to ask you all.

- · Do you think that all 'weeds' in our green spaces and verges should be removed?
- · How would you feel if we ask the Council to stop using chemicals to eradicate them?
- · We in SAFE are concerned the dangerous about substances in the chemicals used to kill weeds.



The World Health Organisation considers that there is a possible link between these substances and cancer. So, is it really worth the risk?

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- · These chemicals are entering the food chain and they wash into our river and harm wildlife. As well as sewage, do you really want chemical pollution in the Stour?
- · Can we learn to love weeds?
- Could we set an example to other towns and villages by encouraging natural methods of weed control?



Let us know what you think! email verityrichardson@ googlemail.com

Shipston Shanty Group

Nic Nickerson from the Shipston Shanty Group is delighted to report that they reached the original fundraising target of £1,000 for Shipston First Responders thanks to a donation from 'Mitch'. Nic said: "Our original target was £250 from our raffle proceeds, so to reach the figure was phenomenal, following another performance on 21st September with the First Responders vehicle present and a bucket collection. Thank you to our friends and customers of the Black Horse."

The group originally planned the performance as a oneoff, but they were asked to perform again and now have been asked to perform at a mayor's charity evening.



Open to all 16-18 year olds FREE TO ATTEND

Every other week

Begining 13th June. 5pm-6pm with a monthly workshop 6 -7pm.



Townsend Hall, Shipston On Stour, CV36 4AE A SHAP initiative, funded by the Police and Crime Con











Open to all Year 9 - 11s FREE TO ATTEND

Every other week

Begining 6th June. 5pm-6pm with a monthly workshop 6-7pm.







Fosseway Chamber Orchestra



Do you play a musical instrument?

Would you love to play and gain from learning with others, as well as improving your mental and physical well being?

We are a U3A group and play mostly well known light classics in a friendly unpressurised environment. Every Tuesday morning, during school term time, in Stretton on Fosse.

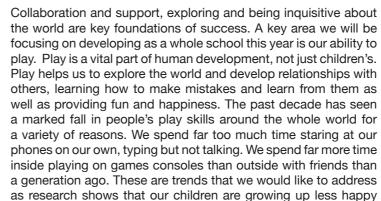
> For more information, please contact Christine on:

> > 07967 423550



Schools news

Shipston Primary School



Doves class opens

We were very excited to welcome the first children into our brand new Doves class at the start of the new school year. Doves Class is fully a part of our whole school but enables us to offer a more specialised and personalised curriculum to the children in that

and equipped to deal with challenges than previous generations.

class. This Specialist Resourced Provision is something that we have been working with Warwickshire County Council to establish for the benefit of schools and children in our local area for many years and we are delighted that it is finally open.





Year 5 allotment visit

Year 5 visited the local allotments to learn more about how food is

grown and harvested and how different foods grow during different parts of the year. They thought about how we can be more sustainable in what we produce and consume and how to care for the ground to ensure that we can continue to grow the food we need to eat. They also had the chance to enjoy nibbling on some tasty fruit and vegetables!



Shipston High School

After a nice long summer break, we are back to school with an exciting and busy term ahead. We are delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students into our Shipston family and have been impressed with how they have settled in so far, not only into lessons and learning, but also their first steps

peers. It has also been nice to see our older students on hand to help guide them around school and help at lunchtimes, which can be daunting experiences for the first few days. We started the year by welcoming parents of our Year 10 students in for an Introduction to GCSE Years evening in school. It was a

into making new friendships and forming relationships with their

useful evening for parents and students to learn what to expect during their two final years of school and how the exams are structured. It was also an opportunity for parents to order revision

We have welcomed our first visitors in to deliver the first of two workshops on the Trinity to our GCSE RE students and will also have author. Joe Hollins. joining us in school to work with Year 9 students in their English lessons. As part of Shipston Bookfest, we ran a bookfair for a week in school where students had the opportunity to spend time looking at a wide variety of books, maybe picking out something they normally wouldn't choose to read.



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We also start with our trips nice

and early in the school year with a GCSE Art and Textiles trip to the Sealife Centre. We have the Navy coming in to do a cookery course and discuss catering careers with our Year 10 students.

We are very keen to continue building links with our local community through events and fundraising. If you would like our students to help with an event you may be having, or you would like them to come along and support your business in any way, please do call the school office. Alternatively, if you have your own business and are able and willing to run a workshop or give a talk within the school, it would be fabulous to hear from you.

It feels very busy already and we will update on all the above events in the next edition.



Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute

the W

Penelope Brown entertained members on 4th September with a talk on English place names

- which can be hilarious, educational and, sometimes, seemingly downright obscene. They have evolved with the English language over some thousands of years. Our language has absorbed the languages of Romans, Saxons, Vikings, Normans, some Italian, Greek: dig deep and all English history is in the language. Place names do many things: they can be topographical – Bourton-on-the Hill or reflect occupations: Shipston, Shepperton and Shiplake, all relate to the huge economic importance of sheep. They can cite architecture eg Caster is in memory of a castle and Chester remembers the Romans. Temple, as in Temple Guiting, recalls the time of the Knights Templar. And in Moreton-in-Marsh, they remember landowners, such as a Mr. Henmarsh, who once owned the land.

Many place names include the word 'ton'. This has evolved from ancient times to describe both the topography (hill) and later to describe a settlement. Hence Shipston means farm or settlement by the sheepwash. Ley (think Gerards Leys in Shipston) - meadow, heath, moor, stead - all describe the countryside. 'Butts' is a reminder that once it was obligatory for men to practice archery each week, usually after church on a Sunday. They were in readiness just in case. 'Thorpe' is Norse, 'wich' is Saxon. Because of the many influences on placenames in Britain, many have come to seem quite rude. How many children have giggled over the 'Piddles'? Piddle is stream. And Penny caused a few giggles when she showed the name 'Penistone' on the screen. The Old English word 'Pen' describes a hill, 'ton' is a settlement, therefore Penistone means the settlement on a hill, which it is. Modes of pronunciation have changed over the centuries - one has only to read Shakespeare's sonnets to see vowel changes – and this also has contributed to the rich and wonderful world of English placenames.

Penny also talked about swearing and why people do it. A survey has shown that the more intelligent people swear the most, Sheffield people use the most obscenities and Hull the least. Interestingly, people mostly swear at themselves. They use (probably unknowingly) medieval words with strong consonants. School-age children know between 30 and 50 swear words! This raised a few eyebrows because most WI members don't know that number. Swearing is used to express emotion and for emphasis. It has been found to reduce pain. Swear words fall into three general categories: sexual, lavatorial and religious. A drive in the country or poring over a map will be enriched by the fascinating world of place names.

Members have been asked to contribute knitted items for babies to the Stratford Baby Bank. It supports Mother & Baby Groups, abused women and displaced families. A very worthy project in which many members expressed their interest. Apologies for absence were received from the mother of Claire Cashmore due to her absence in Paris. Claire is a triathlete and has won a Silver Medal in the Paris Paralympics. Congratulations to Claire. Shipston WI participated in the Brailes Show in August and raised a goodly sum with their human fruit machine! The August outing to Hill Cottage in Snitterfield was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 2nd October, when Kathryn Jackson will be talking about Witchcraft. The meeting will be in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Shipston, at 7pm. Visitors are always welcome, and it is hoped they will enjoy their visit and become full-time members.

Astronomical Society News

The Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third 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 October that will be on 1st October. The speaker on the third Tuesday, 15th October, will be Professor Michael Merrifield from Nottingham University with a talk called '21st Century Telescopes'. 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 all about comets.

Comets are strange things, remnants from the creation of our solar system, four-and-a half billion years ago. They are often described as dirty snowballs with highly elliptical orbits around the sun.

They can be split into two types. Short period comets are ones with orbits that take them out to the orbit of Jupiter. These include probably the most famous comet, Halley's Comet, which has a 76 year orbit (so next due in 2061). Some of these, however, can have orbits of less than 10 years.

Long period comets originate from the Kuiper belt (an area of material beyond the orbit of Neptune) and the Oort cloud (an area of material even further out on the edge of our solar system). Their orbits tend to be measured in thousands or even tens of thousands of years. Some comets may only visit once and others can be visitors from interstellar space.

The brightness of comets can be difficult to predict, and others fail to negotiate the sun. Their tails always point away from the sun and occasionally they can have two tails.

The last naked eye comet occurred during lockdown, Comet NEOWISE C/120201-3 (catchy name!). There are great hopes this autumn for Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS, if it survives perihelion, and it should be visible in the northwest of the sky, hopefully brightest in October.

Club nights offer more information on what to look out for each month. 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.



Updates

Shipston Town Band

Obituary: Peter Stevens

Peter Stevens sadly passed away in August aged 88 after a short illness. He and his wife Sylvia had moved to a care home near Cirencester to be near to their son Jon. There was a cremation attended by close family followed by a gathering of appreciation for friends and family on Saturday. Everything was simple with no fuss which was as Peter had requested.



Peter joined Shipston Band in 1973 after he made a chance remark when we were working for a local charity. He told me how he used to play cornet with Crystal Palace. Shipston Band was short of solo cornets, so a cornet was delivered and in just over two weeks he was filling the missing spot on 4th Solo Cornet. This was an exciting time under long serving conductor Bert Smith with a number of contest successes and our first ever radio broadcast on Radio Birmingham.

After the death of Bert Smith, the band entered a new era when we appointed the experienced Welsh conductor Richard Nash. There was a rollercoaster of contest success both locally and nationally, prestigious concerts including visits to Wales and the beginning of a series of Christmas Concerts at Warwick Castle. The band needed a resident conductor to lead the band when Richard Nash was unavailable. Peter filled the void and proved an extremely capable assistant leading the band to numerous contest successes in his own right including the Leamington Spa Contest in 1981 – see picture. His ability as an arranger also proved invaluable. When Richard Nash retired, Peter decided to stand aside also. Their dual stewardship had seen a meteoric rise in the band's fortunes from an average 4th Section Band to a highly capable 2nd Section Band which the town could be proud of, Peter maintained his links with the band returning for special concerts. On retiring and moving to North Wales, he returned to conducting with the local Abergynolwen Band and enjoyed a successful time there.

Shipston Literary Society

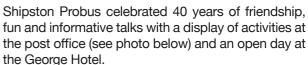
If you have ever thought about writing a book – or just want to know more about this essential process – you will be welcome at the Shipston Literary Society event at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30th October at Halford Bridge Inn, when Judith Leask of Just Right Editing will be sharing her expertise in editing books both fiction and non-fiction.

We often think of the editing process as checking for grammar

and factual accuracy – but it goes far beyond this, as Judith points out: "I believe editing is much less about correcting your writing than it is about working with the author to make sure the choices are made with the eyes open," she says. "It's about making the work consistent, getting it right for style and audience, and making it look professional."

Members go free and it is £8 for visitors at the Literary Society event, with tickets available from Richard Harvey, Shipston, and Eventbrite https://editinggoodtogreat.eventbrite.com

Shipston Probus





Author Nevil Shute was the subject of a recent talk by Shipston Probus member Andrew Johnson.

Born Nevil Shute Norway on 17th January 1899 in Ealing, he went to school at Shrewsbury, then attended the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and trained as a gunner. Unable to take up a commission in the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War, because, he believed, of his stammer, he served as a soldier in the Suffolk Regiment.

After the war, he went to Balliol College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1922 with a third-class degree in engineering science. Norway began his career with the de Havilland Aircraft Company and subsequently with Vickers Ltd where he worked as a stress engineer on the development of the R100 airshipn It was while he was working for Vickers that he changed his name by dropping the surname Norway in order to write without prejudicing his engineering career.

In 1931, with the cancellation of the R100 project, Shute teamed up with Alfred Hessell Tiltman to found the aircraft construction company Airspeed Ltd. With the approach of the Second World War, a military version of the Envoy was developed, to be called the Airspeed Oxford. The Oxford became the standard advanced multi-engine trainer for the RAF and British Commonwealth, with over 8,500 being built. Shute was made a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

By the outbreak of the Second World War, Shute was also a rising novelist. His first published novel was Marazan, which came out in 1926. After that he averaged one novel every two years until the 1950s. There were a total of 24 novels and novellas published, many very well-known, including No Highway, A Town Like Alice, and On The Beach. In the 1950s and 1960s he was one of the world's best-selling novelists.

Nevil Shute died in Melbourne in 1960 after a stroke. He was iust 61.

Probus meets fortnightly at Shipston Sports and Social Club. Guests and new members are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.



01789 444670

District Council

I have another word this month –conventicle– and they are all over my garden. It's a large group of magpies, intent on removing all our turf. The only good thing is that they are hunting leatherjackets and other grubs. It's all wildlife action down here!

The most critical issue is the removal of the winter heating payment to older people. If you are going to struggle to keep warm, please come and talk to me about applying for pension credit for which you may be eligible. There are also schemes with the energy suppliers and WCC has some grant funding. If you need to cut costs, please heat yourself by eating warm food and maybe investing in a cheap-to-run electric blanket to have around you. I have one which the dog and I stay cosy in. And the warm hub on Thursdays at the Scout Hut is just that.

It's been a health and wellbeing sort of week, both the local and regional one. As deputy chairman of the SHWP, I have to say a big thanks to Bob, Vanessa and Rowena. They don't have time to blow their own trumpets, so I'll do it for them. From the introduction of pickle ball to getting all the local groups together, the partnership is amazing. I love it as I get to update them all re WCC and pick up on local activity. The increasing funding to do more for our health and wellbeing will be a game changer and is my raison d'etre - live better for longer.

The new term has started and for anyone leaving Shipston for their education it's been a bit of a bumpy start. I am talking to WCC transport - but please let me know if you are having particular problems.

Now. I know that there have been lots of roadworks from various statutory undertakers – a few too many at the same time - three sets of traffic lights is the max I have experienced so far. I have challenged officers at WCC to try and do some sensible scheduling - but when a leak springs it has to be fixed (oh and parts may have to be ordered and awaited...)

I still get a lot of housing help enquiries. Happy to help if I can, but for the amusement of Orbit tenants, I counted 22 (yes 22) Fortem vans in the Lidl carpark on a Thursday morning, so you know where to find them!

And finally, a couple of crossings and the Campden Road dropped kerbs are next on the list and I am hoping to help Trevor Russel with the disability project he has planned.

Oh, and PS, thanks for supporting the Food Festival, and Foodbank in particular. Natty and I even got a piccie in the

See you in the George/ Coop/ ToC/ Turners/ Richardson Hills. Always happy to stop for a chat!

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 Olivia and I attended a workshop on Embedding Biodiversity in your Community: How to develop a Local Nature Action Plan. organised by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust last

month. It was inspiring hearing what other towns and parishes have done not just to protect nature but also to help restore it. There were delegates from town and parish councils across South Warwickshire. There was also guidance on how to develop a Nature Action Plan.

We had talks about the many biodiversity initiatives that other towns had done, which gave us plenty of ideas. Some that we picked up which might be tried around Shipston include: hedgehog highways, residents voting on what trees should be planted in their area, adopting a verge to make a mini wildflower meadow, a wildlife garden scheme, community nature reserve, and reducing pesticide and herbicide use.

To comply with the Environment Act 2021, local authorities have a duty to agree a Local Nature Action Plan and produce a strategy that will:

- · Agree priorities for nature's recovery
- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- · Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals

Stratford District Council has just commissioned Professor Rosemary Collier of Warwick University to produce a Local Nature Recovery Plan to cover the whole of the District. It is up to towns and parishes to produce a plan for their areas. Britain is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. We have all noticed the most obvious signs like the decline in insects (including butterflies) and birds like swifts. Towns like Shipston can play their part in helping to restore what we have lost.

Flooding

Severn Trent, the Environment Agency, and Warwickshire County Council attended the SDC Overview & Scrutiny Committee to answer questions about flooding and sewage. Mike McCarthy asked a question from Shipston Area Flood Action Group about nature-based solutions that can help reduce flood risk in the town. John Dinnie put a question for Shipston Town Council to Severn Trent asking if their plans are sufficiently joined up to prevent sewerage discharge into the Stour from locations further upstream from Shipston. The agencies replied they were doing what they could but there was a general lack of funds.

Dave Passingham, District Councillor, Shipston South 07973 846605 | dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Your town councillors



Useful contacts

John Dinnie, Mayor

Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair t: 01608 664590





Tony Booth, Deputy Mayor

General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair

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Ian Cooper

Finance Working Group Chair

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Paul Tesh

Planning Committee Chair

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e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712

e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk (for town and county matters)



Hilary Kelly

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Chris Howarth

Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair

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John Williams

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Jerry Corless

e: jerry.corless@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vacancy

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)

Team: shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

Churches of Shipston:

Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood

Stour Valley Baptist 01608 664876 Our Lady & St Michael 01608 685259 01608 661210 St Edmund's Methodist Church 01295 257193

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Olivia Hatch (Shipston North)

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t: 077525 62114

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

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

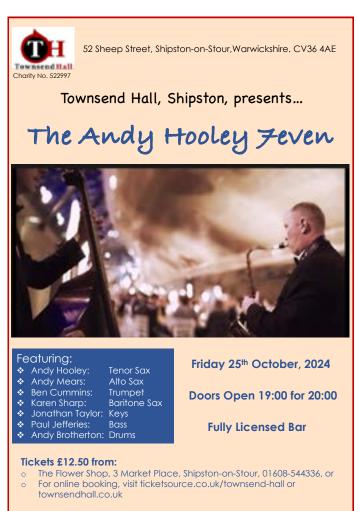
Forum copy deadline:

Second Monday of the month

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

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council.

While every effort is made to ensure information is accurate, the Town Council and its contractors do not accept responsibility for material submitted by readers or third parties and does not endorse any organisation or event publicised. Contributions may be edited to fit available space. What's On Page 16









TOWNSEND HALL
FRIDAY 11th October, 2024 at 7.30pm
Advance Cash Tickets £5.00
from The Flower House, 3 Market Place, Shipston On Stour,
or pay on the door.

Drinks, chocolate and raffle.