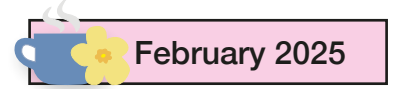




Shipston Forum



Have your say on hospital beds

Shipstonians are responding to the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)'s public consultation into where 35 community rehabilitation beds in South Warwickshire should be located. Running until Friday 14th February 2025, the consultation gives everyone a chance to submit their views. There are two potential options set out by the ICB:

Option A, three sites. Distribute all 35 beds across three sites: Ellen Badger Hospital, Leamington Spa Hospital, and Stratford Hospital. This would return up to 12 beds to the Ellen Badger site.

Option B, two sites. Provide all 35 beds at two sites, Leamington Spa Hospital and Stratford Hospital. There would no longer be any beds at the Ellen Badger site.

Participation in the consultation is via an online survey, by attending a consultation event, or by making a written submission. Unfortunately, the ICB's announcement, made on 6th January, came too late for the Forum to run advance notice of the consultation event at Shipston held on 22nd January. However, there was a high turnout on the night with an estimated 150 attending.

The consultation events, also held at Leamington, Stratford, and Warwick, took the form of a drop-in exhibition detailing the plans and the background to the potential changes. There was an opportunity to talk to clinicians and other staff members who will be part of delivering the changes.

Find out more about the consultation and take part on this website. www.happyhealthylives.uk/consultation

You can also request a paper copy of the consultation by emailing cwicb.swcommunitybeds@nhs.net or calling 02475 279122.

Petition to parliament

A petition signed by over 4,000 people – one in four of the population of Shipston and surrounding villages – calling for the beds to be located at Shipston – has been delivered to parliament by local MP Manuela Perteghella, pictured with supporters of the Beds 4 Badger campaign.



Richard Emms to hand over the baton

Richard Emms, who has led the Stour Singers for half a century, has announced he will be retiring in May. Starting with a small band of madrigal singers, he has grown the choir until it now performs with professional soloists and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire orchestra. In this issue, Richard reflects on his decades leading this 'unusually disciplined and expressive' choir.



Big panto build-up

It's panto season in Shipston – OH YES IT IS! – and excitement is building as the cast and production team prepare to put on *Peter Pan* at the Townsend Hall. Running for four performances between Thursday 6th and Saturday 8th February, the show promises something for everyone, familiar and new faces, a lot of fun and plenty of Shipston in-jokes. Book your tickets now as it will not be long before it is too late and it's all...BEHIND YOU!

Tickets are available from John Lyne Home Hardware or at ticketsource.co.uk – search for Peter Pan Shipston.

Watch out for the crocodile! Just one of the props being assembled for the panto run.



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Mayor's column

Dear Shipston,

What a coincidence. As I was referencing the Spirit of Shipston in my column last month, Shipston Primary was unveiling its Shipston Spirit Awards in its column in the same issue.

The Shipston Spirit was certainly well in evidence over the festive season. The Stour Singers and the carol service were great occasions for people to meet and enjoy events together. The very successful Community Christmas was appreciated and enjoyed by givers and receivers alike. Well done Dan Scobie and the team for another outstanding example of Shipston Spirit.

The consultation on the return of beds to the Ellen Badger Hospital started on 6th January and will run to 14th of February. Please encourage as many people as possible to respond to the consultation. More details elsewhere in this edition of the Forum.

I attended the SCAN (Stour Community Awareness Network) meeting at the Townsend Hall for a very informative presentation by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP). This organisation is an outstanding example of the Shipston Spirit. They also spread the Shipston Spirit by involving so many people in fun activities in Shipston and the villages. They are also ensuring that the new hospital will be a resounding success, in whatever form it eventually takes. Well done to the entire SHWP ExCo support network.

I also attended the People, Planet and Pint event at the Horseshoe and will certainly watch out for the next one on the 26th of February.

I am looking forward to welcoming the Lord Lieutenant back to the town on 31st January when he will be visiting the 1st Shipston Scout Group. I would also like to encourage you to buy tickets to the Charity Pantomime performance on 6th February at the Townsend Hall, in aid of the First Responders. We can enjoy the adventures of Peter Pan that evening and in three more performances.

Lastly, I would like to ask as many of you as can to save the date of Sunday 23rd March at 3pm for the Civic Service in St Edmund's Church. I would like this to be a celebration of the Spirit of Shipston by involving as many of the town organisations as possible. The accent will be on young people and service. I want to make our social cohesion visible. Bring your flags, banners, posters to make a church-filling collage of the Spirit of Shipston.

Your town mayor,

John

**John Dinnie,
Mayor, Shipston Town Council**

News from Shipston Town Council's January meeting**Traffic and streets**

Cllr Cooper reported traffic lights on Stratford Road across two junctions had been causing problems, although they had now been removed. This was highlighted as an issue to be reported using the new online system. The streetlights outside the Ellen Badger are still out despite having been reported in December, so Cllr Walters will follow up. Cllr Corless is receiving quotes for EV charging. Cllr Williams is following up on the possibility of having an interactive kiosk and seeking feedback from other councils.

Buildings and assets

A quotation has been received for the repair of the Twin Chapels' roof along with advice that it is now in a serious condition. This matter, and the appropriate route – repair now or go for full replacement – to be discussed at the finance committee. The building is listed and one of a very few of its type in the UK.

Cllr Howarth reported that the repairs to the stairs and ceiling at the Hub have been completed. The inclusion of archery at the Sports Club will be discussed at the next meeting of the Sports Committee, along with the issue of lighting in the approach to the Sports Club – quotes being sourced for three new lights.

A Shipston in Bloom member has asked for recommendations for a contractor to replace the bench outside the Coop.

Community

Cllr H Kelly reported that the Christmas Carol Service in St Edmund's was packed. Cllr Dinnie praised the hard work of the team providing the Community Christmas Party on Christmas Day at the Scout Hut.

District Council update

Cllr Passingham reported that Warwickshire County Council has applied for unitary status which would merge the county and the five districts and boroughs under one new county-wide council by April 2027. The District Council has objected. Implications for the Town Council are to be explored and understood. Stratford District Council is appointing a new parish liaison officer as a single point of contact to improve communications, along with a community worker for new estates.

Blue light update

A new Chief Constable has been appointed. Burglaries to cars and shed break-ins are still a concern. The defibrillator outside the medical centre has been vandalised twice.

The First Responders attended 425 calls in 2024. There were 25 uses of the public defibrillators and one of the bleed kit. West Midlands Ambulance has now asked the First Responders if they could expand their reach to cover a radius of up to 10 miles, to assist with response times which have risen in recent weeks. The new vehicle, a hybrid Land Rover, is nearly ready.

The Fire Service is running a new recruitment campaign and is offering electric blanket testing.

Ellen Badger

The consultation period, asking for views on the two potential options

for community rehabilitation beds, is now open and closes on Friday 14th February 2025. A consultation event, scheduled for the ICB for 22nd January in Shipston, was a drop-in meeting open to anyone rather than a formal presentation or debate. Members of the public attending the open section of the Council meeting expressed frustration at the lack of publicity about the consultation and difficulties with completing the online survey. Councillors to feed that back to the ICB to get any online problems solved. Council agreed that it would draft a response based on the views of the majority in the town, to be presented for approval at the next Town Council meeting on 11th February. Cllr Dinnie has registered to speak in his personal capacity at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings at both County and District level.

High School

Planning permission for use agreement is still awaited.

Biodiversity policy

Council supported this policy in principle, but Cllr Cooper requested a more detailed examination of implications of actions on spraying.

Environment

The budget was approved for groundworks and repair to be carried out by Lawns 2 Mow at the Sensory Garden. The planting at the Riverside had been delayed due to -4°C conditions.

Planning

Council supported applications for an additional cricket net at the Sports Club and for solar panels on the Leisure Centre roof. 'No rep' for new fence and gate for Shipston Building Supplies on Tilemans Lane.

Bus stops

New bus stops still do not have any bus information. Cllr Passingham has identified the county officer with responsibility and will pass details to Cllr Booth to follow up.

Finance

Council agreed to demand a precept of £385,000 for 2025/6. This is an increase on the previous year and will represent around an average additional £20 per year per household, to cover the additional items that are now being pushed down to council level, such as CCTV and bin collection. The town's housing base has reduced by 1%, possibly due to more properties being exempted from Council Tax through housing benefit.

SAFAG flood report

Not long into the New Year we had another high river level event (3.47m at the Shipston Gauge) on 6th of January. The Brailes Road was closed and there was some flow into Mill St. Dave Faulkner and the Lawns 2 Mow team responded well as flood wardens. Cllr Jo Barker put out timely warnings on Shipston Notice Board and the Shipston Flood Help Group on WhatsApp was used to keep people at risk of flooding informed, which residents in riverside properties and businesses in Church St were finding helpful. The increasing incidences of these events are a reminder of increasing CO2 levels and global temperatures and the effect of climate change.

The Shipston Area Flood Action (SAFAG) team is monitoring and maintaining the over 800 Upper Stour catchment interventions to flatten the river level peaks.

The Shipston Area Flood Action (SAFAG) team is monitoring and maintaining the over 800 Upper Stour catchment interventions to flatten the river level peaks.



This picture shows interventions in Pigbrook still standing after the floods after last year's maintenance made them sturdy enough. The power of the flow through even this quite small brook when it is in spate is evident from the scouring of the banks where the flow has gone round some of the barriers. The banks will need reinstatement and reinforcement during the spring to summer maintenance period. Anyone who feels they would like to support the activities of SAFAG can make contact through Cllr John Dinnie

Fire service recruitment drive

Although Shipston no longer has an on-call fire service, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is seeking applications for wholtime firefighters in the county, and is looking for passionate, determined, and driven individuals to join the team. It is encouraging people from all walks of life who share the values of service, integrity, and teamwork. Whether starting your career, looking for a change, or wanting to make a positive contribution to the community, learn more about the role and the application process on the Warwickshire County Council website where you can also register your interest and book a taster day.



HAVE YOUR SAY

We want your views on the future of 35 community rehabilitation beds in South Warwickshire.

We're consulting on two options :

- A: Spread beds across Ellen Badger, Leamington Spa, and Stratford Hospitals.
- B: Have the beds at Leamington Spa and Stratford Hospitals only (no beds at Ellen Badger).

We want feedback from patients, staff, stakeholders, residents, and organisations on the impacts of both options.

For more information, please visit

www.happyhealthylives.uk/consultation or scan the QR code.



Complete a survey



Attend our events



Get in touch



Beds for Badger campaign

Thank you all for your continued support and good wishes. Keep following on bedsforbadger.org and the Facebook Page. Thanks for all the likes and shares.

The Parliamentary petition has been delivered to the Secretary of State for Care and Health with the request for the beds to be returned to Shipston. Speaking in the House of Commons, our MP Manuela Perteghella said: "This petition reflects the depths of feelings of a rural community which has seen their health services stripped to the bone and is fearful for the future of their hospital. Rural communities deserve the same access to healthcare as our towns and cities."

The consultation has commenced and will run as predicted from 6th of January to 14th of February. Unfortunately, due to the heavy use of digital communication for the consultation, many residents still do not know about it or are having difficulties with it. We will get as many copies as possible of the paper version of the survey out to these locations in the town where you can pick them up: Turners, Spencers, Flower House and Morrisons.



Please help people who are unlikely to have heard about it and those having difficulties.

Please persevere and complete the survey. Please make clear the impact on you, your friends and family, the community and our economy of the removal of the inpatient beds and services. Please explain the travel difficulties and isolation of rural living. Please tell of the benefits we had when the Ellen Badger was operating fully.

Please explain that we do not wish to remove beds from the conurbations of Warwick, Leamington and Stratford, we want all to have access to sufficient beds to avoid critical incidents and bed blocking and long ambulance wait times and delays in A&E and are prepared to put effort into achieving this. This community has sustained a hospital for a century and a quarter, and we are not going to stop now.

A reminder of the website to be part of the consultation: www.happyhealthylives.uk/consultation and that you can also request a paper copy of the consultation by emailing cwcb.swcommunitybeds@nhs.net or calling 02475 279122.

Beds for Badger Organising Committee

Medical Centre update

Working together



We are very fortunate here to have such a caring and compassionate team. Each day I watch my team strive to deliver the best patient care they can in the face of the pressures of the NHS. We have worked very hard in the past year to design a new appointment system which means all our patients can access a fair, safe and equitable service.

It is understandable that our patients are often very poorly, or experiencing high levels of stress which often results in frustration, anxiety and occasionally a short temper! Unfortunately, we are finding that more patient encounters are resulting in anger and frustration at our staff for factors outside of our control.

Some recurrent themes are frustration around wait times at hospitals, unrealistic expectations for the completing of medical forms/reports and misunderstandings on the time it

takes to process medication requests.

Tips to get the best

I want to offer some helpful tips that may help patients to work with us to get the very best from the service therefore reducing some of the frustrations which in turn will help maintain positive relationships with the surgery.

First of all, please be aware that we are providing services to a lot of people each day, and will always prioritise the work according to clinical urgency. We appreciate your need is important to you, but please be considerate of the needs of others as sometimes other people need more immediate attention. Similarly, we will signpost to other services where appropriate, in line with government policy and in order to enable us to help as many people who need it as possible. For minor ailments a pharmacy may be able to help you quicker than we can due to the demand on our services. Visit <https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/services-programmes/think-which-service/> to learn more about the different services available to you.

When asking for our help, either via reception or using the online form, the more clear information you can give us, the easier it is for the GP who will look at the information to identify how urgent your need is and whether there is another service that may help you.

Did you know that you can submit a form via our website for other requests, not just appointments? You will be responded to within one working day by the person most appropriate to help with your query. Go to <https://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/> and contact us online. This can improve communication as both the patient and the surgery can be more explicit and explain more clearly timeframes for completion of work.

Why not use the NHS app?

The NHS app makes ordering medications the easiest. You can do it at any time of day, see when they were last issued, and whether a GP has approved the request (so you know that the pharmacy has received the prescription). This results in fewer phone calls to check on the status of the request or wasted trips to pharmacies as it is not ready yet. The app can be used for other things, for example contacting 111 who can be helpful when we are closed, for advice, or if you have gone away and forgotten to take your medication with you.



We frequently find that patients forget to order prescriptions and then need them quickly, causing anxiety for the patient as they don't want their medication to run out, and also putting additional pressure on our staff. We would encourage patients to find a way to remind yourself to order medications in time. Most medications are prescribed in quantities that last 28 days (four weeks). It is important that we issue medication safely therefore many checks occur before the medication is handed over the counter.

The NHS is completely overwhelmed as I am sure you are aware which presents so many challenges for you the patient and us the service, but I am confident that with some kindness and compassion we can come together as a community and fight these challenges together.

Rachel Vial, Practice Manager

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

Pickleball:
1:30pm – 3:30pm, Townsend Hall. Free to attend. Dec dates 9 & 16 only

Tuesday

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

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

Community Hub: Shipston Methodist Church, 2pm-4pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

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

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

Stour Singers:

We rehearse on Thursdays from 7.30-9.30pm at Shipston Primary School. Contact Gayle Burch on 07791 769102

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. 10am -3pm. New members welcome. Contact Anita Spencer on 01993 832665

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

Alcoholics Anonymous: 7.30-9pm, Blackwell Village Hall, CV36 4PQ, 01865 242373, 0800 9177 650

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: February 2025

1st. 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

2nd. Lego Church: First Sunday of the month during morning service at St Edmund's. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact rector@shipstonchurch.org. See ad on page 7

4th. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.

4th & 18th. 'Dance for Joy' Monthly Circle Dance Group in Stretton on Fosse 2.30 – 4pm. First and third Tuesday of each month. Dances from around the world – all taught from scratch. Please contact Geri Hunting geraldinehunting@icloud.com or 07968 338848

5th. Shipston Widows: First Weds of the month Meeting 11am for coffee followed by lunch at the Horseshoe. Contact: Barbara Bean: 01608 663230

5th. Shipston on Stour WI: Helen Cooper - Hands-on craft evening. 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

5th & 19th. Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

6th-8th. Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society: Peter Pan. See ad on page 16

11th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

11th. Stour Valley Lions Meeting: 6:30pm – 9:30pm; The George Townhouse. 2nd Tuesday of every month

11th. Shipston Flower Club presents 'Rhythm 'n' Roots' – a demonstration by Elaine Hale. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 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.

14th. Lions Cinema: Chocolat. See ad on page 10

20th. Drop-In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Scout Hut. Every third Thursday

21st. 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 Horseshoe from 7.30pm 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.

21st. Shipston Music Society: George Wilkes. Methodist Church, 7.30pm. See ad on page 10

25th. Shipston U3A: Chris and Jenny with an update on living in an Eco House. 2pm, Townsend Hall. Members free. Visitors £2. See ad on page 10

25th. 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 (except December. All ladies welcome. Entry £2.00

26th. Shipston Literary Society: Manuela Perteghella – The Challenge Of Translation. Meetings are held at the community hall in Tredington, next to the Lion pub, 7.30pm start. Our bar will be open for pre-talk drinks from 7pm to 7.20pm.

26th. People Planet Pint Sustainability meet up. 6pm. Horseshoe Inn. First 33 drinks free. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shipston-on-stour-small99s-people-planet-pintm-sustainability-meetup-tickets-1113163645429>

27th. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat



**Saturday mornings
10.30-12.00**

St Edmund's Church, Church Street, Shipston

**We are open to anyone.
No referral or voucher needed.**

Donations of basic items can be left in the church porch **between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Saturday.** There's also a collection point in both the Co-ops and Tesco.

For information about our current needs please check on our Facebook page or our website:

www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank
 www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk

LEGO CHURCH

First Sunday of the month
during our morning service

- for school age children please bring an adult contact Sarah for more details rector@shipstonchurch.org

Stour Valley Lions Club
presents

"Bumper" Book Sale

Saturday 22nd February

10am to 2pm

at the Scout Hut

New St, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4EW

Fresh stock at every event

All proceeds go to charity Registered Charity No. 1191826

Lions Den 2025

DO YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION NEED HELP OR SUPPORT?

We are here for you!

we can support....

- Schools
- Clubs and Societies
- Charities
- Individuals in need and much more....

Why not take part in the Stour Valley 'Lions Den' initiative for the chance to get funding or support? Closing date 28th February 2025

Scan the QR code or contact us now using the details below to obtain an assessment form

For more information contact Paul Macpherson on: **01608 682102**
<https://stourvalleylions.club>

an initiative supported by
Stour Valley Lions Club

Electric vehicle travels with no travails

Jerry Corless writes: Approximately four years ago I purchased an electric vehicle (EV) for general use. The car has a claimed range of 160 miles, which by the standards of petrol or diesel vehicles seems unrealistically short. During the time we have used the vehicle as a family, the range has produced very few issues. A few people are influenced by the hype surrounding 'range anxiety', but from experience I find that those who for various reasons can't own an electric vehicle seem to experience more range anxiety than EV owners!



Since owning the vehicle, my wife and I have toured Wales, north-west and north-east England and have travelled to France multiple times, toured Norfolk (see photo). We have visited Scotland and are frequent visitors to northern Lancashire where our eldest daughter and family live. Prior to my retirement, I travelled daily to Bristol for work and still drive monthly to visit friends in the area.

In all, the car has carried us over 80,000 miles with few issues.

During the first few years we encountered some difficulties when we couldn't locate chargers, but this was mainly due to the fact that the mobile phone we had used to drive the GPS suffered with unreliable signal strength.



Due to the cold conditions recently, the range has dropped slightly but we still find that 90% of our journeys are completed without the need to charge away from home. In this area there are several opportunities for charging, including some free chargers. Shipston Town Council is currently in the process of investigating the possibility of providing charging infrastructure. Hopefully the provision of charging stations in the town will attract visitors who will use the cafés and shops during the periods while their vehicles are charging.

Lost in translation?

There are so many ways you can be misquoted, misinterpreted, misunderstood, as our MP Manuella Perteghella will be well aware while navigating the minefield of local, national and Parliamentary politics.

But it's so easy for anybody to be misunderstood, even during an informal chat. Just think how often you've had to repeat yourself, or say something in a different way, because somebody 'misheard' you.

What then are the dangers when you have to translate a

document or a novel from one language into another language?

Manuella, who gave up her career in translation and lecturing in translation when she became an MP, will be talking about what those challenges are when she speaks at the Shipston and District Literary Society's meeting on 26th February.



Most people imagine translation to be a fairly simple matter of, for example, taking Umberto Eco's novel *The Name of The Rose* and writing down what it says, but in English. But this misses out the nuances of how words are used – in whatever language – it ignores cultural references and it renders idioms totally meaningless. 'Not my cup of tea' when rendered directly into Chinese will leave Chinese readers baffled, 'book from the sky', translated exactly from Chinese, is incomprehensible in English.

And then there is the issue with poetry, as Manuella will explain. Do you translate the rhyme or do you translate the meaning? If you translate the meaning, then who gave that meaning and who says it is the meaning intended by the original author? When we read a translation, are we reading the original author's work, or are we reading the translator's work?

As a politician and former lecturer, Manuella is well able to explain these issues, both in English and her mother-tongue Italian. She may not be able to give us the solution, but she'll certainly be able to make the difficulties clearer.

Meeting starts at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 26th February, at the community hall in Tredington, next to the Lion pub. Free for members, £8 for visitors. Tickets available from Richard Harvey and on the door. Further information from Shiplitsoc@outlook.com.

A conductor's thoughts

Stour Singers celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, founded and still led by Shipston resident Richard Emms. Here he takes a trip down memory lane.



Where's the choir? That was one of my first thoughts about Shipston when I settled here with my family 50 years ago. Shipston had – still has! – an excellent band, but there was no equivalent choir.

As Head of Music at Shipston Community School, as the High School was known then, I thought it right that I should address this lack, and so ran an evening class on madrigal singing. Great fortune: we had a perfectly-balanced mixed choir of 15 singers. The year after, I decided to work without fee; the choir snowballed and acquired its name, Stour Singers. During the first five years the choir was already attracting some very able singers and we reached the point where I thought: 'We can tackle the big stuff.' So after testing the ground with Vivaldi's Gloria, we embarked on a performance of Haydn's Creation, with orchestra and our own soloists....and the choir has never looked back. It had become, in effect, Shipston's Choral Society.

Now, of course, we have professional soloists, most of whom appear on concert platforms and in opera houses across Europe, and we have a lively collaboration with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire which provides our orchestra. The 40-odd years between have been



something of an adventure with huge highs and the inevitable lows. Barry Draycott and Richard Jenkinson at different times rescued the choir when I was ill. And then there was the dreaded Covid: we had 83 members before, and 30 after! But I notice the choir recovers all the stronger after setbacks, and it now has about 50 very committed members and a really businesslike committee who run it. The choir's performance last Christmas was unusually disciplined and expressive for an amateur choir – you wouldn't guess they had not been auditioned.

And: there have been for me unexpected discoveries. Yes, I have set in motion a group who come together to make music. But it's not just the music, it's the people. Of course, it's the individual skills and personalities they bring to the choir, but singing in choirs lifts the spirits, fires the imagination, promotes health (for some it has been a life-saver), and brings people together to make new friends. When I look at the choir from the rostrum, I see a complicated knot of groups of friends. That, and their enthusiasm, is what makes them such a joy to work with.

My dream was that the choir should become an established part of Shipston's music culture. It clearly can stand on its own feet. We have found my very promising successor, Alex Silverman: a man, young, and of considerable musical gifts and charisma. This year in May is a good time to retire and hand over the choir in good heart. Perhaps my dream may have come true?



If you are interested in being involved with Stour Singers, either as a singer or supporter, check out our website at <https://www.stoursingers.org.uk/>, email stoursingers@gmail.com, or contact our coordinator Gayle on 07791 769102. We'd love to hear from you.

Sharing memories of our Ellen Badger Hospital

Many visitors to our Museum's Ellen Badger Hospital display share fond memories of working there, visiting family and friends or simply being there as patients. Some do not recall their stay there – because it's where they were born!



As our hospital enters a new phase in its life, it is the right time to look back on its memorable past. The Ellen Badger Story will be the third talk in our Museum winter series.

Our speaker, trustee Stephen Hartley says: "Much-loved, the Ellen Badger Hospital has cared for people in Shipston and the Stour valley for over one hundred years."

Many memories are of the Hospital's caring, warm character, perhaps reflecting an old love story. When Richard Badger

from Shipston wed Ellen Harris from Brailes it was the start of a marriage of nearly 50 years. The couple had retired to Leamington but when Ellen died in 1892 Richard's heart was still in Shipston where he decided to establish a hospital in the name of his beloved wife.

Hear more about the Ellen Badger hospital story at our Museum talk: doors open 2.15pm for 2.30pm start Saturday 22nd February at the Townsend Hall, Tickets £5 from Richard Harvey, Church Street, or shipstonmuseum@outlook.com.

Next in the series: What Lies Beneath – preserving Shipston's past, with Bekky Hillman explaining how archaeologists work with planners to save our buried past.



New hedges for Cornmill Meadow

Hilary Kelly writes: There was quite a lot of flooding last month but thankfully the River Stour retreats reasonably quickly so no real damage was done. Over the winter we have planted some trees which were donated by local residents including field maple, oak, silver birch, walnut and horse chestnut.



In January two new hedges were planted, one in each meadow. We hope when these are established they will link with older hedgerows to create better wildlife corridors for the small inhabitants of the meadows. Many thanks to the volunteers who turned out to dig and plant on a Saturday morning. Watch out for further opportunities to help our local wildlife site in the future.



Stour Valley Lions Cinema



Certificate 12 - Romantic Drama

A single mother and daughter arrive in a rural French town in winter. The Mother opens an unusual chocolate shop that some of the residents find unacceptable

TOWNSEND HALL
FRIDAY 14th February, 2025 at 7.30pm
 Tickets on sale from The Flower House, Shipston for cash
 £5.00, or pay on the door.
 Drinks, Chocolate and raffle.



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

On Friday, 7th March 2025
The Kim Cypher Quintet

"An incredibly vibrant musician driven by passion, who is always innovative and surprising" - Nick Lea - JazzViews



"This is a band capable of appealing to jazz 'newbies' and hardcore aficionados alike" - The Jazz Mann

Featuring:	
❖ Kim Cypher:	Sax & Vocals
❖ Rich Hughes:	Piano
❖ Chris Cobbson:	Guitar
❖ Mike Green:	Bass
❖ Mike Cypher:	Drums

Doors / Bar Open 19:00 for 20:00
 Tickets £15

Tickets from The Flower House, 3 Market Place, Shipston and online:
ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or townsendhall.co.uk

Tickets are for general admission. For a table reservation of 4 or more people, phone Peter on 07711-562317

Shipston Primary School



A visit from our local MP

On Friday 10th January our local MP, Manuela Perteghella, visited school. Mrs Perteghella is a member of the Education Select Committee in Parliament and came to meet with school leaders to discuss issues surrounding Special Educational Needs generally in education; SEN needs in our Trust schools; and to listen to our thoughts about what the priorities and actions could be in this vital area of education. Manuela also met our School Council chairs while she was with us, and we hope that she will be able to return to meet with the whole of our School Council to discuss their work on sustainability in the near future. Manuela toured the whole school and spent time in Doves class where she was very impressed and could see the positive impact the class has had on our whole school.

The Shipston Spirit Awards

Before Christmas, we launched the 'Shipston Spirit Awards' for children in Key Stage 2. These are 72 tasks or challenges for children to achieve in any order, 36 to be completed in school and 36 at home, some with adult help. Tasks range from things as simple as carrying your own bag to school, learning to tie your shoelaces, to entering a competition and writing to someone you admire. When children complete nine tasks at school and nine at home they earn a bronze award. Silver is for completing 36 tasks, Gold is for 54 tasks and Platinum for completing all 72 tasks. The purpose of the Awards is to help our children to develop their personal skills, their communication and friendship skills and their relationships. We are looking forward to handing out our first awards soon!



OPAL - Outdoor Play and Learning

Play is a vital part of childhood development which has been eroded over the past two decades through a variety of reasons including the rise in social media, loss of outdoor space and the impact of lockdowns during Covid. Play helps us to learn how to develop effective relationships, to explore our world, experiment and experience success through trial and error, and to learn how to assess risks. To help our children to develop these important life skills, we are working (alongside other schools in our Trust) with OPAL, a national organisation who already work with many schools across the whole country.

To help our children have wonderful play times we are looking to source a range of items. If you are able to help donate any of the following, please contact school: milk crates (for stacking up to build walls and dens with) • tarpaulins • brooms and brushes • wheeled suitcases • curtains • cooking utensils • pots and pans • cable reels • dressing up clothes • wellies.



Shipton Proms



New Friends tickets

This month, we would like to pay tribute to all our loyal Friends of the Proms who, over the years, have regularly come to our concerts. The Friends have been one of the constants of the Proms and we are so grateful for their support. In view of this, we are developing the Friends ticket to provide greater value for money to appeal to members old and new. The Friends ticket will be £50 per person and allows free entry to three events of your choice, plus 10% off any ticket for one person. If you are a keen Promenader, then this will be a great saving.

Likewise, we are also offering a Festival ticket which is £95 per person and is guaranteed entry to any ticketed Proms event. If you do go to a lot of events, then this is well worth buying. If you would like any information on any of the tickets, please get in touch at shipstonproms@gmail.com.

A greener festival

Last year we took the first tentative steps to a greener festival and this year, with your help, we would like to continue to try and reduce our carbon footprint by recycling more of our glass, plastics and cardboard waste. It is important to protect the environment any opportunity we have.

Music news

We are delighted to announce the return of popular events such as Mrs Porter's Chamberpot Pourri on Wednesday 18th June, and for the first time, we will be moving the pubs and café trail to the beginning weekend of the Proms, so Saturday 14th June. This event creates such a buzz in the town, so what better way to kick off the Proms!

We are also still looking into a fantastic country music night, a Gilbert & Sullivan event as well as the one and only Ibiza-on-Stour event. Confirmed DJs are Richard Harvey, Harry Synge and Tim Samsara, with the headliner announcement coming VERY SOON!

The final night on June 28th will feature our Shipston Proms Music Festival Introducing winners, and then we couldn't be more excited to see the brilliant One Man Band Thom Kirkpatrick come back to the Proms stage. For those of you at The Dropouts event last year, you will remember Thom from his amazing musical skills with layering instruments via a loop pedal, mashing up songs and being able to get us all up and dancing! And of course, who else is excited for the RPJ Band to be returning? We certainly are!

Keep an eye out for future Forum updates and social media in between. As always, you can find us on Facebook or www.shipstonproms.org

Proms dates are 13th-28th June

Photo credit: Chris Roberts/Wider View Media





George Wilkes

Programme
 Brahms: E Minor Cello Sonata
 Chausson: Pièce
 De Falla: Seven popular songs

Friday 21st February, 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 ON STOUR AREA

u3a

Registered Charity no 1170969

Tuesday February 25 2025

2.00 pm at the Townsend Hall

Chris and Jenny with an update on Griffon House and living in an Eco house



In 2018 Chris and Jenny started self-building their new home, aiming to achieve as comfortable and efficient house as possible. Following their talk in 2022, they will revisit their self-build journey, and the energy saving devices they installed and have now properly road tested. Hear about their experiences over the last five years, and discuss the ideas of what new housing should be.

Members free

Visitors £2

Stour Singers' carols

At our annual Christmas concert of Shipston's own choral society, now in its 49th year under the hugely experienced musical direction and baton of Richard Emms, we were treated to a lovely programme performed by musicians who obviously really cared about the music they were playing, from orchestra, soloists and choir, accompanied beautifully on keyboard by Rachel Bird, the choir's rehearsal pianist. The communication between them was palpable which heralded a wonderful evening. And what was not to enjoy in major works of two of the greatest 17th to 18th century Baroque composers, Vivaldi and Handel?

From Handel's Messiah we heard 14 excerpts during the first half of the concert, interspersed with two carols for the audience, finishing with the rousing Hallelujah Chorus. What a brilliant start! Handel's exceptional choral work first burst onto the Dublin musical scene in 1742 when an enthusiastic Irish audience proclaimed it a fantastic success. Part passion, part anthem and definitely the dramatic precursor of the later flowering of Italian opera, Handel's Messiah went on to become the seminal and inspirational choral work for all seasons for the emergent British choral society – but only after a dreary London audience failed at its first performance in the capital to recognise and respond to its drama, verve, emotion and vivacity.

I was truly impressed with the chamber orchestra from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire who clearly matched what the musical director wanted. This young, highly talented group played as one, responding with restraint and boldness to their fellow musicians with precision and enthusiasm. Both Handel and Vivaldi ensured, to show off their ability no doubt, that the choir had tricky and challenging parts to sing which the Stour Singers handled brilliantly with a close response to the baton and clear love for the music. Again, they managed to produce a collegiate sound with the musicians around them.

On this occasion we had a fantastic trio of soloists of national distinction; a last-minute replacement soprano, Louise Wayman produced a dramatic and thrilling solo and joint performance alongside the deeply velvet but strong mezzo-soprano of Cathy Bell and tender but passionate tenor of Matthew Pochin. All singers obviously very familiar with Baroque music. The enunciation of the words was clear and they gave to their performances singly and together a lively, meaningful and moving interpretation to which the audience responded.

In the second half we were offered Vivaldi's Beatus Vir (Blessed is the man) and his Magnificat, works written for a Venice orphanage for boys and girls where Vivaldi was employed over many years to teach music. A brilliant violinist, Vivaldi ensured this fairly restrained music of psalm and canticle received the lightness and lift of strings. Added to the repertoire of recognised Vivaldi's works less than 20 years ago, these works composed originally in 1710 for girls' voices were later revised by Vivaldi around 1720 to include tenor and high bass. The Magnificat, or Song of Mary for Advent and Evensong, included five arias for girls' voices that Vivaldi had trained and with oboes included in the string orchestra. A moving finale to an inspiring concert.



Just a reminder! In May 2025 the Stour Singers will be celebrating 50 years singing annually In May and December for Shipston and locality and God willing will continue for many years to come. Following next May's concert the Stour Singers' founder Richard Emms will be handing over the baton to Alex Silverman, after giving our wide rural area over half a century of brilliant and most varied-across-time programmes of choral music for all tastes.

Ina M. Evans

Celebrating the New Year and looking to the future



New Year lunch is a Probus tradition when members entertain guests, be they family or friends, at a local hostelry. This year we were hosted by the Horseshoe Pub in Shipston and 37 sat down to a fine two course lunch, and conversation flowed aided by the odd pint or bottle of wine! We were especially pleased to welcome into our midst a number of new members who have joined us recently.

Probus is for retired or semi-retired men, but guests are regularly invited to a number of lunch events held throughout the year at Shipston Sports and Social Club, again with an appropriate and experienced speaker or at a local restaurant or inn.

The new year is also an opportunity to look forward to what Probus can offer in the coming months as we move out of winter into spring and hopefully the delights of another balmy summer.



Shipston Probus, like similar clubs throughout the country, is entirely run by its members, led by an executive committee. A major task of the committee is to organise the annual programme of events. Our traditional format is to gather at 10.30am in Shipston Sports and Social Club for coffee, followed by a short business meeting chaired by our President and onto the main item which generally is a talk by an experienced speaker. The topic is not publicised in advance to avoid members making the mistake of dismissing the subject as of little interest to them! One of our members recalls the most fascinating talks he ever attended was entitled 'The history of the threaded screw'! A good speaker can entertain and educate with the most unpromising material, and we pride ourselves on a long record of fine speakers.

Amongst our members we do also have a wealth of potential speakers, men of long experience, different careers, lifestyles

and hobbies (who would suspect our secretary has a passion for oil lamps?!). At least twice a year our own members are invited to give a talk, maybe for a full session, or just a brief presentation for a few minutes, the choice is theirs and help is always available from old hands!



Such intellectual stimulus needs sustenance, hence post talk the bar is opened, followed by a hearty two course lunch for those who wish. Again, tradition dictates that members sit at the lunch table according to a random pattern of numbered tickets. This avoids members always sitting with the same people and ensure a convivial mixing, we are all part of the whole group!

Come the school summer holidays, demands on members for grandparent duties or away travel can reduce attendance at the Sports Club. But fear not, Probus has adapted! For three meetings in the height of summer we migrate to informal get togethers at a hostelry in one of the local villages, no organised speaker or meal but a drink, good company and hopefully the benefit of summer sunshine in a fine pub garden: one of our most popular innovations.

If you feel Probus could appeal to you, then why not give us a try as our guest? Guests enjoy a free lunch and no initial commitment to join, entirely your choice! Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Stour Valley Lions at work



January saw the Senior Residents' Film afternoon, with tickets kindly hosted by The Flower Shop. We assembled in the Townsend Hall to watch *Hampstead* (what a cast!) and have tea and cake. On a miserable winter afternoon, it was a truly convivial place to be. Another January event was a new venture for us: the inaugural Stour Valley Lions Bingo evening. Coming up:

Lions' Den: you will have seen the advertisements for this on Facebook, on the Council boards and here in the Forum (see page 7). This is the opportunity for all local groups seeking funding to present their story to us. Last year we gave money to a variety of causes across the Stour Valley to enable them to make a difference in the lives of their communities. The deadline for applications is approaching fast, so use the QR code on the advertisement or go to <https://www.stourvalleylionsevents.club/application2025> for an application form.

Book sale: come along to the Scout Hut on 22nd February for our next book sale for a choice from thousands of books on a wide range of topics. We have new stock for each sale so you will not be seeing the same titles as last time.

Gold Cup race night: 8th March in the Townsend Hall. This fun evening will be raising funds for local causes.



Further ahead we have the Easter Egg raffle, the Duck Race and, of course, the Shipston Food Festival (14th September – write it in your diary). And finally, a reminder that community film evenings restart on Friday 14th February.

If you want to be involved in making these community events happen, why not contact us to find out more about being a Lion? Call us on 0345 833 2835 or go to <https://www.stourvalleylionsevents.club/contact>

Astronomical Society News



The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesday 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 February that will be on 4th February and the speaker on the third Tuesday, 18th February, will be Chris Woodhouse, an Associate of the Royal Photographic Society with a talk on astrophotography. 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 he is looking at circumpolar stars.

When trying to learn the different stars and constellations, a good place to start is with stars that are visible all year round. These are called the Circumpolar stars. These vary depending on how far north (or south), you are. In Britain we have five circumpolar constellations.

One of the most famous stars is the Pole star, otherwise known as Polaris or the North Star. A lot of people believe it to be the brightest star in the night sky, however it's actually the 48th brightest star. Its importance is its position, almost directly over the geographic North Pole.

One way to find it is by using the Plough. Most people know where the Plough is (another circumpolar asterism and part of the Ursa Major constellation). You'll find the pointer stars on the right of the 'bowl'. Move up 2 1/2 times their distance apart, to arrive at the Pole star. With binoculars, you may see a ring of paler stars, these are called the diamond ring.

If you continue on across the sky you will come to the 'W', which is Cassiopeia. From there it is possible to find the Andromeda Galaxy and the Double Clusters, (but that's for another month's notes). En route, from the Pole Star you will cross a (childish shaped) house constellation, called Cephus. Halfway across its base, (and slightly down) is a red star. The Garnet star is one of the largest stars, a red giant and in its last throes of life. To give an idea of its size, if it were to replace our sun, it would stretch out to Saturn's orbit.

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.



County Council

It seems an age since I talked about being a unitary councillor! For me it was about being elected as both district and county councillor – both jobs work well together. Well, in December – just ready for Christmas reading – the Government published the White Paper on devolution. In Warwickshire we have been round this particular issue three times in my memory – here we go again! Warwickshire was actually named as one of the preferred counties in the first tranche to become unitary in the first round. So, the common-sense way of doing the job is back on the table!

There are really good reasons to do this (and more than a few negatives). At the moment 70% of the WCC budget goes on adult social care and SEND. We know – as do you, sensible readers – that we have too much to do for the money we receive. The government has removed the rural grant we used to get which covered the added costs of a sparsely populated (in places) area. So, we already knew that we would have to sweat our assets harder. If we do become a unitary council (of the five districts and boroughs in Warwickshire) then the economies of scale alone will help to ease financial pressures.

Whether we are in the first tranche or not will be seen by the end of the month. If we are, then it is likely the county council election will be cancelled, if not, we will go ahead. BUT the government is determined to reform local government by this route at some point in this Parliament. So, as a practical woman, I say let's get on with it and shape the future of our county now! This is a whistlestop tour of the issue, which gets extremely complex in terms of shadow councils and boundary changes, but more on that when we know where we are going. If anyone wants to let me know what you think it would be great!

At the same time as this is going on the planning framework (NPPF) is changing and the government is certainly looking to override local decisions in the interest of more housebuilding, in particular. My main issue is that we don't have enough builders now, yet alone to build more homes. Anyway, Shipston and our surrounding parishes feature in the local plan rather heavily. The block of developments SG17 surround Shipston and will total – if they are all accepted – c6,000 houses. I don't think they will all be in the plan and some of us from surrounding parishes (which I also represent) have formed an SG17 group to get to grips with the issue and prevent Fell Mill Lane becoming the Shipston ring road. The consultation on this part of the plan ends at the beginning of March.

It's amazing how much consultation comes along at once isn't it? It's no surprise to me that we don't stimulate economic growth or actually get anything done, as we suffer from bureaucratic sclerosis. I am reminded why I got involved in politics and why not getting things done makes me so cross. At least I am usually cross on your behalf!

My pub/cafe crawl around South Warwickshire continues as I meet groups of residents and individuals who want to see me! Get in touch and we can get together.

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](https://www.facebook.com/jmvpbarker)

District Council

It is a welcome surprise that the District Council has been granted an award of £135,000 from the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund, enabling solar photovoltaic panels to be installed on the roof at Shipston Leisure Centre. Construction is expected to start this month and be completed by April. The project has a relatively short payback period of 9.2 years. The Council is working with Everyone Active, the Leisure Centre operator, to ensure that the savings resulting from the solar panel electricity generation will be passed on to the users of the Leisure Centre. The Council has also been working closely with Everyone Active to identify where carbon savings can be made within the Centre. This has resulted in numerous measures already being implemented, including energy efficiency improvements, and the installation of LED lighting.

There have been several new sports initiatives in Shipston. The Shipston Sports and Social Club on London Road has put in a planning application for the erection of one additional cricket practice net which will encourage the enthusiastic cricket community.

The Shipston Football Club is moving to the Hub in Pittway Avenue. The facilities there are being upgraded to accommodate them and to satisfy the standards of the football league. This is good news as Shipston teams have had to travel to other towns to play their matches.

There is also a proposal for a new building on the Hub grounds for a Sports and Activity Centre. The project is being driven by Shipston Archers Club, and would include an indoor archery range. The building, 16m wide and 50m long, would be a useful facility for other sporting clubs to hire.

The date for the South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation in Shipston was set for Tuesday 28th January 1-4pm in Shipston Leisure Centre. If you missed this, there are also online meetings and presentations. For more information see: www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/.

Several pieces of farmland around Shipston have been offered by landowners for development and these are included in the plan. If you think Shipston has already had too many new houses and lacks infrastructure for more on these sites, email swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk. There is a good chance that the housing will be directed to new settlements north of Stratford on existing transport corridors, but it is still worth submitting objections to any more expansion of the town.

Many residents are facing financial challenges as a result of the cost-of-living crisis. The District Council has helped to fund several initiatives, including:

- Paying for an Act on Energy caseworker to help those experiencing fuel poverty and/or a mechanical failure of their heating system. They can help with heating and energy bill support, plus advice on home energy efficiency measures. For help contact: Phone 0800 988 2881
- Citizens Advice has a Reach Out and Help programme, offering advice and support as well as financial help. Phone: 0808 250 5715
- Shipston Food Bank – last year the District Council gave £5k to help with the increasing need. The Food Bank is open to anyone on Saturday morning between 10.30 and 12 noon at St Edmund's Church. For more information phone: 01608 661210

Dave Passingham

District Councillor, Shipston South

07752 562114 | dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Your town councillors

**John Dinnie, Mayor**

Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair
t: 01608 664590
e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Tony Booth, Deputy Mayor**

General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair
e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Gerry Kelly**

Planning Committee Vice Chair
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**Ian Cooper**

Finance Working Group Chair
t: 01608 663785
e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Paul Tesh**

Planning Committee Chair
t: 07711 433566
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**Jo Barker**

t: 07748 968712
e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk (for town and county matters)

**Hilary Kelly**

Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair
e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Chris Howarth**

Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair
e: chris.howarth@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Michelle Kelly**

e: michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Richard Walters**

e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org

**John Williams**

e: john.williams@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Jerry Corless**

e: jerry.corless@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Mitchell Barnes**

e: mitchell.barnes@shipstontowncouncil.org

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
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

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

New Clark House, West Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4HD

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e: dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Olivia Hatch (Shipston North)

e: olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk
t: 07973 846605

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.

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.

*Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society
Present*

Peter Pan

A pantomime by Ron Hall

*Townsend Hall
Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour
7.30 pm
(Saturday Matinee 2.30 pm)*

*Thursday 6th – Saturday 8th February 2025
Adults £10, Children £5*

*Tickets available from John Lyne Home Hardware, or online
at ticketsource.co.uk – search for “Peter Pan Shipston”
(Tickets NOT available on the door)*

*Children in fancy dress at the matinee will
receive a treat*

*“Second star to the right and straight on
'til morning”*

