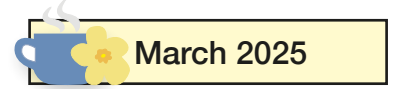




# Shipston Forum



## Beds decision due in March

The past two months have seen intense scrutiny of local healthcare options as the consultation over beds in the Ellen Badger Hospital got underway, including an event in town. Feedback on the consultation is now expected around 6th March, with a decision on the issue at the board meeting of the Integrated Care Board on 19th March. This will be keenly awaited by many in town, not least the Beds for Badger campaign, who brought along Baxter the camel to make their point outside the January meeting of the adult care and health overview and scrutiny committee at the Warwick Shire Hall. The striking appearance of the two-humped ship(ston?) of the desert helped attract coverage in local press and television.



## Local Plan consultation

Consultation is now ongoing on the emerging Local Plan for South Warwickshire that is being prepared jointly by Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils. The Local Plan sets out the strategic vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the South Warwickshire area as well as the planning policies that will determine the future location, scale, type and design of new development up to 2050.

It will, according to the online consultation document, 'set out the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places within South Warwickshire, and make sufficient provision for housing, employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development, along with infrastructure, community facilities, conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.'

A group called SOS! Save Our Shipston! has been set up and is encouraging as many people as possible to take part in the consultation. The group has set out more details, including the five main policies underpinning the plan, and how to respond, on page 8. The deadline for responses is Friday 7th March.

## Fun run reward

Actor Anton Lesser, patron of Shipston Home Nursing, accepted a cheque for £850 on behalf of the charity from Shipston High School students who raised the money with a fun run and raffle. Anton said: 'We are truly grateful. This support helps provide essential care for those facing the most difficult times, allowing them to remain in the comfort of their own homes with expert nursing care.'

PE teacher Sarah Davies, seen here with Anton along with Shipston High School fundraisers and prefects Joshua and Toby from Year 11, said: 'It was fantastic to see our students so engaged and enthusiastic. The generosity and community spirit of our enthusiastic students is something to be really proud of.'

The funds raised will go directly towards supporting patients and families in need.



## Top brass

Alec Banner, 17, is returning to the band where he started as a beginner. One of the country's leading young percussionists, he is the new conductor of Shipston Town Band's training band, helping aspiring musicians in Shipston learn the art of brass playing and develop their skills in playing as part of an ensemble.



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## Mayor's column



Dear Shipston,

What a short month February was! And so packed with events and consultations of all kinds. I was very pleased to be able to visit Shipston Primary School to award the first Shipston Spirit Awards. Congratulations to all those young people for diligently completing their initial tasks for the bronze award. I felt lifted by their enthusiasm to go on to complete the higher levels.

Thank you to everybody for making your responses to the Integrated Care Board consultation on the return of beds to the Ellen Badger Hospital. This completed on 14th February, and we will look forward to a result on 19th March. It is so important that we take full advantage of these opportunities to influence the organisations that provide our services.

The consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan will continue until 7th March. In this we can influence planning policies and comment on plans for development in the area. The Town Council Planning Committee are preparing their response in detail.

Local government reorganisation, in whatever form it takes, will change the relationship between our Town Council and the new higher authority that emerges, with the likelihood of combined authorities with even greater powers. Even more reason to make sure that our local organisation remains effective in looking after the interests of the town.

I was pleased to attend the inaugural meeting of the Chapel View Residents' Association and to see another group of residents coming together to support each other in improving their own area. Groups like this in different parts of the town are starting to be successful in getting developers to resolve issues and finish off their sites.

I thoroughly enjoyed the charity pantomime performance of Peter Pan at the Townsend Hall.

I am looking forward to civic events in Whitnash, Alcester and Leamington later in March.

The next SCAN meeting at 10am on 11th March in the Townsend Hall promises to be interesting as we seek to unravel exactly who does what between the Town, District and County Councils.

Lastly, I am looking forward to meeting many of you on Sunday 23rd March at 3pm for my 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's organisations as possible. The accent will be on young people and service. I want to make our social cohesion visible. Bring your flags, banners, and 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 February meeting

### Community and events

Councillors had attended the Independent Care Board's consultations about hospital beds. Other events attended included People, Planet, Pint, the presentation by SHWP at SCAN, and the District Council display at the Leisure Centre. Cllr Dinnie went to a meeting of the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC). Councillors who attended the panto wished to congratulate cast and crew for the performance.

### Buildings and assets

The contract for the repair of the twin chapel's roof has been agreed and work is to start shortly. The finance working group has drafted heads of terms for the lease of the ex-bowling green site to be a multi-use games area (MUGA). Solar streetlights on the road to the sports club were approved. The Town Council is to help the Youth Club to source a modular building.

### Traffic and roads

Concerns were raised about parking on verges at Queens Avenue and Callaways Road, which will be taken up with Highways, along with issue of water flowing down Darlingscote Road from a broken drain which is eroding the road surface. The appearance of an InPost locker on Tilemans Lane has been referred to the planning committee to investigate.

Cllr Corless has been investigating options for further EV charging points in town. After contacting several operators, discussions are being held with Evie Life which can offer equipment at no capital cost to the council.

### Lloyds bank closure

With the closure of the Lloyds bank branch due in November 2025, Cllr Williams has been hearing the concerns of local businesses about the likely impact, with potential loss of business that comes from those people who come into town to do their banking. The capability of the proposed alternative via the post office in the Co-op is unclear. This to be explored further in discussion with the manager of the Co-op. Cllr Williams has liaised with Link to obtain a review of cash access assessment, and is helping to organise a survey to assess views of the public and businesses.

### District Council update

Stratford District Council held an extraordinary meeting to discuss devolution and options for working with other district councils to form a unitary authority smaller than the whole of Warwickshire. It took the view that a 650,000 population is too big for one authority, a view shared by the representative of the WALC who attended. The District Council's overview and scrutiny committee passed a resolution supporting beds at the Ellen Badger.

Town Council agreed to request a meeting with Izzy Seccombe, leader of Warwickshire County Council, to discuss the implications of a unitary authority.

### County Council update

Cllr Barker said that the issue of unitary authority had come up three times in her career and that she had looked into all the options. There

can be some good things, for example in dealing with issues which currently fall between the two stools of district and county council. The County Council debated local government reform on 18th Feb. In her role on the health and social care committee, Cllr Barker said she was satisfied that the ICB were well-informed.

### ICB consultation response

Council agreed with the response to the consultation which will be sent from the town clerk. It contains views collected from the town during the consultation process and is sent as objectively representing the opinions of the town.

### Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

SHWP has secured around £180,000 of National Lottery funding which will help with staff costs.

### High School

Work on the sports hall will recommence in the summer, following some internal refurbishment in the school.

### Environment

Two new hedges have been planted at Cornmill Meadows thanks to volunteers, at no cost to the Council. Flood action group SAFAG will continue to maintain its current interventions. There have been four three-metre-plus events this winter so far. Discussions have been held with Andy Crump, WCC councillor for Community Safety, about linking with the regional flood and coastal committee established by the Environment Agency to influence local priorities for flood risk management.

### Planning

Views of councillors on the South Warwickshire Local Plan are to be aggregated by the planning committee. A draft response to be circulated by the planning committee to the council, with a time-limited request for comments. All planning requests returned with no rep.

### Communications

Council is to go ahead with a new IT contract, and new website operated via the district council, both of which will save money.

## Shipston in Bloom

How lovely it has been to see many of the tubs and beds planted with winter-flowering plants as well as daffodils emerging now. Many thanks to the owners who have planted by their businesses and homes and also to the team of volunteers who have tended to the tubs and beds around Shipston.

Hilary Kelly



## Remembering Shipston's fallen

### 5190753 Trooper Francis Albert Burnell

Frank Burnell was born on 28th March 1919, the son of William H (Bert) and Ellen C Burnell of Watery Lane, Shipston. The 1921 census records Bert as a fitter's labourer working at the Shipston Gas Works. Frank was enrolled in the Infants School and then in 1926 he moved up to the Boys School, which he left in 1928 to join Lydney School. At this time, the family was living in Anderton's Yard.

Frank served in the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, which in the Northwest European campaign was in the 22nd Armoured Brigade, part of 7th Armoured Division – the famous Desert Rats. In mid-August 1944 the 1st RTR was part of the force that managed to break out of the Normandy bridgehead. Through the rest of August and into September, rapid progress was made as the Division made its way over the Somme, through the Lille/Lens area and into Belgium. The autumn was, on the whole, relatively quiet and it was 1945 before C Squadron 1st RTR, in support of the Devonshire's, moved to take Ophoven. They did meet resistance from well dug-in anti-tank guns and Panzerfaust teams, but by dawn on 18th January, the Devonshire's and 1st RTR occupied Echt and Hingen.

The 7th Armoured Division crossed the Rhine at Xanten and Wesel on the morning of 27th March. On 28th they began to systematically clear woods and villages in the area. The next day they took Heidon, where the Germans knocked out three tanks with bazookas. On the 30th, the 1st RTR and the 1/5th Queens crossed a very weak bridge at Stadtlohn and pushed on to Ahaus, which they entered after an Artillery bombardment. The following day C Squadron were ordered to discover whether the bridges at Heek were intact. They were, and orders were then received to capture Heek where they engaged two much more powerful Tiger tanks, losing one Sherman tank and one Cromwell.

Frank Burnell was killed in this action, although it is not known which of the two tanks he was in. He is buried in the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Kleve, Germany and is commemorated on the Lydney War Memorial and Town War Memorial.



## Beds for Badger campaign



Thank you all for your continued support and all the effort you have put in throughout the consultation exercise. The consultation is over now. We expect some feedback of results around 6th March and a decision from the ICB at their board meeting on 19th March. Whatever that result is, we have some movement towards a dialogue.

At the first online meeting on 13th of January, we started to see a small relaxation in the ICB resolve. Under prompting from a supportive Chris Bain, chief executive of Healthwatch, there was agreement to examining wider issues. On 22nd January, at the adult care and health overview and scrutiny committee at Shire Hall in Warwick, with the help of Baxter the camel, we managed to make an impact with local press and television. Again, the ICB offered further discussion of wider issues.

Later that day, at the face-to-face drop-in event, 150 people turned up to the Townsend Hall in Shipston and registered their concerns with the ICB staff present. Some further discussions led to the offer of a meeting on 10th February. This online meeting was supported by Healthwatch and Community and Voluntary Action (CAVA) and included Bob Armstrong from the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. The aim is to run a series of workshop-style events to understand the health needs of our rural area and the best fit for the inpatient and outpatient services required. Our work with the Community Hospital Association has also yielded a few approaches that could result in the accommodation of beds.

So, do not be downhearted. There are ways that we could return beds to Shipston. The people of Shipston and the surrounding countryside have succeeded before. They built the Princess Diana wing, they supported a frailty nurse, they support the Shipston Home Nurses and all the activities of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership. There is nothing that cannot be achieved by this community when it works together. We just need the various branches of the NHS to work with us to deliver our vision of optimised medical services valued by the community.

Keep following on [bedsforbadger.org](http://bedsforbadger.org) and the Facebook Page. Thanks for all the likes and shares.

**Beds for Badger Organising Committee**

## Meals on wheels back on the road

Chris Cowcher has recently taken up post as CEO at Warwickshire Rural Community Council, a countywide charity that operates community transport, affordable housing support, oil buying syndicates and offers village hall advice. It also supports the county's Warm Hubs, like the one that runs at Shipston Scout Hut on a Thursday morning.

He contacted the Forum to talk about meals on wheels, another service that WRCC runs, taking over responsibility once the former service had closed following Warwickshire County Council's withdrawal of its subsidy.

'The Community Food Fleet delivers meals on wheels 365 days a year and is run as a not-for-profit service,' says Chris. 'Our aim is to support people to live independently countywide and we have a small but growing customer base in Shipston. All our delivery drivers are enhanced-DBS checked and are trained to carry out basic wellbeing and safety checks when they deliver meals, giving customers, their carers and next of kin peace of mind.'

## Start out at Shipston Proms



Budding musicians! Now is the time to honour all those new year resolutions, and to sign up for Shipston Introducing or the Open Mic Night to get your career in music started. Where better place to start than the Shipston Proms Music Festival, where we can give you a helping hand to the next stage?

We are fortunate to have several venues in Shipston where music is encouraged, including the Townsend Hall, the Black Horse, the Thirst Edition, the Coach and Horses and The Lazy Pug. Out of town we have The Cotswold Distillery.

Many successful artists started their career busking or playing at small venues. Ed Sheeran started out singing on the streets before his meteoric rise to fame, and Taylor Swift was discovered when she played at the Bluebird Café in Nashville. Radiohead were a support act for the band Belly in 1993 and ended up as one of the biggest bands in the UK. All honed their craft in small places before experiencing critical acclaim and commercial success. Even if you are not chasing fame and fortune, but just love playing, Shipston is a friendly, welcoming place for all artists, and we would love to hear what you do.

This year, the Shipston Introducing event will be outside of the fortnight for the first time and we will let you know the date as soon as it is sorted. To apply, people should email their interest to [shipstonproms@gmail.com](mailto:shipstonproms@gmail.com). Entrants of the competition will be asked to play two or three songs in front of a panel of judges. There are two categories, one for soloists and the other for bands. Winners will get to play on stage at the Legendary Final Night of the Proms Music Festival in Shipston's High Street, to be held on 28th June. There is a cash prize, too.

In other news, if you were unable to get tickets for the Oasis tour, don't be disappointed, embrace the zeitgeist and get down to the Townsend Hall on 27th June where all the swagger and attitude of Liam and Noel will be provided by ultimate Oasis Tribute Band 'Oasis 96', all for a fraction of the cost.

Also at Townsend Hall, for a change of tempo, we are really pleased that after last year's cancellation, the Astwood Bank Operatic Society will be bringing Gilbert and Sullivan to the Proms. They will be performing assorted songs from G&S and similar. That will be on 22nd June.

Tickets will be available for both nearer the time.

For all updates, please find us on Facebook or [www.shipstonproms.org](http://www.shipstonproms.org).

**Proms dates are 13-28th June 2025**



Some of last year's Shipston Introducing winners. Credit: Chris Roberts/Widerview Visual Media

## Plant sale growth plans

NFU Mutual Central-South Warwickshire is to sponsor Shipston Home Nursing's 2025 plant and produce sale, one of the charity's most highly-anticipated fundraising events.

The annual plant and produce sale has enjoyed incredible growth since its inception, raising more than £11,000 in 2024 alone. This year's event will take place on 10th and 11th May and will see dedicated volunteers hosting table-top stalls from their driveways across 14 locations in the region, including Great Wolford, Brailes, Ettington, and Whichford.

Jon Bird from NFU Mutual said: 'The success is driven by the tireless efforts of volunteers, with plants sourced from local businesses, nurseries, and individuals. It's a great example of how local initiatives can bring people together while supporting a worthy cause.'

For more information or to get involved, visit [www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events](http://www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events) or contact the fundraising team at [fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk)



L-r: Jon Bird, Agent, NFU Mutual; Allison Allen and Gemma Roberts, Shipston Home Nursing.

## Shipston Rotary welcomes two new members

It was a pleasure for president Fay Ivens to induct Chris Wright and Bill Lees as members of Shipston Rotary Club at a recent meeting. They were proposed by Bob Armstrong and Fay Ivens, who both gave supporting statements. Our most recent member, Tim Webber, read the 4 Way Test and the Objects of Rotary, which are very important to Rotarians, who gave the new members a resounding round of applause.



## Stour Valley Lions at work



Since the last edition of the Forum, we have organised a bingo evening in the Townsend Hall, restarted the community film evening, and held a book sale. We appreciate all who attended these events, as your support enables us to continue activities such as the Lion's Den later this month, where we provide local groups across the Stour Valley with funding. Next month, we will list all the successful applicants and share their stories.

Upcoming fundraising events include Gold Cup Race Night on 8th March in the Townsend Hall, raising funds for Stratford Riding for the Disabled group. Details in the ad on page 16. Tickets include a hot meal, and a bar will be available. Why not come as a family or with friends? Tables of eight are available at a special rate.

Towards the end of March, we once again bring out our giant Easter eggs. You can win one of these via 100-square draws in several local pubs and we will also be raffling two eggs in the large Co-op in Shipston on Saturday 5th April. All funds raised will go to local causes. Future events include the Duck Race, another Bingo evening, and the Shipston Food Festival on 14th September.

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>

## Looking ahead: VE Day

The Shipston-on-Stour branch of the Royal British Legion will be supporting the Town Council in celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe on Thursday 8th of May. Throughout the day, the branch will support a variety of town activities, culminating in an evening party at Low Furlong and the lighting of the Beacon. Stay tuned for more details on this special event, where the community will come together to celebrate, commemorate, and enjoy. As part of the daytime activities, there will be a VE Day celebratory lunch at the Warm Hub from 12 noon to 2pm on 8th May. Expressions of interest required to Rowena Webb on 07967 479375 as spaces are limited.

## Find out about U3A



Would you like to find a new interest? Come along and meet Shipston U3A on Tuesday 25 March. We will be presenting displays by interest groups, and there is a chance to meet the group leaders and members. It's a great opportunity to join or renew your membership.

It's 10am-2pm at the Townsend Hall, in Sheep Street. There will be free tea and coffee. Please come, we would love to see you! U3A is the University of the Third Age and offers opportunities to learn for fun.

**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.

**Shipston Toddler and Baby Stay and Play:** 10-11am, Scout Hut

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

**Standing Tai Chi:** 10.30am, Townsend Hall.

**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 Stitches:** 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

**Little Fishes:** 10-11am Townsend Hall.

**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 Stitches:**

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 Dobbin 07779 730774

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

**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: March 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.

**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:** The first Wednesday of each month at the George. Coffee  
from 11am and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304

**5th. Shipston on Stour WI:** Jan Warner – A Brief History of Childrearing. Meetings  
held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote  
Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7.00 pm. For more information contact: Gill  
Smith – Telephone 07759 232899

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

**7th. Kym Cypher Quintet:** Townsend Hall. Doors/bar open 7pm for 8pm. Tickets £15  
from The Flower House or online. Visit townsendhall.co.uk

**8th. Stour Valley Lions:** Gold Cup race night: Townsend Hall. This fun evening will be  
raising funds for local causes See ad on page 16

**10th. Town Council Meeting:** 7pm, New Clark House

**11th. Stour community Awareness Network (SCAN):** Councillors from County,  
District and Town Councils explaining their respective roles. See ad on page 10

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

**11th. Shipston Flower Club presents a 'Spring Wreath Workshop'.** Open to  
members (£20) and non-members (£25). All materials and bulbs will be provided  
and optional plants will be available to purchase. Just bring yourselves, an  
apron, scissors/secateurs and gloves. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start  
at Shipston Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. To book and/or further info  
contact Julie on 07974 339830

**13th Royal British Legion:** Committee Meeting. 6.30pm, St Edmund's. If you would  
like to become a Committee member or join the branch, message Alex Black on  
07789 968733 or email alblack32@hotmail.com

**14th. Stour Valley Lions Cinema:** Paddington in Peru. See ad on page 16

**14th & 28th. Shipston Stitches** 10am-3pm Catholic Church Rooms. Alternate  
Fridays. New members welcome. Beginners and experienced. Tell Anita 01993  
832665

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

**20th. Shipston Warm Hub:** British Motor Museum are doing a talk at the Warm Hub,  
Scout Hut. 10am - 12noon. Free to attend. Also in attendance is the frailty nurse if  
you have any questions or health queries

**21st. St Edmund's Coffee Morning:** 10.30am. See ad on page 10

**21st. Royal British Legion Social Evening:** The Shipston on Stour Branch meet  
on the third Friday of each month for a social gathering. In The Horseshoe from  
7.30pm onwards. Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com.

**21st. Shipston Music Society:** Methodist Church, 7.30pm. See ad on page 16

**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:** Anthropologist Prof Dame Karin Barber on the  
traditions and importance of storytelling. Tredington Community Hall. Bar open  
7pm for pre-talk drinks and will close at 7.20pm. Contact Shiplitsoc@outlook.com.  
Please use side door at the back to enter

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



WRCC is a registered charity No.1061017

## SOS group urges you to respond to the Local Plan consultation

Information in this article was sent to the Forum by the group SOS! Save our Shipston!

Stratford and Warwickshire Councils have developed the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) to help guide sustainable growth across the area. The long term vision is to meet South Warwickshire’s sustainable development needs and strengthen local communities, while responding to the climate emergency. The plan will provide homes and jobs, boost and diversify the local economy, and provide appropriate infrastructure, in suitable locations, at the right time. By 2050 South Warwickshire will be a flourishing, healthy and vibrant place where people will want to live, work and visit.

SWLP is at the consultation stage and has identified Shipston as a potential area of strategic growth with three separate developments surrounding the town.

As residents we need to review the plans and the policies and feed our comments back to the Councils by 7th March.

You need to take into account the five main policies that support these developments and comment on whether Shipston delivers the requirements.

- A climate resilient and Net Zero Carbon South Warwickshire – adapting to the effects of climate change and mitigating against its causes, while avoiding any further damage that might arise from development, and driving towards net zero carbon

- A well-designed and beautiful South Warwickshire – creating spaces where people want to be, which respect and reflect the existing beauty and heritage of the area

- A healthy, safe and inclusive South Warwickshire – enabling everyone to enjoy safe and healthy lifestyles with a good quality of life and addressing health inequalities

- A well-connected South Warwickshire – ensuring that development is physically and digitally connected, provided in accessible locations, and promotes active travel

- A biodiverse and environmentally resilient South Warwickshire – strengthening green and blue infrastructure and achieving a net increase in biodiversity across South Warwickshire.

We will all have a view on whether Shipston has the necessary infrastructure, green spaces, health services, education, local work to avoid unnecessary travel, safe roads and bridges and flood resistant land to support the sustainable delivery of the SWLP ambitions and whether we are currently capable of supporting the required levels of growth.

Shipston has grown by approximately 20% over recent years, with little if any investment in our infrastructure and services. Are we in deficit or ready to add up to 3,000 additional houses to our market town?

### How do you comment?

There are three ways to respond:

The simplest way to respond is via the online consultation portal:

<https://southwarwickshire.oc2.uk/document/148>

You can comment on any of the sections, however the key question for most will be in point 4.1: Do you have any comments on a specific site proposal or the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) results? which is essentially asking you to say if you think Shipston fulfils key criteria for the proposed large developments at three locations.

The site reference numbers you need to comment on for Shipston is: SG17.

If you would like to comment on specific sites, please use the appropriate reference number

148 – Land at Fell Mill Farm

747 – Land at Leasow Lane

303 – Land east of Springhill Stratford Road

552 – Highways sub depot (Recycling centre)

62 – Land North of Angelas Meadow

507 – Land at Tilemans Lane

689 – Land off Darlingscote Road

460 & 465 (no Ref. Part of Tilemans Lane)

173 – Land off Shoulderway Lane

393 – Land south of Webb Road

331 – Land to west of Furze Hill Road

433 – Land off Hansen Avenue

860 – South of Oldbutt Road

In total these sites could accommodate up to 3,000 houses.

By email:

You can download the comment form from the online portal. There are four grouped questions which you can respond to. Again, the last question: Do you have any comments on a specific site proposal or the HELAA results? essentially asking you to say if you think Shipston fulfils key criteria for the proposed large developments at three locations, is the key one to answer. You can type out your response on the form and then email it to either of the email addresses on the form.

In writing:

You can either print off the comment form and fill it in by hand, or collect a photocopy from the Shipston Library. It’s the same form as above. If you only want to address one key question, it’s the last one on the form: Do you have any comments on a specific site proposal or the HELAA results? Remember to add all the right references; the important one being SG17 which is Shipston. Please send to: Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX

The Say No to Another 1,600+ Houses Facebook page will be posting step-by-step guides on how to respond, along with an accompanying document to support people in using the most effective points in their responses. The SOS! Save Our Shipston! campaign will also be organising in-person support at various places in the three weeks before the deadline. Remember: the deadline for responses is FRIDAY 7TH MARCH!

### Nature needs our help

Many years of development, habitat loss and persecution has resulted in the UK being one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. One in six species are threatened with extinction in Britain. Insects of all kinds, especially those which pollinate important food supplies such as bees, are in decline.

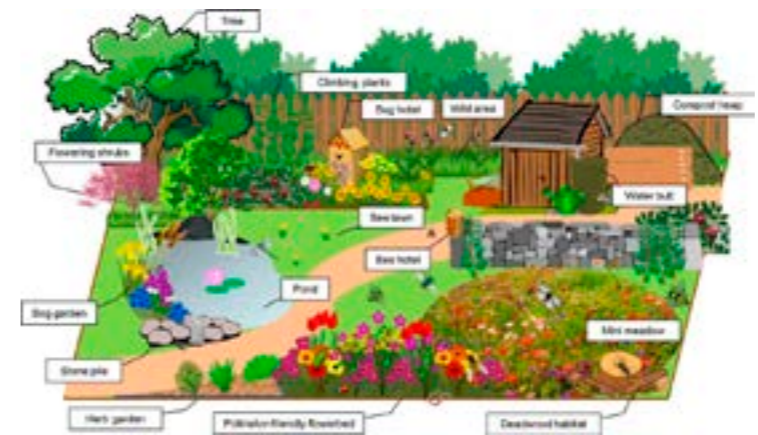
Changes in farming methods and recent climate change are the biggest causes of wildlife decline. So, what can we do about it in Shipston? How can you help?

Gardeners can help in several ways: by leaving a patch of garden to be a bit wild; letting grass grow a bit longer by mowing less often and allowing lawn weeds to flower (the much-abused dandelion and clover provide pollen for our bees

and other insects). Try planting garden flowers that provide forage for a wide variety of pollinating insects eg foxglove, aster, nasturtium, and putting a shallow dish of water out for garden visitors such as birds, hedgehogs and many more. Please avoid using deadly chemical sprays!

Even if you don’t have a garden, tubs, hanging baskets and window boxes can still create homes for wildlife. Many flowering herbs are loved by pollinators – chives, sage, lavender; even cherry tomatoes will grow in a small container so you can have some home-grown food from a tub!

For more ideas have a look at the websites of organisations such as Buglife, RHS and the Wildlife Trusts.



This diagram, which can be seen at Buglife.org.uk, may give you some ideas of what you could provide for wildlife in Shipston.

### What lies beneath Shipston’s past

Planning applications can be the start of the uncovering of fascinating archaeological remains. This is especially true in our area close to the Roman Fosse Way and the Anglo-Saxon origins of Shipston. In our next Museum talk, Archaeology Warwickshire’s archaeobotanist Bekky Hillman explains how archaeology is an integral part of the planning and development process.

‘The first stage is to assess the site of any proposed development for archaeological potential,’ she says. ‘This is done by looking at what previous investigations nearby have uncovered. Where there have been no investigations, trial trenches may be dug so that we can see what there is in the ground.’

If initial investigations indicate this may have been a site of interest, the archaeologists take over to excavate the site. It is very rare that their finds will actually prevent development, but this is an opportunity to record the past, as Bekky has found in several local sites. These range from medieval ridge and furrow that had been masked by modern ploughs, to Roman farmsteads on Shipston’s outskirts, to a prehistoric henge from 6,000 years ago near Newbold on Stour.



What Lies Beneath talk at Townsend Hall, 2.30pm (doors open 2.15pm) Saturday 29th March. Tickets £5 on the door.

### Books brighten young Ukrainian lives

Many local folk came to our Shipston Literary Society event last year to listen to Ukrainian poetry and music and raise funds for books for children in Ukraine. It took some time to find the right causes for the £675 raised. We made contact with a charity run by two librarians who shared pictures of children trying to read by candles in basements both in the cities and near the frontline. They explained the social value of reading in such dark times.

Now librarian Kateryna Suchorebska has written to tell us that books have been bought for four children’s libraries in Ukraine: two close to the front line and two in the remote villages in the west. These were delivered as loving gifts on 14th of February. Each has a book plate thanking Shipston Literary Society. ‘We are very grateful not to feel alone,’ says Kateryna. ‘The gift from the people of Shipston is very symbolic for us.’

During a Zoom meeting Kateryna asked if we could also send children’s books in English, saying they feel it is important for their children to learn our language too. The challenge of where to get such books and how to get them over to Ukraine was solved by two local groups. Stour Valley Lions stepped in to help by providing some children’s books donated for charity. They packed up a consignment and, as requested by our Ukrainian contacts, added notes to show the support from Shipston. The next step was actually getting the books to this war-torn country.

NOXAIDUK, a charity supporting Ukraine, had the answer. Its founder, James Clarke, MD Hook Norton Brewery agreed to take the English books on the next delivery drive to Lviv. Ever since 2022, they have been driving vehicles over, mainly with medical supplies like bandages, first aid kits and stretchers for use in the field. NOXAIDUK has delivered over 70 trucks and three ambulances with 50-plus tonnes of aid so far.



‘We have an amazing team of people supporting this initiative,’ says James, ‘and we are very lucky to have drivers who also cover their own travel costs.’

Four vehicles and their consignment of humanitarian aid set off on 7th February on the 26-hour journey with eight local volunteer drivers, and our books safely on board heading for the children’s library in Lviv.

Khrystyna and Kateryna from the NGO Social Health team sent this message to the people of Shipston, with great love and gratitude:



‘Thank you for your support and for providing such important assistance to our children.

During these times of war, loss, and destruction, in a period of immense educational and cultural setbacks, you bring us a ray of happiness and faith in a better tomorrow.’

If you would like to make a contribution to help NOXAIDUK continue the good work with much needed medical humanitarian aid for the people of Ukraine, their bank details are: NOXAIDUK, Barclays Bank, sort 20-03-84 Account: 03595552



**Come and join us! We are a friendly group who meet every other month to share ideas and learn more about our local community services.**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**Speakers:** Councillors from County, District and Town Councils explaining their respective roles.

**At:** Townsend Hall, 52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AE  
10am for free refreshments. 10.30am start, 12 noon finish.

If you require transport to the meeting, VASA may be able to assist. Call 01789 262889 or email transport@vasa.org.uk.

**COFFEE MORNING**

RAFFLE  
BRING & BUY  
PRESERVES  
CAKES FOR THE WEEKEND  
CARDS  
PLANTS

ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH FUNDS

At St. Edmund's Church  
Shipston on Stour  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025  
10.30am onwards



**The Shipston Spirit Awards**

We were delighted to welcome Mayor John Dinnie into school a few weeks ago to award our first Shipston Spirit Badges. These awards are designed to help children develop their personal and social skills by completing tasks at home and at school. Some tasks can be completed quite quickly on their own, others require help from friends and adults and may take longer periods of time, developing perseverance. We want to help our children to grow into successful adults who can help our school, and our town, continue to be a happy, caring place to be. The personal skills developed in the awards help towards meeting that aim. We hope that Mayor Dinnie will be able to return when we have our first Platinum Awards in the future.



**Thrive Ambassadors**

We have been a Thrive school for several years. Mrs Faulkner is a nationally accredited Thrive Trainer, which means that she trains staff from ours and other schools in how to deliver Thrive and why it is so important in helping our children across the whole school to develop those vital social and emotional skills which we are seeing are lower than a decade ago. This programme has been a huge success for us as a school over the past four years, helping many of our children to access learning.

As part of our Thrive work, we have recently appointed some children to be our first 'Thrive Ambassadors'. These are children who have worked with Mrs Faulkner to gain a deeper understanding of how to recognise others who need support and to be able to be someone who may be able to offer help to other children before they speak to an adult. This may involve helping two children to resolve an argument, guiding someone who is upset to find an appropriate adult to talk to, or simply offering to play with someone who is feeling lonely at break time. We are very proud of these children for volunteering to take on this valuable role.

**Young Voices**

At the end of January, children from Key Stage 2 joined children from other schools from as far afield as South Wales and Devon to form a choir of nearly 6,000 to perform in the annual Young Voices concert at the NEC in Birmingham. They learned a variety of songs which they performed for their families and friends in the evening. This year there was a special medley of Bob Marley songs to celebrate what would have been his 80th birthday. It was a perfect way to end a wonderful day, one hugely enjoyed by everyone there whether in the choir or the audience.

Once again, the year has started positively for Shipston High School. Students are busy in all year groups, and we are already looking ahead to spring and summer activities.

February 2025 saw the completion of the first phase of current refurbishment in the school. Our building contractors have, for now, completed their work on site and the school has received renewed and state of the art facilities.



The technology and science departments have been refitted to an exceptional standard. The existing science laboratories are now completely remodelled, providing an improved and more efficient space. We are also delighted to have three new laboratories in what were previously classroom spaces. The rooms are spacious, contemporary and exactly the modern environment our students deserve. Similarly, our workshop spaces are now vastly improved, offering an inspiring, practical and creative environment for our young people.

We remain grateful to Warwickshire County Council for funding these improvements with a view to providing more spaces in the school for local families, and improving facilities for existing students.

The next phase is our planned Sports Hall, which will enable more students to enjoy a wider range of indoor sports activities than currently available. We will keep Forum readers informed on its progress once building is underway. This facility will be of great benefit to our young people and the whole community.

Next month, many families will be finding out which secondary school their children will attend in the coming autumn. Once again, Shipston High School will see its largest year group to date join the school next year. The school's popularity and strong reputation continue to attract a high number of applications, and this demand for good school places drives our desire to increase our intake. Along with developing the built environment we are also recruiting staff for the year ahead, and have been overwhelmed with the applications; it is great to see the very real desire of applicants to work in a calm and learning focussed school.

For now, I am sure that children coming to Shipston High in September 2025 will be eager to add their own contribution to our growing community, and we look forward to meeting you in person before starting in September.

**Gavin Saunders, Headteacher**

**We are adding to The Stour Toy Library.**

**Monday Mornings at Shipston Baby and Toddler Group starting 10th Feb. Scout Hut. 10.00 - 11.00**

**Thursday Mornings at Little Fishes starting 27th Feb. Townsend Hall. 10.00 - 11.00**

**Pre-order your toys at: borrow.shwp.org.uk Order by 10pm the day before.**

## Stour Singers

### Special concert news

Stour Singers are delighted to share details of our very special 50th Anniversary concert performance of Brahms' Requiem at St Edmund's Church on Saturday 10th May. With musical director Richard Emms retiring from the leadership of the choir we hope to make the concert a night to remember, surrounding Richard with other local musical legends to mark the occasion. Accompanying the choir and performing a Schubert duet in addition to the Brahms will be the four hands of pianists Lynn Arnold and Charles Matthews. The soprano soloist will be none other than Newbold's Robyn Pullen, and we are thrilled to announce that alongside her will be one of the country's best-loved baritones (and Warwickshire resident), Roderick Williams. Buoyed by the excitement of the event, along with Richard's expert leadership and enthusiasm, the choir is making excellent rehearsal progress with this beautiful work, and can't wait to perform it for the people of Shipston and the surrounding area in May.

Tickets are available from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers> from 1st March.

## Cricket Club

### Second net on the way

We have enjoyed a successful start to the indoor cricket season. Our team plays in Banbury every Tuesday and has enjoyed a strong start, winning three of the first four games. We are excited to soon begin work to build a second net to allow us to continue to develop and promote youth cricketers. Our strong youth system played a key part in us enjoying such a successful season last year (where we won four trophies) and we hope to see our youth policy pay even more dividends this season. Fingers crossed that the sun shines all summer and that we can entertain lots of people on Saturday afternoons at London Road where people can come and enjoy a drink in the sun while watching some exciting games. If you are interested in playing cricket, watching cricket, umpiring, scoring or just enjoying a drink, please do get in touch with us – we'd be glad to see you! <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/shipstononstourcricketclub/>

## Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute



### First bus driver

Jessica Rose Nash gave a fascinating talk about her career as this country's first female bus driver.

Jess joined London Country buses as a 'clippie', but she dearly wanted to drive the bus – this was strictly reserved for men. She did become an ambulance driver in London, then one day saw that the local bus garage was recruiting drivers, both male and female. She applied and was rejected – too short, had to be 5'4". However, she persisted and in November 1970 she passed her test in Shepherds Bush and was given the long coveted badge, now in the London Transport Museum.

With the closure of London Country, she opted to go with London Transport and a posting to Hendon driving the world famous Routemaster buses. This was still a strictly segregated workplace – and it was the women who refused to work with a



woman driver.

Jess later became a Revenue Inspector covering the underground system for 17 years, a tough job dealing with offenders, all at the time of IRA bombings and unrest. Eventually, Jess's knees told her to take early retirement. She now volunteers driving mini buses at Daventry Area Community Transport and has become a trustee of this invaluable organisation.

Coming up this year: we plan to have a summer garden party and to participate again in the Brailles Show, Arts in the Cotswolds and the Victorian Evening in Shipston. There will be a coffee morning in The Horseshoe pub on 18th March at 10.45am.

The next meeting will be on 5th March in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, when Jan Warner will be talking about the Survival of the Fittest – a brief history of child rearing. Visitors are always welcome.

## Shipston SCAN



### SHWP insight

Shipston SCAN held its first meeting as the newly rebranded 'Stour Community Awareness Network' in January. Speakers were Bob Armstrong, Vanessa Compton and Rowena Webb from the Stour Valley Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP).

The fundamental mantra of SHWP is that prevention is better than cure. SHWP is for residents of the entire Stour Valley area, and it organises well-attended activities, not only in Shipston but in many local villages. Not all involve physical activity: the Warm Hub (at the Scout Hut every Thursday from 10am till noon) offers regular cooking lessons, knitting, visits from the frailty nurse and social prescriber from the Medical Centre and bereavement counselling from Shipston Home Nursing, who also bring soup.

SHWP's latest initiative is a toy library. This was originally based at St Edmund's but is now being taken out to various toddler groups. There are nearly 200 toys to be borrowed, all of them thoroughly researched. It is impossible to detail all SHWP's activities here – suffice to say that there is something for everyone provided locally.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 11th March at 10am in the Townsend Hall. The topic will be the respective responsibilities of the town, district and county councils. John Dinnie, Olivia Hatch, Dave Passingham and Jo Barker have all agreed to talk about the role of the council on which they sit. There should be time for a brief consideration of the proposed unitary authority for Warwickshire. All will be welcome at the meeting – there is no charge. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please call Laurie Grove on 01608 662998 if you would like to know more.

## Shipston Rotary



### Pan Disability award

It was a pleasure for president Fay Ivens to present Lee Cooper and Adam Millership with a cheque for Shipston Excelsior Pan Disability Football Club and thank them for the amazing work that they are doing for the young people of our town and the local area. Lee and Adam, along

with Will Ragg, set up the club for young people with disabilities aged between seven and 18 years, just over two years ago. The football sessions are delivered in a therapeutic way, allowing the young people to express themselves and their emotions. They have helped some players to transition back into mainstream football, including two young people who now play for West Bromwich Albion Adult Disability Teams. Lee said that the resilience, empathy and interactions shown by the young people is amazing and they are a credit to themselves and their parents.



To find out more, contact either Lee Cooper 07398 928917 or Will Ragg 07988 662844.

## Probus

### Haydn's IT career

Probus members come from a wide variety of backgrounds, careers, hobbies and interests. We occasionally call on members to share their stories, and this month Haydn Ward kept us entertained with tales of life in the computing business.

Haydn studied Computer Science, which included a year of work experience with IMI Computing in Birmingham, using punch cards for programme execution on an IBM mainframe computer. Haydn was offered a full-time job and, returning after his final year, discovered the company had diversified, now selling office systems. Moving onto emerging technologies, Haydn helped develop document management systems for the legal and insurance professions.

After ten years with IMI Computing, Haydn left to join the consulting firm Ernst & Young. Jobs included architecting the future state IT systems for British Nuclear Fuels based in Cumbria, and remediating systems for a bank in London for Year 2000.

With a baby on the way, Haydn accepted a job offer from a Swiss investment bank and moved to the south-east, managing a global team, subsequently working for two other investment banks. Juggling different time zones and often working long hours and weekends took its toll, not least interfering with attendance at West Bromwich Albion! Burnt out at the age of

52, Haydn suffered a heart attack. Fully recovered with the aid of a stent, he took early retirement and moved to Shipston just over seven years ago.

Meeting the challenges of a new lifestyle by sailing around the British Isles and buying a motorbike, Haydn also volunteered to help with the Shipston Proms and is currently its Treasurer. He's also served on the Townsend Hall committee, and still lends a hand in the organisation of music events. He likes managing his own investments and playing with electronics, recently building a hexapod robot! And he's joined Probus, of course!

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 [tonyjoint73@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyjoint73@hotmail.com) for further details.

## Shipston Literary Society

### New venue, history discussion and storytelling

Comfort and excitement were the order of the day when the Shipston and District Literary Society held its first meeting at our new venue, the Community Hall at Tredington. The village's WI, which owns the hall, had taken the opportunity presented by the lockdowns to completely revamp the building, and it shows. There are comfortable chairs, tables and sophisticated technology.

Unfortunately, our speaker for the evening, Jack Barber, due to talk about Jane Austen in the Midlands, was taken ill and unable to come. We will be rearranging this talk when he has recovered.

Instead, some members of the committee led a discussion on historical fiction – is it a good thing or does it distort historical reality? Braveheart, adapted for the screen by Randall Wallace, suggests that the future king Edward III was the son of Scottish hero William Wallace and Princess Isabella of France. However, Isabella was aged only nine when Wallace was executed.

If you want to learn about history, should you read history books with proper citations? Or enjoy historical fiction that relives an imagined life in the past and can bring history to life? It became a lively discussion, showing what passion and enthusiasm literature can give to people!

This month's talk, on 26th March, features anthropologist Prof Dame Karin Barber talking about the traditions and importance of storytelling. From 'praise names', plays and dance in African culture through to TV, soap operas and Hollywood, telling stories has shaped societies all over the world. The talk is at the Tredington Community Hall, next to the Lion pub. The bar opens at 7pm for pre-talk drinks and will close at 7.20pm. Further information from [Shiplitsoc@outlook.com](mailto:Shiplitsoc@outlook.com). Please use the side door at the back to enter – the main door is shut as



## County Council

Word this week (and this month) is dunkelflaute (German for dark + lull) – very drab conditions with no sun and barely a breath of wind. Absolutely perfect description and a reason to be concerned at the never-ending push to net zero before we are ready. No sun, no wind – the lights go out.

Anyway, on a different note, we have been handed a plan for Shipston which if carried out could double our size. Now, I for one won't be supporting this, and like all of you I shall put my comments in on the South Warwickshire Local plan shortly. We all need to do this. I am aghast that the Local Plan – led by Liberal Stratford District Council and Green/Labour Warwick District Council – is threatening our communities, which have already been stretched to breaking point. If we have more development without infrastructure, then we will truly become Shipston in Sewer - a new name suggested to me at the photocall for the Herald. I think we did a good job, but we need to keep up the pressure! I hope most of you have had my County Cllr information sheet? If not, I will get it onto the Shipston noticeboard!

Another potential problem is the inclusion of the tip in the plan, owned by WCC! I had already been assured that our tip will remain, and I am confident it will. The officer responsible for the inclusion of the site has heard from me in rather strong terms...and has said I can blame him. That will only work when we get it removed. The leader of the Conservatives on Warwickshire County Council, Cllr Seccombe, and I are all over it.

Other villages locally are also included in the plan (planning is District level, remember) and I am answering queries across our patch. I also have the benefit (as a county councillor) of serving on the Cotswolds Natural Landscape (formerly AONB) and some of the villages and many areas are within the 3km distance of impact on a sensitive landscape guidance. I shall ensure their robust response.

Now, some really good news. I have got the plans being worked on for two zebra crossings in Shipston. We have identified two potential places to cross on the Darlingscote Road and two more for another crossing on Stratford Road. When these have been assessed the work is able to be funded mostly from my delegated budget. I suspect it will be in the new financial year. Result! Dropped kerbs are also on the way, as ever!

As I write we are going into half term, which I hope our young people enjoy. If there's any sun, get out and enjoy it for a bit! Happy Spring.

My roving surgery is visiting various cafes and pubs over the next couple of months, so contact me if you want to catch up!

Yours ever, Jo

## Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division  
07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

## District Council

What a great turnout last month to demonstrate what Shipston thought of the proposed new developments. Great work by the SOS (Save Our Shipston) team in spreading the word about the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). I suppose we must be grateful that we have been consulted before any decisions have been made, and we have been able to point out the unsustainability of many of the proposals. If you read this column before 7th March, you will still have time to object to the new developments at [www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp](http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp)

But it would be even better if the town designed its own version of community development. I have been contacted by a few people in the last month, asking for a more positive debate about the future of Shipston. Frome in Somerset is a prime example of where residents of the town have come together to combine residential, business, and community development. To this end, a new Neighbourhood Plan for Shipston will have to be developed once the new SWLP is approved. This must be done with the full consultation of residents and stakeholders of Shipston. The new Neighbourhood Plan will then have to be taken into account for all planning decisions up until 2050.

County Council elections have now got the go-ahead for 1st May, which gives Warwickshire more time to work out what shape our new local government will take. England is one of the most centralised developed countries, and having two levels of councils (district and council) definitely has its disadvantages, so this restructure could be positive. At the moment, District Councillors represent around 1,400 households each. For real 'localism', the area that councillors represent should keep roughly to these numbers.

IndieGo Bus is now operating in Stratford District and replaces the old Ubus service. It is designed for areas and times that are not catered for by our bus service. You can request your pick-up and drop-off points when making your booking, but a short walk may be required to complete most trips. Anyone travelling within the Stratford district can book via the IndieGo PLUS mobile app or by phoning 01926 895559. Fares are from £2 for a single trip and there are discounts for children. Bookings can be made as early as two weeks before your trip, and as late as an hour before you want to travel. They are subject to availability so the earlier you book, the better. It operates from 8.20am-2.30pm and 4-7pm Monday to Friday in school term time, and 7.30am-7pm during school holidays. Buses are ramp-accessible and have wheelchair spaces on board. Do let us know how you get on using this service.

Any High School students looking for work experience can apply to the District Council by emailing [HR@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:HR@stratford-dc.gov.uk) and asking for a work experience application form.

## Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North  
07752562114 | [olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

## Your town councillors



## John Dinnie, Mayor

*Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair*  
t: 01608 664590  
e: [john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Tony Booth, Deputy Mayor

*General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair*  
e: [tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Gerry Kelly

*Planning Committee Vice Chair*  
t: 07471 687720  
e: [gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Ian Cooper

*Finance Working Group Chair*  
t: 01608 663785  
e: [ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Paul Tesh

*Planning Committee Chair*  
t: 07711 433566  
e: [paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Jo Barker

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



## Hilary Kelly

*Environmental Working Group, Co-Chair*  
e: [hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Chris Howarth

*Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair*  
e: [chris.howarth@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:chris.howarth@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Michelle Kelly

e: [michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Richard Walters

e: [richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## John Williams

e: [john.williams@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:john.williams@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Jerry Corless

e: [jerry.corless@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:jerry.corless@shipstontowncouncil.org)



## Mitchell Barnes

e: [mitchell.barnes@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto: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
<b>Local police (non emergency)</b>	<b>101</b>
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
<a href="mailto:shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk">shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk</a>	
<b>Churches of Shipston:</b>	
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

## General Enquiries

t: 01608 662180 e: [enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org)

## Town Clerk

e: [clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org)

## County Council Contact:

## Councillor Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712 e: [jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## District Council Contacts:

## Dave Passingham (Shipston South)

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## Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Laura Parker, by email: [forum@shipstononline.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.





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

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...

**On Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025**



Led by Dave Browning - Piano  
Allen Beechey - Cornet  
Richard Exall - Clarinet / Sax  
Brian Butler - Trombone  
Keith Donald - Double Bass  
Graham Smith - Drums

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

From the Flower House, 3 Market Place,  
Shipston and online  
[ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall](http://ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall) or  
[townsendhall.co.uk](http://townsendhall.co.uk)

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

**STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA**



Certificate PG

Paddington and the Brown family visit Aunt Lucy in Peru, but a thrilling adventure ensues when a mystery plunges them into an unexpected journey.

**TOWNSEND HALL**  
**FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> March, 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.

**Shipston Gold Cup Race Night**



All profits to Riding for the Disabled

**Book your table NOW!**



Find out about Sponsoring a Race



**Saturday 8th March**  
7.30pm at the Townsend Hall

Tickets only available in advance\*: £15 each or £100 for a table of 8 including a Hot Supper

Doors Open at 7pm    Licensed Bar    No unaccompanied children

Tickets online from: [stourvalleylionsevents.club/racenight](http://stourvalleylionsevents.club/racenight) or phone 0345 833 2835

\*Numbers strictly limited    Registered Charity No. 1191926




**Gen Li, award winning cellist, and Charles Matthews piano.**

Programme will include music composed by Elgar, Fauré, Franck and Shostakovich.

Friday 21st March, 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](http://www.shipstonmusic.org.uk)