



# Shipston Forum



## No beds at the Badger

The NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has announced that there will be no beds at the Ellen Badger hospital in Shipston.



Following a decision made at an ICB Board meeting on 19th March, the 35 community rehabilitation beds in South Warwickshire will be permanently located at two sites, Leamington Spa Hospital and Stratford Hospital – a continuation of current arrangements, which have been in place since works began at the Ellen Badger in January 2022.



This went against the very clear preference of the town and surrounding area. Responses to the six-week consultation process showed 82% in favour of having beds in three hospitals including Shipston's Ellen Badger.

The ICB has recognised the need for a wider consideration of health services for rural communities and will now adopt a "whole system approach to engagement with communities, prioritising rural communities initially."

The Beds for Badger organising committee has responded by saying: "We must now use this opportunity to get the focus on patient-centred care in our rural community."

The ICB Board and NHS provider SWFT will now work in partnership to develop a full implementation plan.

Read more about the Beds for Badger Campaign's reaction on page 5.

## Top DJ booked

DJ Judge Jules, legendary radio show presenter, dance club DJ and music producer will be coming to Shipston to headline the Ibiza night on 21st June at Shipston Proms this summer.



Meanwhile, proms organisers are looking for more members to help them continue to reach big name artists and become a greener festival. Without additional support, they warn they may have to revise the annual event to take place for one week only or every other year. Find out more on page 8.

## What's next for the Local Plan?

The deadline for responses to the South Warwickshire Local Plan has now passed, after Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council completed their public consultation of Part 1 of the plan on 7th March. Within the plan, 14 sites around Shipston have been identified as potential development areas for approximately 3,000 houses.



The Town Council has objected strongly to the level of landowner/developer proposed development, mainly on the grounds of inadequate existing infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the Save Our Shipston campaign has been working hard to help residents understand the potential impacts of the proposed development plan and encouraging people to submit their personal responses.

"We now await a decision at the end of the year to determine whether Stratford and Warwickshire District Councils will be persuaded that Shipston is not an appropriate site for such a large-scale development," said a spokesperson.

Cllr Paul Tesh explains the procedure and the Town Council response on page 3, while Save our Shipston sets out how they have campaigned on page 8.

## Having a flutter

Shipston Gold Cup Race Night, an annual event organised by Stour Valley Lions, saw the Townsend Hall packed out with people helping raise money for Stratford Riding for the Disabled and having a lot of fun along the way.



## Have a blow heroes

Fifteen cubs from the 1st Shipston Cub Scouts Group learned about the different instruments in a brass band, from the cornet to the percussion, and got a chance to try some out when they came to the Town Band's newly-launched Brass Academy.



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## Mayor's column



Dear Shipston,

How great to see the ending of winter and the arrival of spring with the Shipston in Bloom planters and pots displaying bright yellow native daffodils and delicate anemones thanks to the expanded group of volunteers and businesses who have stepped forward to continue planting up the containers with bulbs and perennials that I am sure will delight us throughout the summer. Please do reward the team members with some kind words of thanks when you see them planting, weeding or watering the pots.

The feedback from the Integrated Care Board Consultation on the return of beds to The Ellen Badger Hospital certainly demonstrated that Shipston and the surrounding area can mobilise support for local causes. The 82% response in favour of Option A, the 3-hospital option with beds in Shipston, was exceptionally strong. The decision of the Integrated Care Board on 19th March has unfortunately supported its preferred option with no beds in Shipston. However, the strength of the feedback has led the ICB to initiate a study forum on the health needs of our rural community. The ICB have made it clear that they expect patient care in our 'virtual ward' to take place in patient's homes, not in a hospital setting. I will now be asking them to make clear how this will be achieved.

The consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan closed on 7th March. The strong submissions from many individuals will have strengthened the town council planning committee response in favour of the policies and improved infrastructure but not the proposed sites.

The town council is looking forward to hearing more about local government reorganisation into unitary and combined authorities from Cllr Isobel Seccombe, leader of Warwickshire County Council, just before the April town council meeting.

I am looking forward to civic events in Warwick and Southam, our own town pub walk on 24th April, and the chairman's dinner.

Thank you all for taking part in my Civic Service. It was good to see such a wholehearted celebration of the connectedness and the spirit of Shipston. I hope to repeat this by asking all town organisations to come to the Annual Town Meeting on 23rd April. This should be a good opportunity for networking and a showcase of the vast range of town activities.

Looking forward to 8th of May when we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE day, the end of WWII in Europe. The events are advertised elsewhere in this issue. Rotary are organising a shop window display competition, and I hope you will all enjoy coming to town to see the displays and reaching your own conclusions as to which you prefer.

Your Town Mayor,

John

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

## News from Shipston Town Council's March meeting

### Various – reports from councillors

A tree has been planted in the churchyard in memory of Ed Jackson, treasurer of the Food Bank. Quotes are being obtained for the repair of the church wall. Stratford District Council has given an award of £1,600 for hedge-laying and bird and bat boxes at Cornmill Meadows.

Record numbers attended the recent Holiday at Home.

Repairs to the Hub are continuing, with the removal of a water tank.

Liaison continues with Evie Life on EV charging points.

The rocking manhole cover on Queens Avenue/Campden Road has been reported to Warwickshire County Council Highways. Councillor Barker will follow up on this and also on the large pothole on Darlingscote Road.

Council is looking for funding opportunities for proposal to create more permanent home for the youth club.

### Lloyds Bank

In light of the planned closure of Lloyds Bank in town on 9 November, Cllr Williams has sent in a letter with a supporting letter from the local MP Manuela Perteghella to the Link organisation, which typically takes 12 weeks to respond. A questionnaire about banking provision has been circulated around town. Cllr Williams is meeting councillors from nearby towns with a similar lack of banking provision. Further investigations into the 'banking desert' that this may leave are taking place, along with representations for support to WCC to ensure the town has a banking hub or some provision.

### Local Plan

The council has submitted its response to the South Warwickshire Local Plan. The next stage will be a Part 2 consultation, dealing with individual requested development sites, which will be a further opportunity to object to overdevelopment.

### Stratford District Council report

Solar panels are now being put up on the Leisure Centre. The District Council is having an extraordinary meeting to discuss the plans for the proposed unitary authority. The timescale for the Local Plan will be shortened to two years due to proposed devolution.

### County Council report

Cllr Barker reported the health contract has been renewed and is working better. WCC has agreed to fund SEND mediation. There is a new highways enforcement policy and a new health protection policy. The household support fund, which offers energy support, will end on 28th March.

### Ellen Badger Hospital

A decision by the Integrated Care Board was expected to be made on 19th March at the Coventry Rugby Club. The Mayor reported that there had been a good response from Shipston. Of the respondents to the consultation within Shipston, 82% had voted for option A (beds distributed across three sites, including the return of 12 beds to the Ellen Badger), 13% had voted for option B, and 5% for neither. Over

1,240 people responded to the consultation via the survey, mostly aged 45 and over, with many over-eighties responding online. There were 72 written responses and 189 via the drop-in consultations.

Council has additionally been asked to respond on possible uses for the grounds of the hospital for health and wellbeing.

### High School

The sports centre application is still going forward, with a result expected at the end of March.

### Environment and flood action

SAFAG will send a monthly written report to council. The group will purchase rebar for natural flood management interventions.

### Planning

Council agreed no representation on extension at 1 Greenway Road.

### General purposes

Work is now underway on the twin chapel roof repair. Council agreed to follow insurer's advice on the removal of trees, whilst asking for reservations to be checked.

### Finance

Council will cover costs of CCTV, with an ongoing service level agreement.

### Local Nature Action Plan

Cllr Walters has compiled a list of the town's green assets, which will be photographed.

## What's next for the South Warwickshire Local Plan?

### Paul Tesh explains the process.

As you may be aware, Stratford District Council and Warwick District Council completed their public consultation of Part 1 of the proposed South Warwickshire Local Plan on 7th March. This proposed Local Plan is due to come into force circa 2028 and will run until 2050. Part 1 comprises the policies that both local authorities propose to impose on future development planning within the two districts.

Of particular interest to Shipston residents is the proposed Strategic Growth Location SG17. This identifies 14 sites that ring Shipston as potential development areas, mainly for housing. The total potential of these 14 sites is approximately 3,000 houses, of which 1,600 are to the east of the River Stour. It must be noted that these sites have been proposed by landowners/developers only and are therefore a 'wishlist' at present. We have been advised by the District Council that the landowner/developer proposed sites will undergo further assessment by the District Council before being incorporated into the next stage consultation, which will be later this year, with the likelihood that the number of sites will be reduced.

As part of their formal response to the consultation, the Town Council objected strongly to the potential level of landowner/developer proposed development mainly on the grounds of inadequate existing infrastructure (schools, health care, drainage, retail, public transport and the River Stour crossing etc), the impact that such development would have on the setting of Shipston in the local landscape, and the lack of local employment, which would force new residents to commute to other towns.

What happens next? Both Stratford and Warwick District Councils will consider the responses to the public consultation and then revise their proposals before carrying out a further public consultation later this year so hopefully there will be further opportunity to comment again. The Town Council's Planning Committee will be monitoring the situation closely.

### Councillor Paul Tesh

### Chair of Shipston Town Council's Planning Committee

## Victory in Europe 80th Anniversary

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 May. Throughout the day, there will be a variety of town activities, such as:

0800 - Proclamation in the town square

0900 - Flag raising and small ceremony at the Gyratory

1200-1400 - Lunch at the Warm Hub (Scout Hut)

1500 - Declaration by Sir Winston Churchill

1530 - Shop window decoration competition.

1800 - Party at Low Furlong (Food, Bar, Music)

2030 - Music at the Beacon

2130 - Lighting of the Beacon

This will be a great occasion for the town to come together and celebrate in the spirit of 1940s Britain! We look forward to seeing you all on the day. And there's more to come as well, so stay tuned!

If you're interested in coming to the VE Day celebratory lunch at the Warm Hub from 12 noon to 2pm on 8th May, please let Rowena Webb know as soon as possible on 07967 479375 as spaces are limited.

Alistair Watkins Secretary, Royal British Legion, Shipston branch.



**CALLING ALL ALLOTMENT HOLDERS**

The annual meeting of Shipston-on-Stour Allotment Holders will be held at 6.30pm on Monday 28th April at the Townsend Hall. All allotment holders are welcome.



For any queries or more information about this meeting, please contact Emily, Administrative Officer, Shipston Town Council.

**Administrative Officer**

Tel No - 01608 662180 or

Email - emily.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org

**Annual Town Meeting**



**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 at 7pm  
Townsend Hall**

The Annual Town Meeting is a meeting for all local government electors of the Town

It is not a meeting of the Town Council

Anyone may attend and registered electors of the town may speak during the meeting

Local organisations and community groups are invited to attend and report on their activities during the past year and their future plans

Refreshments to follow

For further information please contact Shipston Town Council on [enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org) or phone on 01608 662180

**Beds for Badger campaign**



The result of our town's feedback on the ICB consultation about hospital beds exceeded what we hoped for. The chart below shows the results from Option A and Option B.

In spite of the overwhelming survey result in favour of Option A – having beds at the Ellen Badger – it was made very clear that this is only one piece of information being considered by the ICB and that other factors could outweigh the views expressed in the survey.

**Q3c. Which option is closest to meeting the needs of the population?**

Base: 1232 (all respondents - some postal left blank)



The decision made by the Integrated Care Board on 19th of March did indeed favour Option B with no rehabilitation beds returning to the Ellen Badger hospital.

However, the strength of opinion expressed in the feedback from the survey and the other inputs to the consultation was such that the ICB Board have agreed:

“To support a whole system approach to engagement with our communities, prioritising rural communities initially, aligned with the Neighbourhood Health Guidelines 2025/26, using Shipston and surrounding areas as a blueprint for future Integrated Care System engagement.”

We had requested a strengthening of this statement to commit the ICB to action in our area. Unfortunately the statement was not amended. Philip Johns (Chief Executive) even asked for the engagement to include Coventry, rather missing the point.

We must now use this opportunity to use the current mood for change in the NHS to get them to focus on patient centred care in our rural community. This will require us to draw attention to the lack of local inpatient care at every opportunity, patient by patient, as concerns arise. Not just relying on remote acute hospitals with little community backup. This may be uncomfortable for the patients concerned and their friends and family, but if we do not complain, we will not get improvement. This may feel very different to what we were hoping for, but it will have to work for us to achieve the community care we deserve.

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

**Beds for Badger Organising Committee**

**Remembering Shipston's fallen**

4919920 Lance Sergeant Cecil Frederick Hibberd

Born on 6th October 1916, Cecil was the son of Frederick and Agnes Lambert Hibberd who, in the years immediately after their marriage, lived in High Street, Brailes, Fred working locally as a farm labourer. By the time of the Second World War, the family were living in Sheep Street, Brailes. Cecil had two sisters, Kate and Win, and two brothers, Reg and Harold and like them he went to Brailes School, attending from 1920 to 1930.



On leaving school Cecil initially worked as a milkman but by the time he joined the army on 16th March 1940, he was working as a roadman and is recorded as such in the 1939 register.

Initially serving with the 1st South Staffordshires, he saw service in Egypt from August 1940. On 13th September 1940, a 250,000-strong Italian force crossed the border from their colony of Libya into Egypt, where a British force of 30,000 was protecting the Suez Canal. On reaching Sidi Barrani, the Italians dug in. On 8th December 1940 the British counter-attacked, broke through a gap in the Italian defences and overwhelmed them. Over the next 10 weeks, the British and Commonwealth forces advanced 800 km west, destroyed about 400 tanks and 1,292 artillery pieces, and captured 130,000 prisoners.

By the end of the summer of 1941, Cecil was back in England and on 1st June 1942 he married Jane Mary Stanley of West Street, Shipston-on-Stour. During this time Cecil was promoted to Lance Sergeant, and the Hibberds had a baby boy, David. Sadly, David was killed in a motorbike accident in 1962.

In late June 1944 Cecil was serving with 6th North Staffords as part of the 59th Division. They entered France and in early July were fighting the Germans out of Caen. On 18th August, the Division was disbanded and redistributed across the 2nd Army to make up for the number of casualties that recruitment alone could not support. Cecil joined the 8th Battalion Royal Scots Regiment, 44th Infantry brigade, 15th (Scottish) Division.

On 29th April 1945, the 8th Royal Scots made an assault crossing of the River Elbe from the Artlenburg area, southeast of Hamburg. This they achieved, but the Germans put down effective cover from both mortars and artillery. Cecil was killed during this crossing and is buried in Hamburg Cemetery, Hamburg, Germany. He is remembered on both the Town War Memorial and the Brailes Memorial.

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

**Shipston Training Band:** 6pm-7pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4QR

**Shipston Town Band:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4Q

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 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 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

**Stour Concert Brass:** 7.45pm – 9.15pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4QR

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: April 2025**

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

**1st & 15th. '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

**2nd. Shipston Widows:** The first Wednesday of each month at the George. Coffee from 11am and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304

**2nd. Shipston on Stour WI:** 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

**2nd & 16th. Stour Valley Stitchers:** 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

**4th. Dave Browning's Jazz Cats:** Townsend Hall. Doors/Bar open 7pm for 8pm. Tickets £15 from The Flower House and online ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or townsendhall.co.uk

**5th. Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Children's equipment available

**6th. 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.

**8th. Shipston Flower Club presents 'Oh So Nautical'** – a demonstration by Alison Suffolk. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Shipston 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

**8th. Stour Valley Lions Meeting:** 6:30pm – 9:30pm; The George Townhouse. 2nd Tuesday of every month

**9th. People, Planet Pint.** 6pm Horseshoe pub. 1st 33 drinks are free. Booking essential on <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shipston-on-stour-small99s-people-planet-pintm-sustainability-meetup-tickets-1268446460509>

**11th. Shipston Music Society:** Methodist Church, 7.30pm. See ad on page 10

**12th. Cotswold Choir:** Spring Concert - see ad on page 16

**12th. Stour Valley Lions Bumper Book Sale:** See ad on page 10

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

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

**18th. GLOSS Easter Bingo:** See ad on page 16

**18th. Royal British Legion Social Evening:** The Shipston on Stour Branch gathers for a social event on the third Friday of each month at The Horseshoe, starting at 7:30 PM. Additionally, every other month, the Branch Committee meets on the third Friday at St Edmund's Church from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, before joining the social gathering. The next Branch Committee meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on May 16, 2025. If you are interested in Branch events or enquiring to join the Branch, please contact the Branch Secretary, Ali at [ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community](mailto:ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community)

**19th. Easter Fun for Children:** See ad on page 16

**19th. GLOSS:** Spring Market: See ad on page 10

**22nd. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings).** A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm- 9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, CV36 4DR. Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month (except December. All ladies welcome. Entry £2.00

**22nd. Shipston U3A:** 7 years inside prison by Janine Kilroe. 2pm Townsend Hall. Members free, visitors £2

**23rd. Annual Town Meeting:** See ad on page 4

**24th. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship:** St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

**24th. Stour Valley Lions:** Open Evening - see ad on page 7

**25th. Still Space:** See article on page 13

**26th. An Hour of Glorious Operatic Arias:** in aid of Shipston Home Nursing. See ad on page 10

**27th. Shipston Tennis Club:** Open Afternoon - see ad on page 4

**28th. Annual Allotment Holders Meeting:** See ad on page 4

**30th. Shipston Literary Society:** The Three Poets – Rhyme and meter panel. Tredington Community Hall. Bar open 7pm for pre-talk drinks and will close at 7.20pm. Contact [Shiplitsoc@outlook.com](mailto:Shiplitsoc@outlook.com). Please use side door at the back to enter

## Have we saved our Shipston?



In early January, a small group of us met at The George and were deeply concerned by the proposals on the table. This concern led us to form a planning group with members from Barcheston, Willington, and Honington. We met with local councillors, planners, and other experts to gain a clearer understanding of both the planning process and the proposals for Shipston. What became evident was that many local residents, as well as those in neighbouring villages, were largely unaware of the potential for up to 3,000 new homes in our area.

Recognising that we needed additional support, we reached out to the community. Over 30 dedicated and skilled volunteers joined our efforts, helping to develop and deliver clear information so residents could navigate the complexities of the consultation process. Although we haven't named individuals, every volunteer's contribution of personal time and their skills has been invaluable. Many are pictured by the bridge in the accompanying photo, symbolising our commitment to protecting the character of our small, historic, rural market town—a town already under strain from recent housing developments that have not been matched by corresponding investments in infrastructure, public services, or road networks.

The SOS Save Our Shipston campaign has played a crucial role in informing local residents about the consultation process, and we have received numerous positive comments in support of our efforts. By using Facebook, Instagram, local Parish meetings, posters, and drop-in events, we have reached a broad audience—ensuring that as many as possible, including our elderly residents, have been well informed.

Thanks to the support of this campaign, hundreds of residents have submitted their responses, ensuring that their voices are heard. This would likely not have been possible without the collective effort of our volunteers.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously contributed their time to this campaign. Your support is a powerful reminder of the positive impact that can be achieved when we work together on such a valuable campaign.

We also send huge thanks to The White Bear for providing their premises and function room for our Shipston drop-in meetings. Their kind support, including refreshments for our volunteers, has been greatly appreciated.

It is worth adding that we fully support the overall principles and objectives of the SWLP for sustainable growth, and to provide an environment where people can enjoy living, working, educating their families and with good access to the public services they need. However, we hope that Stratford and Warwickshire District Councils have listened to the comments made by Shipston residents and local parishes and that they understand the existing residents are already suffering from a lack of investment in the services that are necessary to deliver the SWLP requirements. Amongst many other things, we need better medical health support, a larger school offering

sixth form education, protection for our heritage buildings and bridges, better transport facilities, maintenance of the Cotswold National Landscape and recognition that the Fell Mill Lane site is bisected by level 2 and 3 flood zones.

The consultation process included more sites than were necessary, and this process and further research will remove many locations from the plans. We hope they realise that Shipston does not deliver the required criteria to add to their very valid ambition for sustainable growth, and that we are removed from the process by Christmas.

## Shipston Proms

We are so excited to announce that our Ibiza on Stour headliner for the Shipston Proms will be DJ Judge Jules – yes, THE actual Judge Jules, who hosts regular club nights in San Antonio and knows exactly how to create a party scene. He has played at venues such as Zero Gravity Dubai, Ministry of Sound, and Creamfields and now the spotlight is on Shipston on Stour! Real name Julius O'Riordan, the DJ earned his nickname at university where he studied and obtained a degree in law. Alongside music he also works as an entertainment lawyer – he is a man of many talents! He'll be there at The Hub on the 21st June. Tickets will be on sale on Eventbrite via a link the Shipston Proms website.



It is thanks to our sponsors that we can continue to reach out to these skilled artists, and if you would like to continue your sponsorship or if you would like to become a sponsor, please get in touch. We have various packages to offer you at different prices to suit your budget.

Of course, alongside the sponsorship we do also need manpower, and we are again at a stage that we desperately need more members. Otherwise, we may have to revise the Proms Music Festival to just one week or every other year. We have a lot of initiatives we would like to take up, eg, developing a greener Proms festival, continuing to reach out to bigger named artists etc. but without more committee members, we will be unable to do this.

This year we do have a very varied programme, including the above-mentioned Ibiza-on-Stour night, Gilbert and Sullivan and a Country and Western evening. Our programme will be put through the door next month for you to put dates in the diary.

We would like to say a big thank you to former committee member Rachel Watkins whose positive spirit and support has been a great asset to the Shipston Proms Music Festival. For all updates, please see our social media pages or go to [www.shipstonproms.org](http://www.shipstonproms.org)



Entries are open for Shipston Introducing so please get in touch.

**Shipston Proms is from 13th to 28th June.**

## Museum opens at Easter

Opening its doors for its third year on Saturday 19th April, our Museum once more gives us the opportunity to step back in time by bringing the local past to life. It will be open for two days over the Easter weekend, Saturday 19th and Monday 21st April, from 12-4pm.



*Dobunni mirror*

Our three new displays take us from prehistoric times to 80 years ago, all featuring fascinating artefacts and stories for an unforgettable visit.

The Shipston Remembers display includes items of different conflicts, from the Crimean through to the Korean war. Medals are on show along with plaques for those who died in WW1. But life back home is not forgotten, particularly WW2 with rationing and hotel registration forms for visitors to keep an eye on potential spies.

There are three special uniforms from the observer corps, home guard and a rare uniform from the Royal Flying Corp from before 1918 when the RAF was formed. But it's not just objects on display, there are also stories, including the history of the local prisoner of war camp.

"It's important in this 80th anniversary year of the end of WW2 to acknowledge the sacrifice of people at times of conflict," explains trustee Michaela Davis who curated the display. "We also show how those at home stepped up to support the country by joining the Home Guard and Women's Land Army. The museum is grateful to those who have donated items for the display."

Under the Hammer: Shipston auctioneers from 1800. Covering one wall is an amazing array of auctioneering posters, with sales of home, land and estates. Visitors will recognise many places in the original posters and handbills about properties across the district, from Long Compton, Ilmington, Cherington and Whichford as well as Shipston itself. There are valuation records and auction books dating back to the 1850s loaned by Warwickshire County Record office plus the original ledger from Edward Sheldon wine merchants.



*The auctioneers gavel from 1842*

"It provides an overview of the history of auctioneering in Shipston and the surrounding area," says trustee Stefan Lang. "We've focused on the key auctioneers hereabouts but also the historical development of auctions across the UK."

The Iron Age in the Stour Valley. Step back even further in time to meet the Dobunni, the Iron Age tribe living in the Severn/Cotswold region 2,500 years ago. The display, curated by Brian Meredith, brings the tribe back to life with items like a decorated weaving comb, spindle whorls and a loom weight once used by women to spin and weave clothes.

Keep an eye out for some of the fascinating smaller objects like the belt made of carefully folded sweet papers made by an Italian prisoner of war. Or the beautiful ivory auctioneers gavel presented in 1842 to William Bull, proprietor of the George.

And the handheld mirror of bronze found in a burial site in Birdlip in 1879: one of the finest items of Celtic art to survive.

The Museum opens from Saturday 19th April until September at weekends and (usually) bank holidays, 12-4pm. Please note we are closed Sunday 20th April. We're at Old Clark House, West Street near the Council offices. And the good news – entry is free! Donations are always welcome to help keep our volunteer-run Museum going for future generations.



*Belt made of sweet papers by Italian prisoner of war*

## Don't let pets get their paws on Easter treats



Shipston Vets has some top tips to help people enjoy a happy Easter with their pets and avoid an emergency trip to the vets.

The West Street practice wants to share the message that chocolate eggs, sweets and hot cross buns can all be potentially fatal if eaten by dogs. Clinical director Dr April Wall has compiled eight tips to help keep pets safe:

1. Keep Easter eggs out of reach of your dog as chocolate can cause tummy upsets, hyperactivity, an elevated heart rate and seizures.
2. Don't let dogs eat hot cross buns or Easter cake because the grapes, raisins, currants and sultanas they contain can be toxic to pets.
3. Flowers are popular Easter gifts, but can make pets very ill. Daffodils, tulips and crocuses are toxic, especially if dogs dig up and eat the bulbs, and lilies can cause kidney failure in cats.
4. Keep stuffed or plastic toy bunnies and chicks away from dogs because they can be chewed or swallowed, causing choking or blockages.
5. Do not give your dog lamb, turkey or chicken bones, as cooked meat bones can cause choking, a blockage or perforate the intestine.
6. Avoid feeding scraps from the table. Rich, fatty foods can result in vomiting or diarrhoea and lead to an increased risk of pancreatitis, a painful and serious condition.
7. Keep onions and garlic – powdered, raw, cooked, or dehydrated – away from your dog. They can cause vomiting, diarrhoea and anaemia.
8. Make a note of your vets' Easter opening hours and emergency contact information, just in case you need to seek help quickly.

April adds: "The safest option is to keep all chocolate and sweets and anything containing dried fruit locked away and well out of reach, but if you suspect your pet has eaten anything toxic, call your veterinary practice straightaway. Even the most well-behaved pets can be tempted to steal food, so make sure they can't reach the tops of cookers or kitchen worktops and that bins containing leftovers aren't accessible."



*Vet April Wall*

**Stour Valley Lions Club**  
presents

# "Bumper" Book Sale

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April**  
**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.

**If you have good quality books that you would like to donate, please call**

**07511 694 733**



**Shipston Music Society**  
www.shipstonmusic.org.uk



**Japheth Law**  
Prizewinning Flautist  
And  
**Charles Matthews**  
Piano  
*Programme to include Elgar & John Rutter*

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm**  
**The Methodist Church**  
**New Street**  
**Shipston on Stour**

Guests £10  
New Members always welcome  
More information: 01608 662514  
Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)

**AN HOUR OF GLORIOUS OPERATIC ARIAS**  
WITH  
**FRANCESCA LANZA & ANNA BARBERO**  
**SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 2025**



**ST EDMUND'S CHURCH, SHIPSTON ON STOUR**  
DOORS OPEN 6.30PM. PERFORMANCE STARTS 7PM.

**TICKETS**  
£15 IN ADVANCE, £20 ON THE DOOR  
TO INCLUDE WELCOME DRINK  
AVAILABLE FROM THE RICHARD HARVEY COLLECTION

RAISING FUNDS FOR  
  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
[WWW.SHIPSTONHOMENURSING.CO.UK](http://WWW.SHIPSTONHOMENURSING.CO.UK)

REG. CHARITY NO. 1162586



**SHIPSTON ON STOUR**  
**SPRING MARKET**  
**SATURDAY 19TH APRIL**  
**12PM - 4PM**  
**TOWNSEND HALL**  
**SHEEP STREET**

Supported By  
**G.L.O.S.S.**



**Year 5 Mount Cook Residential**

At the start of March our Year 5 children enjoyed three days at Mount Cook Residential Centre in Derbyshire. They took part in activities such as team building activities, climbing, archery and abseiling. For lots of our children it was their first time away from home without their parents and they represented our school and town wonderfully, earning praise for their manners and positive, supportive attitudes from the staff at Mount Cook and from the headteacher of another school staying there at the same time.



**World Book Day**

On Thursday 6th and Friday 7th March, we really enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. There were some fantastic costumes worn throughout the school by the children and the staff, including a stray flamingo up in Derbyshire with Year 5 at Mount Cook! The children have looked at lots of different books and talked about where is their favourite place to read. We also practised recommending books to each other and enjoyed listening to staff read some of their favourite children's books all over the school.

Reading is the foundation of all learning, and it was fantastic to see how many of the children in our school love reading so much. A huge thankyou to all the parents who helped create some wonderful costumes. To continue our love of books, I am excited to again be involved in the planning of Shipston Bookfest which will return next September with events for children in and out of school.

FOSP (Friends of Shipston Primary) organised a Wonka Bar sale on World Book day, selling a whopping 355 bars! Thanks to all the parents who supported the sale; it was a fun event for the children, especially those who found a Golden Ticket and were able to claim a free book to enjoy with their chocolate.

**Doves class**

The Dovecote is our new specialist resource provision for children with communication and interaction difficulties which we opened in September 2024. The children in there are continuing to thrive.

In English, they have been learning about the life of Grace Darling. We learnt how brave Grace Darling and her father were. The class talked about how Grace Darling must have felt during her rescue, which helped us to plan our diary entry. The planning of our diary entry was completed by the class using Widgeit. From our plans we were then able to complete our writing.

On Monday afternoon we enjoyed talking about people that we share our world with as part of our PSHE No Outsiders lesson. Most of Doves joined Year 2 for a Forest School on Tuesday afternoon. They particularly enjoyed building a den for an animal and the hot chocolate at the end!

We would also like to say a big thank you to Richard Webb at Webbs of Armscote for their kind donation of a ton of topsoil which is now in our flowerbed ready for the children to grow some flowers and vegetables.

**Shipston High School**

Spring weather is especially welcome this year after some very cold and challenging conditions during the winter. It has been great to see students using our extensive field spaces again at break times and I am sure that we all welcome the prospect of brighter days ahead.

Many local families with children currently in Year 6 will also be looking forward as they will have recently found out which secondary school their child will attend in September. This is always an exciting time, and we at the school share that excitement. We have been delighted to receive an impressive number of applications for this year as the reputation and popularity of the school continue to flourish.

**Careers**

Shipston High School's celebration of success is linked to our encouragement of high aspirations in our students. We encourage students to be ambitious in their academic work and ambitious for their futures. Careers education is an important part of the culture at the school, and this spring we have hosted visits from industry and higher education colleagues to address pupils in Year 9. This included speakers and visitors from a wide a range of professions, opening up new ideas and horizons for our young people and their future ambitions. This was well timed, as Year 9 select their option subjects for GCSE at this point in the year. I am very grateful to all the organisations and school staff who made the day possible.

**Wellbeing**

The school is also grateful to the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership who have worked closely with us to benefit our young people. The shared approach to health, both physical and mental, along with activities promoting positive choices, presents a real opportunity for young people to enjoy their teenage years whilst looking ahead to healthy adult lives. The wellbeing partnership is a positive community initiative with which Shipston High School is proud to be connected.

**Trips**

A large number of extra-curricular activities and trips continue to be a central part of school life. These include recent trips to Parliament, a Year 10 geography trip to Bristol, a 'Careers in Sport Live' event at Edgbaston Cricket ground and a theatre trip to see Romeo and Juliet. Students are also regularly involved in sports tournaments around the region with impressive involvement and team spirit from our students.



Students and staff were recently involved with World Book Day. This is always a great day in school, with the community sharing their favourite books. Many staff bravely opted to dress up as famous characters and literary figures in impressively imaginative fashion, creating a real sense of celebration around the school. The power of books to inspire and delight is universal and truly valuable, and I thank everyone involved in making the day a success.

**Gavin Saunders, Headteacher**

## Shipston-on-Stour Music Society

In February we welcomed a return visit by cellist George Wilkes, this time accompanied by Charles Matthews, our patron and an accompanist in great demand by his students at the Birmingham Conservatoire.



George began his programme with Piece by Ernest Chausson, followed by the solo Cello Sonata (Op.25 no. 3) by Paul Hindemith, a work very much from the 20th century. Next, a trip to the sunshine for Suite Populaires Espagnoles by Manuel de Falla, and the last piece in this section was Elegie in C minor by Gabriel Fauré, a complete contrast. The second part consisted of just one work – the Sonata for Solo Cello in E minor, op 38 by Johannes Brahms, the final movement providing a very lively conclusion to an interesting and varied programme.

George was able to demonstrate his amazing progress and we were able to admire his technique and his obvious pleasure when performing.

## A policeman's lot at Probus

Alan Rogers served in the Warwickshire Police Force for 33 years, including at times in Shipston. Thankfully, Alan did not recognise any of the Probus members or guests as familiar faces from his professional life, but it did appear that many of the assembled company had been caught exceeding speed limits. Surprisingly, Alan also admitted having been caught during the time he was running a speed awareness course!



We might be forgiven for assuming age brings a more responsible approach to driving. Alan described chasing a motorcyclist at speeds up to 130mph along the Warwick and Kenilworth bypass. Finally pulled over, the miscreant turned out to be an 88-year-old Hells Angel. Accused of doing 130mph he denied it, claiming it was a lot more! It seemed he was having a last fling before selling his bike. Alan was understanding, and on condition that he pushed his bike to the nearest garage, he let him off with a written warning. Gratefully the old man agreed and later wrote a letter of appreciation to the Chief Constable full of praise for Alan's kindness and professionalism, adding that he had been let off "despite doing 130mph." An invitation for Alan to appear at the Chief Constable's office followed...

Greatly entertained by these tales and many more too numerous to include here – did you know that a policeman's helmet can be good place to secrete fish and chips? – members and guests retired to an excellent lunch.

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. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

## Shipston Literary Society

### The challenge of translation

Probably for the first time ever, a Shipston society's meeting was interrupted by a vote in the House of Commons. Stratford MP Manuela Perteghella was the guest speaker and very close to the date, she was asked to stay in London for voting. The Society quickly set up a live video link so she was still able to deliver her talk from Parliament. She had to leave to vote when the division bell sounded, returning 10 minutes later to carry

on where she had left off.

Before she was elected as our MP, Manuela was a lecturer in translation and has always been passionate about literature. Often when you pick up a work in English but originally written in another language – All Quiet On The Western Front, A Hundred Years Of Solitude, The Name Of The Rose – you give little thought to the translator.

All languages use idioms or sayings. An author will use cultural references that may make no sense in English, so will need to be explained. And then there is the issue of poetry. Do you translate the rhyme pattern, or do you translate the beauty of the ideas being expressed?



Manuela spoke about the influence of technology and AI on translation. She was slightly pessimistic about the future for translators, which involves real jobs for real people, but thought that there would always be a need for humans. The questions and discussions from the audience showed just how well received her talk had been. Manuela very much wants to come back and talk to us in person.

In April, we will be having a panel discussion about the power of poetry to express deep emotion, from grief to joy. Our meetings take place at the Tredington Community Hall. Doors open at 7pm, when our bar will serve wine, tea and coffee. Talks begin at 7.30pm. Further information from shiplitsoc@outlook.com.

## Stour Valley Lions at Work

March was a good month for distributing the monies that you helped us raise!



Our Shipston Gold Cup Race Night on 8th March was an outstanding success and the Townsend Hall was packed out with people helping us raise money for Stratford Riding for the Disabled. Thank you to everyone who came and had a flutter. Thanks are also extended to Shipston Lodge Nursing Home for catering the event and especially to the local businesses below who sponsored the races: Community Case Management Ltd, The Howard Arms, The Rotary Club of Shipston, Shipston Chiropractic and Wellbeing Centre, Storm-Geomatics, The Track House, Tippers.

We also announced the recipients of the Lions' Den grants for 2025: all are organisations within the Stour Valley which support community and wellbeing, and their grant monies were presented on 27th March.

There would be no funds available if you, and your friends and neighbours, did not support the events that we put on. Once again, we thank you for your generosity and your community spirit.

In April we will be raffling our special Easter eggs at the 'big' Co-op on Saturday 5th and holding another book sale on Saturday 12th in the Scout Hut. Please note there will be no April film. Would you like to help us make these events happen? The next one is the Duck Race on Sunday 18th May: call us on 0345 833 2835 or go to <https://www.stourvalleylionsevents.club/contact> to find out how to help.



## Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute



After listening to Jan Warner's talk, a brief history of childrearing about bringing up babies in the 18th and 19th centuries, Shipston Women's Institute thanked their lucky stars they had been born into the 20th century! And some were also thankful that they came of good agricultural rural stock.

Babies born into the middle and upper classes in the past really did need to be fit to survive the rigours of child rearing. Until the 1850s, roughly half of babies born to better-off mothers died in infancy. Babies born into poor agricultural families had a markedly better survival rate. An expectant mother would be secluded in a 'lying-in chamber' kept heated with windows sealed against draughts until the birth and for some weeks after. Babies were swaddled in yards of linen cloth, principally to prevent rickets, and seldom unwrapped for changing or washing. The upper-class mother did not nurse her baby, instead employing a strong healthy woman as a wetnurse, whose own children she would have been nursed and not swaddled and who could therefore exercise their limbs and breathe fresh air. They may have been born outdoors whilst their mother was working. She would continue with her baby in a sling, breastfeeding the baby until it was two years old.

The greatest scandal of the 19th century was the drugging of babies, especially in industrial towns. Mothers, who had to work, would leave their baby with a child minder who fed her charges with milk laced with opiates. Laudanum was used virtually by the whole nation. The babies slept and became little drug addicts, receiving hardly any food during the day. Eventually, patent opiate-containing medicines were banned.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 2nd April in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm, when the speaker will be talking about his time as a footman. Visitors are always welcome

## Bookfest's Tesco initiative

With Shipston Bookfest confirmed for 20–28 September 2025, the committee is working hard to bring a brilliant range of events to the town and schools. We're delighted to have been shortlisted for the Tesco Stronger Starts token initiative in April and May. You can support the Bookfest by taking a token every time you buy something in the Tesco store on Church St, and voting for the Bookfest to win. As a not-for-profit, we rely on funding like this, along with ticket sales and sponsorship, to make the Bookfest happen.

Are you a local business/group interested in sponsoring Bookfest? We're looking for sponsors and partners to work with us. Please get in touch at [info@shipstonbookfest.org](mailto:info@shipstonbookfest.org). Look out for updates on the programme in the Forum and on social media (@shipstonbookfest on Facebook and Instagram). Sign up to our email newsletter via [www.shipstonbookfest.org](http://www.shipstonbookfest.org) to hear the news first and get early access to tickets.

## Save the date for drama!

Upcoming comedy production from Shipston Amateur Dramatics Society

"A Bunch of Amateurs"

By Ian Hislop and Nick Newman

Licensed by Concord Theatricals

22nd, 23rd & 24th May 2025 at The Townsend Hall

Further details to follow.

## Still Space

A time to be still, relax, meet with others. An opportunity to take some time to be still, contemplate and connect, in a calm, peaceful setting.

We will meet together for refreshments, ponder a poem or a piece of art or music with (optional) sharing of thoughts/reflections and perhaps a short meditation.

There is no charge (donations welcome). Taking place on the fourth Friday of each month starting in April: 25th April, 23rd May, 27th June and 25th July from 10.30am-12 noon at Greystones on the Stratford Road in Shipston.

Anyone of any faith, or none, welcome. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. If this has piqued your interest, please contact Emma: [elhughes@outlook.com](mailto:elhughes@outlook.com) for more detail.

## Cricket Club

The new season is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to defending our 1st and 2nd team league titles. Pre-season nets have started, following the Banbury indoor season where we narrowly missed out on a chance to win that league, losing to the eventual winners in the final game. If you are keen on finding out more, find us at: <https://shipstononstour.play-cricket.com/home>

We are looking forward to starting our All Stars and Dynamos sessions for children under 11 on Friday nights at London Road again. This year we will run for nine weeks, starting on Friday 9th May and finishing on Friday 18th July, with no session during half-term week. Places are available to book online now.

**County Council**

Today (as I write) was the last Full Council meeting of this Council - elections are on 1st May for the next Warwickshire County Council. We have debated both our support for local Ukrainian families and the effect of flooding on our residents.

We have also had the Annual Report from the Director of Public Health (DPH), Shade Agboola: "The power of people and place: celebrating and inspiring community-based wellbeing". In Shipston, we certainly put the latter into practice! Health and wellbeing is probably my number one reason for doing what I do as a councillor – it describes to me the living of our best life. We are surrounded by countryside and open space, without even leaving home. We have loads of groups: I counted 70! So, isolation can be combatted. That is tick 1 and 2 on Shade's list. Tick 3 to our community, which empowers us to be help each other. Tick 4 to the massive number of people from our community who volunteer, the Shipston way of doing it for ourselves for common goals (tick 5). Working with other people and preventing ill health – we're pretty good at that too! (ticks 6, 7, 8). And together we can tackle tough challenges. Flooding? Our response to Covid? Looking after neighbours? Campaigning together so we are not drowned in new homes (and associated poo)? I think we are the town the DPH must have based this on!

Talking of poo...please remember that poo, pee and paper is it when it comes to flushing the loo! No buckets, nappies, hammers, gloves, bricks or wet wipes. And please don't pour fat down the sink. I have seen our very own Shipston fatberg.

Yours ever, Jo

**Jo Barker**

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

**District Council**

Thanks must go to the Save Our Shipston campaign for all their work in helping people to object to the new housing sites around Shipston proposed in the draft South Warwickshire Local Plan. The consultation portal was a nightmare to navigate for most people, so SOS were assisting folk to respond by email or handwritten letter. Like most of Shipston, I objected to the proposed sites on the basis that it already has more than its share of new housing with little new infrastructure. In what I hope will be the unlikely event that these sites are included in the final SWLP, SOS will regroup and fight on.

Despite the strength of feeling in Shipston, the NHS Integrated Care Board has decided not to restore the beds at the Ellen Badger hospital. An enormous amount of time and effort has gone into the consultation, which was restricted to the number of community rehabilitation beds instead of restoration of all the beds and facilities that the Ellen Badger used to provide.

The Beds for Badger campaign has not given up and has called on the ICB to work with the local community and general practices to develop a 'neighbourhood services model' with a specific focus on agreed priorities such as care for frail older people, dementia care, and end of life care. The ICB has agreed to a recommendation to continue with the 'rural health' work. The ICB is setting up a Community Health Forum for Shipston and inviting stakeholders such as the Medical Centre and Shipston Home Nursing. There is still much work to be done to ensure that the Shipston area is not disadvantaged by this decision and I'm keen to be involved in improving rural health provision.

The District Council is considering the reopening of the Stratford to Honeybourne rail link in partnership with Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and other interested parties. This would enable up to 10,000 houses to be built at a new settlement at Long Marston Airfield, taking much of the pressure away from building new housing around Shipston. At the meeting to discuss the proposed rail link, the MD of a company developing electric 'tram-trains' gave a talk about their advantages. They cost around one third of normal rail, have rechargeable batteries and can use the existing train track, making construction quicker and less disruptive. They can run on ordinary rail as well as light rail and the same train could travel from Leamington via Stratford to Worcester calling at Long Marston and other proposed new settlements. A tram-train could provide an easy first step to a more sustainable transport network for the district.

**Dave Passingham**

District Councillor, Shipston South  
07752 562114 | dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk



**Medications safety**

We often hear comments from patients like "Why do I need to have a blood test? I'm going to be on this medicine for the rest of my life..."

This is an understandable question. Medications are often prescribed to treat the symptoms of a long term condition, for example, by reducing blood pressure. Evidence tells us that our bodies can react to medicines differently over time, and as such a medication that has been prescribed for many years may start to have a different impact. There is not always a reason why things change, we just know they can, and therefore we ask our patients to come and have checks regularly so we are aware if there are any changes and can react before any harm occurs.

The most common types of checks we ask people to have are blood tests, for example checking kidney or liver function; and blood pressure readings. We might also ask about your pulse rate, and height and weight (the latter is usually used to calculate the risk of harm from a medicine as opposed to the medicine having a direct impact on your height!). The majority of medicines need only be monitored on an annual basis, although some do need more frequent monitoring.

When a medicine is prescribed, the prescriber has a duty of care to ensure that the medicine is still the right one for you, and that it is doing the job we expect it to do. Please do come in for checks when invited, and tell us if you are having any side effects from medicines you take. Thank you.

**Easter opening hours**

Please be aware that the practice is closed on Good Friday and Bank Holiday Monday (Friday 18th April 2025 and Monday 21st April 2025). If you need assistance when we are closed, please ring 111. If you are due to order repeat medications around Easter, please allow a few additional days as the pharmacies and the practice dispensary will be closed on the bank holidays.

**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*  
t: 07471 687720  
e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



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



**Paul Tesh**  
*Planning Committee Chair*  
t: 07711 433566  
e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



**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*  
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**Michelle Kelly**  
e: michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Richard Walters**  
e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org



**John Williams**  
e: john.williams@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Vacancy**



**Vacancy**

**Useful contacts**

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	111
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
<b>Local police (non emergency)</b>	<b>101</b>
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
e: shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
<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

**Town Clerk**  
e: clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org

**County Council Contact:**

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**District Council Contacts:**

**Dave Passingham (Shipston South)**  
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.







**Stour Singers**

**50<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY  
CONCERT


**Brahms' Requiem**

Conducted by Richard Emms

Lynn Arnold and Charles Matthews  
Richard Emms  
Robyn Pullen, Soprano  
Roderick Williams, Baritone

SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2025, 7.30PM  
ST EDMUND'S CHURCH, SHIPSTON ON STOUR  
TICKETS £24\*



\* accompanied children free

COTSWOLD CHOIR PRESENTS

**Spring**  
CONCERT

PLUS FAMILY MEMBERS

**12**  
APRIL  
DOORS  
6.30 PM

ADULTS £10 - U16'S £5

**TOWNSEND HALL**  
SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR - CV36 4AE  
TICKETS ON THE DOOR - LICENSED BAR

**POP - ROCK - SHOWS - CLASSICAL - GOSPEL**

**Easter BINGO**

SHIPSTON TOWNSEND HALL  
FRIDAY 18th APRIL  
DOORS OPEN AT 18:30  
EYES DOWN AT 19:30  
EVERYONE WELCOME  
PRIZES





Easter Bonnet Competitions Under 5's & Over 5's

Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour

**Easter Event for Children**

A FUN MORNING WITH LOTS TO DO

EASTER COMPETITIONS

- Cookoo in the Kettle *from Mrs Gifford & Mrs Jones Daily*
- Easter Bonnet Parade at 11.30am
- Ice on Easter Biscuit
- Fantastic Easter Egg Kettle
- Plant a Sunflower
- Make an Easter Card
- Easter Prizes for the winners

Tea, coffee and cake for mums, dads and granmas



EASTER FUN AT THE SCOUT HUT SATURDAY 19th April 10.00 - 12 noon

