



# Shipston Forum



June 2024

## Shipston to mark D-Day anniversary

It is 80 years since D-Day, a key turning point in WW2. Shipston is marking it with two events.

There will be a D-Day 80 service of commemoration on Thursday 6th June 2024, 1pm at the gyratory.

A beacon to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day will be lit on the evening of Thursday 6th June at Whaddon Farm, Darlingscote Road.

Gates open 7.30pm. The beacon will be lit at 9.15pm. Come along for 1940s music and Royal British Legion merchandise stall. There will be a collection for the First Responders. Please bring some cash – and a torch! All welcome.



Beacon will be lit on 6th June - Photo: Darren Clarke

## Down by the river

Children from Shipston Primary's Year 4 enjoyed a visit to the river Stour as part of their topic they are studying called 'Misty Mountain, Winding River'. The children practised their map skills and discussed the various physical and human features related to rivers.



## Bookfest confirmed

Dates for the town's new Bookfest have been confirmed as 21st-29th September. The community programme is currently being finalised, but will feature local and national authors, with events for all ages and interests. There will also be schools' programmes at both Shipston Primary and the High School.



The committee is currently looking for local businesses as sponsors and say that this is an opportunity to help launch a fun and engaging community initiative in return for valuable promotion and marketing throughout the events. There are options for all businesses and budgets. The Bookfest also has a JustGiving page for supporters: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shipstonbookfest>.

More information from [info@shipstonbookfest.org](mailto:info@shipstonbookfest.org), or sign up to the mailing list to be first to hear about the events here: <http://bit.ly/44a8Tg2>

## Sunny days in the Meadows

Cornmill Meadows looked blooming lovely when Meadow friends met on a sunny Sunday afternoon in May to carry out maintenance on the orchard which they had planted in January. All the young trees looked very healthy, with blossom and tiny fruits forming. Every tree was examined carefully, then the guards were replaced and a metre-wide circle was cut round each tree to prevent the shrews from taking a nibble. After a couple of hours, the working party sat around the new bench dedicated to Ali Henderson to enjoy some refreshments. Councillor Hilary Kelly says: 'Thank you to all who came – hope no-one got sunburnt!'



Buttercups reflect the sun in Cornmill Meadows orchard.

## Anniversaries for men and women

Two town groups are celebrating anniversaries in 2024. One of the newest is GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings), a group for women, run by women which has just completed its first year. Meanwhile, Probus is celebrating 40 years providing fellowship to retired and semi-retired men in Shipston and surrounding villages.

Read more about their activities on page 12.

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## Mayor's column



Dear Shipston,

I can honestly say I am chuffed to bits about being made Mayor and also quite apprehensive. I do hope I can make a reasonable fist of it.

My main aim is to be of some use to the residents of Shipston and to the local organisations they belong to, the businesses that support them and the services they rely on. The amazingly generous donations from all over the town to enable the First Responders to buy their first new vehicle is just one example of the success that can be achieved when the town's organisations and residents work together. I certainly want to attend events in the town to promote local organisations and businesses with my presence as Mayor to show civic support.

I am pleased to say I have already received invitations to attend several events including:

1st June, Summer Fete Shipston Lodge; 4th June, Ukrainian Poetry; 6th June, D-Day Commemoration and beacon lighting; 8th June, Great Big Green Week, Town Trail; 18th June, Public Meeting, Beds for the Ellen Badger Hospital; 22nd June, Proms Fortnight; 30th June, Tour d'Ilmington.

I will attend as many of these as possible. Please let me know if there is anything I can do.

I would like to encourage a Civic Celebration of Town Activities towards the end of the Mayoral year in March 2025. Please help me by gathering notes, records, photos etc. of all your events and happenings during the year and decide how you would like to celebrate those.

My first Mayoral duty was attending 14th May SCAN meeting. We were disappointed to learn that the public consultation on Beds for the Badger promised by the Integrated Care Board on 19th July 2023 was now going to take until February 2025 to reach a decision. I do not believe this is acceptable and will be supporting a public meeting in the Townsend Hall on 18th June at 7pm. I have requested that both the ICB and SWUFT send senior representatives to this meeting.

**Your town Mayor,  
John**

## Mayor-making

On 13th May Shipston-on-Stour saw a regime change! The traditional mayor-making ceremony saw Gerry Kelly complete his year as Mayor. John Dinnie has now put on the Mayor's chain, having been voted in unanimously by members of the Town Council. Tony Booth has accepted the nomination to be deputy mayor.

The council gave a vote of thanks to Gerry Kelly for his year of service as Mayor. During his time, he has dealt with many issues and handled them all calmly. The Council's proactive working groups have been busy, putting the council in a stronger position as a result of his leadership. 'It's been an interesting year,' mused Gerry, 'But having worked in the fire service, I have always been resilient.' Gerry will remain as town councillor.



John Dinnie (left) and Gerry Kelly.



John with new deputy Mayor Tony Booth (right).

## A word with our new Mayor, John Dinnie

### How long have you been part of the Town Council?

About five years. I initially joined the planning working group after the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and am very interested in ensuring its implementation. I have also been on the finance, staffing and heritage and leisure working groups.

### What brought you to Shipston?

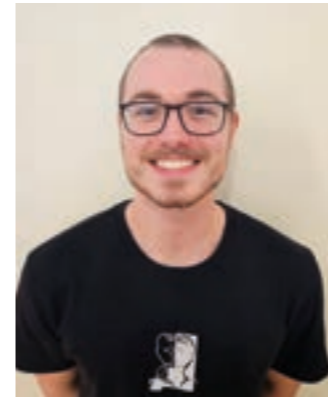
We needed a home large enough for our family: four children and my father. We moved here 22 years ago, and my children went to Kineton High School. I trained as a production engineer and worked in the area for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, also offering consultancy in continuous improvement.

### What would you like to achieve in your year as Mayor?

I'd like to see in-patient beds at the Ellen Badger Hospital. Finally we are getting meetings with the health trust and there will be a public meeting on 18th June. I would also like to see the Badger Valley children's centre on Tileman's Lane be revived to its full potential, in order to offer support during the vital early years. Did you know 17 per cent of children in Shipston Central and West are living in poverty? I also would love to see provision of education for young people past the age of 16 in the town, in the form of a community college. Those are the big aims. I'm also going to encourage those living on the town's new estates to form residents' associations – they can be an effective way of sorting problems and making things happen.

## Meet the new town councillors

### Ethan Liddell



At 23, Ethan is definitely one of our youngest-ever councillors! He put himself forward only a few weeks after arriving in the town to become the assistant manager of The Lazy Pug. He is no stranger to the county, having lived and worked in Kenilworth and Leamington Spa. A former member of the Youth Parliament and a politics graduate, Ethan has previously worked with Warwickshire County Council, encouraging young people to become more involved in politics. Ethan, who is involved with St Edmund's Church, says, 'I already feel part of the community and am really keen to get involved and give what I can.'

### John Williams



Dr John Williams is an entrepreneur who has taken many businesses from initial idea to success. Previously a resident of the town, he moved back to Shipston three years ago and very much feels part of the community. 'There are lots of great events here, but I think there are opportunities to bring even more buzz, for example by marketing the town to improve tourism.' He is interested in

building stronger links between the Council and the town's businesses.

## Thanks to SAFAG



New Mayor John Dinnie is the co-chair of the town council's environment and flood action working group and wanted to set out his gratitude for the work that has gone in to preventing flooding in town. The Town Council would like to record its thanks for the work of the SAFAG volunteers, with a special thanks to all the landowners and farmers who agree to multiple interventions on their land and in some cases contribute to the costs of the works for the benefit of downstream communities.

The Shipston Area Flood Action Group is a group of volunteers who have been responsible for the installation of nearly a thousand Natural Flood Management Measures. These measures consist of leaky barriers, ponds, wetlands, and tree planting throughout the Upper Stour Catchment Area. They hold back water in the streams and brooks and slow the flow, alleviating flooding. Flooding this winter has been held at or just above three metres at the Shipston gauge. There have been five three-metre events this winter. At three metres we have flooding in the riverside car parks and The Mill and No1 Mill Street are pumping their basements. But no water is flowing down Church Street. The power of the water has, however, damaged some of the interventions. They will need repair and maintenance. SAFAG is actively seeking volunteers to help with the inspection and maintenance of this infrastructure.

So, if you can help by occasionally visiting a section of stream or helping a team with a maintenance task then please let John know.

## Medical Centre

### Going on holiday?

When packing for your holiday remember to think about medications – do you have sufficient supply to last? Have you packed all the medications you need? As well as your prescription medication, we encourage you to think about first aid basics, such as paracetamol, indigestion tablets and antihistamines.

If you are travelling abroad and need a list of your prescribed medications, this is available in the NHS app, where you can also access information about your immunisations. Learn more about the NHS app here: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/nhs-app-help-and-support/getting-started-with-the-nhs-app/logging-in-to-the-nhs-app/>

If you find yourself elsewhere in the UK and in need of medical

help, please call us and we will see what we can do to help – we can send prescriptions electronically to a pharmacy near where you are. However, we cannot offer medical advice to those not in the UK.

### Travel vaccinations

Please think ahead to any vaccinations you may need. Some vaccines require a number of doses at least a month apart. The practice offers a travel health service. We ask that you complete a travel risk assessment form (available from reception or on our website) 12 weeks before you travel. When you return this, we will book you a slot for it to be assessed. Our nurse will then be able to advise you on vaccinations and book you in for these.



Shipston Medical Centre

### Beds for the Badger – Public Meeting

**18<sup>th</sup> June 7pm – Townsend Hall**

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023, South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWUFT) issued a press statement to say that the inpatient beds that had been temporarily removed from the Ellen Badger Hospital would not return to Shipston. They would remain located in Leamington Spa.

A mass meeting in Townsend Hall and two protest marches made the residents’ position clear. Both Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Councils’ overview and scrutiny committees insisted on public consultation.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (CWICB) allowed nine months to prepare a business case for Public Consultation.

That time is now up.

The residents of Shipston and the surrounding area now request an explanation of progress towards that public consultation at a public meeting in the Townsend Hall to which both SWUFT and CWICB are invited.

**Beds for the Badger Organising Committee**



## On the Ukraine Frontline

with poet and activist  
**\*Iryna Starovoyt**

**Hear how the people of Ukraine fight for their way of life from resistance to verse...**

**Tuesday June 4th 7.30 (doors open 6.45)**

Townsend Hall 52 Sheep Street Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4AE	Tickets £8 (in cash) A. Clarke Electrical 27 High Street Shipston-on-Stour (- option sponsor ticket for local Ukrainian-guest)
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**Cash bar Great raffle prizes Music**  
(In aid of Ukraine)

**Organised by Shipston & District Literary Society**

Online sale: <https://ukrainefrontline.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Sharing knowledge

The Mayor and town councillors, together with the chair and trustees of the League of Friends of Shipston-on-Stour Hospitals, met on 27 April to hear how the community of Bishops Castle and surrounding area had campaigned successfully to obtain agreement to reopen their Community Hospital inpatient beds from their area Hospital Trust, *writes John Dinnie.*



Josh Dickin, the Mayor of the Shropshire town, *above, left with John Dinnie,* explained how the residents of Bishops Castle, like us, were starting to believe that nothing could be done about the removal of inpatient beds from their local hospital. They, like us, held a public meeting. They, like us, were promised public consultation. Their community then took the decisive step to take control of that public consultation and make sure it was fair. The community formed a powerful local committee, endorsed by, but independent of, the town council. Two councillors were on the steering group. This became the ‘Save Our Beds’ campaign.

The committee then organised fundraising events, including an 18-mile bed push, to provide a fighting fund and commenced serious negotiations with the area Hospital Trust. They, like us, initially met with a hostile and dismissive response from the Trust. They, like us, were suspicious that there were ulterior motives in play. The Trust came to recognise that the community were not going to settle for second best and were determined to work constructively with the Trust to achieve community goals. The Committee and Trust worked together on progressively resolving each of the objections that were raised. This resulted in the agreement to re-open inpatient beds.

There is sufficient strength of local feeling in Shipston on Stour and the surrounding area to achieve what Bishops Castle did. There is clear injustice in South Warwickshire University Foundation Trust’s proposal. Both the Stratford District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Warwickshire County Council Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have insisted on full public consultation. And, we have a promise by the Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board to hold an independent public consultation. However, that consultation will not be fair unless our community makes it so.

### Boxing clever

*Rowena Webb writes:* Thanks to the Police and Crime Commissioner’s funding scheme, Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP) is able to offer a new activity aimed solely at the younger members of Shipston and the surrounding villages. We will be hosting a free weekly boxercise class in the Townsend Hall. The SHWP have been able to trial this in the High School for a number of weeks now and will continue to until the summer holidays. If you have a young person in Year 9, ask them about it.

Boxercise is a fun, non-combative form of exercise that is great for fitness, coordination and combatting stress. It’s based on the principles of boxing training, but you won’t come home with a black eye! It really is suitable for all. No prior training or level of fitness is required.

We will provide simple refreshments after the class and once a month will follow the session with a workshop on topics relevant to young people such as How to navigate the Modern World, a mental health approach, Exam Anxiety and Road Safety Awareness. We will also have a MIND Practitioner on hand once a month to help with any issues facing young people. This will be in an informal setting, not one-to-one counselling.

We are open to all 14-18-year-olds but are separating the groups to allow the most people to benefit from this initiative. The 14-16-year-old classes will run every two weeks starting on 6th June, and 16-18-year-old classes start from 13th June. Boxercise is from 5-6pm and there will be a monthly workshop from 6-7pm, also in the Townsend Hall.

Classes are free to all, but spaces are limited so need to be booked in advance. We have an online booking system <https://bookwhen.com/shwp88>

For more details of classes for both age groups, see the advert opposite.

### Leslie John Sutton

**Continuing our series commemorating the lives of the Shipston fallen on the anniversaries of their deaths.**

Born on 26th November 1924, Leslie was the son of Charles and Nellie Elizabeth Sutton of Shipston-on-Stour.




Leslie was enrolled into the Infants School on 28th November 1927, just after his third birthday. At the time the family were living in Station Road. On 30th August 1932 Leslie moved up to the Boys School, leaving for full time employment on 22nd December 1938. The 1939 census records Charles as a timber carter.

In Leslie’s class, both in the Infants and the Boys School, was Gus Clifford who also served in the Fleet Air Arm and died in April 1943. Joining the FAA in December 1942, Leslie underwent his training in Canada and on his return was posted to RNAS Fearn in Easter Ross, Scotland. HMS Owl, based at RNAS Fearn, was home to 828 Squadron, which flew the submarine-hunting Fairey Barracuda Torpedo Bombers.

Leslie was killed in a flying accident on 7th June 1944. He was acting as a TAG (Telegraphist-Air Gunner) in Barracuda DP985 of 828 Squadron when it collided in mid-air with another plane from the same Squadron. At the time of the accident, the planes were getting back into formation ten miles out into the Moray Firth, after completing a torpedo-dropping exercise. Being so far out to sea, Leslie’s body, along with those of the other men, was never recovered.

FAA/FX 96096 Leading Airman Leslie Sutton is commemorated on the Fleet Air Arm Memorial at Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire, which lists the 1,400 men killed during WW2 who have no known grave. He is also remembered on the town war memorial.




**LET’S TALK BOXERCISE**

—  
FREE TO ATTEND  
—

**REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS**

**THURSDAY TOWNSEND HALL**  
**5 PM – 6 PM EVERY OTHER WEEK.**  
Starting on 6th June for age 14-16 and 13th June for age 16-18.

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| <p><b>16-18 Year Olds</b><br/>Monthly Workshops. 6 – 7pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27th June – MIND. Navigating the modern world.</li> <li>11th July – Road Safety Awareness.</li> <li>8th August – Ali Dibbens</li> <li>19th September – LifeSpace. Anxiety.</li> <li>17th October – Compass. Drug awareness</li> <li>21st November - Equaliteach- 'ITS JUST BANTER'</li> <li>5th December – Police VR Session on County Lines.</li> <li>30th January – Police VR Session on Misogyny.</li> <li>20th February – LifeSpace. Exam Anxiety.</li> </ul> | <p><b>14-16 Year Olds</b><br/>Monthly Workshops. 6 – 7pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4th July – MIND. Navigating the modern world.</li> <li>18th July – Road Safety Awareness.</li> <li>15th August – Ali Dibbens</li> <li>12th September – LifeSpace. Peer Listening</li> <li>10th October – Compass. Drug awareness</li> <li>31st October - Police VR Session on County Lines.</li> <li>14th November – Equaliteach – 'ITS JUST BANTER'</li> <li>9th January – Police VR Session on Misogyny.</li> <li>27th February – LifeSpace. Exam Anxiety.</li> <li>March – Equaliteach – Critical Thinking.</li> </ul> |
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To book a place for both the boxercise and workshop, please visit:  
[www.bookwhen.com/shwp88](http://www.bookwhen.com/shwp88)

or scan the QR code.

Places are limited to 20 so don't delay to avoid disappointment.

**TOWNSEND HALL**  
**SHIPSTON ON STOUR.**

**CV36 4AE**

Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner in partnership with SHWP.



## New Wine Old Bottles



**Musical anniversaries featuring choral classics and new compositions inspired by old masters**

**Musical Director: Laura Bailie**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 7.30 pm**  
St Edmund’s Church, Church Street, Shipston CV36 4AP

**Tickets £12.50**  
(FREE to members of Shipston Music Society)  
Available on the door  
or from E H Spencer, 9 Market Place, Shipston  
or call 01608 662514



**Regular Events**

Monday

**Seated Exercise Class:**

10am Rainbow Fields and 11am Townsend Hall

**IT Help!:**

10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

**Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:**

6:50pm for a 7pm start.  
The Church Room, Darlingscote Road,  
Contact Matthew Hunter: 01608 684499

**Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group:**

7-9pm, Low Furlong

Tuesday

**Rhyme Time:** 10.30am, Shipston Library

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

**Community Hub:** Shipston Methodist Church, 10-12pm

**Lego Club:** Shipston Library, 3.30pm

**Strictly Fitsteps Fab:** 10am, Townsend Hall

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

Wednesday

**Seated Tai Chi:**

9.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

**Standing Tai Chi:**

10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

**Indoor Kurling:** 2pm, Townsend Hall

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

Thursday

**Shipston Community Warm Hub:**

Every Thursday 10am-12pm, The Scout Hut, New Street.

**Story stomp:** 10am, Shipston Library

**Scrabble Club:** 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

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

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

Friday

**Pilates for Complete Beginners:**

9.30am Townsend Hall

**Walks with a friendly group:**

10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616

**Shipston Stitchers:**

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

**Age Concern Lunch Club:** Fortnightly, Rainbow Fields, 12pm. Contact Amanda Holden 01608 686268

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

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

Saturday

**Lego Club:** Shipston Library. From 10am.

**Shipston Food Bank:**

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

**What's On Calendar: June 2024**

**1st Cotswold Choir with Vintage Afternoon Tea.** Ladies: Tea dress, hats or fascinators optional. Gents: Lounge Suit. 3pm, Townsend Hall. Tickets £20 from A Clarke Electrical. Grand Raffle including luxury food hamper.

**1st Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Children's equipment available.

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

**4th Shipston Literary Society presents:** 'At the Ukrainian frontline'. Ukrainian poet, lecturer and humanist, Iryna Starovovt. 7.30pm Townsend Hall. Doors open 6.45pm. Tickets £8 from A Clarke Electrical. See ad on page 4

**5th Shipston Widows:** the first Wednesday of each month at the George. Coffee from 11am and stay for lunch. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304.

**5th Singing Down Memory Lane:** the first Weds of each month, 2.30pm-3.30pm, Shipston Lodge. See ad on page 10.

**6th 'Dance for Joy' Monthly Circle Dance Group** in Stretton on Fosse 2.30 – 4pm. First Thursday of each month. Dances from around the world – all taught from scratch. Please contact Geri Hunting geraldinehunting@icloud.com or 07968 338848.

**6th Peep Group,** supporting child learning and development. 10-11am, Shipston Scout Hut. Course runs for five weeks. See ad on page 10.

**8th Great Big Green Week:** Shipston Town Trail, 10am-3pm. More information on page 9.

**9th Great Big Green Week:** Blackdowns - A Farm for the Future.

**9th Honington Open Gardens:** 1.30pm – 5.30pm. Adult £6, children free. Details at ngs.org.uk. See ad on page 7.

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

**11th Great Big Green Week:** Our Wonderful Weeds Walk. More information on page 9.

**11th Shipston Flower Club** presents 'Car Boot Collection' – a demonstration by Lynn Sharp. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at Shipston on Stour Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor entry £6. There will be a raffle of demonstrated flower arrangements.

**14th Stour Valley Lions Cinema:** Anyone But You. See ad on page 7.

**15th Great Big Green Week:** Come to Commill Meadows. More information on page 9.

**15th Great Big Green Week:** Swifts are Making a Comeback. More information on page 9

**16th Whichford & Ascott Open Gardens:** 1.30pm-5pm. Combined Entry £7, children free. More information at ngs.org.uk. See ad on page 7.

**18th Beds for Badger public meeting:** Townsend Hall, 7pm.

**21st Royal British Legion Social Evening:** We meet in the White Bear Inn from 7.30 pm onwards. For further information contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com.

**22nd Craft in Action:** See ad on page 7.

**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. All ladies welcome. Entry £2.

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

**27th: Divertimento - Music for Voices:** New Wine Old Bottles: see ad on page 4

**29th Swift Awareness Week begins (walks 5th,6th,7th July).** See ad on page 10.

**30th Rotary Tour d'Illington.** See ad on page 10.

**NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME**  
Gardens Open For Charity

**Whichford & Ascott Gardens**

Whichford & Ascott, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 5PG

Ascott Lodge • Ascott Rise • Belmont House • Lenticulars • Plum Tree Cottage • The Old Rectory • The Whichford Pottery • Wood House

**Sunday 16 June**  
**1.30 - 5pm**

Combined entry £7 Children free

Icons for wheelchair access, dog walking, and tea.

More information at ngs.org.uk

**STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA**

SYDNEY SWEENEY GLEN POWELL  
**ANYONE BUT YOU**

After an amazing first date, Bea and Ben's fiery attraction turns ice-cold--until they find themselves unexpectedly reunited at a wedding in Australia. So, they do what any two mature adults would do: pretend to be a couple.

Romantic Comedy - Certificate 15

**TOWNSEND HALL**  
**FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at 7.30pm**  
Tickets £5.00 on the door.  
Drinks, chocolate and raffle.

**Craft in Action**

TOWNSEND HALL  
SHIPSTON ON STOUR  
CV36 4AE

SATURDAY  
22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024

Craft in Action is a non profit making organisation. They established in 1973 and their aim is to offer a friendly atmosphere where the exhibitors are happy to talk about and where possible, demonstrate their craft.

So why not come along and see what is on offer.

Craft in Action pride themselves on having handmade crafts available, no bought in goods are allowed, so you will see genuine crafters on show.

Entry is **free** and dogs are welcome open from 10am until 4.30pm

**NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME**  
Gardens Open For Charity

**Honington Gardens**

Honington, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 5AA

Honington Hall • Malt House Rise • Orchard House • Rose Cottage • Shoemakers Cottage • The Garden House • The Old House • The Orchard, Home Farm

**Sunday 11 June**  
**2 - 5.30pm**

Combined entry £6 Children free

Icons for wheelchair access, dog walking, and tea.

More information at ngs.org.uk

## Shipston Proms

The Proms hits the Shipston area this month with another exciting two-week showcase of talent from musicians both locally and nationally. Please come and support us where you can.



*The Drop Outs - credit Chris Roberts, WiderView Visual*

Here are some highlights:

The rock-busting Dropouts, whose fame continues to spread, will kick off the fortnight at Launch Night in the Townsend Hall on Friday 21st June. The following evening, on their return to Shipston, the great Baby Jools and the Jazzaholics will be bringing their own style of swing and jazz to Townsend Hall.

Radio One's legendary club DJ Dave Pearce will be flying in from Ibiza to headline a dance night at the Hub on Friday 5th July. Tickets in advance are available on Eventbrite and are

## Fighting talk at the Museum

All Shipston Museum's displays have attracted interest, but perhaps the most popular for kids is the Britons and Roman display. Created by trustee Martin Russell, this exhibition contains many of his own collection.

His expertise in this stems from his experience of 42 years on the re-enactment scene, taking part in battles from Iron Age times to medieval to the Civil War. Martin has always been interested in military history and believes in accuracy. Many of the items here are reproductions, from the Britons' simple brown tunic to the glittering Roman armour.

What inspired Martin to bring the battles of the Roman invasion back to life? 'This seemed the perfect place,' he explained, 'We're near Meon Hill, the northern outpost of the Dubunni tribe and also close to the Fosse Way, built by the Romans.'

The crossed weapons look quite perilous, especially the Roman heavy-duty javelin for close combat. Are there many injuries during re-enactment battles? 'Well,' admits Martin, 'there is the occasional mishap, but remember we have much training before entering the fray and know how to avoid injury.'

Pick up the challenge to call in and see how the Britons and Romans fought. Shipston Museum is open weekends and bank holidays 12-4pm at Old Clark House, West Street, near the Council offices.



selling fast. There will be two opportunities for fans of opera, the Astwood Bank Operatic society will be performing HMS Pinafore at Townsend Hall on Saturday 29th June and then our own Shipston opera royalty Ben Nelson and Anna Patalong will be performing at Townsend Hall on Friday 5th July.

Our headliners on the Final Night will be the fantastic functions band Wired, rock and pop covers band Three's A Crowd.

Joining them will be the winners of Shipston Introducing. It's not too late to enter the competition which is on Sunday 23rd June at the Scout Hut. Please see our website or Facebook page for details. Last year's winner, Amber Liadan, will be performing at the Howard Arms on Friday 21st June. Sophie Mobberley, who was an entrant a couple of years ago, will be singing at El Café during the pub trail.

Open Mic at the Black Horse will also be another opportunity for musicians to perform to a Shipston audience and that's on Tuesday 25th June in its beer garden.

As usual we have all the favourites performing during the fortnight, including Helen Porter's Chamberpot Pourri, the Town Band, the Young Musicians Concert at Barcheston and the dulcet tones of Betsy Harmony at the Warm Hub at the Scout Hut.

There will be music not only in Shipston, but in Ilmington, Cherington, Whichford, Burmington, Stourton and Brailes too, so look out for those events in our brochure when it comes through your door shortly.

Please go to [www.shipstonproms.org](http://www.shipstonproms.org) or our facebook page for up-to-date information. The countdown has begun! *Proms dates: 21st June to 6th July.*

## Probus supports First Responders

At its recent AGM, Probus members listened intently to a talk by Ray Coyte who outlined the vital work of the First Responders. They learned how it takes an ambulance 20 minutes to travel from Warwick, so this local service can be vital in preserving life. Although trained and certified by the NHS, First Responders is a voluntary group that has to supply their own equipment, other than medical supplies. Ray thanked the club for their contribution to the fundraising appeal for a new car.



*Shipston Probus Club retiring President Gary Cooper presents a cheque for £400 to Ray Coyte from Shipston First Responders.*

## Great Big Green Week



*Great Big Green Week  
is coming to Shipston in June!*

### Watch out for:

#### The Town Trail Saturday 8th June 10am-3pm

Free event, but donations welcome. Goody bag rewards for the first 100 children to complete the trail. Make discoveries at six bases around town about how we can all help to save our Planet Earth.

#### Blackdowns - A Farm for the Future Sunday 9th June 11am-12.30pm or 2-3.30pm

Free event, but max 20 on each visit. Tickets from Eventbrite. Learn how farmers are working with nature to both restore the planet and feed people.

#### Our Wonderful Weeds Walk Tuesday 11th June 10.30-11.30am

Free event, but donations welcome. Find out about foraging and the value of wild plants from Katie – our town's very own herbalist.

#### Our Wonderful Weeds Walk Thursday 13th June 4.30-5.30pm

Free event, but donations welcome. Another chance to find out about foraging and the value of wild plants from Katie – our town's very own herbalist.

#### Come to Cornmill Meadows Saturday 15th June 3-5:00pm

Free event, but donations welcome. Visit Shipston's own designated wildlife site with a guided walk around the community orchard, fields and riverside.

#### Swifts are making a comeback Saturday 15th June 7.30-9.30pm

Free event, but donations welcome. Tickets from TicketSource. An illustrated talk at Whichford Pottery. Learn how local conservation efforts are helping to restore the numbers of our wonderful but endangered urban birds.

For details of all these events go to <https://tinyurl.com/ShipstonGBGW>

or contact Verity Richardson [verityrichardson@googlemail.com](mailto:verityrichardson@googlemail.com) or Jacey Jackson [jacey@2jays.co.uk](mailto:jacey@2jays.co.uk)

Find more Great Big Green Week events, being organised by Net Zero Stratford, at <https://netzerostratford.org.uk/>

## Warwickshire Open Studios 2024

Local Shipston artist Heather Bailey is excited to be showing her landscapes and abstracts at Warwickshire Open Studios again this summer. It is the largest annual art event in Warwickshire and this year is a true celebration of the variety and quality of visual art across all media.

Over 400 artists will be exhibiting their work in venues ranging from artists' own homes, studios and gardens, to churches, pubs, shops, galleries and many others, opening their doors to the public between Saturday 22nd June and Sunday 7th July. Admission is free, so it is a great way to spend some time meeting the artists and enjoy seeing what they have been creating.

This year, Heather is showing her work along with four artists at Snitterfield Studio on the edge of Stratford upon Avon: Ian Spiers, leatherwork; Sally White, ceramics; Jeni Neale, botanical watercolours; Nicola Jones, mixed media and textiles. This eclectic mix of established local artists is enthusiastic about promoting art in all its forms, not only to the local community, but to as wide an audience as possible. You'll find amazing original art presented by these five local talented creators.

Venue: Snitterfield Studio, 6 Frogmore Road, Snitterfield, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0LA. Open Mon-Tues 10am-5pm, Fri-Sun 10am-5pm. Closed: Wed-Thurs.

[www.wostudios.org](http://www.wostudios.org)

## Holiday at Home

Holiday at Home made An English Country Garden their theme for May. This was reflected in the decorations and clothes worn by both guests and volunteers, as well as in the quiz, puzzles and crafts.



Guest speaker Revd Jill Tucker, brought an enormous bunch of wildflowers from her garden and spoke of the wonder of nature and all we receive from it. After a delicious two-course lunch, everyone was entertained by two very talented groups of musicians, ending with a rousing singsong. Holiday at Home is run by Christians Together in Shipston and is very grateful to the Lions and Rotary for their continued support.

## Swift Week

Learn more about our amazing migratory summer visitors, whose numbers are in serious decline. Swift Awareness Week runs from 29th June this year. Activities in Shipston include two guided evening swift walks around town on 5th and 6th July and, new this year, an event for children: a house martin hunt on Sunday 7th July. See advert on page 10.



## Shipston Action for Swifts Evening Swift Walks

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th July 2024  
7:30 - 9:30pm



A gentle, guided walk around Shipston to watch and learn more about swifts ~ our amazing Summer visitors

### Also ... New This Year!

Sunday 7th July 3:30 - 4:30 pm  
House Martin Hunt

A Swift Awareness Week event for children

These migratory birds are in serious decline and need our understanding and help if they are to continue to bring joy to our Summer evening skies



The events are **Free of Charge** but numbers are limited. Book early to avoid disappointment. For more details Phone : 01608 661288 or Email : swifts@2jays.co.uk

## Come along to our free Peep group in Shipston

Peep sessions share simple ways of supporting your child's learning and development in everyday life.

If your child is 18 mth-2.6 yrs (or 3 yrs with SEND), you can make a real difference by sharing ideas and having fun through singing, sharing books and playing together.



We cover topics such as communication & language, early literacy, health & physical development and many more.

people



**Where:** Shipston Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston On Stour, CV36 4EW

**Time:** 10.00am - 11.00am

**Start date:** Thurs 6th June 2024, course runs for 5 weeks (no session on 27th June)

**Contact:** Mel to book your place: 07927 130969 mel@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk

HOME START South Warwickshire

## Singing Down Memory Lane

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



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

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

Accompanied by Nick Nickerson on guitar

Refreshments provided

Contact Fay Ivens 01608 662133

Alternative Contact Pat Hutton 01608 664648



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

### Shipston High School

We are delighted with the way the students have responded to the challenge of the exam period in a mature and responsible way. We wish them the best of luck and are confident they will do the school proud.

Elsewhere in school, our year 9 students have now confirmed their option choices and year 10 their work experience placements. Careers meetings are ongoing to help KS4 students with their future plans and our younger KS3 students will soon embark on end-of-term assessments.

We have been active in many sports with weekly fixtures in rounders, and weekly training in cricket, girls' and boys' football, athletics and tennis. Some students have attended larger competitions: the U14 National State School



Hockey Tournament, the South Warwickshire Tennis Slams and the English Schools County Athletics Tournament. We are proud of how they have all represented our school.

We welcomed the children and young people's charity, Prison, Me, No Way! into school to raise awareness among our Year 9 students about the causes, consequences, and penalties of crime. The team covered many areas of crime including the dangers of county lines drugs and delivered engaging and insightful workshops that the students really enjoyed and actively participated in.

We took our Year 7 children to Warwick Castle where they learnt how castles developed over time and about local history during medieval times. Students climbed to the top of the tower and had a talk on the use and working of the mighty trebuchet.



We visited the Black Country Living Museum on a Year 8 history trip for students to learn about developments in the social structure and class divide.



Our Duke of Edinburgh students will soon be completing their practice hike with their expedition gear, using a compass and map. We wish them luck and pray for a dry day!

With not long until the Euro 24 football, we have started a competition. Each form has drawn a country to cheer for during the tournament. The winners will enjoy a sporting activity with their form tutor.

### Shipston Primary School



#### Singing at Shipston Lodge

Kestrels class (Year 3) enjoyed visiting the residents at Shipston Lodge Residential Home and learning to sing songs together. The session was led by Jules from Longborough Opera who has been working with children across the school all year. We are hoping that this is just the start of many ways that we can work together to bring the generations of our community together.

#### Mother languages day

Children across the school who speak a language other than English at home have been helping us to learn how to speak phrases and words in a range of languages as diverse as Ukrainian, Polish, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi and German.



Led by Mrs Davies, we have been recognising how important it is to be able to communicate effectively with each other and have discovered more about the many similarities between all of us. The week has reminded us that we have 'No Outsiders' in our school; that everyone is welcomed and valued.

#### Warwickshire Cricket Club

Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a cricket lesson with Nigel Perry-Ogden from Warwickshire County Cricket Club. The children worked hard to develop their individual and team skills whilst having a super time. All-Stars and Dynamos clubs take place

at the Shipston Cricket Club in May and June.

#### Monarch Day

**Report from Mason:** Woodpeckers and Kingfishers dressed as monarchs and played games. First we learned about seven monarchs. My favourite was King Charles III. We played pin the crown on the king and I won it. After we played bingo but I lost. It was okay and I was smiley and cheeky!

The most interesting part of the day was seeing the amazing costumes. I couldn't believe how everyone looked. My favourite part of the day was eating the cake. It was yummy, sweet and tasty. I really enjoyed Monarch Day.

**Report from Jessica:** Last Tuesday, Woodpeckers and Kingfishers had Monarch Day. We did lots of activities to do with monarchs.

We did monarch maths and I loved it because I got the right answer. After lunch I made two small monarch cones. One of Queen Elizabeth I and one of Queen Victoria. Lastly, we played musical thrones but they were not thrones they were hard, plastic chairs! I nearly came first playing musical thrones.

#### Cotswold Wildlife Park

Year 1 children enjoyed a day at the Cotswold Wildlife Park to learn more about a wide range of animals as part of their new topic. They did lots of wondering about why animals may be different and learning more about their habitats. Thanks to all the adults who came with the children on the day.



## Probus enjoys rubbish

Simon Randall, a retired solicitor, takes an interest in other people's rubbish! Passing a skip filled with material thrown out from some local offices, incredibly he rescued 40 letters dated 1660 to 1664, written by people who had lived through the period of the English Civil War (1642-1651), including one from one of the most famous combatants on the King's side, Prince Rupert. Stimulated by this fortuitous find, Simon has collected a fascinating range of original books and documents relating to the English Civil War.

This was the result of a clash of power between King Charles I and his Parliament. Like most wars, the causes were deep rooted and far from simple; basically, the King needed money. He believed that he was the representative of God on earth and as such could rule as he wished. Added to this his wife, Henrietta Maria, was a Catholic, at a time when Puritan England was deeply suspicious of Catholicism. Parliament, on the other hand, increasingly felt it had the right to share power. Charles' refusal to make concessions and the rise of Oliver Cromwell eventually led to the first pitched battle at nearby Edge Hill in which the Parliamentarians attempted to prevent the Royalists from getting to Oxford and on to London. Neither side gained a clear victory, partly because of the indiscipline of the Royalist cavalry under the command of Prince Rupert who chased a baggage train, taking him away from the main action.

As one might expect, hostilities were conducted by the written word as well as the sword. One such local word warrior was Peter Helyn, born in Burford. He was an outspoken Royalist and supporter of the Church of England, condemning the Puritans. As a result, he lost his property and had to go into hiding. Marchmont Needham, also born in Burford, wrote propaganda for both sides, first Charles I, then Cromwell, then Charles II, gaining praise as the 'world's first great journalist.'

Strategically the Cotswold Hills span a line dominating transport routes between London and the north; they provided fertile land not only for food for troops but materials such as wood and wool. Large prosperous houses with their associated workers were a source of troop recruitment.

By 1644, Oliver Cromwell had reorganised the parliamentary army and engaged in sieges at Gloucester and Bristol with a skirmish at Cirencester. In 1646 the last major battle was fought just outside Stow on the Wold, ending in a desperate running retreat of Royalists through the streets of the town. St Edward's Church, Stow-on-the-Wold, has a monument to Sir Hastings Keyte, who was a Royalist captain killed in the battle, aged just twenty-three. In the aftermath of the war, the King was captured and beheaded.

It is estimated that one in four English fought in the civil war and 4.5% of the population died (the same proportion as in World War One). Many of the great estates such as Charlecote House had to pay reparations for supporting the losing side. Cromwell and Parliament ruled until Charles II was eventually restored to the throne of England in 1660.

Probus meets fortnightly at Shipston Sports and Social Club. Guests and new members are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email [tonyjjoint73@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyjjoint73@hotmail.com) for further details.

*A note for your diary:* To celebrate 40 years in Shipston, Probus members will be holding an Open Day in the George Hotel on Saturday 7th September, 10am-2pm. Anyone interested is welcome to come along, have a coffee and find out more from our friendly club members. See you there, or alternatively contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email [tonyjjoint73@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyjjoint73@hotmail.com) for further details.



## GLOSS first anniversary

GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings) is celebrating its first anniversary on 1st June. Paula Burke, who set up the group, says: 'It started off as an idea to set up a group for women, run by women, based in Shipston and to include the surrounding areas. It is for women to feel supported and to encourage each other when times are tough. It can be for you to find yourself, make new friends, or catch up and have fun with like-minded women.'

'We started meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every month and we now also meet every Wednesday for a coffee morning in The George Townhouse at 11am, as well as meeting every week for quiz night locally! We have a fun-packed year ahead of us, booked with speakers and entertainment. All women are welcome. I feel very honoured and privileged to have met and made great friends with all the GLOSS ladies.'

## Tony Joint - Shipston Rotarian

Tony Joint received a special award for his voluntary work for Shipston at the recent annual Town Meeting. Tony is involved in many activities, all aimed at improving the lives of residents in and around Shipston and in the wider world.

The Rotarians are particularly proud of Tony's work for the Rotary Club in both Shipston and the entire Midlands District. He is Treasurer of Shipston Rotary as well as the group of 47 Rotary clubs in the Midlands. Tony also leads the team that organises the Rotary Victorian Evening. Well done, Tony! Rotarians do not know how you manage to do it all – they just hope you can keep going for as long as possible.

## Peacock Gymnastics

Peacock Gymnastics recently took two groups of young gymnasts, several of whom attend local schools, to various national competitions recently.

From our rural pool – small compared to urban areas – three individuals achieved National All-Around Champion status in their respective categories and the rest were not far behind with top five positions... amazing for everyone involved! Congratulations to Alice, Eleanor, Isla, Natalia Ella, Emily, Mollie, Phoebe, Olivia and Viktoria.

Mark Tucker, on behalf of Alicia (Head Coach)



## A festival of cycling

The ever-popular Shipston Rotary Tour d'Ilmington, this year on 30th June, is now in its seventh year. During that time, hundreds of riders have enjoyed the fun of the family rides and the challenges of the longer journeys up the Ilmington escarpment and through the Vale of Evesham and the Cotswolds. Over the years, the event has raised thousands of pounds for Rotary charities, benefiting many local good causes as well as those further afield. Recent beneficiaries have been the Shipston Food Bank and Shipston First Responders as well as the High School.

Historically the event has been staged from Newbold-on-Stour but this year we are moving to Ilmington Playing Fields (CV36 4JQ). The new site provides more space for cyclists and families, and we hope to have some cycling related attractions.

The Rotary Club is proud to say that it works with several partner organisations, including Shipston Home Nursing, Pharmacy to My Door, Cyclists Fighting Cancer and Stour Health & Well Being Partnership. Shipston Spokes will be providing advice to all standards of cyclists as well as providing mechanical support throughout the event. Shipston Therapy Centre will also provide nutritional advice and massages to ease those tired muscles after completion of the course.

All cyclists are welcome as well as anyone else who would like to enjoy the home-made cakes, bacon butties and tea or coffee in the glorious setting of Ilmington.

To find out more and/or to enter, scan the QR code:



## Astronomical Society News

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesdays at 8pm at Alderminster Village Hall. The speaker on 18th June 2024 will be Adam McMaster from the Open University, with a talk entitled 'Weird Stars – a round up of some of the more unusual types of stars.'

Adrian Wakeham, writes about safe solar observing.

There are ways of observing the sun, without expensive filters, by projecting the image on to a white background. One way is to mount binoculars onto a tripod, block off one eyepiece, and point them to the sun (Please NEVER be tempted to look at the sun through binoculars!) When correctly aligned an image will appear on the white background. Sunspots and filaments should be visible. (This method should also work on a full moon).

Another method is to make a pinhole camera, using a cereal packet, some white card and tin foil. The foil is kept taut with a pinhole in it, which projects the image of the sun onto the other end of the cereal packet. For more details, come to club night and I'll show you one.

My favourite is a colander! Especially during an eclipse. Just focus the beams of light onto a background. All the circles will appear as crescents during the eclipse. Again, with both the tinfoil or colander methods, do not look through the holes with your eye as you can seriously damage your eyesight, but use the holes to project the image.

Club nights offer more information on what to look out for each month, so please join us. More details on [www.astro.org.uk](http://www.astro.org.uk) or contact John Waller 07703 192188.

Happy Observing!

## Shipston Music Society

**April concert: George Wilkes (cello), Charles Matthews (piano)**

One of the pleasures of being a long-term member of the Music Society is that from time to time you see returning musicians. When that musician is a child who comes back several times as they grow up, you see their progression and maturity developing. It is a delight.

George Wilkes originally played at one of our annual Young Musicians' concerts some years ago as a young schoolboy. Since then, he has been back several times. He is now a postgraduate music student studying in Brussels, so we were more than delighted to be able to take advantage of his Easter break to invite him to play in our April concert.

His programme opened with Dvorak's Waldesruhe op 68 no 5, an evocative and descriptive piece reflecting the 'silent woods' of the title and the composer's homeland. Next came the Bach Suite no 1 in G major which will have been well known to many in the audience and allowed us to truly appreciate the player and his instrument as he progressed through the seven parts of the suite, ending with the lively gigue.

The second half opened with Beethoven's Cello Sonata no 4 in C major. This piece, which comprises two movements, perhaps unexpectedly appeared to give almost equal prominence to the piano, played by Charles Matthews.

Finally, we heard Ernest Bloch's three pieces which make up his From Jewish Life movements. These were played in the order Prayer, Supplication, Jewish Song. The cello reflects so well the emotions contained in these pieces and the audience could not fail to have been moved by the melancholy of the music which resonates so much in these troubled times. After some prolonged applause, the audience were treated to Vocalise by Rachmaninov, again a deeply emotional piece for cello and piano.

It was a pleasure to welcome George Wilkes back to Shipston, so ably supported by Charles Matthews on the piano. We look forward to reprising the evening in the future and of course to watching the career of this brilliant young musician.

## Shipston Kurlers play at Ilmington

On Thursday 18th April Shipston Kurlers headed for Ilmington Village Hall to play Ilmington's home team. Their hall is not as big as the Townsend Hall,



*The two teams at Ilmington Village Hall*

where the Shipston team plays. This affects the strength or gentleness needed for the stones, so we were able to have a bit of practice to get our eye in before the teams were decided, targets were laid, and play got underway in earnest. Competition was robust! Scores were kept secret by the two adjudicators until all the games had been played. The scores were revealed during afternoon tea with some delicious home-made cakes, with Shipston coming in a credible second.

Shipston Kurlers play every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm in the Townsend Hall. If you are interested in playing this fun game, do come along, any Wednesday.



## County Council

I've had a health-heavy week – and it's only Wednesday! Personally, I've just recovered from glandular fever (who gets it at 55? - jokes acceptable!) but I am conscious that there are other diseases circulating, particularly whooping cough. However nervous you may feel about jabs, please do make sure you are covered.

It's the start of a new municipal year (I used to think in school years but I am morphing into a local authority geek) and all our councils, at whatever level, have had the chance to reflect before starting a new year. I've had many conversations with colleagues of all political stripes about the way we are perceived!

I regard myself as always available – but busy – and I will always do what I can. If I can't, I'll tell you. I think since covid, when we were all encouraged to rely on the government for advice, support and what felt like hand holding, we are finding it hard to adjust back to self reliance. The upshot is often unpleasantness, cynicism and threats on social/mainstream media about any of us who stick our head above the parapet. It is often borne out of frustration. I am glad that people get involved in all levels of public life anyway!

Please get in touch about any problems with social care, education (places?) and the perennial road issues.

I am holding regular surgeries – come and have a cuppa!

Yours ever, Jo

### Councillor Jo Barker (she/her) Shipston Division

Chairman of Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

07748968712 | [jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
@jmvbarker

## Letter

Unidentified objects found surrounding town!

Residents of Shipston have reported sightings of unusual hanging objects appearing in local hedges and trees, frequently along popular local walks in the Shipston area.

'We were walking recently along the Hanson Track, just to enjoy the blossom and birdsong, when my youngest daughter Roseberry asked me about a strange fruit hanging from an overhanging blackthorn bush,' explained Mrs Daisy Cutter. 'On inspection it appeared to be large and semi-translucent, may be a fruit of some kind. I immediately thought this might be moth cocoon, perhaps that of the largest moth known in the UK, the Blue Underwing?'

Local ecologist (retired) Sir Sandy Heath commented, 'Similar objects have been found in Cornmill Meadows and reports are widespread from many parts of the UK. One theory is that trees and bushes are showing signs of stress due to climate change. The recent increase in rainfall and temperature has so disrupted



## District Council

It was encouraging to hear that the Town Council met with the mayor of Bishops Castle, a market town similar to Shipston, to discuss how they saved the community beds at their hospital. They, like Shipston, had almost given up hope of getting back their Community Hospital with in-patient beds. But they ran a long campaign, including pushing a bed 18 miles to the next nearest hospital for publicity and fundraising for the beds. After two years they won.

Warwickshire Integrated Care Board promised a consultation on the re-instatement of the community beds at Ellen Badger Hospital last year. We are now told the consultation will not start until later in the year and will run into next year. That will be the chance for Shipston to put the case for re-instatement of the in-patient beds.

I spent some of a lovely spring afternoon last month with the Friends of Cornmill Meadow Nature Reserve, helping to weed and care for the 50 fruit trees that were planted for the community orchard. Looking around the meadow, you appreciate what a wonderful asset it is for the town. For those that have not ventured there yet, you can make it the start of a circular walk:

To enter Cornmill Meadows, take the kissing gate just after the last house on London Road and walk through the meadows and along a beautiful section of the River Stour. Then take a permissive path through a kissing gate along the Stour to the footbridge at Barcheston. There is a footpath along the other side of the Stour back to Shipston.

Following Shipston Great Big Green Week which starts on 8th June, Stratford District Council is hosting a Climate Assembly on July 9th at the SDC Council Chambers to mark five years since Stratford declared a Climate Emergency. There will be workshops in all areas the council has influence over: energy, business, biodiversity (including river health), waste, community action, food, adaptation, and transport (including active travel). More details to come.

**Dave Passingham, District Councillor, Shipston South**  
07973 846605 | [dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

the normal fruiting season that unusually large and deformed fruit is forming on our native bushes. We have sent samples for analysis. Until we get results it advisable not to try to eat them, especially by young children!

Another view has been expressed by local historian Old Tom, also known as 'Tom Tell Truth.' 'We know that walks such as Hanson Hill and Cornmill Meadows are ancient, dating back to Saxon times and beyond, when history and myth became intertwined. It may be no coincidence that these objects seem to occur along ancient tracks and a clue may be found in old unwritten tales of Shipston, handed down by father to son. They tell of ancient times when God-fearing yeomen hurried home after a hard day in the field, for fear of meeting the wandering bands known as the 'Faecal Dog People' or FDP for short. The FDP were a furtive folk, frequently aggressive, spreading disease and pestilence throughout the land. They hung their filthy poison as a gift to ancient Gods but only succeeded in contaminating many a yeoman's furlong. Maybe the descendants of the FDP secretly continue to practise their ancient fetid ways.'

Old Tom then issued a stern warning, 'if you are a follower of the primitive cast of Faecal Dog People then take care! Revoke your ways! Your neighbours are watching!'

from **'May Budd'**



## 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)



**Ethan Liddell**  
e: [ethan.liddell@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:ethan.liddell@shipstontowncouncil.org)



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



**Vacancy**

## Useful contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	111
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
<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

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#### Town Clerk

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### County Council Contact:

#### Councillor Jo Barker

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### District Council Contacts:

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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, on 07989 530069 or email: [forum@shipstononline.org](mailto:forum@shipstononline.org)

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact [admin@shipstononline.org](mailto:admin@shipstononline.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.





**THE GREAT  
BIG GREEN  
WEEK**



**SAFE**  
Stourvale  
Action for the  
Environment

# Shipston Town Trail!

Celebrating the UK's Great Big  
Green Week

**Saturday 8th June**  
**10am - 3pm**

**Join us for Shipston's first Great Big Green Week Family Trail!**

**Taking part is simple - on the day, look for the green 'SAFE' flags dotted around the town centre at our 6 key bases. Pick up your map from the first base you come across and visit the rest throughout the day.**

**You'll get a sticker at each base you visit and the first 100 children to complete the trail will receive a goody bag from the base outside the Co-op! We can't wait to see you there!**

**For more information about all of Shipston's Great Big Green Week events, please scan the QR code or go to:**

**<https://tinyurl.com/ShipstonGBGW>**

