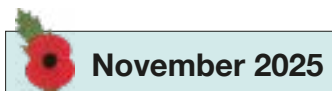




# Shipston Forum



## Remember Remembrance Day

Ahead of Remembrance Day Shipston Brownies invited the Royal British Legion members to talk about its meaning and origins. Richard Adams, supported by Chairman Alex Black, and Secretary Alistair Watkins, guided the pack through the history and significance of Remembrance. 'Their participation is a touching tribute to the values we hold dear as a community: respect, gratitude, and remembrance,' says Alistair Watkins. 'It ensures that the sacrifices of the past are never forgotten and that the lessons of history continue to resonate across generations.'



The Remembrance Sunday parade and service will take place on Sunday 9th November. Gathering on the High Street from 10am, the parade, led by the Town Band, will step off promptly at 10:45am to the War Memorial in Church Street, where wreaths will be laid, the names of the fallen will be read and the two-minute silence observed in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the service of their country. The service will continue at St Edmund's Church. It will not be live-streamed this year. After the formalities, all are warmly welcomed to join the RBL at The Horseshoe for a time of fellowship and reflection.

The occasion is coordinated by the Shipston branch of the Royal British Legion, working with the Town Council, local police, the Lions, St Edmund's Church, the Town Band and our dedicated bellringers. Look out for further details on social media as well as on the SRBL noticeboard in The Bury.

Note that temporary road closures will be in place from 9am-12.30pm. Please plan ahead and show appreciation to those marshalling the event and providing the logistics for the road closures.

**Armistice Day** on Tuesday 11th November will be marked with a ceremony at the Gyratory Memorial Garden. The community is invited to gather for a two-minute silence at 11am.

## Poppy Appeal 2025

The Poppy Appeal's dedicated collectors will once again be out and about with a pop-up poppy shop in central Shipston, as well as door-to-door collections in the surrounding villages, helping to raise vital funds that enable the RBL to continue its important work supporting veterans and their families. 'If you see one of our fabulous collectors, please greet them with a warm welcome,' says Rebecca Walters, the local organiser. 'And if you've already purchased your poppy, thank you! It really does make that difference.'



## New developments at EBH

Work has begun on the fit-out of new clinical rooms for Shipston's GPs at the Ellen Badger Community Hospital. Dr Daniel says they hope to move in from mid to late November and then be able to offer care from the new rooms as well as the current Shipston Medical Centre site. Patients can access care in the usual way while improvements take place. *Read more on page 5.*

## Blue ribbon event

The Mayor, Tony Booth, officially opened Shipston High School's new MUGA (multi-use games area). He cut the blue ribbon alongside headteacher Gavin Saunders, who describes the bright colour of the pitch as being 'Shipston Blue'. 'The pitch looks stunning and will provide the school and the community with a valuable sporting resource for many years to come,' says Tony.



## In this issue

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Could you help the Lions' bookshop search? – page 13



Mayor’s column



Hello Shipstonians,

Well, I’m half way through my mayoral year and what an enjoyable time it has been! My wife Jane and I have had opportunities to get out and meet so many different people and attend a wide variety of local and county events. Reflecting on some of the things we have done so far this year – the Proms, many fetes, Food Festival, Bookfest etc – makes you realise how lucky we are as a town to have so many activities and events, provided to the community by the community.

September was a relatively quiet month for mayoral events, but we attended the Evesham Mayor’s Ball and while I was away walking the Welsh valleys, Jane was excited to have the opportunity to meet and greet Ben Miller at his Bookfest event. The High Sheriff of Warwickshire held an inspiring event at St Marys Church Warwick where a service was held to celebrate community diversity and volunteering. More recently, in October, I was invited to attend the 33rd Diwali festival of lights in Leamington where we watched some spectacular singing, dancing and musical acts perform for a huge crowd amassed in the parade. The Diwali lights were turned on, and it was a very inspiring night to be a part of.

I also had the pleasure of a meeting and tour of Shipston High School with headmaster Gavin Saunders. The investment in the school over recent years was evident to see and I was very impressed with how well-equipped the science labs and classrooms were. The students were particularly polite and keen to talk about their current studies. I was asked to visit to the school again to officially open the new MUGA pitch which looks stunning and will provide the school and the community with a valuable sporting resource for many years to come. Yes, I did ask about a sixth form, but it is not yet part of the school’s longer term plans. I hope this may change, since our young adults currently need to leave our town in search of suitable further education and are at the mercy of growing transport costs.

Of course, not all news has been cheerful. The looming prospect of 3,000 new homes around our town continues to cast a shadow over Shipston. The Town Council has been meeting with developers to understand their plans, and we remain united in our opposition to such large-scale development. We are deeply concerned about the impact on our infrastructure, environment, and the unique character of our town. Unfortunately, we are also at the mercy of shifting government policies that increasingly favour developers. Rest assured, we will continue to advocate fiercely for our community: to the death if necessary!

On a brighter note, I’m thrilled to share progress on one of my chosen charities, Shipston Youth Club. The Council has been working closely with the club to secure a new building, and at our October meeting, councillors unanimously approved the procurement of a new modular facility to be located at the Hub. While planning approval is being finalised, preparations for groundworks are underway, and we hope to see the new building ready early next year. I’ll be sharing updates on this project via my Mayor of Shipston Facebook page, so do follow along if you’d like to see the transformation unfold.

As I look ahead to the second half of my Mayoral year, I remain inspired by the spirit of Shipston. Our community is what makes this town extraordinary. Thank you for your continued support, your good humour, and I look forward to writing to you again next month with more topical news and updates.



TTFN

Tony Booth

Mayor of Shipston

News from Shipston Town Council’s October meeting

Environment and Flood Action

A quote from Shipston Flood Action Group to repair dams at Sutton Brook in Brailes was approved. It was agreed that should urgent work be required, Council can approve invoices once the work has been completed. Cllr Benjamin-Smith will now chair SAFAG and Cllr Barker will also join the group. The main focus for Cornmill Meadows in the coming season will be on making the entrance path accessible with the use of a new surface, costs for which are expected shortly and will be planned into next year’s budget.

Planning

Tree work (crown lifting) at South Lynn House: no representation. Felling of a hawthorn at 7 Redwood Park was given no objection, with a ‘two for one’ condition to ensure new trees are planted. A side extension to 112 Hanson Avenue, and an upper floor on a single storey side extension at 11 Station Road were both deemed no representation. Cllr Howarth reported that the planning for the MUGA at the Hub has gone through, which, along with the school’s new facility, will ensure that more Shipston teams can play in the town instead of having to go elsewhere. Amid discussions on likely raft of development applications, Cllr Booth will ask for a District planning officer to attend a Town Council meeting.

General purposes

The expenditure of £19,000 for guttering work on the Twin Chapels was approved and can be paid out of reserves. The next step will be to get the building into a position to be put into use.

Local Nature Action Plan

All streets have been surveyed and those without trees noted. The hedge surveying is continuing. Developers’ obligations to provide and maintain green space for at least a year post-development were noted, and Cllr Passingham is helping ensure that dead trees are replaced. Cllr Booth is to meet with EBH and offer support for them to maintain the grounds.

Neighbourhood plan working group

Cllr Tesh reported that two residents have offered to join this working group. Cllr Hatch said some District Council funds will be made available to support such groups.

Councillors’ reports

Councillors who attended the Food Festival and the Bookfest praised the organisers for these well-attended and successful events. Cllr Tesh met the neighbouring parish councils to discuss the possible Fell Mill development. Cllr Williams is trying to obtain cash counting machines from Lloyd’s before it closes. Cllr H Kelly met the regional energy mitigation officer to explore energy-saving measures in New Clark House.

County Council

A full County Council meeting on 14th October is to discuss plans for the Unitary Authority, which is being supported by Reform and the Conservatives.

Open Forum

Members of the public making contributions included John Dinnie, who stated that the request that the Ellen Badger Hospital’s 1992 building be made part of the town’s retained estate has been turned down by Stratford District Council on the basis that it is now being used for purpose. Alice Free highlighted the SOS Shipston public meeting being held on 19th October and invited councillors to attend this non-political meeting. Richard Taylor from the Shipston Educational Charity, which was set up in 1825, reported that it had awarded £2,900 in grants to 25 applicants. It was noted that there were no applicants this year from Shipston High School. Tony Joint, representing Shipston Youth Club, came to emphasise that time was of the essence in terms of making decisions about the building.

Remembrance thank you

Shipston Town Council would like to thank Eazylay Concrete and RS Concrete Pumping Ltd for their help with road closures for Shipston’s Remembrance service on Sunday 9th November – it could not happen without their support.



Shipston in Bloom

How lovely the tubs and beds have looked during the summer and on into the autumn, *writes Cllr Hilary Kelly*. Previously at this time of the year, the tubs would all be empty after the summer flowering annuals had been discarded. Now we are planting perennials and shrubs, there will be some plants on show all year round. Not only is this lovely to look at, but it is better for the environment, being more sustainable, and also for early or late pollinators. The bulbs have also been left in the tubs to flower next year rather than pulling them up after only one season.



Heating reminder

Now that the temperature is dropping, don’t forget the Town Council has thermal-imaging cameras to borrow. It’s a great way to check if there are any heat leaks in your home and work out how you can keep warm over winter.




# Christmas Wreath Making

15<sup>th</sup> November 2.30 – 5pm  
£20  
St Edmund’s Church

Make a festive ribbon wreath for your home. All materials, tuition and refreshments included.

To book:  
St Edmund’s Church Shipston  
Or email [office@shipstonchurch.org](mailto:office@shipstonchurch.org)



## Rotary Tree of Life

Each December the Tree of Life stands proudly in the centre of Shipston. Its white lights a glowing symbol of love and hope in memory of loved ones who will not be with us to celebrate this special time of year.

If you have a friend or relative to be remembered in this way you are invited to sponsor a light by returning the Form below and making a donation knowing that every name will be entered into the Book of Remembrance.

Every contribution will be donated by Rotary, this year, to Shipston Home Nursing.

The illumination of the Rotary Tree of Life will take place at the opening of the **Rotary Victorian Evening**

on Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

.....

### Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour Tree of Life

Please find enclosed my donation of £..... (minimum £5.00) Cheques payable to Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour  
Or by bank transfer to Rotary bank account – Lloyds Bank 30-98-26 /53350268 - Ref TOL2025

In Memory of.....

From (name).....

Your Address.....

Please return to :-  
Rotarian Avryl Thompson

Pillerton Priors, CV35 6PS – Tel 01789740047 – [avryl.thompson@hotmail.com](mailto:avryl.thompson@hotmail.com)

Forms are also available in St Edmunds Church, Low Furlong, post office or contact Avryl.

Medical Centre update

We are delighted to share an update on the ongoing improvements to our facilities and services. Work is progressing well on the fit-out of our new clinical rooms at the Ellen Badger Community Hospital, and we hope to move in and begin providing care from this site in mid to late November. We will continue to provide care from both our current Shipston Medical Centre site alongside the new rooms at the Ellen Badger Hospital and patients will be able to access care in the usual way while improvements take place. Please contact us in the usual way and you will be advised where you will be seen.

Once the Ellen Badger Rooms are open, we will move forward with our plans to redesign and renovate our existing medical centre over the following six months. This will create a modern, welcoming environment, ensuring we can continue to deliver high-quality, effective care to our growing community across both sites.

We are committed to maintaining excellent patient care throughout this period and will keep you updated as our plans progress. Thank you for your continued support as we take this exciting next step in developing local healthcare for Shipston and the surrounding area.

Dr Daniel

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

New Winter Warm Hub

A new Warm Hub has been started specifically for the winter months, following the success of the original Warm Hub. The new hub will be open every Monday morning 10am-12pm at the Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub. This group will be a welcoming space for anyone seeking companionship and support during the colder months. Visitors can look forward to a warm cuppa and friendly conversation. No need to book ahead, just drop in and enjoy the community atmosphere.

Toy Library

The Stour Toy Library will now also be based at the Ellen Badger Hub on Mondays from 11am-12pm, alongside its usual Thursday sessions at the same time. This move comes after a long period of volunteers transporting toys to and from the Scout Hut each week, a task that’s now made easier with the permanent location at the Ellen Badger Hub. A huge thank you to the Shipston Toddler Stay and Play group for their assistance in getting to this point. For families with young children, the Stour Toy Library offers a great selection of toys, all available for borrowing. You can explore the full range of toys online at [borrow.shwp.org.uk](http://borrow.shwp.org.uk). From 6th November, HomeStart will be running a six-week PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership) session for pre-school children at the Toy Library. Parents or guardians interested in securing a place should contact HomeStart directly for more information.

Bereavement cafe

In response to feedback from the community, Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, in collaboration with SWFT and Shipston Home Nursing (SHN), is launching a Bereavement cafe. This monthly group, starting on Tuesday, 4th November, will provide a safe space for those navigating grief and loss. The group will be facilitated by Shipston Home Nursing, whose team of experienced bereavement counsellors will



Shipston Medical Centre

offer expert guidance. This is also a peer support group, where attendees will have the opportunity to share their experiences and offer support to one another.

We understand the importance of supporting each other through difficult times, and we hope this new group will provide comfort and connection for those in need. We’ve also received inquiries about a potential enquires group focused on palliative care and end-of-life preparation. If you’re interested in getting involved or learning more, please reach out to Rowena at [rowena@shwp.org.uk](mailto:rowena@shwp.org.uk) to discuss this further.

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership is dedicated to fostering a strong, supportive community. We hope these initiatives will bring positive change and continued support for all residents of Shipston.



Shipston Music Society

The first recital of the 2025/2026 season should have featured a harp and flute duo but unfortunately, they had to withdraw having been in an accident the previous day. Miraculously, Manon Browning, a young harpist, happened to be free and agreed to play.

Manon, originally from Cardiff, was principal harpist of South Wales Youth Orchestra, then studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and gained First Class Honours, B. Mus. in 2017. She later gained Distinction in M.Music Performance the following year.

Her programme began with La Source, a famous piece for advanced flautists by Belgian virtuoso Hasselmans featuring lots of glissando passages to emulate the rippling water. Then followed Sonata in F# minor by Scarlatti and two Welsh folk songs. Next was Sarabande by Nino Rota, then Granada by Carlos Salzedo (1885-1961), a renowned French harpist, pianist, conductor and composer.

After refreshments, we stayed in Spain for the lively Fantasie No. 10 by Mudarra (1510-1580), then a complete contrast in Flow my Tears by John Dowland (1563-1626). Pearl Chertok’s compositions often use jazz idioms – as in Around the Clock Suite from which we heard two very lively movements. The final piece was Impromptu by Gliere, a piece to send us home feeling extremely fortunate to have spent the evening in the company of Manon Browning – a delightful young lady of exceptional talent. We do hope she will come again!

Elgar birthplace visit

Shipston Music Society members and friends set off for a visit to the birthplace of the composer Sir Edward Elgar at Broadheath, near Malvern, where there is a new Visitor Centre and café. An introductory talk provided an insight into Elgar’s love of the local area. There were instruments and many other artefacts on display and pianists were invited to play Elgar’s piano! After a stroll around the garden, we were free to explore the small cottage where Elgar was born on 2nd June 1857 and imagine him sitting at his desk with his pen poised. There was much enthusiastic discussion during the return trip.





Regular Events

Monday

IT Help!: 10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

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

Seated Exercise Class: 10:30am or 11:30am, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing hub

Pickleball: 1:30pm – 3:30pm, Townsend Hall.

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

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12.30pm

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

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

Community Warm Welcome: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Methodist Church, New Street (Sep-Mar)  
free refreshments, a chat, games and jigsaws

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Wednesday

Seated Tai Chi: 9.30am, Scout Hut

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

Standing Tai Chi: 10.30am, Scout Hut

GLOSS Coffee Morning: 11am, The White Horse

Indoor Kurling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

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

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,  
Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing hub.

Community Social Prescriber drop in:10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub

Story stomp: 10am, Shipston Library

Little Fishes: 10-11am Townsend Hall.

The Stour Toy Library click and collect 11:00am - 12noon,  
Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub

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

Scrabble Club: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

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,  
Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub, 28 Stratford Rd, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4AU,  
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: November 2025

- 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

1st. Shipston Remembers: Guided Walk. Gather from 2pm, Shipston Museum. Walk starts 2.30pm.

2nd. Lego Church: 10.30am, first Sunday of the month during morning service at St Edmund’s. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact rector@shipstonchurch.org.

2nd. Cantamus ACappella Choir: Shades of Autumn. 3pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. Tickets £15 including tea & cake

3rd-6th.Shipston Primary School Open Days: See ad on page 11.

4th. Bereavement cafe: 11am-1pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. See article on page 5.

4th. SCAN AGM and Meeting. See ad on page 7.

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

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

5th. Disordered Eating: free drop-in clinic 12pm-1pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. See ad on page 7.

5th. Shipston on Stour WI: Annual Meeting and Lasting Power of Attorney. Meetings held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7.00 pm. For more information contact: Gill Smith – Telephone 07759 232899

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

6th. Carer Money Matters: See ad on page 7.

6th. Do more with the NHS App: free drop-in session, 10am to 12 noon. Ellen Badger Hospital. See ad on page 7.

7th & 21st. Shipston Stitchers: A friendly quiet group who meet at Darlingscote Rd church hall to embroider fortnightly on a Friday. We are mixed ability. Eg some gold workers, some cross stitchers. We welcome new members. Pop in to say ‘hello’ or ring Anita on 01993 832665

8th. Witchcraft in the Cotswolds: 2.30pm, Townsend Hall. Adults £5. See ad on page 7.

9th. Remembrance Sunday: Gather on High Street from 10am, Parade starts 10:45am prompt. See article on page 1.

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

11th. Armistice Day: Special ceremony at the Gyratory Memorial Garden with two-minute silence at 11am.

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

20th. Drop In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. Every third Thursday

21st. 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 7:30pm. Additionally, every other month, the Branch Committee meets on the third Friday at St Edmund’s Church from 6:30-7:30pm, before joining the social gathering. If you are interested in Branch events or enquiring to join the Branch, please contact Branch Secretary Ali at ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community

21st. Shipston Music Society: Central England Guitar Ensemble. See ad on page 10.

21st. Stour Valley Lions Cinema: See ad on page 16.

22nd. Dead on Cue: See ad on page 16.

25th. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm- 9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. The 4th Tuesday of every month (except December). All ladies welcome. Entry £2.

26th. Shipston Literary Society: In a Foreign Field. In remembrance month some soldiers’ stories. 7.30pm, Community Hall Tredington. Contact: Alison 07772 202915 (see article on page 12)

26th. People, Planet, Pint; sustainability drinks. 6pm. Horseshoe. Come and hear what’s going on in Shipston and see how you can join in to make Shipston more sustainable. First 10 drinks are free. Booking essential on Eventbrite. Shipston-on-Stour - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shipston-on-stour-small99s-people-planet-pinttm-sustainability-meetup-tickets>

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

29th. GLOSS Christmas Market: See ad on page 10.

30th. Stour Concert Brass: Holiday Harmony. See ad on page 16.

1st Dec. Holiday at Home: See ad on page 10.

ipc  
Digital  
Champions

DO MORE WITH THE  
NHS APP

COME ALONG TO THE  
DROP-IN SESSION

Thursday 6th November  
10 am to 12 noon

Location

Ellen Badger Hospital,  
Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AX

Please note, this is a free service,  
there is free parking and it is first  
come, first served.  
Refreshments are provided.



Tuesday 4th November 2025

Townsend Hall, 52 Sheep Street,  
Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AE

Annual General Meeting

&

Ian King, Crime Prevention Design Advisor,  
Warwickshire Police

10.00am for free refreshments / 10.30am start

Please advise us if you no longer wish to receive the SCAN notice by  
calling John Wilde on 01789 260933 or email [john.wilde@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:john.wilde@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

If you require transport to attend the SCAN meeting, VASA may be able  
to help with a door to door volunteer car. Mileage costs payable. Tel:  
01789 262889 or Email: [transport@vasa.org.uk](mailto:transport@vasa.org.uk)

DISORDERED EATING

free drop-in clinic

at the Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston-on-Stour

Are you struggling with your  
relationship with food or your body?

You’re not alone. This free, confidential drop-in offers a  
non-judgemental space to talk and get clear next steps.

What to expect:

- A private one-to-one conversation
- A receptive ear and compassionate approach
- An opportunity to identify areas for potential support

Who you’ll meet: An experienced BANT Registered  
Nutritional Therapy Practitioner, specialising in adult  
disordered eating and eating disorders (18 yrs+ only)

Noon to 1pm  
First Wednesday of each month  
No booking needed - simply turn up

The Wellbeing Space (ground floor)  
Ellen Badger Hospital, 28 Stratford Rd  
Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AU

gutreaction  
specialising in disordered eating  
WWW.GUTREACTION.CO.UK



CALLING ALL WARWICKSHIRE CARERS!

JOIN US THIS NOVEMBER FOR ADVICE, SUPPORT  
& YOUR FREE WINTER WARM PACK!

Join us this November and chat to our Carer Money  
Matters Advisor, Sian who can provide expert advice and  
support on saving money this winter.

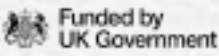
You will also be able to pick up one of our free wonderful  
winter warm pack, which include:

- ✓ A Radiator Key ✓ Roll of Radiator Foil
- ✓ A Microwaveable Warm Pack ✓ 2 Cosy Oodles (Various sizes  
available)
- ✓ 3 Energy Saving Light Bulbs  
(You will need to know which type Light Bulbs you require)

You must be registered with our service to be eligible for  
a pack. You can register with us on the day if you aren’t  
already.

Ellen Badger Community Hub,  
Shipston-on-Stour,  
28 Stratford Road, CV36 4AU

Thursday 6th November, 10am–2pm





Magnificent autumn colours at Leasow Farm

It is just over 99 years since Henry Francis Harper, a Shipston auctioneer, acquired the land which fronts Brailes Road and Fell Mill Lane and runs down to the River Stour east of Mill Street and Church Street. Since then, it has been passed down through the generations to the present day. Before 1926 it was owned by the Hince family.

All the trees on the land were planted in the late 1980s and early 1990s to replace the wonderful 60 feet high elm trees that graced all the hedgerows but were devastated by Dutch elm disease. The land is now the responsibility of the younger and future generations of the Harper family, and long may it remain so.

What a pleasure to see these beautiful colours and what an asset to the environment and the locality. These many trees will enable the view to and from Brailes Hill to be seen clearly for numerous years to come.

Robert G. Harper



Looking back at Bookfest

The town’s second annual Bookfest, a celebration of books and reading, saw over 30 local and internationally recognised authors, speakers, and performers at events throughout the town in September.



The events were kicked off in style by the Town Crier in the square who introduced the poetry performances by students at Shipston’s primary and high schools. Throughout the week, events spanned true crime and history to wellbeing and feel-good fiction. Bookfest also had the honour of presenting a wickedly good event with actor and author Ben Miller, who spoke about his many children’s books. There was music from The Bookshop Band, a whistlestop tour of how David Price built

a replica Spitfire in his back garden, plus events on mindfulness and wellbeing with David Larbi and Phoebe Smith. We also had our brilliant range of events for children and young people, hosted in the schools as well as in the town: a library storytime with local author Sue Newgas and a wonderful Calypso Kids special Bookfest event.

The Bookfest committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all the sponsors and local businesses who supported us and made Bookfest possible this year. Special thanks go to PRJ Flooring, BBI Services, Greys Opticians, the Stour Valley Lions, the Rotary Club of Shipston, Shipston Town Council, and the Friends of Shipston Primary. The Bookfest Committee are immensely proud of this year’s festival and will be taking on board the valuable feedback we have received.

Discussions for next year’s festival are now underway. If you would like to be on the committee for 2026, please email info@shipstonbookfest.org or come along to the Annual General Meeting at 7pm on Monday 24th November at The George Townhouse, Shipston-on-Stour.



Hedge care at Cornmill Meadows

In January 2023, one of the first tasks Cornmill Meadows volunteers got involved in was planting 900 small hedge shrubs and trees in a zigzag double row along the path from the London Road entrance towards the river. Over the years we hope this will grow into a dense hedgerow which will act as a natural green corridor for insects and small mammals such as the dormouse and brown hair-streak butterfly to move around in comparative safety.



New Hedge

Maintenance of the hedge is very important so that it can flourish in a healthy way. A few of the trees will be allowed to grow to normal height, but many will be pruned or laid in order to increase the density of the hedge at a low level. A good hedge should be shaped like a ^ so the base is the widest part, and have a border of other vegetation like nettles, cleavers and docks. Our new hedge will be carefully trimmed in a particular way to encourage a dense, bushy growth and then left for a few years before regular trimming is done.

One of the very old hedges at Cornmill Meadows has not been regularly maintained for many years and this year we are going to have it laid. This means that some trees and tall shrubs will have their stems or trunks partially cut through and then bent over to encourage new growth from the base and create a healthier hedge. Hedge-laying is an old skill practised originally to create a living stock-proof fence. Julius Caesar’s army had a problem when their way was blocked by a laid hedge, so the skill goes back many centuries!



Old Hedge

Top musician in local brass concert

Shipston-based Stour Concert Brass will feature award winning cornet player Luke Barker at ‘Holiday Harmony’, a free concert at The Hall in Stourton on Sunday 30th November at 3pm. Luke, who grew up in the village, said the concert will be a musical homecoming: ‘I’m delighted to be performing in my home village, and to be with Stour Concert Brass, one of the first bands I ever played with. I’m really looking forward to playing some great brass band music and hopefully bringing some early festive cheer to the village hall.’



For more information on Stour Concert Brass visit: <https://shipstonband.co.uk/thebands/#concertbrass>

Rotary Victorian Evening

A date for your diary: the Annual Victorian Evening will be on Friday 5th December 5.45-8pm. Shipston Rotary is working hard to ensure everyone enjoys welcoming the beginning of Christmas at this event. You can expect and enjoy all the usual favourites: choirs, the Town Band, and the Christmas lights switch-on. This year, funds from the Rotary Tree of Life, where lights can be sponsored in memory of a loved one, will go to Shipston Home Nursing.

Focus on Shipston Business...EH Spencer

EH Spencer has been a fixture of Shipston since 1902 when Ernest Herbert Spencer established a men’s outfitters in the town. Three generations later and the shop has changed very little, with current owner John Rutter and daughter Sarah remaining passionate about maintaining the values and appearance of a traditional, retro business that focuses on town and country clothing and footwear. Even the till reminds you of Arkwright’s store, with no evidence of the digital age having taken hold. The emphasis is on service and the shop benefits from having very experienced, long serving staff who are able to offer exceptional service to the customers who walk through the door. On the one hand you think how quaint, but on the other you realise this is a breath of fresh air compared with the automated tills and faceless customer interaction that are becoming more commonplace.

The shop, and Mr EH Spencer, survived through two world wars and it continues to thrive on the personal touch and family values that have been passed down through the generations. And what do they offer? Well, apart from being a traditional gentlemen’s outfitters, EH Spencer also provides women’s footwear and accessories and children’s shoe brands such as Startrite and Clarks. The business is also an agent for Blockley Cobblers and offers a dry cleaning service. The shop serves Shipston and the surrounding communities, but such is their reputation that they also have a global customer base which they service through an online presence. They also serve an extensive A-star client list. In a world of digitalisation and social media, it is refreshing to meet with such a passionate team dedicated to providing the kind of traditional service that can be difficult to find these days.



Sadly, EH Spencer have recently been unjustly targeted on social media by online trolls but it was incredible to see the support of our community as Shipston rallied to protect and defend them. This is indeed a business worth protecting and fighting for. The shop represents everything that is good about Shipston, its values, family ethos and focus on the community, and I would urge anyone to pop in and say hello. Even if you are not buying, it is a fascinating retro shop to visit and browse.





# Shipston Rotary

2025

Victorian Evening  
December 5th from 5.45pm to 8pm  
Lights on at 6pm



Music, Stalls, Food, Father Christmas & Tree of Life



## Christmas Market

From 12-4pm at the  
Shipston Townsend Hall on  
Saturday 29th November.

30+ table top stalls,  
refreshments available

Supported By



Christmas starts here .....

at **Holiday at Home**

on **Monday December 1st**

in the **Townsend Hall**

from **10am~2.30pm**

Activities, games, quizzes and  
entertainment for the over 65s

**Booking essential**

**£14 to include Christmas dinner  
and all crafts**

To reserve your place contact  
**Rosemary 01608 662584**



An event organised by Christians Together in Shipston with  
help from Shipston Lions and Rotary

### Witchcraft in The Cotswolds

by Julia Phillips



**Saturday, 8th November**  
**2:30pm**

**The Townsend Hall**  
**CV36 4AE Adults £5**

Tickets



Shipston Primary School

School open days

Is your child due to start Reception in September? We would love to show you around our school so that you can see all the wonderful things that we do. We have open days during the first week of November. Please contact the school office to book a place.

Key admissions information (Warwickshire)

To apply for a Reception place, you must submit an online application through the Warwickshire County Council admissions portal. The application window opens in November 2025. The deadline for on-time applications is January 15, 2026.

Year 1

Year 1 have made a great start moving from Reception to Year 1. In Year 1 this year we are planning more opportunities for children to continue to learn through play each day, whilst also moving on to more familiar ‘formal’ whole-class English and Maths lessons. Children are enjoying writing sentences together using their phonics skills and they love building models. Over half term, we developed the Year 1 outside learning area further, thanks to a kind donation from JPD Fencing.

Harvest Festival

On Thursday 23rd October, we celebrated Harvest Festival in style at St. Edmunds and were able to support the local food bank with donations. On the same day, children across the school came dressed in blue and white to represent water and support Aquabox, one of our chosen charities for this year, an organisation which provides emergency support packages for

High School

The autumn term is now well underway at Shipston High School. Pupils are busy in lessons and a host of extracurricular activities, including our recent open evening. The pupils were, as always, out in force during the evening, and filled the school with energy as they shared their pride in the school with prospective parents. The evening was exceptionally well attended, with visitors full of praise for the atmosphere of the school, the mature demeanour of our pupils, and our reputation for excellence.

Similarly, our open morning was very successful, and parents expressed their thanks for being able to see Shipston High School in action during a normal school day. A great many parents remarked on the calm and focused learning environment in the classrooms and the contemporary feel of the new and refurbished school buildings.

Since those open events, we have been delighted to complete work on our new floodlit and astro turfed courts. This is a fantastic addition to our sports facilities for students, who can now enjoy a variety of sports on a contemporary and rewarding



places around the world hit by natural disasters. Each Aquabox contains a pump which is able to filter dirty water into clean drinking water in under three minutes. Thank you to everyone in our community who has supported us in living our ‘Be Kind’ value so well.



## OPEN DAYS

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>  
November 2025

Tours at 9:30am and 1:30pm

You are warmly invited to  
join us for a tour to see  
the school in action, meet  
the Senior Leaders and  
talk through any  
questions you may have.

01608 661266  
admin5206@welearn365.com  
shipstonprimarieschool  
www.shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk

surface. The vibrant ‘Shipston Blue’ surface of the court looks fantastic. This facility is also available for hire to local groups, and we look forward to the official opening ceremony very soon.

Black History Month

Shipston High School is proud to be a diverse and welcoming school community, and October’s Black History month provided the opportunity for students to consider the contributions to world history of people whose stories are perhaps less well known. This included student-led assemblies, and it was inspiring to see the respect with which students both presented and listened to each other.

Charity support

The qualities of respect and concern for others have also been on show with recent charity events. Jeans for Genes Day is a charitable event that raises funds and awareness for children affected by genetic disorders. Participants are encouraged to wear jeans and make a donation, with proceeds going to organisations that fund research, provide support services, and improve outcomes for families living with these often life-limiting conditions. Hello Yellow recognises World Mental Health Day on 10th October, and wearing yellow shows young people they are not alone with their mental health. Funds raised were donated to the Young Minds charity. Students have also got behind Show Racism the Red Card, with student led activities challenging racism in sport and in society. These are great examples of how Shipston High School students work thoughtfully and pro-actively to improve awareness of important issues that affect us all, emphasising the sense of community that permeates our school.



Shipston Literary Society

In a Foreign Field

The month of remembrance and reflection on the tragedies of two world wars is an especially poignant time for this event on 26th November hosted by the Shipston Literary Society about six short stories by local author Mark Armstrong: In a Foreign Field. The title is inspired by Robert Brooke’s poem The Soldier.

Mark drew from people’s lives influenced by the landscapes they inhabited and the choices they faced in times gone by. His stories explore the profound experiences of six men who left the familiar shores of Britain to confront the unknown challenges of war in a foreign land. For these men, the journey was as formidable and daunting as a trip to the moon.

Each narrative shines a light on how war imprints itself on the lives of soldiers, for better or worse. Mark’s stories delve into the personal sacrifices and the indelible marks left by such experiences.

Join this Shipston Literary Society event to hear more about these soldiers on Wednesday, 26th November, 7.30pm at the Community Hall, Tredington. Free for members, and £8 tickets available on the door for visitors. All are welcome to attend. This insightful and moving talk promises to be a thought-provoking evening for those interested in history, storytelling, and the lives of soldiers.

Shipston Sports Bowls

Shipston Sports Bowls has had another successful season, with a commendable league result against bigger clubs – as well as a full fixture list of friendly matches.



The matches and weekly Club sessions are always played in a friendly spirit, making the games enjoyable as well as competitive. A friendly afternoon was spent with a Ladies vs Gentlemen match – which saw many participants from the same households on opposing sides. The Gentlemen prevailed to lift the trophy on this occasion.

The club has worked hard both on and off the green. Damage to the clubhouse and grounds from winter flooding events was successfully repaired, thanks to the support of our members in terms of both time and money – and only added to our appreciation of an enjoyable 2025 bowling season.

Internal fund-raising events and working parties have helped us meet the challenge of the ongoing maintenance – but we have been extremely grateful for the grant aid given by both the Lions and the Town Council for much needed equipment. We are equally grateful for the generous support of our trusted local supplier James Adcock Furnishings. We also thank Tesco for including us



in their community programme. We hope you will feel able to support this local club to help continue this valuable social and competitive interaction for residents in the Shipston area. Our activities extend into the winter months with indoor short mat bowling at the Shipston Sports Club.

SCAN



Fire prevention

Wayne Cooke, a retired Detective Inspector and now a Fire Prevention Officer, gave an informative and sometimes surprising talk at our September meeting.

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) have 17 fire stations, with 85% of firefighters being full time. They have mutual aid arrangements with other local fire services. WFRS’s Safe and Well service provides home visits to eligible Warwickshire residents to advise on safety in the home. Topics covered include smoke alarms, evacuation procedures in an emergency, potential hazards and ways to reduce risk. If necessary, they will supply and fit smoke alarms with long lasting (10 years) batteries free of charge. To plug more than one item into a single socket, always use a fused extension bar rather than block adaptors which present more of a fire risk. In the event of a fire, if you are unable to get out of the building, stand by a front window, ideally in a lit room. Selected fire stations carry out electric blanket safety checks.

WFRS have two double-crewed vehicles providing hospital to home transport in core hours. This service is available from Warwick Hospital on referral by NHS staff. The vehicle will arrive within an hour and the crew will carry out a Safe and Well check in the home. WFRS give fire safety training in schools with the sessions tailored in accordance with the age of the students involved.

Full details of all services can be found on the Warwickshire County Council website or by telephoning 01926 466282.

Our meetings are completely free of charge. All will be welcome at 10am on Tuesday, 4th November for tea, coffee, biscuits. The formal meeting will begin with a short AGM followed by a talk on crime prevention. The speaker, Ian King, a former police officer now a crime prevention officer, has talked to us before and is well worth listening to. We generally finish around noon. I look forward to welcoming many new faces. Please call me on 01608 662998 if you would like to know more.

Laurie Grove

Probus



Probus members were treated to a fascinating presentation on the life and achievements of British composer, Ralph (pronounced Rafe) Vaughan Williams (RVW). Perhaps a subject likely to interest only a select few? Wrong! Dr Timothy Bain pointed out that two pieces by RVW, The Lark Ascending, and Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis, had figured for the past two years in the nation’s top four most popular choices of Classic FM.

Timothy considers RVW to be this country’s greatest symphonist; he composed more symphonies (nine) than his friend Elgar (two). From an early age he wanted to build a distinctive form of music, especially in the English choral tradition.

In 1893 RVW published his first set of intuitively ‘English’ songs and he was asked to compile a new English Hymnal. The result was popular favourites O Little Town of Bethlehem and He Who Would Valiant Be. On a visit to Paris he met Ravel, who influenced his setting of Houseman’s poem On Wenlock Edge. Other attributes included Parlour Songs, to be performed in people’s homes, including setting the words of Linden Lea to music.

RVW had married Adeline Fisher, but by the 1930s his wife had become ill and a recluse. He met Ursula Wood, a poet, who became his muse and they later married. The fifth and sixth symphonies followed, and with the outbreak of the second world war he composed film music for the war drama 49th Parallel, music for an opera Pilgrim’s Progress, and later for the film Scott of the Antarctic. The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II included his music, followed by the 8th and 9th symphonies and four last songs.

RVW refused all official recognition in the form of medals or knighthood. He died in 1958 leaving an undeniable legacy on English music. In Timothy’s considered opinion he was our greatest composer.

If you feel Probus could appeal to you, then why not give us a try? Guests enjoy a free lunch and no initial commitment to join, entirely your choice! Please contact Tony Joint on 07711 310272 or email: tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Shipston Guides

We returned to guiding in September and had a very busy half term. On the first session we had a special visit from Sylvia, a guider in Leicestershire and Ray, a Rotary member, who are both ambassadors for Aquabox. They wanted to present the Brownies with some awards to say thank you for raising money to purchase an Aquabox and they did a lovely presentation all about the aqua filters. We also had a visit from the British Legion (see front page) and Manuela, the LibDem MP, who talked about what she does and inspired the Brownies to hold their own debate. A group went to Heythrop Zoo where they had an amazing day being shown around, meeting animals, feeding penguins, making a monkey’s tea party and preparing the tigers’ food. To end the term, the girls made things related to Day of the Dead as Leader Diane Wildish was off to Mexico to find out about guiding there, stopping at the world guiding centre Our Canbana on the way.

Stour Valley Lions



At home...

For more than 25 years, the Stour Valley Lions have provided a valued second-hand book service for the residents of Shipston-on-Stour and the surrounding villages. What began as a travelling operation developed into a local enterprise when

the Lions transformed a disused unit opposite the library into an inviting bookshop. Open three days a week, it became a much-loved community hub. Several years ago, they had to vacate the premises, and despite extensive efforts, suitable replacement accommodation has not yet been found.

The Lions continue their work through regular Bumper Book Sales at the Scout Hut. Approximately 2,000 books currently stored in a weatherproof container are arranged in trays and categorised into around 60 sections—including fiction, non-fiction, children’s books, history, geography, cookery, gardening, biography, and religion.

Donations of good-quality books are always welcome. Unsold books are responsibly recycled, with some supporting literacy initiatives overseas.

The Lions are eager to re-establish the bookshop should suitable premises become available. Anyone able to offer space or assistance is invited to contact 07511 694733, ds@pinnegards.com, or speak to any member of the Stour Valley Lions.

...and away

Ekica pre and primary school in Tanzania has recently acquired four desktop computers thanks to the generosity of Stour Valley Lions: Lion Tadge Sabatowski is a founder of the charity supporting the school. The school is extremely grateful for the Lions’ support.

Stour Singers



Following our hugely successful 50th anniversary concert in May, Stour Singers would like to invite you to our next concert on Saturday 6th December at 7.30pm in St Edmund’s Church. Under the baton of our new Music Director, Alex Silverman, we will be performing the Little Organ Mass by Joseph Haydn, Dixit Dominus by Marianna von Martines and a selection of Christmas carols. The delightful mass by Haydn is one of his shortest, but is full of moving and dramatic music. Martines was a pupil of Haydn’s as a child and went on to become a well known composer and singer in her time. We are delighted to be part of rediscovering the highly regarded work of this neglected composer. We will again be joined by local soprano soloist Robyn Pullen, who sang at the anniversary concert. The next 50 years of Stour Singers has begun! Tickets to be part of this exciting new era will be available from https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers from 1st November.

Letters

It is with great regret that I have to inform readers that the collection of squares and blankets for Ethiopia have been discontinued. Unfortunately, the charity shop at Halesowen has been unable to continue the collection and storage. The blanket collection from Shipston and district started with Wool fair and continued for 15 years. I would like to thank everyone to their interest, support and generosity.

Veronica Murphy



County Council

I seem to have spent a lot of time conferencing this year! Just back from Conservative Party Conference in Manchester. Miraculously the sun shone and there was no rain – I shouldn’t say that ours was the driest conference...but it was! 100 years since Margaret Thatcher was born, was celebrated hugely, reminding me that in 1979 I was 11 and I watched her win that election (results on Ceefax!). Our country changed, and however you might feel about that, she certainly set us up for success in the UK. We talked about loads of policy stuff, drank a few more drinks than entirely necessary and all chatted nervously about where our party is at. BUT come the Wednesday morning, Kemi Badenoch stood up and blew our socks off with policy and passion. Who doesn’t like the promised removal of a hated tax? Did you know that Stamp Duty was introduced in 1600 for five years maximum? Only 425 years later here’s hoping. It also used to literally be a stamp to a certain value on a piece of velum. So a bit of common sense – this tax being abolished, viewed in areas of ludicrous house prices, feels as important as the fall of communism!

I’ve always pretty much paddled my own canoe as a politician guided by basic principles of personal responsibility, patriotism, small government, sound money (well kitchen table economics for me) and freedom. Simple, eh? We are living in tricky times where external threats and uncertainty within are leading to feelings of division in our communities. I hope we can find ways across our region to ‘do a Shipston’ and listen to each other.

Coming up, we have the debate and decisions on whether WCC becomes a single or double Unitary. My view is that we are better together. The younger, more dynamic north of the county and the south which is older and is overall better off, work as a sensibly sized economic unit. Over 70% of budget is children’s and adult social care and SEND – so doing this through a larger geography makes sense! Do let me know if you have come to a different conclusion.

I have Thursday morning availability at various hostelryes/cafes across the patch. Phone me and we can meet up. And don’t limit it if you need to contact me another time. (My favourite call ever was in the interval of an opera in London, where I sorted a sewage leak and then returned to the rest of my evening!)

Yours ever, Jo

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division  
077489 68712 | [jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

District Council

In mid-October, I spent a genuinely lovely evening with the Shipston Business Group in The White Horse. The mood was upbeat and hopeful, these town centre retailers value being in Shipston. I quote: ‘you only have to go to other market towns to realise what we have in Shipston is unique’. I agree. Within 100 metres, you can get your watch mended, sell your Pokemon cards, buy some vinyl, and a birthday card, a curtain hook, refurbished garden tools, a preloved party outfit, dinner from the butcher’s, vegetables from Evesham Vale, and even organise a funeral. Not to mention the lovely cafes, pubs, and amazing festivals that call Shipston their home. We must use these brilliant businesses or lose them.

By the time you read this, we will have had the public meeting about the influx of housing developers champing at the bit, having been given the green light by recent government changes in planning laws. They have the fields surrounding Shipston in their sights, and four planning applications have been submitted since June. It’s still too early to guess whether any of them will be passed, but the planning officers are under financial pressure (due to possible claims from developers whose applications have been turned down) to up the rate of housebuilding in the district. Luckily Shipston, galvanised by the SOS campaign, has a very high rate of engagement in this process. Councillors on all levels are working hard to scrutinise and question all applications.

In stark contradiction to housebuilding on greenfield sites, we are being asked to contribute to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy: <https://www.wcslnp.co.uk/> Inrs. Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) are locally-led plans mandated by the Environment Act 2021. They aim to recover nature and improve the environment by focusing on actions with the greatest impact on nature recovery. The Warwickshire LNRS, in collaboration with the other 48 LNRS, will cover the whole of England to become a Nature Recovery Network across the country. This is even more important now, with all the housebuilding that is going to happen countrywide. Let’s hope the land around Fell Mill can contribute to nature recovery into the future, rather than add to its decline.

Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North  
07752 562114 | [olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

Your town councillors



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**Richard Walters, Deputy Mayor**  
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**Hilary Kelly**  
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**Steve Crockett**  
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**Vanessa Benjamin-Smith**  
*SAFAG Chair*  
e: [vanessa.benjamin-smith@shipstontownconcil.org](mailto:vanessa.benjamin-smith@shipstontownconcil.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:	
PC1508 Sid Hammond – 07967303185	
PCSO Katie Brooks – 07870978973	
<b>Churches of Shipston:</b>	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund’s	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01295 257193

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

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

**Town Clerk**  
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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](mailto:forum@shipstononline.org) or , if you don’t have email access, on 07989 530069


To request posts on the council’s Facebook page, contact [enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org)

Forum copy deadline:

Second Monday of the month

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

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council.  
While every effort is made to ensure information is accurate, the Town Council and its contractors do not accept responsibility for material submitted by readers or third parties and does not endorse any organisation or event publicised. Contributions may be edited to fit available space.



Vacancy in the Office of Town Councillor  
For the Shipston North Ward  
of Shipston on Stour

An election has not been called so the Town Council is entitled to fill the vacancy by co-option.  
If you would like to be considered for co-option, or would like further information, please email the Deputy Town Clerk at [clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org)





STRATFORD THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS

# DEAD ON CUE

SAME PLAY. SAME THEATRE. SAME DRESSING ROOM.  
68 YEARS APART

"TIME IS OUT OF JOINT"

A NEW GHOSTLY THRILLER  
WRITTEN BY MARK CAREY  
ONTO THE STAGE & WHAT'S BEHIND WITH BENNY HILL?



FROM THE PRODUCER OF  
OLD HERBACEOUS  
THREE MEN IN A BOAT  
FANNY  
MY DOG'S GOT NO NOSE

"THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH..."

**The Hall Cherington, Stourton & Sutton**  
Pinfold Lane, Stourton, CV36 5HG

**Sat 22 Nov 2025 7.30pm**  
£15 Tel - 07775 765572  
email - info@thehallevents.org.uk or online at  
[www.buytickets.at/stratfordtheatrecompany](http://www.buytickets.at/stratfordtheatrecompany)  
[www.stratfordtheatrecompany.org.uk](http://www.stratfordtheatrecompany.org.uk)





## Shipston Music Society

[www.shipstonmusic.org.uk](http://www.shipstonmusic.org.uk)



### Central England Guitar Ensemble

A lively programme to include works by Delibes, Vivaldi, Piazzola, Brian Wilson, Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulvaeus (ABBA)

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 7.30pm  
The Methodist Church  
New Street  
Shipston on Stour

Tickets £10 on the door or from E.H.Spencer  
Free entry for members  
New members always welcome  
More information: 01608 662998



Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)


## STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA

**Certificate 12**

Based on Niall Williams' best-selling novel. Nicholas and Isabel were made for each other but how will they ever know it? As ghosts, fate and the sheer power of true love pull them together, so too does life threaten to tear them apart.

**TOWNSEND HALL**  
**FRIDAY 21st November, 2025 at 7.30pm**

Tickets on sale from The Flower House,  
Shipston for cash £6.00, or pay on the door,  
Drinks, Chocolate and raffle.



## STOUR CONCERT BRASS

# HOLIDAY HARMONY

Brass band holiday classics and more

Featuring guest soloist Luke Barker  
Principal Cornet of the Flowers Band, National Champions 2024

**SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2025, 3pm**  
Cherington, Stourton & Sutton-under-Brailles Hall  
Pinfold Lane, Stourton, Shipston on Stour CV36 5HG