Shipston For



Crisis in Ukraine



Shipston Town Council is deeply disturbed at the events in Ukraine and we offer our deepest sympathy to the people of Ukraine. As a town council, we condemn this aggression and call upon President Putin to call off this assault.

We know that residents will be worried for family and friends in Russia and Ukraine and want them to know that they have our sympathy, compassion and support.

We are aware of local residents who are arranging help for those affected and also of local events to raise funds to support the crisis.

Please contact us if there is any specific support we may be able to offer or if we can assist by sharing information to residents.

Shipston Food bank continues to provide vital support

During the past twelve months, the Shipston Food Bank has helped 109 different households from the town and surrounding villages with emergency parcels of food and basic cleaning, laundry and toiletry items. We have handed out 519 food parcels over the year



and estimate that we have assisted at least 139 adults and 82 children.

We had expected that the number of people coming to the Food Bank for assistance would start to fall as furlough came to an end and other COVID restrictions were gradually lifted but, after a temporary drop, demand is increasing again, and we continue to welcome new customers almost every week.

We expect demand for food parcels in Shipston to continue to increase in the coming weeks as energy, food and other prices rise, and additional National Insurance costs come into effect. The Food Standards Agency estimates that, currently, only one person in seven who is experiencing food poverty uses a food bank. We anticipate that continuing inflation is likely to bring more local people to the point where they need to seek help with feeding themselves.

Local residents, businesses and charitable organisations have been really generous with gifts of food and money over the past year, enabling us to continue to provide emergency help to our customers. We are most grateful for all this support, and also for the volunteers who give up their time to enable the Food Bank to operate week by week. Thank you so much!

Donations of food and other basic items can be left in the porch of St Edmund's Church between 9.00am and 5.00pm every day and there are also collection points in both of the Co-ops. Each week we post a list of the things we need most in both Co-ops and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank/) and our website (www. shipstonfoodbank.org.uk/).

Shipston Food Bank maintains close links with other food banks in the region, and if one of them has a particular shortage of items of which we have a surplus, we are able to help them out. Similarly, we are in contact with Stratford Baby Bank and other charitable and statutory organisations, so that if a household's problems prove to be more than just a short-term emergency we can try to point them in the direction of further advice and help.

The Food Bank is open for customers between 10.30am and 12.00 noon on Saturday mornings in St Edmund's Church. You don't need a voucher or a referral – just come along if you need help.

Rev Sarah Edmonds, Chair of Food Bank Management Committee

Beware of Council Tax rebate fraud

As part of a national scheme, the Government is providing funding to Stratford District Council to give households in council tax bands A - D a one-off council tax energy rebate payment of £150. This payment will operate outside of the council tax system, using council tax lists to identify eligible households. Funding is also being provided for a discretionary fund for households in need who would not otherwise be eligible.

Stratford District Council is aware of local people receiving calls from fraudsters claiming to represent the council, asking for personal information, including bank account details, to process their rebate. Residents should not divulge any personal information if contacted by phone and should wait for information from official channels - the majority of residents who qualify and pay their Council Tax via direct debit will not need to do anything to receive the rebate.

The District Council is awaiting details of how the scheme will be administered and will be publishing information on their website when it is available: https://www.stratford. gov.uk/benefits-support/energy-rebatescheme-2022.cfm

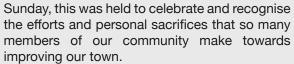
Get green fingered with **Little Shipstonians!**

Check out page 9 to learn how young people can collect some FREE seeds to grow at home.



Mayor's column

Thanks to all of you that attended our Civic Service last



We talked about our plans, saying that it is up to us as a community, as a Town Council, to steer the town in a direction that meets our future needs and aspirations, most importantly that addresses the needs and aspirations of all sections of our community and calls upon the many other members of our community to make sure that we support our youth and more vulnerable and less able in our society in providing the support, resources and facilities to ensure that they too can benefit from what the Town has to offer in the future.

Our strength is our community, working together for the betterment of the town and the people that live and use the town. This community is the reason that people want to move to Shipston, it's the reason that we get nominated year after year as the best place to live in the Midlands.

The current conflict in Ukraine and the devastation being inflicted on those people serves to remind us how fortunate we are here in Shipston, indeed throughout South Warwickshire, where we live in relative security and safety. But we must not be complacent, we need to move forward to protect what we have, to adapt to our environment and plan for a better future.

The Town Band again supported us at the service, and the Church was adorned with knitted artefacts from the knitting group whose Yarn Bombings have kept us entertained throughout the pandemic. I'm very grateful to both, and thanks are also due to all those community groups and volunteers and our Town Councillors and office team, all of whom have contributed over the past two years. What struck me however was how many of those volunteers that I spoke to wore multiple hats, representing and helping out in multiple ways. It's a tremendous effort from them but makes you realise that there is room for more to be involved.

To those that are, I thank you for all your hard work and look forward to working with you in making this an even stronger community for us all.

Ian Cooper, Mayor of Shipston

Ellen Badger redevelopment receives planning permission

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has granted planning permission for the first phase of new integrated healthcare facilities at the Ellen Badger Hospital site.

As well as bringing together the hospital and medical centre on the same site, the planned new development will offer a range of services including a Health and Wellbeing Centre and create shared spaces for community nursing teams and Shipston Home Nursing. There will also be outpatients and treatment rooms for physiotherapy, specialist nurses and other health professionals including mental health clinicians.

Hilary Kelly joins Town Council

At the March meeting of Shipston Town Council, Hilary Kelly was co-opted to fill the last remaining vacancy on the Council.

"My husband Paul and I moved here from Cornwall nearly 13 years ago, mainly to be closer to family," said Councillor Hilary Kelly. "Since then I have



become increasingly involved in town life, being an early member of the monthly litter-pick, volunteering with Holiday at Home and for some years helping with the children's Holiday Club. More recently I have taken on responsibility for the churchyard behind St Edmund's Church to try to increase wildlife diversity. I am passionate about our planet and the damage caused to it by the climate crisis, and I hope to serve the people of Shipston as a councillor to the best of my ability."

Could you be an on-call firefighter?

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently looking for on-call firefighters across the county, including for roles at Shipston Fire Station. The role of a firefighter is varied and includes prevention work, water & animal rescue, road incidents, and of course fires! We are using different communication channels to advertise the role and attract more applications. For more information or to apply, please visit https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/work-fire-rescue



ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS

For more information visit:

News from Shipston Town Council's March meeting

Ukraine

Councillors were united in expressing their condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and resolved to support local efforts to ease the humanitarian crisis.

Queens Avenue Play Area

The General Purposes Working Group is reviewing revised proposals for the play area after being informed that the quote for works has been significantly increased due to changes in the cost of materials.

E-cargo Roadshow

Stratford-on-Avon District Council had expressed interest in running a roadshow in the town to showcase a loan scheme for businesses, allowing them to trial the use of electric bikes and trikes for three months. Councillors were supportive of this idea.

Sewage Issues

There have been continued significant issues with the sewage network, causing flooding around Queens Avenue and Saddlers Close areas. Cllr Peter Cox and Cllr Jo Barker have been engaging with Severn Trent Water, emphasising the need for a longterm solution.

Fire Engine Availability

Some concern was expressed at reports that the engine normally based at Shipston had been relocated to other stations to provide maintenance cover, leaving the town reliant on cover from Stratford or Moreton-in-Marsh. Cllr Jo Barker is investigating.

One-Way System for Town Centre

Councillors discussed the longstanding safety and accessibility issues in the centre of Shipston and the need for a one-way system as outlined in the neighbourhood plan. Cllr Jo Barker confirmed that she would be willing to allocate some of her County Council community funds toward the delivery of the project.

Shoulderway Lane Parking

Councillors will investigate whether parking can be provided for users of the allotments, helping protect the grass banks which are currently damaged by vehicles.

Corn Mill Meadows Parking

The General Purposes Working Group will be examining options for parking to avoid visitors leaving their vehicles in side streets.

Groundworks Contract

Councillors approved a proposal from the Finance Working Group to apply a waiver and extend the existing contract, allowing time for a compliant procurement process to be conducted. The council intends to offer suppliers a longer-term contract, enabling them to invest in equipment with greater certainty.

Platinum Jubilee

 $\pounds 2,\!000$ was allocated as a budget for fireworks following receipt of a quote and a further £1,000 was allocated toward other expenses.

Building Energy Survey

Councillors will explore options for an energy survey of New

Clark House to ensure that the building is operating efficiently.

Staffing Structure Review

Work continues on the staffing structure review which is reviewing job descriptions for staff and will introduce a formal evaluation process.

Youth Working Group

Cllr Shirley Madams was appointed as the Chair of the working group.

Councillor Mentoring

A buddy system is being introduced so that less experienced councillors receive mentoring from those who have served for a significant period.

What's On Calendar - April 2022

- 1 Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge Board Games Social Afternoon: Rainbow Fields 2pm. Contact 07514 492468 or email juliareeves@everyoneactive.com
- 5 Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month. See ad on page 16
- 6 Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230 Shipston on Stour WI: Speaker, Katie Beswick, Herbalist, Little Bird Soaps. Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary, on 01608 664519
- 8 Shipston Music Society: The Heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan. A Talk by Bernard Lockett.7.30pm, Methodist Church, New Street, Shipston. See ad on page 5
- **Norgren Bowls Club:** Easter Prize Bingo. Townsend Hall. Doors open 6pm, eyes down 7.30pm. See ad on page 16
- **St Edmund's Church:** Soup lunch to raise funds for the Ukraine emergency. See ad on page 6
- **12 Annual Town Meeting** Public meeting hosted by Town Council
- 15 Shipston Branch of the RBL social evenings: The Shipston on Stour Branch of the Royal British Legion meet on the third Friday of each month for a social gathering. We meet in the White Bear Inn from 7.30 pm onwards. Further information contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com.
- **20-30 Shipston Home Nursing:** Online Art Exhibition plus viewings by appointment. www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/event/art-auction-on-reflection-2/2022-04-20/.
- **20 Shipston Widows:** Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am 12pm, The White Bear. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
- **Shipston Home Nursing:** Online art exhibition. 70 paintings. 23rd April launch and 4 day auction. Ends Saturday 30th April
- **Shipston U3A:** George Eliot and Warwickshire History by David Paterson. See ad on page 8
- 27 Shipston and District Literary Society: Michael Bell The Periodic Table by Primo Levi. Meetings are held at the White Hart Inn, Newbold on Stour at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5. Contact Helen Marshall 01789 740773
- **28** Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea & chat
- 29 Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge Board Games Social Afternoon: Rainbow Fields 2pm. Contact 07514 492468 or email juliareeves@everyoneactive.com
 - Bateman Bros Jazz Band: Townsend Hall. Doors open 7pm, for 8pm. Bar. Tickets £10. See ad on page 8
- **30 May 2 Shipston Home Nursing:** Pop up table top stalls. Plants & produce wanted. See website for list of stall locations: www. shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events See ad on page 16

Townsend Hall Sell-Outs!!



Well, as reported last time, we knew ticket sales were going well for the Cotswold Events booking for the "Just Take That" tribute band and our booking of "Tom Spats Langham's Hot Fingers", but better than that, it turned out they were both a sell-out! It was so good to see Shipston enjoying fun nights out again and we captured some great snaps and videos – take a look at our website gallery and Facebook page for more.

We'll report back next time, but In March, we're confident everyone also had a great time seeing "Richard Leach's Street Band" and one of the regularly organised Lions cinema nights who screened "Emma".

April brings yet more entertainment with our booking of "Bateman Brothers Jazz Band" on Friday 29th April. Tickets will be available from https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall or from A. Clarke Electrical Services in town. Take a look at http://www.ianbateman.com/bateman-brothers-jazz-band to whet your appetite.

Get other dates in your diary too! May brings Cotswold Events back for a 60's experience and we've got yet more great jazz with "Sally Minchin's String Quintet". If you haven't given jazz a go before, we urge you to try us out. For around a tenner a ticket it's a great night out and you get to see some top musicians – in the unlikely event it turns out not to be your thing, we also have a fully licensed bar!

Signing off with the usual reminder - we're a venue funded as a charity, so please keep supporting us by attending our events and at the many clubs/sports we have available.

Visit us at www.townsendhall.co.uk to find out more.

Shipston Town Band

Shipston Town Band competed in the Midland Area Brass Band Championships on Sunday 27th February. They played the set test piece Facets Of Glass by Gordon Langford in a new venue The Cube.



Despite the lack of a warm-up room to use to tune-up, band members were undeterred, resourcefully approaching the manager of Costa Coffee where they were enjoying a drink. Surprisingly he said there was space upstairs and they would be welcome to use it. The word went out and the band gathered together and played through Blaenwern and tuned up even practising the opening to our test piece.

Was there a fairy tale ending? Sadly not. While the band gave a fine performance we were placed outside the prizes by the adjudicators. However, we certainly had a day to remember!

David Birch



Shipston Rotary

There are about 46 Rotary Clubs in Ukraine. (There are also about 127 Rotary clubs in Russia). As part of a national Rotary project to help Ukraine, Shipston



Rotary held 2 collections recently, one in Sainsbury,'s Wellesbourne and one in Shipston. The extraordinary sum of £2,354 was raised. To this will be added £1,050 from the reserve in Rotary's charity account, making £3,404 in total.

Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland is in contact with Rotary Clubs in Ukraine Despite all the challenges they face they are trying to get children, especially orphan children, out of the country or at least to a safer area.

Shipston Rotary will try and keep readers informed of developments, especially how your incredibly generous donations are being spent.

Rotary 100 club prize draw: February

First Prize £ 66.25 no 49

Second Prize £ 39.75 no 24

Third Prize £ 26.50 no 73

Funds raised by Rotary continue to support many fantastic local causes, including these most recent grant recipients:

Shipston Rainbows

Shipston First Responders

Shipston in Bloom

Shipston Youth Club

Tysoe Dementia Cafe

Shakespeare Hospice

Shipston Stroke Association

DASH (Drug Action Shipston)

Samaritans

Papyrus (Teenage suicide support)

Down Memory Lane (Dementia support in Shipston)

In addition, the following received grants last year:

Shelterbox (Emergency shelters and equipment when international disasters strike)

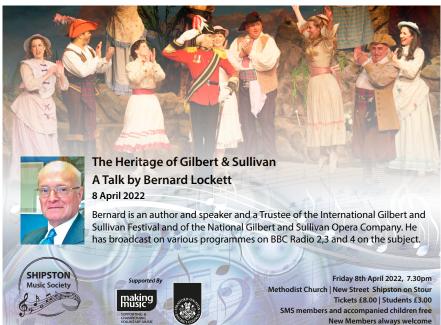
Mary's Meals (Daily hot meal at school for underprivileged children in the poorest parts of the world)

Shipston Home Nursing

Shipston Primary School (Hand sanitising Stations etc)

Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (Prostate cancer)





Stour Singers Present Dvorak And Mozart In Concert

Stour Singers are delighted to present a concert at St. Edmund's Church in Shipston on Saturday evening 7th May at 7.30.p.m.,



featuring Dvorak's Mass in D and Mozart's Solemn Vespers – a beautiful combination of music. The choir will be joined by four professional soloists and an organist. Alan Fairs (bass-baritone) and Cathy Bell (mezzo) return to sing with the choir and are joined by Ana Beard Fernandez (soprano), Daniel Joy (tenor) and Ashley Wagner (organist).

Dvorak composed his Mass in D in 1887 for his friend, the architect Josef Hlavka, for the consecration of the private chapel Hlavka had built onto his palace. It is an exquisitely melodic piece, written with organ accompaniment, and meant a lot to Dvorak himself, as he wrote to his patron "It could be called: faith, hope, and love for God almighty".

A century earlier, Mozart wrote the Vespers as his final choral work for Salzburg Cathedral, and concert-goers will be moved by the lyrical Laudate Dominum, as part of this concert.

Tickets are available for £12.50 (free to accompanied children) from A. Clarke in Shipston High Street, and choir members.

Stour Singers look forward so much to sharing their love of music, and always welcome new members. Making music together is a real pleasure, so - if you are tempted - do please contact the choir coordinator, Yvonne Ridley on 01789 269587, with a view to joining for the autumn season.

Shipston on Stour U3A

"Heavenly Beauty, Earthly Delight – Gardens of Paradise" – 22nd February 2022



On a typical overcast, dull February day, we enjoyed an illustrated talk by Adrian James who transported us to the warm sunlit areas of the Middle East with a detailed explanation of the development of many restful gardens which had been formed since c. 500/600 BC.

Adrian James explained how each Garden basically followed the same pattern of Air, Water, Earth and Plants and how the planners used water often brought from a great distance as most gardens were in the midst of arid desert areas with temperatures which might reach 60 – 70 C in Persia. Slowly, the establishment of Paradise Gardens spread across the region as the Muslim tribes fought the Persians who moved westwards until the style of shaded gardens extended towards Spain by the early 16th Century.

We were shown pictures of gardens in many deserts and dry locations which followed the same pattern of running water usually through the centre in an open canal with fountains, flanked by citrus or plane trees for shade and peace and quiet for the rich owners and their guests to enjoy. Adrian James explained that the most photographed garden at the Taj Mahal demonstrated the same design to the multitude of visitors to the world-famous site.

Coming back home from the sunshine of the Middle East, we learnt that the "Gardens of Paradise" design had been transplanted to several places within England notably at the Al Hambra, Leeds, the Hyde Park Lady Diana Memorial and close to home at the Seizencote Manor near Moreton in Marsh.

Finally, we saw a picture of Adrian James's own garden which follows the same traditional design to provide him with Peace, Quiet and Rest whenever the sun shines through his trees.

What's On Page 6

Everyone is welcome to come to a

Soup Lunch



on April 11th at 12 noon in St Edmund's Church

to help raise funds for the Ukraine emergency.





Every SATURDAY 10am - 10:45am & 11am - 11:45am

Every TUESDAY (from 8th March) 15:30 - 16:30

Shipston Library

Limited numbers for the sessions

This is a free event. We advise booking on to one of the sessions to guarantee your space. Drop-ins welcomed subject to availability.

> For more information and to book go to www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childrensactivities

> > & click on Shipston Library

OFFICIAL





During Easter, St Edmund's Church will be displaying lilies in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to buy a lily please post £5 with the full name of your loved one to Anne Hulme, 48 Sheep Street, Shipston On Stour, CV36 4AE.

Names will be displayed in church from Easter Sunday.



GRAND COFFEE MORNING With SUSICAL INTERLUCES St Edmund's Church Friday 13th May 10.30am onwards Plants Cakes Bring & buy Raffle Jewellery Cards All proceeds to church funds

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Shipston Proms

There was a lot to fit into the recent meeting at the White Bear including updates on the programme, new ideas for the shows, Launch Night and Last Night discussions and all the nitty-gritty that goes with organising the Proms.



Instead of the Fame Contest this year we will have a Shipston Introducing type event, where new musical talent will have an opportunity to show off their music, this time without the element of competition. BBC Suffolk Introducing was responsible for finding Ed Sheeran so it would be great to find the next singing sensation!! We will have details of where this will be held later. There will also be an open mic night too, giving musicians plenty of opportunities to appear in front of a wider audience post-Covid. A new to us act in 2019 was the Big Ginge Blues Band and it's great that they are appearing again at the Proms. Last time they wowed the audience at Long Compton with their mix of fireball energy and soothing soul and this time they are playing at The Black Horse on Sunday 19th June.

The Cotswold Choir will be appearing at Cherington Village Hall on Saturday 11th June. In addition to appearing at the Proms in 2022, they have applied to take part in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. It will be exciting if they get through!

Launching the Festival this year will be Uncle Funk and the Disco InFerno at Townsend Hall. They are the UK's top live disco band, booked every year for Glastonbury Festival and many other huge events. We look forward to welcoming them on Friday 10th June for a dance extravaganza. Final Night will be celebrated to the rockier sounds of Dawn til Dusk', The Shapes and the headliners The Rick Parfitt Junior Band on the 25th.

If you have been supporters of the Proms over the years, there is as you know plenty more to enjoy, including the enormously popular Young Musicians Concert at Barcheston, Songs from the Shows, Helen Porter's Chamberpot Pourri and music from our very own Town Band.

Please go to our website for any updates and more information on www.shipston.org or go to our Facebook page. Festival dates are 10th – 25th June, two and a half months and counting......

Susan Perry

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Free activities are continuing throughout April. The key changes are:

- The Health Walk on Tuesdays at 12.00 has been discontinued
- Due to exceptional demand, a second Seated Exercise Class has been added on Tuesdays at 11.15 at Rainbow Fields on The Driftway.
- The Friday Board Games Social Afternoon is moving to Rainbow Fields with a new start time of 14.00 and will be held fortnightly, dates for April are 1st and 29th only.

There are no changes to the remaining activities.

Shipston Probus

'Earnest Shackleton' by Ken Ingamells - Friday 18th March 2022

Ken Ingamells, an old friend of Probus, has visited the Antarctic on many occasions as a meteorologist and illustrated his talk with modern photos of the various Antarctic expedition sites together with first-hand accounts of the conditions faced by early Antarctic explorers.

Shackleton was born in Ireland; unusually, as a six-year-old, his strongest wish was to be a gravedigger! Later the family moved to England. The young Earnest did not shine academically and aged fifteen joined the Merchant Navy, regularly sailing to South America and rounding by sail the notorious Cape Horn, valuable experience for what was to come. In the early 1900s, an opportunity arose to join an Antarctic expedition led by Captain Scott and Shackleton impressed both with his seamanship and leadership qualities. However, the ill-fated expedition was forced to turn back due to a lack of supplies and an outbreak of scurvy. Shackleton returned home to recover, receiving some of the blame for failure from Scott.

Shackleton's career now took a different turn, he became secretary to the Royal Scottish Geographical Association. In 1907 raising enough funds to mount another Antarctic expedition under his leadership, they got to within 97 miles of the pole but with supplies limited, Shackleton was not prepared to risk the safety of his men and decided to turn back.

In 1911 Amundsen won the race to be first to reach the South Pole and Scott famously perished in his attempt. What next for Shackleton? Undeterred, he raised finance for a trans-Antarctic expedition, to cross from the Weddell Sea via the pole to McMurdo Sound. Despite the outbreak of war in 1914, Churchill gave permission for the expedition to proceed, and they reached the Weddell Sea where the Endeavour became stuck in the sea ice. The Endeavour had not been built for Antarctic conditions and could not resist the sea ice, finally ending up 10 000 ft down on the seabed. The recent discovery and photos of Endeavour show it still in a remarkable state of preservation.

Shackelton now had the challenge of leading his men to safety, dragging three lifeboats across the sea ice to Poulet Island where he knew stores were based; but the movement of the ice took them in the wrong direction, eventually making landfall on Elephant Island. Here they lived in their upturned boats for shelter. Shackleton, with five others, made a dash to row to the north coast of South Georgia where they knew there was a manned whaling station. After 19 cruel days of storm and the constant threat of capsizing, they made landfall, but on the uninhabited south coast. Rising to the challenge once again, Shackleton with two others trekked across the mountainous ice-capped island to get to the north coast, at last staggering into the whaling station and safety. Thanks to his bravery and leadership all the crew were eventually rescued.

Shackleton died of a heart attack on a subsequent Antarctic expedition and at his wife's request was buried there. He is remembered as an outstanding explorer and leader who always put the safety of his men first.

Guests and new members are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com

What's On Page 8



Annual Town Meeting



Tuesday 12th April 2022 at 7pm **Townsend Hall**

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

It is not a meeting of the Town Council

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

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

Refreshments to follow

For further information please contact Shipston Town Council clerk@shipstononline.org or telephone 01608 662180



Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge

New health & wellbeing opportunities brought to you by the Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership in partnership with Sport England and L&Q

For further information and to book please email:

juliareeves@everyoneactive.com or call 07514492468

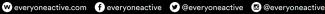
Activity	Day	Time	Location
Seated Exercise Class	Tuesday	10:00am	Townsend Hall
Gentle Walk	Tuesday	12:00pm	Shipston Town Council
New Age Kurling	Wednesday	2:00pm	Townsend Hall
Pilates for Complete Beginners	Friday	9:30am	Townsend Hall
Board Games Social Afternoon	Friday	2.30pm	The Coach & Horses















SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA



TUESDAY 26 APRIL. 2022 2 pm TOWNSEND HALL



Sculpture in Nuneaton Market Place by John Letts in 1985

George Eliot and Warwickshire History

How one of our greatest novelist's work was influenced by her Warwickshire upbringing; it includes extracts from her books.

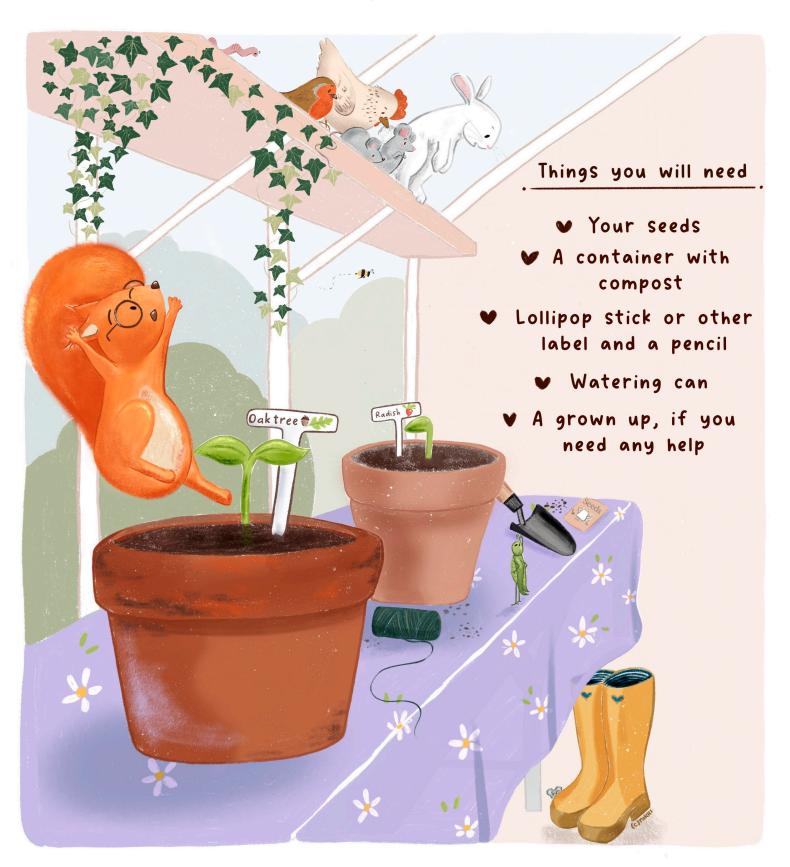
A talk by David Paterson

(Former Head of History at King Edward VI College, Nuneaton and Chairman of the Nuneaton Branch of the Historical Association)

Visitors are welcome Entry including refreshments £2 Little Shipstonians Page 9



Welcome to another edition of the Little Shipstonians. April sees the start of Spring and warmer days to come, enabling us to spend lots more time outdoors, observing the new growth around us. A really cool skill to learn is how to grow your own plants, especially plants that you can eat. Sowing the seeds, looking after them and watching them grow can make you feel really good and can also teach you about where your food comes from. The picture below shows a little squirrel who is very excited to see the first shoot of his oak tree emerge! The picture also lists what you will need to start sowing your own seeds. To help you even more, there are a limited supply of salad leaf seeds and pea seeds which can be collected at the Shipston Town Council Office (one packet per person, please). These seeds have been generously donated by John Lynes of Shipston, so a big thank you to them! On each packet there will be further instructions to follow. We hope you have lots of fun this Spring learning how to grow your own vegetables, and why not send in a photo of your plants to forum@shipstononline.org As always, on the next page you will find a picture to add some lovely colours to. Bye for now





Here is a picture for you to colour in, of Grandad digging his allotment. Whilst you are adding some nice colours, can you also count and name all of the vegetables that he is growing?

V

What's On & Reader Letter Page 11



Bee suits will be provided.

Beyond this course Shipston Beekeepers hold weekly

apiary meetings to help newer members build up their beekeeping experience.

Cost £70: Light lunch and refreshments included

Enrolment :- https://www.sbka.org.uk/introduction-tobeekeeping-enrolment/

Enquiries:- secretary@sbka.org.uk:

Introduction to Beekeeping

Day 1 - 23rd April 2022 Day 2 - 24th April 2022

Bookings from 1st December 2021

Village Hall Brailes OX15 5AS

run by

Shipston Beekeepers

www.sbka.org.uk

Shipston Beekeepers, a branch of Warwickshire Beekeepers
Association (Red Charith 500276)

Beginners Course



Led by a local Master Beekeeper our weekend course will give you an insight and hands on experience of, the world of the honey bee and the role of the beekeeper. We will cover:-

Day 1 (classroom, Brailes Village Hall)

- · How a honey bee colony works
- The beekeeping year
- The essential equipment
- Harvesting your honey and wax

· How to get started with your own bees

Day 2 (Apiary, Lower Brailes)

- · Siting an apiary
- Assembling hive parts
- Apiary Safety
- Inspecting a honeybee colony (weather permitting)

SBKA Home page



Letter from Ron Lang

I am writing this both as a JP who has been sitting on the Gloucestershire bench for many years and also as a motorist who has twice been caught speeding. I am really concerned that the wrong solution may be rushed through and implemented in an effort to control speeds in the town without understanding the full implications, whereas finances might be far better spent on a different solution which has the potential to be far more effective.

Here are some basic facts for consideration:

FACT Most motorists observe speed limits most of the time.

The corollary to this is that a minority of motorists will exceed speed limits whenever possible. Whatever the speed limit, there will always be a cohort of motorists who will ignore it. In simple terms, if they currently and regularly exceed the 30 mph limit without being caught, then they will also regularly exceed a future 20 mph limit. The effect of changing the speed limit will be negligible and the effort and cost of introducing it will have been a total waste of time and resources.

FACT There is no excuse in law for speeding.

There may be mitigating factors, perhaps needing to get to a hospital quickly, but the offence still stands as the law requires every driver to be aware of the speed limit applicable to the road being negotiated.

FACT The majority of speeding offences are dealt with by way of fixed penalty notices (FPN).

This reduces the workload on the police. The option of taking a speeding course is a simple way of hiding the offence as no points or fine are applied and no record kept. This gives out the message to all drivers that the offence is considered minor by both the police and the judiciary. With very little chance of being caught, there continues to be a strong incentive to increase speed.

FACT Nearly all cases in court are as a result of offences recorded by a fixed speed camera or by a mobile police speed unit.

Without photographic/radar evidence, there is little point in bringing speeding cases to court. The photographic evidence is indisputable and becomes the definitive instrument in ensuring a speeding offence is recorded and the driver punished.

FACT In the three years I have lived in Shipston, I have never seen either

a police vehicle or a policeman with a speed camera monitoring speeding motorists.

I cannot recall reading about any speeding offence in Shipston in any local paper. This sends the unfortunate message that it is OK to exceed the speed limit in Shipston.

FACT If traffic is limited to 20 mph, there will always be impatient motorists who will strive to overtake the slower cars, especially in the knowledge that there is no enforcement in Shipston.

This is more likely to cause serious accidents on the long, straight and wide roads such as London Road where there are many side roads. Motorists pulling out from these side roads and then encountering an overtaking car on the wrong side of the road, going in the wrong direction, could be the cause of a very unfortunate accident.

CONCLUSIONS

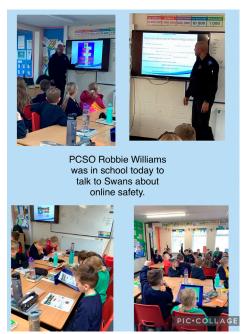
It does not take a genius to see that simply changing a speed limit will have a negligible effect on speeding motorists. Speed camera enforcement is a far more powerful deterrent. A lower speed limit may actually increase the number of accidents.

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Shipston Primary School

ONLINE SAFETY WEEK

Safer Internet Week took place just before half term and Brailes children and Digital Leaders certainly 'played their part' in helping to improve the internet, for all users. The children participated some excellent and insightful discussions regarding safe online interactions and how to ensure exchanges with other internet users are always safe, respectful and



positive. PCSO Robbie Williams visited Badgers Class in March to talk to the children about criminal responsibility (from age 10) and online safety.

WORLD BOOK DAY

All three schools in The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust excitedly celebrated World Book Day together on Thursday 3rd March. This year marks the 25th anniversary of World Book Day.

The schools in our Trust did not dress up this year, but did lots of reading, and shared a love of favourite books and stories. All primary school aged children received a £1 book token to spend on World Book Day. These were saved by the school and exchanged with our nearest bookshop, Jaffé and Neale in Chipping Norton, who ensured every child received one of the new World Book Day books of their choosing.

In addition, we held four virtual author visits throughout March to promote creative writing and a love of books: Donna David, Mini Grey, John Dougherty and Peter Bunzl. The authors also signed copies of their books for families who wanted to purchase one.

We also have our Reading for the Curriculum week in June to look forward to. This year is a Geography theme, using the book 'Mirror' by Jeannie Baker.

SPORT SLIDES BACK

After two years, we finally were able to play some competitive sport against other schools from our consortium last Thursday when Charlie and Sophie from Year 6 went to Townsend Hall to take part in our first-ever curling competition.

Taking inspiration from our successful Olympians from the recent Winter Games in Beijing, the



children enjoyed learning how to control the stones, developing an understanding of tactics and making friends with children from other schools. Every team won at least one game with the incredibly close tournament being won by Kineton on the last stone of the final game.



Shipston On Stour Primary School

We are incredibly grateful to David Squires and Shipston Lions for donating the curling sets for all three schools in The Stour Federation. We shall be hosting more competitive sports at Shipston every Wednesday after school in June when we have rounders and 6-a-side football tournaments.

Year 4 and Year 5 have all been enjoying specialist coaching from Warwickshire County Cricket Club on Fridays this half term, developing their catching, batting and bowling skills.

All-Stars and Dynamos cricket at Shipston Cricket club will be starting in May. Please check their website for details: https://www.shipstononstourcc.co.uk/a/junior-cricket--ecb-all-stars-dynamos-49307.html

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Children from across the school came dressed in their Cubs, Brownies, Rainbows and Beavers uniforms to celebrate Founder's Day and World Thinking Day, which remembers the birthdays of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell (the founders of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements). Our assemblies have discussed who they were, how they encourage everyone to care for each other and look to find the adventure in life every day: values which fit in well with our own at school.



DANGEROUS DINOSAURS

Chicks and Ducklings entered the world of 'Dangerous Dinosaurs' on their return to school after half term. Children became explorers as soon as they walked into their classrooms. It was all very exciting as they discovered fossils, dinosaur bones, a volcano and an enormous egg! The children have been busy guessing who the egg belongs to and what might be inside. They are patiently waiting for it to hatch!

Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher

School News Page 13

Shipston High School

School Admissions

With the national secondary schools' place offer day taking place last month, we are pleased to announce that 130 place offers have been made for entry into Year 7 in September. Our offer to the local authority to extend our admission number from 120 to 130 for this new academic year only, due to the popularity of the school and high demand for places, was well received. This has meant that, although we are still running a waiting list for those unsuccessful applicants, we will still be able to enrol additional students who may otherwise have failed to obtain a place. Our aim has always been to try and accommodate all applicants within our school's priority area seeking a place at Shipston High School and our increased

intake next year goes a further step in achieving that ambition. At this stage, we are expecting to be able to reestablish our Induction day for new starters early in July, being well aware that the vast majority of our new starters and their parents have been unable to set foot inside the school buildings, having to make their school selection way back last October remotely.

Basketball

February saw the start of the Junior NBA season at Shipston High School. The competition is being run in affiliation with the NBA for 11-13 year olds and sees students across the country competing in county divisions with each school representing one of the 30 NBA teams. Since our training sessions started it has been excellent to see so many students getting involved. Our Year 8s have played against Alcester Academy and St Bede's in Redditch, both of which were highly competitive games, whilst the Year 7s are about

to start their round of fixtures. We are looking forward to seeing them representing Shipston High and "Miami Heat" across the county and beyond.



The importance of Languages in the job market!

Just before the half-term holiday, in preparation for Year 9 students choosing their GCSE options, the Modern Foreign Languages department invited Ruth Partington, founder and director of Empower, a high powered market research company, to Shipston High School to talk about the usefulness and true benefits of speaking and having the knowledge of a language within the workplace.

Ruth's presentation was extremely informative and

impactful. Year 9 students were given a real opportunity to consider careers where languages were a key requirement within parts of those industries. These included the manufacturing, scientific, gaming, food, clothing and logistics industries as well as the more traditionally recognised careers such as translating, education, events and hospitality.

Students who took part in the event were surprised how great a part languages can play in a number of careers (some they

hadn't even thought of!) and realised how being able to speak a foreign language can give you an extra advantage when seeking employment. It certainly made a number of them consider the possibility of taking a modern foreign language to GCSE and beyond.

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Shipston Music Society

For our March concert the members of Shipston Music Society were once again entertained by The Pavilionaires, a local group who are all members of Shipston u3a and who rehearse every week in Brailes Sports Pavilion – hence their decision to call themselves The Pavilionaires.

The programme began with "Don't get around much anymore" composed by Duke Ellington in 1940 which immediately set the feet tapping. It was followed by "Satin Doll", the tune being announced with excellent clarity by the trumpet. "Blue Skies" was an addition to the printed programme but, composed by Irving Berlin in 1926, it made its debut in the Rogers and Hart musical "Betsy" which closed after only 39 performances! The song however became an immediate success and listening to the guitar take over the melody at one point was a delight. Two more well-known pieces "Jive at Five" and "Deep purple" followed and then the final item before the interval was "Sweet Georgia Brown". Composed in 1925 it became popular when the Harlem Globetrotters adopted the tune as their theme song in 1952. It was a lively item to end the first half of the evening.

After a rousing performance of "A Train", "Shiny Stockings" provided a more melodic contrast; with music by Frank Foster, it has two sets of lyrics, one by Ella Fitzgerald, the other by Jon Hendricks. "St. Louis Blues" was composed in 1914

in the Blues style by W. C. Handy who said the idea for the piece came after seeing a distraught woman in St. Louis lamenting that "Ma man's got a heart like a rock cast in de sea". Again the guitar featured more prominently. At this point, the alto saxophone was exchanged for the clarinet and we heard "Georgia on my Mind" composed by Hoagy Carmichael in 1930 with lyrics by Stuart Gorrell. The performance had a more dreamlike quality as did "The Nearness of You".



"When you're smiling" was a very popular choice and was rewarded with enthusiastic applause. As with every item in the programme, it was obvious that each member of the group, whether experienced or not-so-experienced, really enjoy performing together and this is conveyed to the audience. We were certainly sent home with a smile and feet tapping after a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On April 8th at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, New Street we will have the pleasure of a Talk entitled "The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan" by Bernard Lockett who is a Trustee of the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company and a renowned speaker having broadcast on BBC Radio 2, 3 & 4. We hope to see all our members and many friends on this occasion.

District Council update

Events in the world are moving with increasing rapidity. I am writing this column in mid-March. Who knows what circumstances we may all be facing by the time you are reading this in early April? There is war in Europe. On the domestic front, the prime issue that we all face is the increase in the cost of living,



driven by the factors with which we are all well aware. This is the background against which you will have recently received your Council Tax Demand Notice.

The District Council's budget preparations are concentrated in November and December each year so that preliminary discussions are completed in time for the required process of consultation with the public, including local businesses, to be undertaken in January. Taking the results of a consultation into account, final decisions are taken by the Council in February so that the resultant Council Tax Demand Notices can be distributed in March with payments at the new rates being made from April onwards. In November 2021 the rate of increase in the CPI was 5.1%. Two months later in January 2022, it increased to 5.5%. The projections at that time were that it would peak during 2022 at about 7% and then decline during the year. That now seems an optimistic projection, given the events that followed 24th February.

The Council has decided to increase the Council Tax of a Band D property by $\mathfrak{L}5$, the maximum permitted without holding a referendum. This is an increase of 3.3%. The revenue budgeted to be generated by Council Tax to meet the Council's net budget is 49% of the total needed to finance the Council's net expenditure in 2022/23. In other words, your Council Tax payments meet a little less than half of the net cost of the Council's budget. The rest of the net cost of the Council's activities is generated through funding from the Government funding (29%) and the diminishing source of New Homes Bonus (21%) which is related to the number of new homes built across the District in recent years. For those residents who subscribe to the green waste collection service, the associated charge will increase by $\mathfrak{L}2$ to $\mathfrak{L}42$.

In the context of a turbulent world where there are colossal increases in fuel and energy costs, sanctions with disruption to international supply chains and the threat of global food shortages, an increase in the District Council's element of next year's Council Tax of another £5 a year has to be seen in context. For most of our residents, any increase is understandably unwelcome, but this doesn't seem to be amongst the most significant of our problems. It is important, nevertheless, for those who are eligible for a discount on their Council Tax that they should claim it – see the link below. For those residents who do find themselves in difficult circumstances, the staff of SDC's Revenues and Benefits Team (01789 260990) are available to offer help wherever possible. Please do give them a call to explore how they might be able to help.

As ever, if you have any issues with which you think I might be able to help, please contact me. I am always keen to hear from the people I represent.

https://www.stratford.gov.uk/council-tax/discounts-and-exemptions.cfm

Trevor Harvey, District Councillor, Shipston North 01608 682415 | trevor.harvey@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Jo Barker and Trevor Harvey take it in turns to write this column

County Council update

This month practically all the issues raised with me have been road and poo related. I am sorry that we are still suffering so many leaks of sewage - Severn Trent is coming back frequently to fix



things – but we need a more permanent solution, so a small group of us on the Town Council are working on this. In the meantime – PLEASE FLUSH POO, PEE AND PAPER ONLY. Anything else please bin it. If you see building materials being disposed of down drains – then let me know – I've heard of trowels and bricks being found.

Anyway, enough of that! I have reported the problems with the road humps on Darlingscote Road. Personally, I have never liked them – and evidence that they increase pollution as well as the vibrations and thumps caused by vehicles – only supports my view!!!

I am also acutely aware of the problems with collapsing manholes and poor repairs, water leaks and the size of lorries using our roads. I'm on it!

I hope most of you are pleased with your secondary school choices – if you want to talk about it – do give me a ring to discuss/vent.

Finally, I gave you some phone numbers last month to contact WCC if you have concerns about any children or adults. So to update a little – MASH is now known as Front Door – so if you have an urgent worry – call them on 01926 414144. Hopefully, this makes it less confusing!

And now finally (really) Shipston is again stepping up to help the Ukrainian people. It's really moving – and also at times funny – I love Pants to Putin!

Jo Barker, County Councillor, Shipston 07748 968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Advice on energy price rises, with tips to reduce energy usage and what support is available

With household energy costs rising, many local people need support and advice. Fortunately, there are government and local support packages available to households, as well as professional organisations that can offer advice and support during these difficult times.

If you're struggling with your energy bills then free energy advice is available from Act on Energy. They offer tailored energy support and impartial advice for everyone as well as grants for those eligible. Visit www.actonenergy.org.uk for details.

Useful Contacts Page 15

Your Town Councillors



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Marianne Westwood, Deputy Mayor

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John Dinnie, Heritage, Amenities and **Leisure Projects Working Group Chair**

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e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org



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Tony Booth

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Shirley Madams, Youth Working Group Chair

e: shirley.madams@shipstontowncouncil.org



Hilary Kelly

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 Forum	01295 788655
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood	01789 444670

Churches of Shipston:

Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01295 257193

shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

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Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

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Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Chris Rowland on 01295 788655 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

To request posts on the council's Facebook and Twitter feeds, contact Peter White (details above).

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.



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