

Shipston Forum



April 2023

High levels of demand continue at Shipston Food Bank

The past year has been a busy one for Shipston Food Bank. Higher energy and food costs have meant that increasing numbers of households have been finding it difficult to afford food and other basic items and so we have had a steady stream of new customers week by week.

During the past twelve months we have helped 141 different households from Shipston and the nearby villages with emergency parcels of food and cleaning, laundry and toiletry items. We estimate that we have assisted at least 234 adults and 153 children over the course of the year.

At the same time, probably because of rising prices, donations of food and other items from members of the public have dropped off significantly and we have been spending increasing amounts each week on topping up our supplies – over £9200 in the past year.

Fortunately, because of very generous one-off and regular donations from local residents, businesses, charities, churches and other organisations, we remain in a healthy financial position to be able to continue to meet these and other costs. We are so grateful for this support, and also for the 20+ volunteers who give up their time to enable the Food Bank to operate. Thank you all so much!

Because of the amount of money that we are given, and our concern that we should be seen to be fully accountable in the way that we use it, we have recently become a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC), which gives us formal legal status. We have always been a community venture, and our volunteers and supporters come from across the town and surrounding area, across the political spectrum (and of no political affiliation) and across faith groups (and of none). Our Directors are Rev. Sarah Edmonds (Chair), Ed Jackson (Treasurer), Fay Ivens, Jo Barker and David Freer.

WARNING ORDER - 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF NATIONAL SERVICE

The 16th May 2023 marks the 60th Anniversary of the end of National Service. We want to gather in stories from you, or family and friends in relation to the National Service. Funny, emotional, informative whatever - all will be appreciated thank you.

Please send to Alex, the Branch Secretary, at alblack32@hotmail.com.

If you need some help with feeding your household, come along to St Edmund's Church between 10.30am and 12.00 noon on a Saturday morning. You don't need a voucher or a referral.

We continue to welcome donations of food and



other basic items. There are collection points in both the Co-ops and in Tesco, or you can leave things in the porch of St Edmund's between 9.00am and 5.00pm any day. Each week we post in each of the town's supermarkets and on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank/) and our website (www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk/), a list of the things we are particular short of.

For any enquiries about the Food Bank and its work, please contact our Administrator, Drina Heighton on 01295 680201 or at drinaheighton@gmail.com.



Mayor's column

Hello Shipston.

Signs of spring are everywhere now. We've just had the equinox and the clocks have just gone forward.



I was very honoured to be able to take part in the annual civic service on 12th March. After discussion we decided to focus on a celebration of community in Shipston. Everyone that came into the service was invited to take a ribbon. The artwork that was created with those ribbons is staying in the church and may be added to during the next few years. It was very moving to see everyone weaving the energy of their groups into the artwork.

Another highlight of the service was the collection of photos, edited into a video, that the young people of the Inclusion group made showing their representation of community in Shipston. We really do have some amazing people working so hard in the town and it was lovely to see those people celebrated. The video is going onto the church website soon. Have a look and see who and what you recognise.

We had the good news yesterday that the warm hub at the scout hut has got funding to continue as a community hub until the autumn. This initiative has built up some amazing connections over the winter. I have really enjoyed the visits from the motor museum, the fire service and last week making seed bombs with Warwickshire Wildlife. I've met some lovely people there and reconnected with some people I hadn't seen for a while because of covid. Its really good to know that this social space will be continued during the summer. This has happened because of the work of the WRCC and the SHWP, which has been my charity of the year. This has bloomed this year with so many free activities happening in the town and surrounding villages. I think Dr Sue would be very proud to see all the things happening in her name too. I'd also like to thank the Vanessa Compton for being the driving force behind getting all these things up and running. She really is a community powerhouse!

Next month will be my last column before I hand over the reins to our new mayor. I hope to see many of you over the coronation weekend and especially in the High Street on the Sunday. Please come and say hello.

Cllr. Marianne Westwood My pronouns are she/her

Mayor, Shipston Town Council



SHIPSTON ON STOUR



Shipston Town Council is now looking for local people to join us, as we work to help shape and develop the future of our town for the benefit of our thriving community.

- Are you passionate about our community?
- Would you like to contribute and make a difference in our town?
- Can you spare a few voluntary hours a month to participate in meetings?

If the answers to the above are yes, then please contact clerk@shipstononline.org for details on how to apply for one of our 3 current vacancies

"I have lived in Shipston for 17 years and our four children have all grown up here. We love the sense of community spirit and it's a privilege to be involved with the council and be able to contribute to the future needs of the town and our community" - Tony Booth. Shipston Town Councillor.

Get help with electoral registration

The Stratford-on-Avon District Council elections take place on Thursday 4 May 2023 which also coincides with Town and Parish elections, with voting taking place from 7am until 10pm.

To be able to vote at these elections residents must either be on the electoral register or have applied to be so by midnight on Monday 17 April.

Send your postal and proxy vote applications to your local electoral registration team. You can also contact them to find out if you're on the electoral register, and if you already have a postal or proxy vote.

Stratford on Avon District Council Electoral Registration Officer Elizabeth House Church Street Stratford upon Avon CV37 6HX

Phone: 01789 260209

· Email: elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Website: www.stratford.gov.uk/index.cfm

News from Shipston Town Council's March meeting

New Councillor Co-opted

Shipston Town Council voted to co-opt Zoltan Kovari as a new sitting councillor.

Crime in Shipston

A representative from the local Police force attended the Town Council meeting to report on declining levels of overall crime in the Shipston area. The Police are witnessing an increase in mental health related incidents.

Coronation

Planning for Shipston's Coronation celebrations in May is well underway.

Civic Event

Councillors Barker and Kelly spoke to the success of Shipston's recent civic event. Over 100+ people were in attendance.

Voter ID

Postal votes can be requested from the District Council website.

Cornmill Meadow

Two sub-committees have been established to focus on the progression of Cornmill Meadow.

General Purposes Working Group

Councillors voted in favour of two new litter bins for the cemetery, an approved quote to repair Shipston's playgrounds and a new bench for Queens Avenue play area.

Re-election

Councillors were reminded of impartiality rules in the lead up to the re-election period in May.

Retiring Councillor

Cllr Peter Cox announced that he would not be seeking reelection and would be retiring from the Council at the end of his term. He expressed a willingness to provide volunteer support for some activities, including the running of the Council's Facebook page.

Fibre Broadband

Several providers have been reprimanded by Warwickshire County Council for the poor standard of work when reinstating pavements and failure to request permits for all work locations.



First Responders

Two new first responders have been recruited and defibrillator awareness events have been hosted in the town.

Thermal Imaging Cameras

Councillors agreed to explore purchasing thermal imaging cameras for loaning to residents and businesses to identify sources of heat loss. This would follow a similar model to a scheme operated by Brailles Parish Council.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The Council has submitted a response with the assistance of Phil Sykes.

Shipston Museum

Following a discussion about the proposed heads of terms for the lease, Councillors decided that they wished to review a business and marketing plan for the operation of the museum before agreeing to proceed.

Virtual Meetings

The Council is seeking quotations for the supply of video conferencing equipment for New Clark House to support virtual meetings.



Regular Events

Monday

Seated Exercise Class:

10am Rainbow Fields and 11am Townsend Hall

IT Help!:

10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:

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

Tuesday

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

Wednesday

Seated Tai Chi:

9.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Standing Tai Chi:

10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Dementia Friendly Café:

10.30am-12.30pm, Shipston Lodge

Indoor Curling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

Thursday

Story stomp: 10am, Shipston Library

Scrabble Club: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

Stour Singers:

Rehearsals, 7.30pm at Shipston Primary School. Sept 2022 through May 2023. Contact Gayle Burch, 01926 642204

Friday

Pilates for Complete Beginners:

9.30am Townsend Hall

Walks with a friendly group:

10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616

Shipston Stitchers:

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

Board Games Social Afternoon:

Fortnightly 2pm Rainbow Fields

Saturday

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

What's On Calendar: April 2023

- Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided.
- 4 Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month
- 5 Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
 - **Shipston on Stour WI:** Ken Ingamells National Parks of South West America. Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary on 01608 664519
- 8 Rotary Easter Event for Children: A fun morning with lots to do including Cuckoo in the Nest, Easter Bonnet Parade and Ice on Easter Biscuit. Judged by the Town Mayor with Easter Prizes. Tea coffee and cake for mums, dads and grandparents. 10am-12 noon, Scout Hut see ad on page 16.
 - **Easter Prize Bingo:** Norgren Bowls Club see ad on page 16.
- 11 Shipston Flower Club presents Wired a workshop by Lyndia Stamp. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30pm start at Shipston Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor entry £5.00. There will also be a sale of scarves and accessories. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month
- **12 Shipston and District Gardening Club:** Compost to use within a month Mick Poultney. 7.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact Tony Mitchell 01608 666933
- 14 Lions Cinema: Living see ad on page 11.
- **18** Pre-Coronation Organ Recital: by Charles Matthews. St Edmund's Church 10.50am-12 noon. Retiring donations by card or cash. See ad on page 9.
- **19 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
 - **Singing Down Memory Lane:** 2pm-3.30pm, Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston. Refreshments provided. We may be able to help with transport. Contact Fay Ivens on 01608 662133
- 21 Healthy Ageing Event: Information event for the elderly of Shipston and surrounding villages. 9.30am–1.pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Shipston. See ad on page 11.
 - Royal British Legion Social Evening Shipston Branch: Third Friday of each month We meet in the White Bear Inn from 7.30 pm onwards. Come and join us and share your stories with like-minded people. Contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com Townsend Hall: King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys see ad on page 8.
 - Shipston Music Society: Sax a trois see ad on page 9.
- 25 Shipston U3A: see ad on page 11.
- 26 Shipston and District Literary Society: David Constantine Mother Earth, Beloved Earth. Meetings are held at the Bridge Inn at Halford at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5. Contact Helen Marshall 07582 903212
- 27 Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

The Process to become an On-call Firefighter has begun!-by Tony Hill

What an adrenaline rush! I have now begun the process to hopefully become an On-call Firefighter with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service being based at Shipston-on-Stour Fire Station.

I have recently attended the initial Awareness Day at Kenilworth Fire Station. This is specifically organised to provide potential Oncall Firefighter recruits a foretaste of the role-related physical tests that one must pass in order to be accepted into the Service.



I arrived at Kenilworth Fire Station with some trepidation hoping that my regular trips to Shipston gym would stand me in good stead. My nervousness soon dissipated as the would-be recruits were warmly welcomed by the dedicated staff from both Kenilworth Fire Station and headquarters at Leamington Spa. The day was well organised, as one would expect and begun with completion of a current state of health form followed by a short presentation explaining the Firefighter's role in detail, the training schedule and the remuneration package on offer.

Following the presentation I, together with the 16 other male and female candidates, were divided into small groups and then we were led to the drill yard at the rear of the station and provided with fire kit consisting of boots, trousers, tunic, helmet and gloves. The kit was surprisingly well-fitting and warm although the adrenaline-fuelled action to follow would soon raise the temperature in our kit!

The physical tests numbered six. An instructor was on hand at each physical test station set out in the drill yard and he gave practical advice and specific instructions which had to

be followed not only for reasons of safety but also for us to maximise our performance of the required tasks bearing in mind we had never encountered these before.

My group started with the "casualty evacuation". This involved dragging a life-size dummy weighing 55kg backwards over a distance of 30 metres. This was followed by the "ladder climb". This was a test to ensure we had both confidence in climbing a ladder as well as no fear of heights. We were shown the method of ladder climb to adopt as well as how to perform a special leg lock



which consisted of entwining one leg through the rounds of the ladder. This was to be performed at a height of just under three storeys on the 13.5 metre ladder pitched up against the drill tower and was to be followed by taking both hands off the ladder, leaning backwards and identifying a letter held by the instructor at the foot of the ladder. Incidentally a fall-arrest harness was worn to provide added confidence and security.

The next test was probably the most extraordinary sensory sensation that I have ever experienced. It is called "enclosed space". This involved donning a blackened out breathing apparatus face mask and negotiating a previously unseen dual-level rat-run constructed within a steel storage container. The set course was to be negotiated on hands and knees. The way forward was determined purely by one's sense of touch and feel along the enclosing walls and by sweeping over the floor and ceiling in front of you with one's hand. Bizarrely I recall negotiating a hole in the floor but how I exited the run feet first I have no idea. Unfortunately there is no action-replay! I must improve my methodology for the actual test although I proved to myself that I am not claustrophobic in tight spaces which was the main aim of the test.

Next came the "ladder lift" test. This involved lifting a bar, with a total weight of 30 kg, above head height which simulates the collaborative lifting of a 13.5 metre ladder. The "manual dexterity" test that followed involved the putting together of safety fall-arrest equipment, used when working at height, in a certain order then dismantling again in a set order within a set time. My favourite and undoubtedly the most strenuous was the "equipment carry" test. This is where I relied upon my time spent in the gym over the past four months. The test had to be completed within 5 minutes 36 seconds. It started with the runout of a high pressure hose reel over 25 metres followed by a jog of 25 metres back to the start: this was followed by the carrying of two 70 mm lay-flat hose reels over 100 metres, (each weighing about 20 kg) then carrying a single hose reel a further 25 metres followed by a jog over 75 metres; the carrying of a length of suction hose over the shoulder while carrying a basket strainer in the other hand for a distance of 100 metres followed to





be followed finally by the carrying of a barbell weighing 30 kg over 100 metres to the finish. Each candidate was spurred on by staff members and other candidates and I managed to complete the test with 10 seconds to spare but I aim to shave a few seconds off this time the next time I do it now that I know what is involved.

This Awareness Day is a most worthwhile event to attend as it gives candidates the chance to experience the role-related physical tests that need to be passed on test day which for me will be the 18 March. However, before I can take these tests I must first pass the Written Tests on 8 March at Henley in Arden Fire Station. These are tests involving both numeracy and understanding information. This is my next hurdle in the process. Fingers crossed I can remember my school days!

For more information about WFRS recruitment, please email ffrecruitment@warwickshire.gov.uk or visit https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters

Clubs, Societies and Charities

Shipston Proms

With just over two months to go, the Proms is on target for 60 acts to perform this year.



Among the many acts, we

have booked a tribute Tina Turner and dancers to perform an energetic and explosive show in Townsend Hall on Friday 23rd June. We will let you know as soon as tickets are available.

An also must-see performance will be that of Shipston's popular capella choir Cantamus again at Townsend Hall. Their music ranges from English and European madrigals to music from the 21st century. Another popular choir to perform during the Proms will be the Cotswold Choir moving from Cherington to Shipston for this year's appearance.

A new event for this year will be an event called 'Down Memory Lane' to be held at Rainbow Fields but open to other residents of the town.

Renown swing band King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys are headlining the main stage on the Final Night. Also on stage earlier in the evening, we are delighted with the return of blues and jazz combo 'The Weekend Warriors. They were one of last year's winners of 'Shipston Introducing' who impressed us all so much.

Joint winner Teresa Brookes, the fantastic Taiko drummer, will be putting on some workshops in Newbold and we will have more of that next month.

If there are any musicians who would like to take part in 'Shipston Introducing' or play a part of the Pub Trail, please get in touch, on our website, or personally if you know one of the committee. Other definites for the fortnight include the Songs from the Shows, Open Mic Night, Young Musicians Concert at Barcheston, our pub trail and the ever-popular Mrs Porters Chamberpot Pourri.

A huge thank you to all who have donated so far on our GoFundMe page. So far, we have raised over £275.00 to help with our costs and please look at the Shipston Proms GoFundMe page if you would like to contribute. Staying with fundraising, we hope you will sign up to be a member of our much valued Friends Scheme. We are hoping to update this in the future, but, in the meantime, if you would like to sign up, please go to our website and see what's on offer.

And please keep those photos of Proms t-shirts in unusual places coming......the deadline for this is 2nd June.

All entries to be sent to shipstonproms@gmail.

Contact details for everything Proms related are www.shipstonproms.org or go to our Facebook page. It will be great to hear from you.

Proms dates are 17th June - 1st July

William Morris 1877-1963: a Talk to Shipston Probus by John McCartney

John McCartney is a regular and welcome guest speaker for Shipston Probus. He did not disappoint with another lavishly illustrated and entertaining presentation on the life and work of William Morris.

Morris will always be associated with the iconic British company Morris Motors, but what may be less well known is his extraordinary status as a philanthropist.

William Morris or 'Little Bill' was born into a farming family in Worcester, but the family relocated to Oxford in 1880 where William was apprenticed to a bicycle manufacturer. However, he was sacked for the impudence of asking for a pay rise! Showing early determination and business acumen, the young William responded by setting up his own bicycle repair business in his mother's front room. A number of moves to larger premises followed, eventually arriving at the famous Cowley site in Oxford. Here he produced his first car in 1913, and, remarkable for the time, Morris only actually manufactured the body parts - the wheels, lights etc were all bought in and assembled on the site.

In 1914 war broke out. Morris received numerous rejections of his offer to join the forces -he was considered far more valuable as an industrialist. Post-war, Morris was now a wealthy man and resumed car manufacture at Cowley in 1919. But an intense work ethic, together with 100 cigarettes a day, was taking its toll on his health. Morris's wife pleaded with him to see a doctor who suggested he needed exercise and a hobby; he obediently applied for membership to the secretary of his local golf club, but was rejected on the grounds he was a "motor trade industrialist"! Morris responded by buying the club, sacking the secretary and in due course becoming club President.

A competitive business man, Morris was alert to market forces and new methods of car production, even entering into convenient alliances with other car manufacturers as he appreciated the value of competition. His reaction to the news that Barclays Bank were about to foreclose on Standard Motors was to threaten "do that and I will foreclose on you". The bank cancelled foreclosure!

The 1920/30s were harsh times for the average worker, but Morris employees enjoyed free medical care, a pension scheme, funeral costs, and a week's paid holiday with free train travel to the company holiday camp at Westonsuper-Mare. Morris Motors had little difficulty in recruiting staff.

Many Probus members are familiar with the Morris Minor, with the unique sideways mounted engine, dubbed a 'poached egg on wheels'. Less well known is Morris's concern for the health of the nation. During the 1930s polio was a scourge, a few expensive iron lungs manufactured in the USA were available to alleviate symptoms. Morris bought five from the USA and despite the patents, copied the parts, and manufactured 5000 for hospitals at a price they could afford. In 1938 recognition of his philanthropy and business success came and he was made Viscount Nuffield.

Morris was delighted when the post war Attlee government introduced the NHS – health treatment free at the point of delivery, but he worried that government officials had little idea of the sheer cost. He volunteered to run the service for five years, taking no salary, to ensure the service started on a sound financial footing. Attlee declined his offer. Morris reacted by refusing to donate his Nuffield Hospitals to the NHS and they remain private to this day.

Morris died in 1963, childless, aged 85. Estimates put Morris's many charity donations at a remarkable £800 million.

Guests and new members to Shipston Probus are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for details.

Astronomical Society News

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a Club Night, in April that will be on 4th April and the speaker on the third Tuesday, which is on 18th April is due to be Les Fry who is from Newtown Astronomical Society, with a talk about 'Asterisms and Lost Constellations'. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Each month one of our members offer pointers to what to look for in the sky during the coming weeks.

The Spring stars.

As the nights begin to shorten, the spring constellations come more visible. Orion is dropping towards the western horizon. Above it and to the east, are 2 lines of stars with 2 bright stars at the east end. This Is Gemini (the Twins), and the stars are Castor and Pollux. (With a big telescope, you would be able to see these are multiple stars)

Continue east, you'll see a constellation that is supposed to look like an old flat iron (I think it looks like a mouse) This is Leo.

Between them are 3 faint stars, and a fuzzy bit in the middle of them. With binoculars you'll see a lovely star cluster, this is the Beehive cluster in Cancer.

Carry on east, past Leo, and you will arrive at a double V or Y shaped constellation. This is Virgo with its brightest star Spica. Another route to spica is to find the plough, move down the pan handle, continue in that arc to Arcturus, a yellow giant in the constellation of Boötes, before spiking off and slightly upwards to Spica.

With a big telescope, multiple galaxies can be seen in Virgo. These are part of the Virgo super cluster of which Our Milky Way Galaxy is part.

Shipston Rotary 100 Club Draw February 2023

The Shipston Rotary 100 club draw was made at The George, February 24th, and drawn by Emily.

ROTAR)

First Prize - £57.50 = Winner No. 53 Second Prize - £34.50 = Winner No.62 Third Prize - £23.00 = Winner No.83

Continued support for Ukrainian refugees in Warwickshire

It is one year since the Homes for Ukraine scheme was established and since March 2022, 1,072 Ukrainians have started new chapters of their lives in Warwickshire via the scheme. In this time the county's Homes for Ukraine support team and a range of public sector organisations, voluntary, community and faith groups have worked together with local communities to welcome people fleeing Ukraine and helping them to settle.

Nationally, more than 150,000 Ukrainians have arrived in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme since the beginning of the conflict and as the war continues more Ukrainians need a place of safety. Hosts on the scheme initially signed up for six months, and whilst many hosting relationships will continue for a year and beyond, the Warwickshire team is seeking more hosts to join for different types of placements. People interested in joining the scheme as hosts will help those coming to the UK as well as those already in Warwickshire who need to move on from their initial sponsorship arrangement. Ukrainians already settled in Warwickshire have had time to become established within their local communities. They may be at work, with their children in school, minimising some of the challenges many new hosts on the scheme initially face.

Anyone can consider hosting as long as they have a spare room. Those who are successfully matched to Ukrainian guests are offered a £350 per month 'thank you' payment. Recently, Warwickshire County council has agreed to offer an additional payment of £150 per month to all hosts who commit to their guests staying beyond six months. The payment is tax-free and is made for single long staying guest or multiple groups. Warwickshire County Council has expanded its help to Ukrainian guests by approving a new guarantee scheme to enable access to private tenancies. Guests wishing to rent private accommodation who meet a set of criteria will have the local authority acting as a guarantor. This will include guests having saved enough money to pay the deposit and first month's rent and undertaking a financial assessment.

People arriving via Homes for Ukraine scheme are able to live and work in the UK for up to three years, and have access to healthcare, education, public funds, employment and other support. Almost a year since the scheme launched, there are still 360 hosts providing a home to their Ukrainian guests across Warwickshire. Throughout the county over 89 Ukrainian families have successfully moved to independent living. Leader of Warwickshire County Council, Councillor Izzi Seccombe, added: "I feel so proud of our wonderful county and the generosity and compassion of people supporting our Ukrainian guests.

"It is important that as a county we continue to stand together with people fleeing from the war. Together with our partners, we'll continue to ensure Ukrainian arrivals and their host families can access the help and support they need, as well as services such as healthcare, education, benefits and council services. "Whilst we offer our sincere thanks to everyone who is making a massive difference to innocent people whose lives have been torn apart, we also continue to appeal for new hosts across Warwickshire.

"If you or someone you know could offer temporary accommodation to Ukrainians, please know that the county council, its partners and many residents in Warwickshire will be there to support you. So please contact Warwickshire County Council's Homes for Ukraine team for more information."

Townsend Hall

CHARITY No 522997



Maintenance never stops and in the hall trustees committee meeting this month we reviewed the long list of items that need to be done to keep the hall in good order for the benefit of the local community. This is an expensive number of items, including: replacement gas heater; stage curtain system; re-decoration; kitchen boiler; chairs and tables; several areas requiring refurbishment; and roof repairs (not including the main hall flat roof – currently ok, but a very worrying prospect when it needs replacing). And, like us all, we're looking at a shocking renewal for the electricity contract.

Thank you for your continued support – there's a common misconception that we're the "Town Hall" and therefore a council building that our council tax bills fund – this isn't the case, although we're very grateful when we receive a council grant for one of the many items requiring attention. We're very dependent on hiring fees, donations, and proceeds from the Traditional Jazz events we put on. On that front, it was very encouraging to see a sell-out for our event in February. As reported before, the proceeds from these are currently focused on one of our projects, providing "access for all" to the stage with a stage lift, and it's great to report that we're getting close to achieving the funding required. With prices increasing, we're in negotiation to get the best deal possible and hope to report soon that this has got the go-ahead.

On the jazz front, at the time of writing, tickets for Tom "Spats" Langhams's Hot Fingers are selling very well and we're anticipating another sell-out, which is great news. Next up, we have the fabulous King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys on Friday 21st. April. Tickets are £15, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, where you can bag your own table and seating, or for general availability seating from Clarke Electrical Services in town.

There's loads more going on: take a look at our website, www.townsendhall.co.uk, and follow us on FaceBook and Twitter for more.

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP) are pleased to advise that following their successful



Shipston Winter Warm Hub, which ran from October until the end of March they will continue a weekly Thursday morning event from 6th April.

The Shipston Community Warm Hub will be at The Scout Hut, New Street on Thursdays between 10am and 12 noon and it will run throughout the year. Come along for a chat, join in activities or just relax with free refreshments.

Details can also be found on the news page of our website https://www. shwp.org.uk/news/ or Facebook: Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership – SHWPPage 14



Email / Phone David: <u>ds@pinnegards.com</u>; 07511-694733

ST EDMUND'S CHURCH

FASHION THROUGH THE 1950'S TO 2000'S



Donations in aid of the Restoration of the Tower

Come and enjoy reminiscing about the clothes worn over 70 years

17th -23rd April 10am-5pm 23rd April 12.15 - 6.00pm Tea, coffee and cakes



Holy Week and Easter with St Edmund's Church

Palm Sunday (2nd April) at 10am

Eucharist and blessing the palms

Maundy Thursday (6th April) at 7.30pm

Eucharist and Vigil

Good Friday (7th April)

10.30 - noon Messy Easter
2- 3pm Hour at the Cross

Holy Saturday at 8.30pm

Soul Space candlelit service of light at Tidmington The story of our faith from creation to resurrection

Easter Day

10am Holy Communion with Easter egg hunt





Present

From Plot to Plate

Remembering Val Owen, a great Shipston lady

A Food Fair celebrating local suppliers who will showcase their products with demonstrations to create healthy meals.

Introduced by Loyd Grossman

All proceeds to the Shipston Food Bank



Townsend Hall Shipston on Stour CV36 4AE

Friday 19th May 6-30pm to 8-30pm

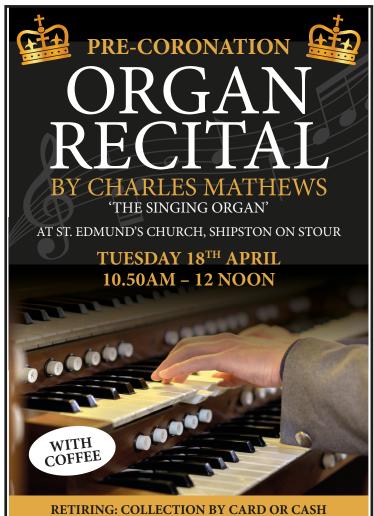


Tickets £10 from Clarkes in Shipston or

Contact Cath 07971 182729 cath.armstrong@yahoo.co.uk

Gill 07778 848431 gillyr@buzzinternet.co.uk





Annual Town Meeting



Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7pm Townsend Hall

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

It is not a meeting of the Town Council

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

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

Refreshments to follow

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



Healthy Ageing Information Event

Shipston Medical Centre <u>Frailty Team</u> would like to invite you to join us for a morning of information sharing on subjects such as:

- Local activity groups
- Carers support
- Dementia support
- · Advice on Health and Wellbeing and how to stay well
- · Local transport services

There will also be the opportunity to take part in:

- Local defibrillators and how to use them
- Have your blood pressure checked!
- The chance to tour the Virtual Dementia Bus

Plus: free light refreshments!!

Come and join us on <u>Friday 21st April between 09.30am</u> and 1pm at the Catholic Church Hall, <u>Darlingscote Road</u>

No appointment needed – just drop in

See separate sheet for booking the dementia bus



The Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT)

The aim of the Virtual Dementia Tour is to give people the experience of what it might be like to live with a dementia. By understanding dementia from the point of view of someone living with it, carers, families and healthcare professionals are then better placed to improve the care they deliver.

The tour takes place on a bus converted to replicate the rooms of a house and it gives participants the chance to experience a little of what it is like to live with dementia including the use of sensory equipment. Before entering the bus you will be fitted with headphones and other equipment and will be part of a small group of 3-4. A debrief will follow the tour to discuss your experience and how it might change your perceptions.

The experience will take 2.5 hours in total and you must be available for the whole time so please do not book a space if you are unable to commit to the full session.

To book a space on the bus please fill in and tear off the slip below and return it to the medical centre for the attention of Nurse Jan. We are running two sessions with a total of 24 people and places will be given on a first come basis. We will contact you if you have a space with the time of the tour.

Thank you

DEMENTIA BUS TOUR - FRIDAY 21ST APRIL

NAME:

CONTACT NUMBER:

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA



TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2023, 2 pm TOWNSEND HALL

'HOW THE STAGECOACH TRANSFORMED YOUR AREA'

A talk by John Butterworth



Former newspaper editor John Butterworth, MBE, will speak about how the stagecoach led to an economic boom at the end of the 18th century, the eccentric drivers, the characters and the many famous people who used this mode of transport.

Visitors are welcome and entry including refreshments £2

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



In 1950s London, a civil servant decides to take time off work to experience some fun in his life. Certificate 12A

TOWNSEND HALL

FRIDAY 14th April, 2023 at 7.30pm

Advance Tickets £5.00 or pay on the door.
From: A. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour.

Covid restrictions - please hand sanitise on arrival.

Drinks and raffle.

School News Page 12

Shipston Primary School

OFSTED

I am pleased to inform you of our inspection report from Ofsted from their ungraded inspection on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th January. An ungraded inspection differs from a graded inspection because it does not result in individual graded judgements, but focuses on determining whether the school remains the same grade as at the previous graded inspection. It cannot change the overall effectiveness grade of the school.

It was a thorough and rigorous inspection undertaken by one experienced HMI (His Majesty's Inspector). I am pleased to share that the final report has been received and, as expected, Shipston Primary continues to be a good school. This is a huge success for the school and I am very proud to share this with you. This achievement is a clear recognition of the hard work of all members of the school community and The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust, which continues to impact positively on the lives of our children at Shipston Primary. The report is published on the school website and it will be published on the Ofsted website next week.

The staff survey was exceptionally positive (which demonstrates our strong professional culture) and the children were excellent in their lessons and during interviews with the inspector. The report illustrates our high expectations, work ethic and excellent personal development offer. It highlights the fantastic curriculum that all teachers have collaboratively developed and implemented with considerable impact over a number of years.

As a forward-thinking, ambitious school, we will continue to offer the best school experience and education to our children, and support for families. Whilst we are delighted with the outcome of the inspection, we recognise that it is the ongoing feedback we receive from parents and children that we truly value. This enables us to ensure we get the very best outcomes for the children at Shipston Primary School.

CHALLENGE PARTNERS

Shipston Primary School is a member of the national network called Challenge Partners.

Challenge Partners is an education charity, led by practitioners, through which schools collaborate to improve each other and the education system as a whole, so all children benefit. Our programmes are grounded in evidence of what works, regular quality assurance, and sharing the collective wisdom in our schools. Peer to peer review can be a key driver of school improvement at scale. It enables schools to work together to identify priorities, to share ideas and practice, and to sustain collaborative working over time.

The flagship programme is a three-day rigorous peer evaluation of teaching and learning, curriculum and outcomes, and leadership at all levels. Led by an expert lead reviewer, reviews are conducted by a team of headteachers and senior leaders from schools within the Challenge Partners network. Each school hosts an annual review and reciprocates by sending their headteacher and senior leaders to review other schools in the network around the country, providing continuous professional development for all leaders involved.

Our latest quality assurance review took place from 6th - 8th February, involving visiting headteachers and senior leaders from Liverpool, Bolton and Derbyshire. It was a very successful



three days, with Shipston Primary receiving the highest grade (leading) for leadership at all levels, and effective for quality of provision and outcomes. Our intent, implementation and impact of writing was accredited as an area of excellence!

The Challenge Partners collaborative process works on 'What Went Well' (WWW) and 'Even Better If' (EBI). There were so, SO many WWW's, which is recognition of the excellent practice across the school. There are always a few EBIs, which we welcome (the whole point of challenge is to improve) and we will use to drive our school improvement for the rest of the term and into the next academic year.

DYNAMIC DYNASTIES

Year 5 have been visited by curators from Compton Verney as part of their Dynamic Dynasties history topic.

This morning, we were able to hold a real, ancient artefact! Although I had to wear gloves (to make sure no oil got onto the object), I could still feel each dent and crack. There were some artefacts we were allowed to hold and each and every one of them was amazing and had beautiful designs engraved into them. It was absolutely amazing and enjoyable being able to hold a 3000 year old vessel that someone else in the past had once held.

By Bunny

Today was really fun! We got to do lots of activities including: handling artefacts over 3000 years old and guess what they were used for; we sketched different artefacts and we learned some fun facts about Ancient China. Overall, it was amazing and I learned a lot!

By Florence

This morning, we had some special visitors come in from Compton Verney to tell us more about ancient Chinese artefacts. We learnt hand signals for important words (e.g. after life - you pretend to flap wings). Then, we put gloves on, put a mat on the table and took anything sharp like a watch off because they are so fragile (they are 3000 years old). You were allowed to touch, hold and interact with them but you could not damage them. On one, we found Chinese inscriptions and we guessed it was a ritual wine vessel but it was a bowl to hold offerings to the gods. Another had a hole at the bottom where the fire would go to heat rice. After that, some pictures were handed out so we could sketch them out and we chose the ritual cooking vessels. I think it was a really fun day and it would be great to do it again. I'd definitely recommend it!

By Harry

THE STOUR FEDERATION MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Shipston Primary School is part of The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust, with Acorns Primary School, Brailes C of E Primary School and Kineton C of E Primary School. Our Trust website is www.thestourfederation.com

Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher

School News Page 13

Shipston High School

Spring and Easter are especially welcome this year after some very cold and challenging weather during the winter; I am sure that we all welcome the prospect of brighter days ahead. Many local families with children currently in Year six will also be looking forward as they will have recently found out which secondary

school their child will attend in September. always This is exciting time, and we at the school share that excitement. We have been delighted to receive a huge number of applications for this year as the reputation and popularity of the school continue flourish.

Shipston High School are looking forward construction work getting underway the school later in the year. The prospect of expanded and improved facilities is exciting, and we are busy planning

the details of the new spaces, including Science, Technology and a new Sports Hall. We look forward to Shipston children benefitting from these developments at the school which will undoubtedly enable further academic and personal success.

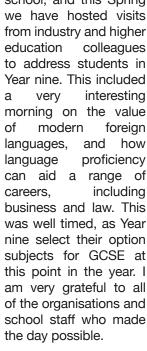
Sport is beneficial for both physical and mental health, and school staff were pleased to be part of a local community discussion on sports facilities in Shipston on Stour recently, convened by the Town Council.

Shipston High School's celebration of success is linked to our encouragement of high aspirations in our students. We encourage students to be ambitious in their academic work and ambitious for their futures.

Careers education is an important part of the culture at the



education very modern languages, language careers.



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

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Medical Centre t: 01608 661845

Shipston Medical Centre

The spring budget increased duty on tobacco above alcohol. Perhaps this additional expense may add to the motivation to improve long term health outcomes by giving up smoking and cutting down on alcohol consumption.

The health risks of smoking have been well publicised, with around 40% of smokers dying from smoking related conditions. Giving up is a challenge, but can reap massive health and financial benefits with the average ex-smoker saving over £200 a month! Evidence shows that those giving up with support are more successful and we want to help. If you want to give up smoking ask at reception how we can help.

Whilst many people enjoy a glass of something alcoholic on occasion, consuming alcohol above safe limits may have a negative impact on your health, with there being evidence of a link between unsafe drinking and some illnesses, including cancers. Additionally, the previously held position that some

level of alcohol was good for the heart has been revised.

14 units a week, spread across three days



The safe drinking limits are no more than Shipston Medical Centre

or more for both men and women. These units should be shared across at least three days and you should aim to have a number of alcohol free days each week. Of course, it is hard to know what equates to a unit. The NHS have produced useful information on this at https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/alcoholadvice/calculating-alcohol-units/. If you are not able to access this page easily when offered a drink, a good rule of thumb is

If you are worried about your drinking, then CGL provide advice, support and treatment. Ring 01926 353 513

lager. Spirits are closer to 1 unit per 25ml measure.

that 175ml of wine is just over 2 units, as is a pint of beer or

Shipston Music Society

The March meeting of the Music Society was held, not in the usual venue of the Methodist Church, but in the Music Room at Famington Farm, Willington thanks to the very kind invitation of David Hodges. This is a perfect venue for Chamber music and Arcus Piano Trio certainly enjoyed playing there.



The programme consisted of two Piano trios, the first by Schubert (1797 – 1828) and the second by Brahms (1833 – 1897). Schubert completed the Trio No. 1 in B-flat major in 1828 just before he died. Written in the classical style of that era, it nevertheless brings to the fore his wonderful ability to compose beautiful melodies particularly in the first two movements. In the third movement (Scherzo) the instruments imitate each other before leading us into the final movement which ended with an exciting section, played as marked, at presto speed!

After the interval, in which members of the audience enjoyed a glass of wine, it was the Piano Trio No. 1 in B major by Brahms. Although theoretically it is still in the classical age it certainly shows leanings towards the romantic era that was to follow with a stronger sense of emotion and less adherence to the classical forms. The opening of this Trio is an example; the cello and piano introduce a bold melody which builds up to the entry of the violin. Then follows a lively section in which various themes are developed. In the Scherzo the delicate finger work from all players was beautifully executed.

It was clear from the start that these three performers really enjoy playing together; the synchronisation was superb, seemingly by instinct on occasions and their musicianship is of the highest level. Formed in 2015 they have already received many accolades in this country but each one of them also pursues a successful career as a soloist. They are based in the Midlands and hopefully, we may be able to persuade them to play for us again in the future.

Our next concert is on Friday, April 21st at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church when the performers will be a Trio of saxophonists from the Birmingham Conservatoire. They will be accompanied by Charles Matthews who is a tutor of piano and organ at the Conservatoire as well as a freelance soloist and accompanist.

We hope to see you all there and do bring your friends along. Tickets for them are available from Clark Electricals, Shipston at £8 each.

Micky and Linda Cornock loved by their town



The memorial plaque for Micky and Linda Cornock. Micky was often spotted by Shipston residents sat on this bench observing the world go by.

Linda was one of the leading members of the Shipston Knitting & Crochet Group and also the instigator of the Yarnbombing Group, who have been responsible for decorating the town in eye-catching wool creations over the last few years.

Micky was the caretaker at the Shipston Junior & Infants School, also giving his time freely and generously to help out wherever he felt it was needed - particularly helping out around the Rugby & Sports clubs as he was an enthusiastic follower of all the Shipston sporting clubs.

They will both be missed dearly by the town.

Stratford District Council - Green Bin Permits

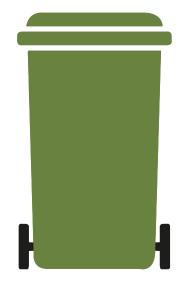
Don't forget to renew your garden waste collection service permit if you would like your green bins to be collected. If you would like to receive a garden waste service from 1st April 2023, there is an annual charge of £44 per green bin.

www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-service.cfm

Your green bin(s) needs to be on the boundary of the property by 6am on the scheduled collection day. If the collection is missed, we will return to empty the bin in line with our current arrangements. In exceptionally inclement weather, the contents of the bin may freeze and it may not be possible to empty the bin. In these cases, we will not return until the next scheduled collection day, however, arrangements can be made to collect additional waste on the next collection.



The most environmentally friendly way to dispose of your garden waste is by home composting. Warwickshire County Council offer discounted home composting bins on their website.



Useful Contacts Page 15

Your Town Councillors



Marianne Westwood, Mayor t: 01608 662223

e: marianne.westwood@shipstontowncouncil.org



Gerry Kelly, Deputy Mayor Planning Committee Vice Chair

t: 07471 687720

e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Ian Cooper

Finance Working Group Chair

t: 01608 663785

e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org



Paul Tesh

Planning Committee Chair

t: 07711 433566

e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



John Dinnie Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair

t: 01608 664590

e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org



Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712

e: jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk (for town and district matters)



Peter Cox General Purposes and Communications Group Chair

t: 07973 442552

e: peter.cox@shipstontowncouncil.org



Tony Booth

e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



Hilary Kelly

e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Sarah Beckett

e: sarah.beckett@shipstontowncouncil.org



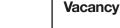
Zoltan Kovari

e: zoltan.kovari@shipstontowncouncil.org



To find out more about **Vacancy**

becoming a councillor, contact the Town Clerk



Useful Contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
= 17 1 1011011011	
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

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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

Town Clerk

Team:

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

County Council Contact:

Councillor Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712 e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

District Council Contacts:

Councillor Jo Barker (Shipston South)

t: 07748 968712

e: jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

t: 07969 167720

e: trevor.harvey@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Chris Rowland on 07983 342567 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

To request posts on the council's Facebook and Twitter feeds, contact Peter Cox.

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.













St Edmunds Church over the Easter period will be remembering loved ones who have passed away over the last year with floral displays of Lilies.

If you would like to purchase a Lily for £5 please contact Anne Hume on 01608 661721 or put your gift and the name of the person you are remembering in an envelope to 48 Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour. Thank you