

Shipston Forum



April 2024

Fundraiser hits the mark

A 12-hour sponsored darts marathon at the Black Horse in January raised a massive £980 for Shipston Pre School. The target-hitting fundraising effort was organised by Adam Heritage, seen here with his



wife Amy being presented with a thank-you card by Daisy Langford and children. Along with Adam, the darts participants were Rob Hall, James Jeffries and Jon Campbell. They are already planning to do a 24-hour marathon next year!

Adam chose to fundraise for Shipston Pre School as he wants other children to benefit from the same support that his son Reuben had.

'Adam was aware that funding is always an issue for us and we are so grateful,' says Charlotte Langford from the Pre School. 'We are a Community Interest Company and the majority of our income comes from government funding. Parents can use their free funding entitlement across all our sessions without incurring any extra charges. We choose to keep our staff-to-child ratios high to be able to provide additional help for children that need it.'

The donation will be used to remodel its sensory area, a specially designed space combining a range of stimuli that helps children feel calm while developing and engaging their senses. 'We know they will be mesmerised by the bubble wall!' says Charlotte.

DJ legend to play Shipston Proms

BBC Radio One royalty is coming to town! Shipston Proms has announced that DJ dance legend Dave Pearce, creator and host of Radio One's Dance Anthems will be headlining the Ibiza-on-Stour set this summer. Flying in from the White Isle itself, Dave will be playing all the top dance tracks and more at the Hub on Friday 28th June. Dave has DJ'd at major festivals and clubbing destinations across the world. Together with club favourite DJs Tim Samsara and Dirty Harry, this is an evening not to be missed. Tickets are already selling fast on Eventbrite. One

budding DJ will get a chance to play alongside Dave, plus there is a further DJ competition on 11th May. Details on Proms Facebook page. Shipston Proms runs from 21st June to 6th July.



SPLAAT! Children create boards

Following a safety assembly by the construction company working on the Ellen Badger hospital, children at the Primary School were tasked to create boards to display outside the Ellen Badger hospital building site while the work is taking place, helping the community to remember **SPLAAT!** (Be) **S**afe (Be) **P**olite **L**isten **At All T**imes. They hope the creative designs, incorporating the children's handprints, will be on display soon.







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Mayor's column



Hello Shipston,

Hope you are all keeping well. We seem to have been through a period of bad, (but typically British) weather. It's been cold, dreary and wet. When will it stop raining? We've moved into spring and the weather has signs of improvement but isn't it slow?

The Shipston-on-Stour town Civic Service was a great success with over 20 mayors and mayoresses from our surrounding area in attendance. I read a short history of Shipston and also the gospel reading to the congregation. In the history, I had to manage the town name Scepwaescetun and the landowning warrior Huthrid. I thought the gospel reading would be easier, but no. Well-known gospel characters such as Asenath, Potiphera, Manasseh and Ephraim appeared in the text. I was told to sound confident as no-one else knows the correct pronunciation. Hope I convinced the congregation.

We recently attended a St Patrick's night supper in Alcester as the guests of the Mayor and Mayoress. Another successful evening.

Just a reminder that the Annual Town meeting is to be held on Monday 29th April at 7pm in the Townsend Hall, Sheep Street. All are welcome.

The sun will shine soon!

Cllr. Gerry Kelly,

Mayor, Shipston Town Council

News from Shipston Town Council's March meeting

Great Big Green Week

The week runs 8-16 June. A family town trail is planned, with different displays at key locations around the town. Council agreed the use of three gazebos.

Potholes

Potholes continue to be prevalent and dangerous, despite work having been carried out both on Darlingscote Road and on the surface of Stratford Road.

Fire Service review

The meeting in the Townsend Hall was well-attended and the consultation period has now ended. The Fire Chief has promised to take all comments into account.

Litter pick

Three new families attended the most recent litter pick. Cllr H Kelly expressed her thanks.

Cemetery

Council has asked Lawns2Mow to clean up the area around the old tree where soil and paint tins have been thrown.

Council tax

Cllr Passingham reported that district council has approved the budget for 2024/5. He is pursuing an answer on EV charging, and on the size of the developments which will have to comply with new government regulation requiring a 10% biodiversity net gain.

Blue light

Shipston First Responders responded to 27 incidents in February, 76 in the year to date. PC Sid Hammond has returned to duty.

Ellen Badger Hospital site

In response to a question from councillors about when a public consultation will be held, the Integrated Care Board has said it is reviewing the business case and will respond once that is done.

Drains

Drains are still an issue at Hay Meadow/High School, with a pipe not connected to the drain. This has been referred to the planning committee and will be raised with county council.

Flood action

Some repairs are needed to the dams in Pig Brook. The Shipston Area Flood Action Group has asked the local MP to attend a Westminster event being held by Slow the Flow organisation. The system for flood alerts – what is the trigger, who gets them, what do they need to do – to be discussed at Emergency Working Group meeting.

Cornmill Meadow access

Options for improving the access to the Meadow to make it less muddy are being discussed with the contractor.

Riverside

Whips (small unbranched trees) have now been planted. Grass grid will be laid on the picnic area as soon as it is dry enough.

General purposes

Backlog of work now being cleared. The path to Oldbutt Road is earmarked for discussion with Crest Nicholson. The allotment holders' request for an incinerator noted, with points made about fire risk and smoke drift over main roads: this will be raised at the annual allotment meeting on Monday 22nd April.

Flowers overpowered

Are you enjoying the spring flowers around town? Then please help to keep them bloomin' lovely by not leaving your litter in the tubs and troughs! The team at Shipston in Bloom who do so much to bring colour to the town



say that while they have got used to picking out cans and cigarette ends, they are now having to deal with dog poo bags, especially near the Ellen Badger Hospital. Please put all litter and dog mess in the bins provided.

Letters

From John Dinnie

I am writing this on the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. I would encourage everyone to read of their exploits over the ages in the book To Save Everyone, or to listen to a podcast about their history, both on their website https://rnli.org – or just donate to this wonderful, purely voluntary organisation.

Closer to home are our own local group of voluntary life savers, the Shipston First Responders. The collaboration between Shipston Lions and Rotary to raise funds for the new vehicle required to keep the First Responders mobile throughout the Stour Area demonstrates the strength of volunteering in our town. Please respond to this appeal.

I see the High School and other youth groups developing this in our young people through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Many Shipston in Bloom volunteers would like to keep their activities going or to branch out in new directions. The litter pickers are attracting more volunteers, as is Shipston Area Flood Action Group. The many and varied activities of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and countless other examples make us proud of our Town.

All across the town and the surrounding area, the power of volunteering is being harnessed. Anything you can do to support this, in cash, in kind, or with just a word of encouragement, will be welcomed by all.

Thank you all very much.

John Dinnie, Deputy Mayor



VACANCY FOR A TOWN COUNCILLOR
SHIPSTON ON STOUR



There are 3 vacancies on the Town Council. An election has not been called so the Town Council is entitled to fill the vacancy by co-option.

If you would like to be considered for co-option, or would like further information please email the Town Clerk at clerk@shipstononline.ora

Now is a great time to join our WI

For our next meeting on Wednesday, 3rd April

We welcome Alan Deeley as our guest speaker:

Alan is a Beekeeper living in Burton Green, Warwickshire and all the honey and wax products from Burton Green Honey are pure and natural













than you think! Come along and see for yourself!

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month (except August) at:

The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4DR

7.00 - 9.00 pm

For more details please contact Bridget Smith (President) on 07810 358201

Or email alisonbridgetsmith@googlemail.com

FREE DIGITAL SKILLS SESSIONS



IS GOING ONLINE A MYSTERY TO YOU?

IF YOU'RE NEW TO THE DIGITAL WORLD OR NEED A HELPING HAND WITH DAY TO DAY ONLINE SERVICES ...

THE CONNECT & LEARN PROJECT IS HERE TO HELP YOU WITH:



phone or laptop OR we have devices you can borrow during subject to availability













Saturday mornings 10.30-12.00 St Edmund's Church, Church Street, Shipston

> We are open to anyone. No referral or voucher needed.

It costs £500 a week to run Shipston Foodbank.

We always need:

- · Tins of meat, fish, vegetables and fruit
- · Cereals, rice, pasta, crackers and biscuits
- Toiletries, cleaning and laundry supplies
- UHT milk, juice, squash, oil
- · Pasta sauce, custard, rice pudding, jelly

Donations of basic items can be left in the church porch between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Saturday.

There's also a collection point in both the Co-ops and Tesco.

For information about our current needs please check on our Facebook page or our website:

Dementia Awareness Week Local Roadshow Events

Even the word "dementia" can be daunting, but we believe it's better to know

It means you can get the practical advice and emotional support you need

So if you're concerned about yourself or someone close to you, why not call in for a chat over a coffee?

Drop-in between 1.30pm and 4pm at these venues on these dates

Tuesday 14th May - Ettington Village Hall CV37 7SX Wednesday 15th May - Wellesbourne Village Hall CV35 9NH Thursday 16th May - Brailes Village Hall OX15 5AS Friday 17th May - Kineton Village Hall CV35 0LA



General News

Warm Hub sessions

Rowena Webb from Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership writes: We are very lucky that Warwickshire Rural County Council has put on a digital workshop



course for people within Shipston. It's an opportunity to learn some valuable digital skills. The course is running for six weeks and is open to all.

We are also extremely fortunate to have Citizens Advice bringing their expertise to the Warm Hub throughout April cost-of-living sessions. This will be a great opportunity for Shipston residents to speak to someone about any concerns they may have.

Both activities are happening at the Warm Hub, Thursdays 10-12pm at the Scout Hut.

Please see the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership website (www.shwp.org.uk) or our Facebook page for more information.

Shipston First Responders

Shipston First Responders have had a very busy year so far, and the team is continuing to grow. In February alone, they responded to 27 incidents, adding to the 49 in January. Seven defibrillators were activated. The five additional team members will be most welcome. The new recruits are currently awaiting their training from the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

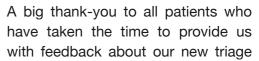
Meanwhile, the First Responders have run three training sessions for the public on how to do CPR and use defibrillators. A session on paediatric resuscitation was oversubscribed, so a further session will be scheduled in due course. The team has checked that the town's 31 defibrillators are functioning properly and are reviewing further sites where they could be usefully placed.

Fundraising for the new cars is proceeding thanks to the huge and much-appreciated support of the Stour Valley Lions Club, Shipston Rotary and the League of Friends of Ellen Badger Hospital. They are all working closely together as a community team to support the fundraising. A recent collection in the town square raised £2,000 and a pitchside collection at the Rugby club raised a magnificent £900. Some local businesses have expressed determination to help, including the Thirst Edition who are collecting monies from their popular quiz and pie nights. There is still a long way to go before they reach their target. It is hoped they can acquire their new car in the next couple of months and the replacement for the existing vehicle later in the year. All donations are gratefully received and can be made via The Rotary or The Lions or online using JustGiving if you search for Shipston First Community Responders.

Fire service update

With the consultation period for the future of the fire service officially concluded, Gosia Zielinska from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service sets out what happens now: 'Warwickshire County Council Cabinet has authorised the Chief Fire Officer, Ben Brook, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Fire and Rescue Service, to consider the feedback from this public consultation together with the views of staff, partners and representative bodies, and to subsequently report back to the Cabinet. We expect that the Cabinet will consider the final analysis and recommendations in June 2024. This date may be subject to change.'

Medical Centre news





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system, which launched mid-February. The feedback indicates an increased level of satisfaction with the service following the change in the system:

- 68% of respondents said it was easy to access the service by telephone, compared to 46% before the new system
- 56% of respondents reported having a face-to-face appointment compared to 43% previously.
- 90% of respondents said they were satisfied with appointment type compared to 73% before the new system
- 84% of respondents said they were satisfied with the urgent appointment wait times compared to 60% before the new system
- 66% of respondents said they were satisfied with the routine appointment wait times compared to 31% before the new system
- 83% of respondents said it was easy to use the new accurx triage form, which compares to 49% of users saying it was easy to use the previous econsult form.

To access our services, we ask that a short form is completed. This can be done via the NHS app or online via our website (https://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/), or a receptionist can fill in the form for you. The form is reviewed by a GP, and you will then be offered an appropriate service or appointment. We are aiming to connect patients to the right person the right way at the right time.

Save the date: the Centre will be holding a Meet The Partners meeting for patients at 7.15pm on Tuesday 21st











Regular Events

Seated Exercise Class: 10am Rainbow Fields and 11am Townsend Hall

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

Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:

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

Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group: 7-9pm, Low Furlong

<u>Tuesday</u>

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

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

Community Hub: Shipston Methodist Church, 2-4pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

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

Wednesday

Seated Tai Chi:

9.30am. Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Standing Tai Chi:

10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Indoor Kurling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

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

Thursday

Shipston Community Warm Hub: Every Thursday 10am-12pm, The Scout Hut, New Street.

Story stomp: 10am, Shipston Library

Scrabble Club: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

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

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

Friday

Pilates for Complete Beginners: 9.30am Townsend Hall

Walks with a friendly group: 10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616

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

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

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

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

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

Shipston Food Bank:

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

What's On Calendar: April 2024

2nd. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each

3rd. Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304

3rd. Singing Down Memory Lane: 2.30pm-3.30pm, Shipston Lodge. See

5th. Easter Bingo: See ad on page 10

6th. Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided.

8th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House.

9th. Shipston Flower Club presents 'These are a few of my favourite things' by Fiona Franklin. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at Shipston on Stour Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor entry £6. There will be a raffle of the demonstrated flower arrangements. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every

12th. Shipston Music Society: George Wilkes (Cellist) and Charles Matthews. See ad on page 7

12th. Stour Valley Lions Cinema: One Life. See ad on page 16

14th. Shipston Tennis Quiz Night: 6.30pm, Shipston Sports Club

17th. 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.

18th. Citizens Advice Energy Drop-In: 10am-12pm, Scout Hut, New Street. See ad on page x

18th. St Edmund's Organ Recital: See ad on page 16

19th. Royal British Legion Social Evening: 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. Do please come and join us and share your stories with like-minded people. For further information contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com.

22nd. Allotment Holders Meeting - see ad on page 7

23rd. Shipston U3A: See ad on page 7

23rd. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm-9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, CV36 4DR. Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month. All ladies welcome. Entry £2.00

24th. Shipston and District Literary Society: 100 Years of the BBC – David Howe. Meetings are held at The Halford Bridge Inn, Halford, at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5 ea. For further information ring Vice Chairman Alison Hook 01608 686376

25th. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits &

26th. Townsend Hall: The Vitality Five. See ad on page 16 27th. Uninvited: Shipston Sports & Social Club. See ad on page 10

28th. Shipston Home Nursing: 10K Run/Walk. See ad on page 16

29th. Annual Town Meeting - see ad on page 10



CALLING ALL ALLOTMENT HOLDERS

The annual meeting of Shipston-on-Stour Allotment Holders will be held at 6.30pm on Monday 22nd April at The Townsend Hall. All allotment holders are welcome.



Any queries, please contact Emily Booth,

Administrative Officer

on 01608 662180 or email: admin@shipstononline.org



Programme will include music by J. S. Bach, Beethoven, Bloch, and Dvorak.

Friday 12th April 2024, 7.30pm Methodist Church, Shipston-on-Stour

Tickets £8 on the door or available from Clarke Electricals, Shipston

Information: ph 01608 662514 Free entry to Music Society members New members always welcome



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





Wednesday 3rd April 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

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

Accompanied by Nick Nickerson on guitar

Refreshments provided Contact Fay Ivens 01608 662133 Alternative Contact Pat Hutton 01608 664648



SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA



TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2024 2 pm TOWNSEND HALL

A talk by Brian Hudson "HOW BIG IS IT?"



THIS IS THE STORY OF HOW THE GREEKS IN 500 BC, RECOGNISED THAT THE EARTH IS A SPHERE, AND ITS DIAMETER IS ABOUT 4000 MILES: USING ONLY A WALKING STAFF, A PIECE OF STRING, A SMALL ROCK AND THE ABILITY TO WALK 500 MILES!

Members free: Visitors £2 including refreshments **Local Reports**

Are you feeling SAFE?

With about 35 people currently interested/involved in our activities, Stourvale Action for the Environment, (SAFE) consists of people who realise that we have to work together



if we are to stand a chance of getting to grips with the various climate and ecological crises. Regardless of our political preferences, we all need help from each other to try to live more sustainably, for our children's and grandchildren's futures.

As your local Environmental Action group, SAFE is linked with many other pro-active, local and national organisations to share knowledge and resources and support and encourage each other. These are just some that you may have read about:



River Stour in flood

- The Climate Coalition national organisers of the Great Big Green Week - 8th -15th June https:// greatbiggreenweek.com
- SWAN for Wildlife South Warwickshire Area Network
 specifically for wildlife issues https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/lifesci/wcc/about/naturalenvironment/swan
- Low Carbon Warwickshire Network emphasis on carbon reduction & energy efficiency in Warwickshire. https://www.harburyenergy.co.uk/warwickshire-low-carbon-network/
- **AoE** Providing help and advice on energy use in the home www.actonenergy.org.uk
- SAFAG Shipston Area Flood Action Group working on the Stour tributaries to prevent storm flooding. https:// safag.org

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- Safe Aon Testing water quality on the tributaries of the Avon including the Stour https://safeavon.co.uk
- Cornmill Meadows Shipston's newly acquired wildlife meadow land
- Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Supports SWAN and nature-based projects in the county. www. warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

There are many opportunities to volunteer and get involved in any of the aspects that take your interest. If you would like to join SAFE and be part of the action, or if you would like to find out more, contact Verity Richardson: 01608 664600 verityrichardson@gmail.com

Shipston's shopping heritage

Shipston is proud of its independent local shops, and now the latest display at our Museum reveals that long heritage. Photographs from the Museum's collection introduce us to the wide range of commercial premises from 125 years ago. Around the picture display are 58 directory entries from 1983 which tell us even more.

And what a wide range we discover! In the days before supermarkets and online shopping, each establishment provided specialist goods or services so an errand trip around town was very much a social occasion.

Some of the lost shops are still in town in a different guise: Seccombes Estate Agents was once Beachus and Sons, printers; John Lyne's was W.R. Fry, saddler, boot and shoemaker, and The Taste of the Country was Bradley's Bazaar, which some of us may still recall.

But not all these shops have gone. Established in 1902 by Ernest H. Spencer and his brother John, E.H. Spencer is still very much a family business. The photograph in our display has Ernest himself standing outside his shoe, boot and country wear shop in Market Place. His grandson, John Spencer Rutter, tells us the family – now in its fourth generation with his daughter Sarah – is proud of its long tradition. 'We're very much a family business continuing to serve our local community,' he says.

Back in the far more distant past, there was a nearby Roman settlement, as the excavations on the Campden Road revealed, so Roman matrons may have also shopped nearby – but that, as they say, is another story.

Shipston Museum has opened for its summer season.

We look forward to seeing you from Saturday 30th March at Old Clark House West Street beside the Town Council offices, New Clark House. Opening hours are 12-4pm, Saturday, Sunday and bank

holidays.

Michaela Davis, the display creator



Local Reports

30mph is quite fast enough

As we wait for the report from last Summer's workshops on Shaping Travel in Shipston-on-Stour to be published, it is worth reminding ourselves what the local Community Speed Watch is all about, *writes Jacey Jackson, CSW Co-ordinator.*

We are a small group of committed volunteers, (supported by SAFE and assessed and vetted by the police) who monitor the speed of traffic on the main roads through the town, according to strict police guidelines and protocols. In the absence of significant police presence in the area, we help to enforce the 30mph legal speed limit. You may have seen the CSW Team from time to time and most recently at the end of February into March.

Although not appreciated by some drivers, the pedestrians and local people who pass by are very grateful for the team's presence. They know how intimidating it is to walk along the road with vehicles thundering past at speed, using the road as a racetrack. They also know that the very presence of the team in hi-viz is a deterrent to speeding drivers, so – for the time of monitoring – there is a period of relative calm!

Did you know ...?

- Slower speeds in urban areas reduce the town's carbon footprint.
- Drivers use less energy/fuel and save money with lower speeds.
- Because of reduced emissions, air quality is improved.
- Reducing speeds means there is a reduction in noise and vibration – improving quality of life for those living alongside and sharing the road.
- Less intimidation from fast vehicles means people are more likely to walk or cycle as an alternative to driving = fewer vehicles causing congestion and a more healthy, active population.
- And of course, lower speeds mean safer roads.

It makes you think.

Contact Jacey on 01608 661288 Jacey@2Jays.co.uk



Remembering Shipston's fallen

1581882 Sergeant (Navigator)
Philip Edwin Lomas

Born in Shipston on 5th April 1923, Philip, known to his friends as Don, was the son of Thomas Edwin and Hilda Victoria Lomas of Mill Close,

Tredington. Thomas was a rating and valuation officer for the Rural District Council.

Don was educated at Falstaff House, Shipston, and King Edward VI School in Stratford. On leaving school, he worked as an assistant in the Shipston Rating Office. He served in the Home Guard before joining the Royal Air Force (Volunteer Reserve).

On 21st April 1944, Don was the Navigator in the crew of seven, onboard a Mark III Wellington, BK347, on a cross-country navigational exercise out of No. 30 Operational Training Unit's base at RAF Hixon in Staffordshire.

There was dense cloud throughout the flight and the crew found it impossible to work out their position. Unfortunately, the plane was over 150 miles off course and over the high ground of North Yorkshire near the boundary with Cumbria. At 16:15 hours, whilst descending through the cloud to confirm their position, the aircraft struck the eastern flank of Whernside, killing all but one member of the crew, the tail gunner. Sadly, he was subsequently killed later that year when his Lancaster crashed.

Don's body was brought home and buried in the cemetery at Shipston in the same grave as his father who had died on 15th August 1939.

Don is remembered on the Shipston war memorial, the Tredington war memorial and on the bronze tablet in the King Edward VI School War Memorial Library.

What is Dementia Action Week?

Dementia Action Week will run from 13th-19th May. The Alzheimer's Society works locally with individuals and organisations encouraging people to act on dementia.

Even the word dementia can be daunting, but we believe it's better to know, because it means you can get the practical advice and emotional support you need. There are a number of events happening local to Shipston during the week of 13th May. You can just drop-in between 1.30pm and 4pm at Brailes Village Hall on Thursday 16th May. Or call into the Tysoe dementia cafe (every Friday from 10am-12 noon) and chat to Paul or Heather, give us a call on 01295 688376 or email: talkdementia.uk@gmail.com



Annual Town Meeting



Monday 29th April 2024 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







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Shipston High School

The second half of this term has been an extremely busy and productive – but fun – few weeks.

In the classroom our Year 11 students sat a week of core mock exams to help prepare for their final GCSE exams in May. They have also been working hard in lunchtime and after-school revision sessions. We are very proud of their commitment and hard work during this challenging period.

Our Year 9 students are about to embark on their journey of choosing their options and are being supported by our careers team who are hosting a further education day, careers meetings and an options evening to help them with their choices.

Our Year 10 Food Technology students were treated to two sessions of sushi-making as we welcomed in Jake Rickwood, owner and founder of Just One Poke, a sushi delivery business based in Whatcote. The students really enjoyed learning how sushi is made and the skill of rolling and



making both salmon and vegetarian sushi rolls. They did amazingly well and served up some fantastic sushi. Thank you, Jake, for spending time with our students. To learn more about Just One Poke, or browse the menu for a sushi delivery, find them on Facebook.

Outside of the classroom, our Duke of Edinburgh students spent two days on a practice hike and planning their final expedition. The first day was spent around Ilmington where students walked, getting used to the off-road routes and carrying backpacks. The second day, students studied

maps and planned their routes, with stop-offs, for their final overnight expedition in June. They did really well, worked hard in their groups and had a great time in learning new skills. If you are able to support any of our students with their award and would be happy to offer a volunteering place, please do contact the school on 01698 661833 to



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discuss further. Students can do this in any combination of hours – 12 x 1 hour weekly, 2 x 6 hours days etc.

Our maths department has been busy taking students out of school with year 10 students competing in a competition at a local school and Year 7 students visiting Coventry cathedral to explore the magical number of Pi in celebration of maths week. We have also taken our Year 11 Geography students on their second field trip to Brandon Marsh where they enjoyed several activities such as pond dipping and exploring different wildlife and habitats.

On Friday 15th March we joined the Red Rebellion in aid of Comic Relief, inviting students to wear red alongside their uniform. Students learned about the charity and the work they do in the UK and overseas and were asked for a voluntary donation of $\mathfrak{L}2$. We are fortunate to have a trained pastry chef in our school kitchen who made red nose cookies to sell at lunchtime, with all profits being donated to Comic Relief. We set a target of $\mathfrak{L}1,000$ which we hope to achieve. Donations are still welcome via this link:

Shipston High School Warwickshire is fundraising for Comic Relief (justgiving.com)

School closed for the Easter holidays on Friday March 22nd at 12.30pm, with students returning on Monday 8th April at 8.35am.

Shipston Primary School

ry School

Dangerous dinosaurs and the dentist

The children in Chicks and Ducklings have enjoyed becoming archaeologists, discovering about dinosaurs and exploring ammonites. They have written letters to the dinosaur who left mysterious eggs in their classroom to discover more about them and drawn detailed sketches of the fossils. A dentist also came to tell the classes how to look after their teeth. The children then wrote instructions to tell their teddies how to keep their teeth clean and healthy.

Dynamic Dynasties at Compton Verney

Year 5 enjoyed a wonderful day visiting Compton Verney to study ancient Chinese bronzes, mainly from the Shang Dynasty. The children were astounded to be able



to hold artefacts which were over 3,000 years old. Amazing the staff with their knowledge of ancient China, the children were enthusiastic and keen to apply what they had learnt at school.

The children listened to how the bronzes were cast, as well as their uses. They also had an opportunity to create their own Ding vessels with Taotie patterns, which they subsequently displayed to parents during their museum afternoon. The sunshine provided a lovely opportunity for the children to enjoy the glorious grounds of Compton Verney at lunchtime.

Sustainability

Sustainability, and educating our whole community about how to leave our world in a better place for future generations to grow up



in is a major part of our work in school this year. School Council is taking the lead in this superbly and have been working with local businesses to promote a greener approach to living. Last half term they ran a poster competition to promote a wide variety of sustainability messages. Each year group had a different theme to promote, including, saving water, don't drop litter, saving electricity, recycling, reducing plastic wastage, donating/reusing books. Posters were judged by Mrs Young and Mrs Chadwick, our School Council staff leads, and Heather Stewart, one of our school governors who has an oversight on sustainability across the school. Congratulations to all of our winners: Jessi, Devon, Lila-Rose, Dolcie, Hollie and Isabelle.

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Astronomical Society News

The Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society meets 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 2nd April and the speaker on the third Tuesday (16th April) will be Dr Dan Bayliss from the University of Warwick, with a talk entitled 'Exoplanets – could smaller stars host planets?' Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Member Adrian Wakeham offers pointers to what to look for in the sky during the coming weeks.

My favourite kind of astronomy is naked eye astronomy. This requires no equipment other than your own eyes (with possibly eyeglasses). I mainly do it whilst taking my dogs on an evening walk. The main thing for astronomy is patience. Your eyes need 20 minutes to adjust to the darkness. Once fully adjusted it's amazing how much more you can see! This can be immediately lost by a flash of white light (such as a car headlight, a security light or a torch). This means you need to find a dark site away from light pollution. One way to avoid light affecting your vision, but still being able to see what you are doing, is to use a red torch, as this does not affect your night vision.

A good place to start are the constellations, such as Orion and Ursa Major, but other things visible by this kind of astronomy are the moon, some of the planets in the solar system, such as Venus, Jupiter and Mars, as well as the stars, and when your eyes are adjusted you can look for star colours, which can help with identifying what you are looking at, such as the star Vega, which appears blue. Then there are the star clusters such as the Pleiades. You can also see galaxies including Andromeda, meteors that usually shoot quickly across the sky and occasionally comets, which usually appear almost motionless. But a great thing to look for are satellites, which look like stars, but move slowly across the sky (if they are flashing, they are usually aircraft). A special moving light to see is the International Space Station, which is usually very bright. There are several sites that give information on the best times to look, including http://www.astro.org.uk

Give it a try! PS. Although it is called naked eye astronomy, I cheat and keep my clothes on!



Townsend Hall

Servery transformation!

We're so pleased with the results of the servery upgrade, which has introduced a kitchen-style serving area, making the space much more practical, versatile and conducive to small gatherings. Special



(ID) I TOWNSEND HALL

thanks to the total funding provided by the G. W. Turner Trust who made this possible.

We're looking forward to welcoming The Vitality Five jazz band on 26th April: 'the most authentic and specialist performers of genuine 1920's hot jazz and stomps.' Tickets available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall and from Clarke's in town. As usual, we will have a well-stocked bar with snacks available to help make this a thoroughly enjoyable evening. *Jenny Glover, Townsend Hall Trustee*

Shipston Bellringers

It's been a busy time for the Shipston Bellringers as we were ringing around the local churches to celebrate Easter. We also welcomed a visiting group on tour to ring in our tower. It was Shipston's turn one Saturday evening to host other members of the Four Shires Guild – this gives local ringers from other towers the opportunity to try out different bells with other ringers. Whilst ringing principles will aways remain the same, all bells are slightly different in weight and rope length so it's good practice to gain as much variety of experience as possible.

We are installing a teaching bell imminently to enable new ringers to start practising and existing ringers to improve their ringing style. We hope to install video equipment to enable the ringers and anyone wishing to learn to better understand the workings of the bell being rung. If you are interested in learning the unique way that church bells are rung, or in joining our team, please do get in touch on 07972 705539.

Shipston Probus: 'remembered forever'

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's mission is to ensure those who died in service from the beginning of the First World War to the end of the Second World War are commemorated so that they, and the human cost of war, are remembered for ever. Retired air commodore Barbara Cooper, now a volunteer with the CWGC, gave us a thought-provoking presentation on the work to ensure the fallen are not forgotten.

The CWGC looks after 1.1 million headstones for deceased military men and women from the two World Wars, the youngest at 14 and the oldest 68, together with major memorial features such as the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium.

It is a huge task to maintain the cemeteries and memorials which are spread throughout the world. Nine hundred gardeners and volunteers worldwide keep them at a high standard.

Discoloration of headstones is no longer addressed by chemicals or scrubbing as over time the stone is being eroded, a simple wash with clean water is now preferred. The needs of the environment now also figure in the landscaping, striking a balance between the effects of ageing, caring for the environment and materials used, hopefully ensuring these memorials remain long into the future. Many of our Probus members recalled visiting continental war graves and attested to their impressive standard of care and resulting moving experience.

Shipston Cemetery has five war graves of local personnel lost in action during the two world wars.

Shipston Probus meets fortnightly. Guests and new members are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Shipston Tennis Club



Shipston Tennis Club has partnered up with Everyone Active and both are offering a month's free membership to new members who sign up for both a tennis membership and full adult membership at Shipston Leisure Centre before the end of April 2024. This offer only applies to new members to either or both organisations. For more details contact membership@ shipstontennis.org.uk and emilylong@everyoneactive.com

Shipston Tennis Club is a very friendly two-court tennis club based on the London Road.

Competitive league tennis can be played all year round as we run three ladies' teams and two men's teams in both local Summer and Winter Leagues. Social club nights each week are on Tuesday and Friday and a beginners' and rusty rackets 6-week course starts 18th April. There is something for everyone!

• Come along to the Quiz Night on Sunday 14th April at 6.30pm. Teams of four, £10pp to include sandwiches, bar available. Book via secretary@shipstontennis.org.uk by 7th April.

Stour Singers

Save the date! Stour Singers' next concert, on Saturday 18th May, includes works from Mozart and Purcell, in addition to Haydn's Nelson Mass.

Musical Director Richard Emms knows the story of the naming of the Nelson Mass. Haydn's most popular mass was originally called Missa in Angustiis: Mass in Fear – fear of war, because in that year 1796. Napoleon Bonaparte and his troops

in that year, 1796, Napoleon Bonaparte and his troops were threatening to attack Vienna.

Haydn had been commissioned to produce a mass to be performed in Eisenstadt every year for the wife of his boss, Prince Nicholas Esterhazy II. As part of the war effort, the Prince had to provide an army, which included some of Haydn's musicians, leaving just some strings, three trumpets and a drummer. Haydn brilliantly used the leanness of his orchestra, and those now prominent trumpets, to invoke feelings of terror, although part of the appeal of the work is its joyful optimism.

Two years later, Napoleon had turned his attentions to Egypt. This disrupted British trade, so Admiral Lord Nelson was sent to sort him out and won a brilliant victory at the Battle of the Nile, decimating the French fleet. There was great rejoicing across Europe.

Nelson's journey home took him via Austria, and he turned up in Eisenstadt, his arrival coinciding with the annual September mass. Haydn was overworked and exhausted, so instead of writing a new mass (and having got his orchestra back), he did a lavish orchestration of the Missa in Angustiis instead. Nelson was probably at the performance, and it is since then that the mass has borne his name.

The Shipston Great Duck Race 2024

Shipston Angling Club and the Stour Valley Lions are presenting the annual Shipston Great Duck Race on Sunday 19th May starting at 12pm at Shipston Bridge. All profits will be split equally between the Shipston First Responders and Fish 'n' Frolics (in aid of Shipston's Young Anglers).

Ducks will be sold in advance through local outlets and at the Coop on 11th May, as well as on the day for just £1 a duck. Cash prizes will be won by the first three ducks in each of the races. You can also give yourself more chance of winning by buying a duck in any of the special Sprint Races running throughout the event.

Shipston Proms

More line-up announcements! Renowned opera singers Anna Patalong and Ben Nelson are another world class act appearing at the Proms, returning for



another scintillating opera night at the Townsend Hall. Another great singer to welcome back is Betsy Harmony, with her huge repertoire of songs from Frank Sinatra to Adele.

It is brilliant to see venues engaging again in The Café and Pub Trail on 29th June and it looks like we will have another busy Saturday night of music spilling out into the Shipston streets. We are on the lookout for people who would like to help with collecting recyclable goods on the last night. If you can help, please go to our website www. shipston.org or social media page to volunteer. We are hoping to become greener with our waste. All updates can be found on www.shipston.org or on Facebook.

Shipston Proms runs from 21st June to 6th July

It's an avalanche of news this month! We've got library initiatives, fit and well info, good mental health and wellbeing news, lifelong learning and the end of the fire service consultation! Next week we have another Full Council meeting where we will be debating the Director of Public Health's report on domestic violence - WCC funds 36 safe houses to which people can flee in crisis. Disappointingly Stratford DC voted against a Conservative proposal to support more safe houses locally. As many of you know this is a really important issue to me so I will be speaking at council on it.

The libraries have introduced sensory times for those with SEND making them more accessible.

Whole of life learning means living well education: helping people understand how best to stay in their own homes as well as adult education, ranging from getting help with core subjects to new pastimes and, really crucially, upskilling.

I have talked to the portfolio holder for emergency services, Andy Crump. One of the offers from the Fire Service is to do fit-and-well visits to our frailer residents. This is as well as doing the discharge from hospital service. So we will be getting more help! And don't forget to check your smoke alarms!

Other things I do - I'm really excited about the number of our young people who are going along to Youth Club each week! Thanks to our brilliant volunteers and workers - but with a growing club there's always room for more! Hint hint. I am also glad to report that the High School is holding a prom for its year 11s, after it looked dicey. So, work hard on your GCSEs and then celebrate harder (and thanks, Mr Saunders)!

And finally, a bit of highways...roads are being mended, potholes filled and schemes are being looked at. If you have had personal experience of road safety issues on the Shipston to Brailes Road and on to the county boundary, can you let me know? It will help me to have a fuller picture of what is going on and what to ask for to improve things!

See you for a chat in the Coop, the George or anywhere else we bump into each other.

Councillor Jo Barker (she/her) Shipston Division

Chairman of Adult Health and Social Care Overview and

07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk @imvbarker

District Council

The District Council has won a grant of £283,000 from Sports England for energy improvements to swimming pools across the district. This should include the pool at Shipston Leisure Centre. With the addition of funding from a local energy company, the council hopes to be able to



install solar panels on the leisure centre roofs which should dramatically cut the cost of heating the pools. Shipston Leisure Centre is perfectly positioned to benefit from this as its roof is pointing directly south.

The District Council is increasing council tax by 3.1% next year. For an average home this represents an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year. The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £164.12, an increase of £5. This increase is less than inflation. Although the District Council acts as the collecting agent for Council Tax, it only receives 7.2% of the Council Tax paid by residents. Warwickshire County Council receives the lion's share of Council tax: 76.7% (for education, highways, social services etc.), the Police 12.8% and towns/parishes 3.3%.

Anyone who thinks they could be struggling to pay their council tax is encouraged to contact the District Council as soon as possible by calling 01789 260990 or email revenues@stratford-dc.gov.uk, where the team will be able to advise what help is available.

The District Council is offering support to those who are struggling with money advice, training, finding a job, getting online and general wellbeing. For more information go to the Stratford District Council website www.stratford.gov.uk/ or phone: 01789 267575.

UBUS is a community transport service that operates on a dial-a-ride basis. It was in danger of finishing due to funding coming to an end. However, the Council has now provided the funding and a much-improved service will be available from October. UBUS is a valuable bus service to protect the vital connection between isolated communities and public services in the District. For UBUS dial a ride phone 01789 264491.

Cllr Olivia Hatch and I responded to the Fire Station review carried out last month which was recommending that Shipston Fire Station be made a 'surge station' and only used in emergencies. We said: 'We understand that current response times are unacceptable. We would like alternative models to be tested, clearly one model cannot fit all in such a diverse county. We would like the modelling of response times to take into account neighbouring fire services. We are worried about the status of the surge fire stations, which are becoming glorified garages, and are therefore most in danger when more cuts and restructuring come in the future. We would like more information under the proposal about the fire prevention and protection work that the service can carry out in homes and businesses.'

Dave Passingham, District Councillor, Shipston South 07973 846605 | dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Useful Contacts

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

shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk Team:

Churches of Shipston:

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

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Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Laura Parker, on 07989 530069 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact admin@shipstononline.org

Forum copy deadline:

Second Monday of the month

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

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council.

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