



Shipston Forum



August 2023

Proms 2023

This year there were so many memorable acts - too many to mention here - but a huge thank you to everyone that took part or supported the Proms financially, by attending events or by volunteering. We would like to say thank you to all our venues in Shipston and the villages, Newbold, Cherington, Stourton, Whichford, Ilmington, Long Compton and Brailes, we hope you will join in again next year.

Any feedback will be much appreciated. So far, we have requests for Viennese waltzes and a return of the RPJ Band. This year, the worthy winners of our window display competition were the Post Office!

With the great array of music during the Proms there was so much to dip into, and most days was a big decision as to what to go and see. People were very generous with their support and filled the buckets and bought raffle tickets in their thousands, so much so that we ran out at the end of the first week! David Birch is leaving after over 20 years in the post as conductor and he will be missed.

There is always great talent on show in and around Shipston and this year was no exception.

Highlights from the Proms continued on page 9

The Benefits of Slowing Down Road Safety in Shipston

Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership is raising awareness of how drivers and their families can save money and be better drivers at the same time.

One of the easiest ways to save money is to slow down and not speed because more speed = more spent on fuel. Driving at an appropriate speed for the conditions within the speed limit could save you money. Driving at 70mph will use up to 9% more fuel than at 60mph and up to 15% more fuel than driving at 50mph. Taking it up to 80mph can use up to 25% more fuel than at 70mph according to the AA.

Slowing down also brings benefits to the environment. National Highways research has found that slowing down just 10mph to 60mph from 70mph on our motorways reduces emissions, improves local air quality and has a positive impact on the environment.

More information available on facebook @
WarwickshireRoadSafety



The Forum Editorial team apologises unreservedly to Cllr Jo Barker to failing to include her most recent columns. This oversight was unintentional and deeply regrettable. You can find Jo's missing column from July, alongside her latest submission, on page 14.

Shipston Town Museum Opens


The highly anticipated refurbishment of the Shipston Town Museum has been unveiled on 5th August.

The ribbon was cut by local historian David Burge at the Old Clark House (West Street car park) and it was be Shipston's first chance to see the revitalised museum, and learn about Shipston's rich past and historical DNA.

Did you know that Shipston once had 29 pubs? Read our first historical article on page 10



Mayor’s column



Hello Shipston,

One of the duties of the town mayor is to attend as many town/local events as possible but sometimes you travel afar. Civic church services are very regularly on my calendar and I went to one in Solihull this month. I met some mayors from distant locations including the Lord Mayor of Birmingham. He made a point of telling everyone how much his chain is worth. I wonder if he knows why he has a chauffeur. Not just to transport him around but to ensure the chain of office returns.

Each one of these Civic Services are different. The ones in Solihull and Stratford included a procession from the Town Hall to the church and in both cases I noticed that all the local councillors wore traditional gowns and headwear. I do like the formalities of these events. It does, however remind me of the mess dress I used to wear when attending functions at the Fire Service College in Moreton in Marsh. (All in fancy dress, looking the same, with no idea what we have come as.)

Congratulations on yet another successful Shipston Proms. I was in attendance for the last night and was impressed not only by the quality of the performers and the crowds of people but the overall organisation of the event.


Weather not so good this month and it has caused the postponement of the Shipston Lodge Summer Fete. This will now take place on the 24th September. Let’s hope the summer extends that far.

Shipston museum is due to open in the near future in the original Clark House behind New Clark House in West Street. It should be a great addition to the tourist attractions in Shipston.

In the July meeting of the council two new councillors were voted in. They are Michelle Kelly a local Shipston resident who has lived in this area all her life and Richard Walters who has lived in Burmington for over two years. They will both be great assets to the council and to Shipston itself. I wish them well for their futures as councillors.

Cllr. Gerry Kelly,

Mayor, Shipston Town Council



SHIPSTON ON STOUR
TOWN COUNCIL

Administrative Officer

NJC LC1 Scale 6 £21,968 (pro-rata) (£11.42 per hour)
25 Hours per week

Closing Date: Friday 18th August 2023

Interviews: Week Commencing Monday 28th August (excluding Bank Holiday)

We are looking for a bright, enthusiastic person who is well organised, efficient, and able to work quickly, accurately and with initiative to work alongside the Town Clerk’s team, Councillors and Service Providers. Excellent communication and IT skills are essential along with commitment and flexibility as the post will involve occasional evening and weekend work.

For further information, job description and application form, apply to:
Deputy Clerk, New Clark House, West Street, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire, CV36 4HD
Telephone: 01608 662180
E-mail: deputy@shipstononline.org

SAFE: Stourvale Action for the Environment



Great Big Green Week has been one of our key activities and we thank all who contributed to this, our third year.

On the last day of the week during two hours in Shipston High Street we gathered almost 50 contributions from local residents of all ages. The topics people commented on covered the following themes:

Reducing, re-using and recycling. This also linked to changing eating and purchasing habits, including eating less meat.

Flora and fauna: Greener gardening - personal, local authorities and corporate; and actions to protect all species, especially those at risk of survival.

Air and water quality: comments were made about concerns about activities directly affecting these and how monetary decisions link to pollution in our lives.

Travel and transport choices: how can we make choices that reduce damage?

We will produce a full report on the comments people made to consider ways to carry forward the ideas and concerns expressed. SAFE usually meets once a month (in Shipston or online) and everyone is welcome to join us or sign up to get information.

For information please contact: verityrichardson@gmail.com

Summer fun advice and activity ideas from Warwickshire County Council



As the summer break from school begins, children and young people are ready to enjoy their free time with fun, activity, and safety in mind. Warwickshire County Council is here to support communities by offering a wide range of engaging activities to keep children entertained and parents at ease.

For those unsure of where to start or in need of support for their families, the Family Information Service (FIS) is an excellent resource. This summer, the FIS team has lots of information on summer holiday activities and childcare and safety advice to ensure a healthy and enjoyable summer.

Stay informed and up-to-date with the latest news and valuable information for families by signing up for the weekly Family Information Service (FIS) newsletter (<https://mailchi.mp/warwickshire/familyinfoservice>).

More information on everything from reading challenges, to outdoor adventures can be found here: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>

News from Shipston Town Council’s July meeting

Resignation of Cllr Zoltan Kovari

Zoltan Kovari has resigned from Shipston Town Council due to personal commitments.

Co-option of Councillors

Richard Walters and Michelle Kelly were unanimously co-opted to serve as members of Shipston Town Council.

Town Band

Councillors noted the pending retirement of David Birch following 65 years as a member of the Shipston Town Band and expressed their gratitude for his service to the town. There was also a brief discussion about potential funding for a bandstand in the town.

Concessionary Parking Rates

Councillors expressed concern at Stratford District Council’s decision to more than double the price of a concessionary parking permit for older people to use in Stratford car parks, noting that lack of local public transport meant that many people are reliant on personal vehicles.

Ellen Badger Hospital

It was observed that there had been widespread media coverage of the Council’s comments expressing a need for beds at the Ellen Badger Hospital. Responses to the Council’s letter had been received from Nadim Zahawi MP, South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust, and Stratford District Council. Councillors resolved to respond to the letters.

Lawns 2 Mow Services

There is a dispute with Stratford District Council which is resisting increasing their contribution toward the cost of various services performed on their behalf through a contract between Shipston Town Council and Lawns 2 Mow.

Electric Vehicle Charging

Potential locations for publicly funded electric vehicle charging stations are being considered.

First Responders

The First Responders car, equipped with specialist medical equipment, is now back on the road following repairs.

Shipston Safer Neighbourhood Team

PCSO Jennifer Read has recently joined the team.

Cycling to School

Councillors expressed concern about the apparent lack of bike storage at Shipston High School and how this was discouraging some young people from cycling to school. It was also noted that pathways to make cycling journeys safer were discussed during the recent local travel forum.

Flooding

The Council will be meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss their latest modelling examining flood risks and the impact of mitigation schemes. This will inform the agency’s budget for work in the catchment area and have an impact on future work undertaken by Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG).

A request to rename the ‘Shipston Area Flood Action Group/Environment Working Group’ as the ‘Flood and Environment Working Group’ will be considered by the Staffing Working Group.

Councillors also approved funds to pay for a three-year license for software to manage the SAFAG website.

Cornmill Meadows

Councillors approved expenditure for the purchase and installation of signage following their receipt of draft management plan for the site.

Land Transfer

Councillors resolved to sign the deed of transfer for the land adjacent to the River Stour and Bridge car park, transferring ownership from Stratford District Council to Shipston Town Council.

Alleyway Plaques

Councillors approved the purchase of 12 plaques for installation in alleyways across the town, matching the design of historic plaques. The plaques each have a cast-iron frame and ceramic insert which features the name of the alley and its brief history. Permission to install the plaques has been granted by landowners and listed building consent attained when required.

Town Maps

Councillors approved the purchase of six new town map panels for installation in existing frames and authorised the relocation of a board from the leisure centre to near the Black Horse public house.

Changing Rooms

The Council intends to apply for a grant from the Rural Prosperity Fund, via Stratford District Council, to cover the cost of installing changing rooms at the hub.

Regular Events
Monday

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

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

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

Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group - Monday evenings
7-9pm in the Townsend Hall.

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

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 Curling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

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

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

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

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

Saturday

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

What’s On Calendar : August 2023

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

2. Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230

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

11. Sunflower Competition – Judging. See ad on page 11

14. Shipston Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House.

16. 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

16. 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. See ad on page 7

18. 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

21. Holiday at Home: see ad on page 7

30. Shipston and District Literary Society: 2022/23 AGM & Lunch. Meetings are held at The Halford Bridge Inn, Halford, at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5 ea. For further information ring Helen Marshall 07582 903212

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

Shipston Music Society



For the final concert of the 2022/2023 season the Shipston Music Society had great pleasure in inviting the internationally renowned pianist Alexander Ardakov to make a return visit, this time with a change from our usual venue of the Methodist Church to St. Edmund’s Church as part of the “Shipston Proms”. To our delight he accepted the invitation.

For this recital Ardakov chose two composers noted for their piano compositions, Frederick Chopin (1810 – 1849) and Sergei Rachmaninov (1873 – 1943).

The programme began with Chopin’s music. A selection of Nocturnes, Mazurkas and Waltzes displayed Chopin’s ability to produce energetic, lively sections which then “melt” into soft, gentle melodic phrases. Then came the Ballade No. 1 in G minor (op. 23). This is a real “show piece” which requires a complete command of the keyboard and very quick, delicate fingerwork. We were not disappointed. Finally the Scherzo No. 2 in Bflat minor (op. 31), a very powerful work so not for the faint-hearted! We were treated to a very strong performance, giving us plenty to discuss during the interval.

Rachmaninov studied at the Moscow Conservatoire (1885 – 92) and graduated with distinction in both piano and composition. He wrote extensively for the piano although he is perhaps more widely remembered for his orchestral works especially the three symphonies and four piano concertos. As he was composing nearly forty years after Chopin’s death it is interesting to see his ability to create a lyrical melody from small motifs and the influence of the Russian Romanticism inherited from Tchaikovsky and his teachers. Ardakov chose to begin this part of the recital with Melodie (op. 3 no. 3) and Elegie (op.3 no.1) which were followed by “Polchinelle” (op.3 no.4). This was, from the outset a very playful, exuberant piece until in the middle section a beautiful melody gradually emerged. This too then receded as a lively section brought the work to its conclusion. Ten Preludes completed the programme of which no. 5 in G minor (alla marcia) was an excellent example of Ardakov’s technical skill.

This programme and it’s performance by Alexander Ardakov was a real “Tour de Force” and all members of the audience, musicians and non-musicians, responded with rapturous applause. An encore of three short pieces by Glinka, Scriabin and Tchaikovsky was received with more well-deserved applause before we allowed our performer “to bow out”!

What a wonderful conclusion to our 2022/2023 season.

Our 2023/2024 season begins on Friday, 15th September 2023 at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church in New Street. We look forward to seeing everyone on that occasion and to offering a very warm welcome to any new members.

Stour Singers - Winter Concert Programme



Stour Singers are excited to announce that rehearsals for our winter concert programme will begin on Thursday 7th September at Shipston Primary School, from 7.30-9.30pm. This term we will be singing two of Ralph Vaughan Williams’ finest works: Fantasia on Christmas Carols and Five Mystical Songs, alongside Mozart’s Ave Verum Corpus and a selection of both well- and lesser-known carols.

We continue under the expert direction of our founder Richard Emms. Richard’s experience, expertise and passion for ambitious community singing mean that he skillfully selects pieces that stretch the experienced chorister whilst being entirely accessible to those who have never sung before! Indeed, no musical background or auditions are required of members.

The benefits of singing in choirs have been widely documented in recent years, so why not give Stour Singers a go and release some feel-good endorphins?! If you are interested in joining, or would like to find out more, do contact us on stoursingers@gmail.com, visit our website www.stoursingers.org.uk, or just come along to our first rehearsal! You can be sure of a warm welcome and new friends.

Shipston Town Band at Sanders Park, Bromsgrove

On the 16th July, Shipston Town Band made its annual visit to Sanders Park Bromsgrove for its regular performance on the bandstand. The band gave a varied programme with excellent performances from its outstanding soloists with David Hunt playing the Soprano cornet solo Demelza and Cornet Soloist Luke Barker of Flowers Band who was making a guest appearance with his original band playing Don’t Doubt Him Now from the Salvation Army Repertoire.

There was a somewhat surreal feeling about the day as despite having to contend with the rain we also found ourselves right next to a funfair in full flow with a rock band on another stage within sound range. Nevertheless the band played on and entertained their loyal and resilient audience.



Shipston Rotary Sponsored Trip to Weston Super Mare

Monday 19th June saw the first Shipston Rotary trip to Weston since before Covid.

Members of the support groups in Shipston gathered on a bright and sunny morning outside the George Townhouse in anticipation of a long awaited trip to the seaside, before boarding a Johnsons luxury coach for the journey.

The weather was absolutely glorious with wall to wall sunshine throughout.

It was uplifting to walk along the sea front in the sunshine taking in the sea air, with nothing more onerous than having to decide where to have fish and chips for lunch and whether or not a cream tea, as well as an ice cream, could be squeezed in before heading back to the coach.

On arrival back in Shipston everyone on board clapped and thanked Shipston Rotary for arranging and sponsoring the trip. It really was a wonderful day out and lifted everyone's spirits.



Are you interested in knitting and crochet?

We are a group that meets twice a week. We meet on Monday evening 7-9pm in the Townsend Hall. We also meet on Friday afternoons in Mrs. Browns from 2-4.30pm. We are a friendly group that is willing to support anyone new to the yarn addiction! We've been going since 19th of January 2018 and were founded by the very talented Linda Cornock (sadly now deceased) and Julie Pardoe after someone asked for help learning to knit on the Shipston notice board on Facebook and the rest is history!!!

By Marianne Westwood

RNLI Collecting Day 22 July

Many thanks to Sarah (our auditor,) the post office, Turners vegetable shop (great coffee), Tesco Express and especially to The George Hotel. Our volunteer collectors braved the weather and the kind people of Shipston and district helped us raise almost £600. A good amount on such a wet day.

Thank you all for your support.

Jenny Plenderleith

Shipston Rotary Tour d'Illington

On a perfect day for cycling, more than 120 cyclists enjoyed the three Rotary Tour d'Illington rides.

The event has raised thousands of pounds over the years for Rotary charities and much thanks go to John Gimblett, his organising team and especially all the marshals, helpers and refreshment team who help out every year and made it such a successful day this year.

Over 1,300 raffle tickets were sold to win the Bradley Wiggins autographed Tour de France yellow jersey. The jersey was kindly donated by the local charity Cyclists Fighting Cancer

The draw took place on the day of the Tour. All the tickets were in the barrel. The barrel was turned many times. The audience counted down '54321'. The winning ticket was drawn. Bob Armstrong was the instigator and a driving force behind the event since inception.

Appropriately perhaps the winning ticket belonged to none other than Will Armstrong, Bob Armstrong's grandson. The photo shows the very happy new owner of an important piece of cycling history.

Thank you to all who entered the raffle and to all the riders.



Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

I have read this month's articles entitled "Work continues on the new Ellen Badger Hospital" and "Shipston Medical Centre", none of which relates to what I think is the most important health issue to Shipston and its immediate environs. Namely when can we expect our new Medical Centre.

The current centre is fast becoming unfit for purpose. We are experiencing a shortage of medical staff and services. For example my own blood tests for cancer review are no longer done in the practice and I have to drive to neighbouring towns.

Can someone please address this issue and inform us of ongoing progress in getting a new Medical Centre?

From P. Hougham

FREE ACTIVITIES IN SHIPSTON ON STOUR

Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge

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

SEATED EXERCISE CLASS	Mondays	Rainbow Fields	10am
SEATED EXERCISE CLASS	Mondays	Townsend Hall	11am
STRICTLY FITSTEPS FAB	Tuesdays	Townsend Hall	10am
SEATED TAI CHI	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	9:30am
STANDING TAI CHI	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	10:30am
INDOOR CURLING	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	2pm
PILATES FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS	Fridays	Townsend Hall	9:30am

For more information or to book a place please contact Vanessa Compton on **01608 663320** or e-mail **admin@shwp.org.uk**



Singing Down Memory Lane

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

2.00 - 3.30pm

Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston on Stour CV36 4BU

Refreshments provided
(We may be able to help with transport, please ask)

Contact: Fay Ivens 01608 662133
Alternative Contact: Pat Hutton 01608 664648

Wednesday, 18 January	Wednesday, 15 February	Wednesday, 15 March
Wednesday, 19 April	Wednesday, 17 May	Wednesday, 21 June
Wednesday, 19 July	Wednesday, 16 August	Wednesday, 20 September

SHIPSTON ON STOUR - A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Holiday at Home is celebrating with OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

on **August 21st** in the **Townsend Hall** **10am ~ 3pm**

£10 to include 2 course meal, refreshments, crafts and entertainment

Booking essential with Rosemary 01608 662584

An activity organised by Christians Together in Shipston

BOARD GAMES SOCIAL AFTERNOON

FREE ADMISSION

Fridays at 1:30pm to 4pm
14 July, 28 July, 11 August, 25 August, 8 September and 22 September
RAINBOW FIELDS, SHIPSTON ON STOUR



A social, fun get together with playing cards and board games, Fridays fortnightly.

For more information or to book a place please contact Vanessa Compton on **01608 663320** or e-mail **admin@shwp.org.uk**

This is one of the range of FREE activities in the Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge delivered by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership in conjunction with Sport England and L&Q. For more information on other activities please visit: www.shwp.org.uk

SHIPSTON-ON-AVON

FOOD Festival

2023

Shipston Food Festival

2023

2023

Coming off the Fosse Way are signs to Shipston-on-Stour Historic Market Town, and you could be forgiven for assuming you will be able to visit a market. But no! Shipston has a beautiful town centre with a Market Square... but no market!

We want this to change! For one day, we are bringing a market to Shipston! On Sunday 10th September, the Stour Valley Lions Club will bring you the Shipston Food Festival 2023! Running from 10am to 4pm you will be able to browse stalls selling products ranging from fruit, veg and meat to delicatessen and bakery products to ready to eat savouries and sweets. We've even included goodies for your pets - There's something for everyone!

With support from the "Covid Recovery Fund" from Stratford on Avon District Council and generous sponsorship from local shops helping us to set up the Food Festival, we are looking to attract as many visitors as possible to help us raise money for local causes. As with all Lion's events, all profits go to charity.

More details about the event, a full list of who will be there and a map to help you locate your favourite stalls, is available at www.shipstonfoodfestival.org or scan this QR code.

We are also offering volunteering opportunities to anyone aged 16+ from our area to gain experience of supporting a charity event, by volunteering to be a Food Festival Ambassador for the day: helping visitors, taking photos, responding to situations, posting to Social Media etc. will all be part of this role. If you are interested in this, please find more information and an application form at www.shipstonfoodfestival.org/ambassadors



It's going to be a great day for Shipston! See you there!

Warwickshire County Council – Disabled Person’s Bus Passes

From 1 August 2023, holders of Warwickshire disabled person’s bus passes will be able to travel at any time using their passes for journeys that start within Warwickshire.

This will enable passholders to get to work, school and college using their bus pass, which has previously not been possible as they were only valid from 9 am. This follows a decision by WCC Cabinet in April to introduce all-day travel for holders of disabled person’s passes below state retirement age, for a trial period of 12 months.

Warwickshire passholders can also use their passes anywhere else in England, between 9.30am and 11pm on weekdays and all day at weekends and on bank holidays.

The disabled person’s bus pass is available to anyone who has a qualifying disability, is under state retirement age, and lives within Warwickshire.

For more information about the eligibility and how to apply please see <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/dpp>



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 July that will be on 1st August and the speaker on the third Tuesday, which is on 15th August is due to be Dr Pamela Klaassen from Edinburgh University, with a talk called The James Webb Space Telescope – from launch to first science. 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.

Perseid Meteor Shower

You may hear meteor showers being mentioned by the media, sometimes called shooting stars, these events happen as planet earth passes through debris trails from comets or asteroids.

One of the astronomers’ favourites is the Perseids (one reason is because it is warm summer night observing). It is caused by Comet Swift Tuttle. Although in 2023 they are active between 17th July and 24th, they peak on August 12th and 13th, sometimes reaching a rate of 100 meteors per hour (although you will be lucky to see that many) and is best observed after Midnight.

The best way to observe it, is by getting a comfy lounge, (a cold drink an optional extra) and place it where you can look north towards Perseus and Cassiopeia (‘the W’) where the centre (the radiant) will be located, then look to the sides to see the trails. Binoculars may help to find the radiant, but they give you a narrow field of view, so naked eye observing will let you see the shooting stars.

Let’s hope for clear skies

Observation notes by Adrian Wakeham

Proms

For the first time, in Shipston, and hopefully not the last, world class opera singers and town residents Anna Patalong and Benedict Nelson accompanied by William on the Yamaha grand piano, wowed the audience at the Townsend Hall with their magnificent vocals. One opera loving ticket holder raved that their concert rivalled any that she had seen at Glyndebourne. Their song choices included “Sempre Libera” from La Traviata, and “Some enchanted evening” from South Pacific.

Another great show was put on by the Morris men who performed outside the Black Horse. Not just any Morris men. Pubgoers checked their drinks and blinked twice as shadowy figures in tattered black robes and top hats descended the stairs of a big white touring coach. They were the Beltane Morris Dancers from Dartmoor. As they said, welcome to the dark side of folk, as they twirled and stamped with their extraordinary fiery energy to the mesmeric beat of the drums.

At the Scout Hut, 11 acts took part in our ‘Shipston Introducing’ competition, our platform for budding musicians and each had something unique to offer. It was jaw dropping to note the ages of some entrants. 11-year-old guitarist Sam Conisbee, protégé of Greg Brice, returned to the competition after impressing the judges last year. This year he not only played acoustic guitar but the piano too. Frankie, also 11, played a composition he wrote in C sharp minor on the piano. Other entrants, guitarist duo Ella Mawson from Shipston and Lucia O’Connell from Warwick performing as Banoffee also impressed with their choice of songs which included “Grace” by Jeff Buckley and “At Seventeen” by Janis Ian.

This year though, Henley musician Amber Liadan with Phil Moffett and Honor Isabella Gerard-Pickering from Stratford won the opportunity to play on the Final Night of the Shipston Proms. Amber with guitarist Phil Moffett enchanted the audience with four self-penned songs. After the contest Amber said that among her influences were Norah Jones and Amy Winehouse. She is working hard to have a full-time career in music so hopefully Proms exposure will help her further. The other winner, Honor Isabella Gerard-Pickering had a great voice and poise as she sang three covers including “Nothing Breaks Like a Heart” by Miley Cyrus. Honor is a sixth form student at Chipping Campden and is being trained by Vocal Coaching by Louise who is based in Stratford upon Avon. You may have seen Honor singing outside the red telephone box in Henley Street in Stratford!

Songs from the Shows too produced some remarkable singers on stage and the audience enjoyed favourites sung by Shipston’s Henry Clarke who sang “Empty Chairs at Empty Tables” from Les Misérables and “Don’t Cry for me Argentina” from Evita sung by Laura Holmes. There was also the chance for some of the Shipston Introducing Acts to appear again, like Luke Keane, who sang Abba’s “The Winner takes it all” as a Finale.

Accomplished pianist and well-known music teacher Helen Porter accompanied on piano.

For musicals of another sort, Calypso Kids and Melody Bear entertained the children at the Scout Hut. In the future, we may well see one of these youngsters on stage at the Hall!

Helen Porter arranged music on the terrace at the George which was a big draw on a sunny day as well as putting on her popular Chamberpot pourri concert at St. Edmunds Church.

Helen entertained the audience with a variety of music on the piano including impromptu No. 1, op 90 in C minor by Franz Schubert. Tim said that when Helen needed some peace to practice she escaped to a grand piano in Stourton. Guests for the evening included Heidi Fardell on recorder, and Jennifer Smith from Longborough, singing soprano. Tim, recently back from a tour in the US entertained with his awe-inspiring harmonica playing.

The Open Mic night in the garden of the Black Horse drew a large crowd to watch an eclectic mix of artists hosted for the first time by George Smith of The Big Ginge Blues Band. There were 7 acts in all. Among them, it was great to see the return of popular local group Soul Traders with our own chair Charlotte Haines on vocals, along with brother Jaimie and Big Ginge himself, with solid backing from their band. Also appearing were ‘KarMa’ with Martin Foster and Karen Gill. They sang the old favourite Tie a Yellow Ribbon by Dawn and Tony Orlando and had everyone singing along. We are very grateful to Martin and Karen for spontaneously stepping in when one of the performers at The Thirst Edition couldn’t make it during the pub trail.

For those who went to the Tina Turner tribute night, Kinisha, who shimmied and shashayed and shone as Tina, said everyone at the Townsend Hall had contributed to a fantastic night and that it was lovely to have been so well received.

For something soothing on the ears, Betsy Harmony provided a wonderfully warm inclusive morning of song at the Scout Hut as part of an initiative between Shipston Health and Wellbeing, Shipston Home Nursing and the Proms. Betsy’s voice was so alluring that some allotment holders couldn’t resist coming in to sing along to golden tracks by Frank Sinatra or the Andrew Sisters.



Local Reports

Evening Swift Walks in Swift Awareness Week

A total of 23 people took part in their first “Swift Walk” in Shipston over the second week-end of July. Because ‘high fliers’ are so weather dependent, the Friday and Sunday groups had a fuller experience than could be enjoyed on the rainy Saturday evening.

The photos show the Friday group avidly watching, as the swifts sped around the house, going in and out of their nest boxes to feed their chicks before sundown, and a parent bird checking before leaving its box. This year we have 3 breeding pairs.

But sadly, the number of Shipston’s swifts has dropped markedly in the last few years. Drastic steps need to be taken very quickly if they are not to vanish for ever from our summer skies. I’m always happy to explain more about what we can all do to help them survive.

Email me if you would like to join Shipston Action for Swifts : Jacey@2Jays.co.uk

Jacey Jackson



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Did you know that Shipston had 29 pubs?

Not all at the same time, of course. Most have disappeared over the years but our oldest, The Black Horse Inn, has been serving ale to locals for at least 500 years. Identifying these pubs has been the task of Martin Russell who has put together a location map and pictures as a special display at the Shipston Museum. And there will soon a lot more there to discover about the town’s buried past.

You’ll soon have the opportunity to see the pubs display and what else has been unearthed when the Museum opens in August. And you may be able to help with a mystery: “I’ve found all the pubs but one”, explains Martin “while we know The Unicorn was in Church Street – but where?”

Here’s another brewery story on the right on the outskirts as you drive towards Stratford. Now flats, this was originally a brewery founded in 1872 as the Britannia Steam Company. It was bought in 1884 by William Turner. He was a local chap who made good – born in Netherton near Evesham in 1846 to Edward Turner, a labourer. William and his three brothers worked in the nearby mining trade. Aged 25, he was a “puddler” who works with iron ore but in a few years he started a very different life as a publican later buying the Shipston brewery named Caudlewell after the Caudle Well which supplied water for its operation, no doubt attracted by the advertisement which promised “considerable increased business being surrounded by an important agricultural district in which there is no rival establishment.”

William grew his business until by 1896 he had 26 pubs – some are still with us – The Bell in Moreton and The Red Lion, Ilmington . We can also remember his brewery in the name of the street nearby, Caudlewell Drive. What was his beer like? We can’t know but there is a hint from 1894 when thieves broke in as the Stratford Herald reported:

BREAKING INTO THE CAUDLEWELL BREWERY.

Between Saturday night and Monday morning last the brewery offices were broken into, an entrance being effected by breaking the glass by the window fastening. The clerks desks were forced open, and about 15s taken from one of the drawers, and the papers from the desks were strewn all over the floor. Fortunately there was little money about, as it had been banked on the Saturday. The thieves appeared to have imbibed the Caudlewell ales. The safe had not been interfered with, but the following note, written in pencil, was left upon one of the desks: We have come from the smoke, and the next time we come over we shall be better prepared to open the safe. We strongly recommend : Caudlewell ales.(Signed), GINGER AND ANOTHER. No clue whatever has been obtained of the thieves

Advert

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Judging on

11th August

Shipston on Stour Rotary Club

To enter contact Fay Ivens

01608 662133



HIGH PERFORMANCE

I am so, so proud of our whole school performance this year and we end on such a high with so many successes and celebrations to look back on. Our teachers have very high expectations of our children and we will not compromise on our ethic of excellence every day - it's what every child deserves. Whilst not all national average data has been released yet for national published tests, our Year 1 cohort have achieved above the national average in their phonics screening check; in Year 2, our cohort are significantly above the national average in reading, writing and maths; in the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check, our children scored an average of 23.2 out of 25, with over half the year group scoring full marks. This is very high as nationally the mean score was 19.8 last year.

In Year 6 our SATS results are incredible and significantly above the national average.

Reading - 83% met the expected standard (73% nationally) with 50% working at greater depth.

Writing - 93% met the expected standard (71% nationally) with 37% working at greater depth.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling - 90% met the expected standard (72% nationally) with 52% working at greater depth.

Maths - 92% met the expected standard (73% nationally) with 40% working at greater depth.

83% of children at Shipston Primary School met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths combined, compared with 59% nationally.

The success of our Year 6 children is down to ALL of the teachers and teaching assistants who have taught the cohort so consistently well on their learning journey, our excellent curriculum, high attendance levels, plus the mindset, character and learning behaviours of the children. In addition, the support from our office staff, our pastoral team - Mrs. Faulkner and Mrs. Turner for helping the children through our Thrive approach and our caretaker, cleaners and cooks, success is a team effort.

Not only have our children shone academically this year, but they have also shone as human beings. All education contributes to character development: to the shaping of children's attitudes, beliefs and habits of mind. As educators, cultivating character is not an option as we are in the character-forming business! Our 6Cs - character, citizenship, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity - are the global competencies we believe our children need alongside academic learning to flourish. These are subtly woven into our curriculum to help our children be well prepared for their future.

In January we had a very, very successful Ofsted ungraded inspection, where our school remained Good, with only one area for improvement - returning pupil attendance back to pre-COVID levels, despite being above the current national average! Then, in February our Challenge Partners quality assurance review deemed our school Leading for leadership at all levels and a national area of excellence accreditation for writing.

We have 31 children across the school who have become Word Millionaires this year (individually reading over 1,000,000 words). 105,081,664 words have been read.

Whilst we are very proud of the amazing results of our Year 6 children, we are not surprised as they reflect the excellent work, attitudes and success that we see throughout our whole school, every day, throughout every year.

SHIPSTON PROMS PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

On Tuesday 20th June, Shipston Primary School was delighted to once again host a wide range of musical children from Acorns Primary, Brailes C of E Primary and Shipston who wanted to perform as part of the annual Shipston Proms. This year we had more children than ever perform for a packed audience who enjoyed music ranging from our first ever recorder orchestra to guitar, piano, keyboards, clarinet and trumpet. The standard of music across all the schools was high and the obvious love of music was clear to see. Many thanks to Mrs. Roberts for organising this, to the children from Acorns, Brailes and Shipston who performed and to all of the parents who supported the event.

Shipston Primary had our termly Rocksteady concert where parents and pupils had the chance to enjoy some rock music performed by our children. Year 2 have performed their recorders to parents and our Year 6 performance of Matilda the Musical was amazing. There certainly is a lot of music happening in school!

MATHS CHALLENGE FINAL AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

On Monday 3rd July, Shipston Primary sent two teams of mathematicians to Oxford University to take part in the national Maths Challenge final. The children had already been successful in two qualifying events and we were one of only three schools who had two teams move ahead to the finals. The questions were extremely challenging, even more so when you only have 20 seconds to read the question and mentally calculate the answer! Although we did not win, our children were (as always) a great credit to themselves, the school and The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust. Thanks to Mrs. Molson for organising our participation in this.

FRIENDS OF SHIPSTON PRIMARY

Congratulations to FOSP for a fantastic Summer Fete. Despite the torrential rain in the morning and threat of thunder and lightning, the weather turned out to be kind. There was a great turnout from families and the community who were able to watch Reception children perform the parachute dance and soak school staff with sponges, as well as browsing the food and drink trucks and stalls.

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2023

We are very much looking forward to meeting our new cohort of Reception children who start in September 2023. We still have a few spaces available for Chicks and Ducklings classes so please get in touch with Warwickshire Admissions <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions> to apply for a place. Alternatively you can contact the school on 01608 661266.

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.

As well as our usual timetabled lessons, our final half term of this academic year has been filled with extra-curricular activities for our students: school trips, in school activities, careers days for our Year 7 and 8 students and a range of sporting events, as well as the much anticipated annual Sports Day.

We also invited parents into school for our Year 7 and 8 parents' evenings. We are delighted to have had the team from Career Seekers Direct spend the day with us working with each of our Year 7 and Year 8 groups. The students spent the day working in small groups to complete challenges and resolve problems based on real life scenarios. It was an opportunity to work together as a team to work on and present solutions. They were treated to presentations from several local business representatives on their own careers to give the students some inspiration and opportunity to think about their own choices post education. Our thanks to Shipston Leisure Centre, Chipping Norton Vets, Pink Connect and Bradley Saul for your support.

The Science department were extremely busy and took Year 8 students out to visit the Thinktank Museum in Birmingham for a fun day out with a particular emphasis on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). They also took the Year 7 students to the Cotswold Wildlife Park as an educational extension to their ecology and habitats topic, and finally a select Year 9 group visited the Museum of Natural History in Oxford where they had fun looking at giant cockroaches and living life as a barnacle as part of their learning on evolution.

We had the second of two visits to the Alpine F1 factory where the students enjoyed a full factory tour with valuable insights into the world of Formula One and what it takes to work in the industry and become a world class engineer. No photos were taken as it was all top secret!

Shipston Museum Opening



An anonymous donation of £2,500 was made out to The Museum by a Shipston Resident – it was handed over to volunteers by the Mayor at Friday's pre-opening.



Last week, our Year 10 students spent a week off timetable at their chosen work placement during work experience week. We had students placed in a wide variety of industries and businesses ranging from RAF Brize Norton where a student spent a week working on an Airbus A400, a motorsport mad student spending 3 days at the Spa circuit in Belgium working on cars ready to participate in a 24 hour race to Porterbrook “employing” a student to help out on the railways and giving them the opportunity to learn about rail innovation. We thank all employers for supporting our young students and providing them with this fantastic opportunity.

We welcomed our new year 7 children on their induction day where they enjoyed a full tour of the school, met their form tutors and key members of staff, got used to the bell and moving classrooms each lesson and the best part of the day.....school lunch! They all left with a smile on their face and we look forward to having them join us in September.

Finally, our PE department have been as busy as ever with after school clubs, an internal cricket tournament and the main event of the year – Sports Day! As we go to print we are still unaware of the final result as the track events are this week. We will reveal all in our next edition!

A busy, but fun end to the school year. Shipston High officially closed for the summer break on Friday 21st July at 12.30pm, and will be returning on Tuesday 5th September.

We wish all our parents, students and staff an enjoyable and relaxing summer break.



Local historian, David Burge, cuts the ribbon and declares the Shipston Museum to be officially open.

I hope you enjoy the catch up columns – some of you thought I had retired and others that I had thrown my toys.....both possibilities if you know me well – but not the case. I’m here!

July

As many of you know there were local elections for the District on May 4th. After 8 really rewarding years the good denizens of Shipston South decided they wanted a change of district councillor. BUT – I am still the County Councillor for Shipston (from Shipston North down to Little Compton and across from Winderton to Stourton – 15 parishes in all) so I am not un-busy!

It is also that time of year where I tend to ask what you want or need from me? Before you ask.....a crossing on Darlingscote Road is in the works – as well as more dropped kerbs....)

I shall continue – after the summer hols - to do my surgery and am available most of the time on the end of the phone! Perhaps the most useful things I can share with you are what are specifically Warwickshire County Council responsibilities – when I was a twin hatter that didn’t matter so much! Highways (including paths and verges), Adult Health and social care (including my favourite – re-ablement), Children’s services, Education, Street lighting, aspects of waste management (not bins), libraries, infrastructure (hence my obsession with all things drain and sewer related), fire and rescue, rights of way, museums, parks and open spaces, culture. What I don’t do I’m afraid is deal with Orbit or other social housing providers. However if the issue is health related – like asthma related to mould then I am still able and happy to help.

I have also been given the Chairmanship of the Adult Health and Social Care committee at Warwickshire County Council. I am really pleased as this is the area I really care about (I am also serving on a budget working group and one on SEND). So if you have any bright ideas please get in touch! This also allows me to ask the searching questions we need to put to our health and social care providers as well as the WCC decision makers. By the time you read this - we will have had a thorough discussion of the Ellen Badger and what happens next. It should be lively!

Next month I hope I will have had a full postbag of requests and ideas!

District Council update

Since becoming a councillor in May the majority of the complaints I have been helping to resolve for residents have been connected with the work of the broadband fibre installation companies. I am told that the government insisted that multiple broadband fibre contractors be involved in laying the cable to introduce an element of competition. However, the results around Shipston have often been chaotic as different contractors have dug trenches along the same stretch of road.

The County Council Highways Department issues licences to these contractors to dig up the roads and they put a condition on them that they return the road to its original state. The quality of the reinstatement has often been very poor. I have been emailing the County Council Officers who have been sending inspectors out, who then instruct the contractors to redo their work to the proper standard. The whole thing has been costly and time consuming. I am now compiling a list of these complaints with a view to escalation to a higher authority. If your road has been affected by any of these works, please let me know and I’ll add to my list.

Another major area of concern is the ongoing saga of the Ellen Badger Hospital. I have been pushing with other councillors that



August

This month I am going to be brave and broach a tricky subject. We are always being told that politicians are not brave or honest. I hope that I have always been so and will continue to be. I am no longer on the Board of Governors of SWFT – which is a shame as I was able to apply a lot of common sense to local health issues. In another way I am relieved! I now chair the Adult Health and Soc Care OSC at Warwickshire County Council. My first invitee was Glen Burley Chief Exec of South Warwickshire Foundation trust who spoke eloquently on modernising health care. The Nichol Unit in Stratford is being utilised for extra beds and so Stratford councillors were pleased.

As Chair I suggested writing to the ICB to ask for a proper consultation on beds for the Ellen Badger Hospital – this was supported by the committee and I have written accordingly (I have requested similar for the north of the county too – where their Ellen Badger Hospital equivalent was closed by the board and its chair at the time....)

To all who will march through Shipston again – I am afraid I can’t join as I am about to have surgery – would you please write too? The strength of feeling expressed cogently – as my colleague John Dinnie did at committee – is what will win the day.

But, should the beds prove impossible to fund then the NHS buys spaces for people who need care in local community facilities – like Shipston Lodge. Warwickshire County Council has also worked hard to forward plan for care in the community – by working with providers to estimate and recruit. We really are an exemplar to the country of how this can be made to work.

I am also a big proponent of living well for as long as we can – hence my passion for wellbeing.

So please carry on lobbying and coming to me with problems – come the Autumn my surgery will be back on the road. Otherwise do call – although having moved house in to a dip – the signal is a bit ropery!

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


there should be a public consultation on the decision of the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust to move the 16 beds from our hospital in Shipston to Leamington. This is a considerable reduction in service for our area. The Integrated Care Board that oversees the NHS in Warwickshire and Coventry agreed to carry out a full public consultation at their meeting on 19th July. This consultation should have taken place before they removed the beds and pulled down the old hospital last year.


Another issue that has been taking time is the grounds maintenance on the new estates. The open spaces on these estates are still maintained by either the developers or management companies set up by them. Two of the play areas on the estates have not been completed to the standard set in the planning conditions. Through the housing managers at the District Council, I have been able to contact the people responsible for making sure the work is completed.


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


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Planning Committee Vice Chair
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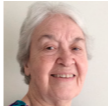
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**Vacancy**

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 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 Team:	01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
Churches of Shipston:	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
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, 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.



ShipstonFoodFestival.org



Sunday 10th September

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Supported from the Covid Recovery Fund by Stratford District Council



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