



Shipston Town Council wishes Forum readers a very Happy Christmas

Shipston prepares to welcome the festive season

Shipston is gearing up for another busy festive season, with plenty of events and entertainment planned.

Shipston Town Band will be heralding the start of December with their Christmas Concert on the 1st December at the Townsend Hall.

This will be swiftly followed by the Shipston Rotary Victorian Evening and Christmas lights 'switch on' in the town centre on the 6th December. This much-loved event will be packed with festive delights, from carol singing and Santa's grotto, to mulled wine and mince pies.

The Rotary Tree of Life will be lit in remembrance of loved ones - bulbs can be sponsored in advance or on the night and all donations will support a local charity



helping children with disabilities.

A quick look at the calendar on page 6 shows just how many events are planned for December, including a town carol service on 22nd December and a couple of opportunities for an early Christmas win at two bingo events in the town.

Thanks to the continued efforts of volunteers, Shipston will once again host a Community Christmas Lunch so that no one has to be on their own on Christmas Day. The lunch is open to anyone of any age who would otherwise be on their own, whatever the reason. The plan is to provide a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings, and added entertainment including a raffle, tombola and even a visit from Father Christmas.

Support from volunteers is very welcome, both in the run up and on the day. Contact Tessa Hince on shipstoncommunitychristmas@hotmail.com for details and to book your place at



the lunch. If you can't help in person but would like to support, you can also make a donation to the event by visiting: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/shipstontownchristmas>

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "This time of year shows Shipston at its best - the events really showcase our community spirit and I feel very proud to live in a town where people go out of their way to make sure everyone can enjoy Christmas."

Photos: (Left) Enjoying the Community Christmas lunch. (Top) Victorian Evening - photo by Chris Wright

Managing flooding in Shipston

November saw Shipston and surrounding areas experience flooding which left a number of roads impassable and forced both schools in the town to close early.

The Environment Agency attended to monitor Shipston Bridge and Lawns 2 Mow were out in force to manage road closures and diversions. Residents took to Facebook to share information about safest routes for travel and local road closures.

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "Thanks to the work that Shipston Area Flood Action Group has been doing in recent years and some kinder weather in recent years, this is probably the most severe flooding we have experienced for some years. I'm extremely grateful to Lawns to Mow for supporting the local police with road closures and diversions, and to residents for keeping everyone up to date which hopefully reduced the pressure on local roads during the worst of the weather."



Local flooding made some roads impassable

See pages 8-9 for pictures of Shipston's Remembrance Parade

Mayor's column



The Shipston calendar is marked for me by so many events in the town. Invariably these events are the work of small bands of willing volunteers who put the time and effort into making them happen.

I'm writing this two days after the Remembrance Parade and Service. I want to thank the residents of Shipston who always support the event, and ensure that we play our part in remembering those we have lost through wars and atrocities. I also want to send my personal thanks to Richard Adams for all of his efforts. Richard has been organising the parade for a number of years on behalf of the Royal British Legion and the success of the event is a tribute to the hard work and dedication he has employed. I know that Richard is planning to pass the baton on, and I wish him all the very best for the future.

I also want to pass my thanks on to the Lions and the Police for controlling the traffic which enables the event to take place. The parade may cause a small hold-up for motorists, but I think it's a mild inconvenience in comparison to the importance of the occasion.

Looking forward, we have the upcoming Victorian Evening organised by Shipston Rotary Club. It's a great way to mark the start of the build up to Christmas and I think the town centre looks wonderful on a cold December night lit up by the strings of lights. Again, this is thanks to the efforts of a small team within the Rotary who also organise the Father Christmas collections around the town, and I want to extend my personal thanks to this group for all the work that they put in.

These are just a couple of examples of the things that keep such a vibrant community spirit alive in Shipston, and long may they continue.

Dan Scobie

Yarn Bombing adds extra colour to Remembrance Sunday

Shipston's talented knitters were kept extremely busy in the run up to Remembrance Sunday. As well as arranging for the cascade of knitted poppies to be put up at St Edmund's Church, the team decorated the church with bold red poppies which adorned the pillars of the church during the Remembrance service.

Local shoppers will also have seen the handiwork of the Knitting Group with many of the town's shops proudly displaying a knitted poppy wreath in the weeks leading up to Armistice Day.

There will be no time to put down the knitting needles, though. Shipston's knitters are already on the case preparing a few handcrafted festive treats which will be on display in the shops, pubs and restaurants in the town, as well as a special display in the church.

If you would like to find out more or get involved with Shipston knitters, please contact Julie Pardoe on skandcgroup@gmail.com.



Shipston Medical Centre bids farewell to Dr Jane Gilder

After nearly twenty years at Shipston Medical Centre, Dr Jane Gilder will be leaving the practice at Christmas.

As senior partner, Dr Gilder has led the practice since 2015, and has been working with colleagues on future plans for a new medical centre as well as looking after patients. In addition to a number of specialist roles at the practice, Dr Gilder has also been involved in training and supporting newly qualified GPs as well as providing support and guidance to the whole team.

Practice Manager, Rachel Vial, said: "Dr Gilder is extremely popular with staff and patients alike and will be sorely missed. We wish her every success for the future."

There is still time to send a farewell message to Dr Gilder. Message sheets are available at the practice and will be bound into a book for Dr Gilder when she leaves.



Shipston Forum & shipstontowncouncil.org website



1. Writing, editing & production of the Shipston Forum
2. Management of the STC website

The new 3 year term contracts will begin on the 1st April 2020. Companies or individuals interested in these tenders should contact the Town Clerk in the first instance for further information. Tenders will need to be submitted by **11th December 2019.**

For full details, please contact

Tel: 01608 662180

Email: clerk@shipstononline.co.uk

News from Shipston Town Council's November meeting

Hot topics

Leaning posts: County Highways is considering recommendations to re-site and/or repair the posts in the High Street that are now leaning having been hit by cars in the past.

Remembrance pride: Councillors commented on the success of this year's Remembrance Parade which involved lots of young people and brought a real sense of community to the occasion. Councillors also congratulated Richard Adams on his extensive contribution to Remembrance events in recent years, as well as his tireless efforts to coordinate the Poppy Appeal, particularly this year following the loss of Mike Ashley.

Pettipher's development: District councillor, Trevor Harvey, is continuing to request information from Tesco about when they are likely to begin work on the Pettipher's site. Despite an initial refusal, Trevor is also continuing to encourage the company to fund a footpath to run from the proposed store to Telegraph Street car park.

Campaigning for Shipston

Health and wellbeing: Marianne Westwood has been invited to join a working group within the new health and wellbeing partnership which will be tasked with progressing some of the ideas and proposals designed to tackle loneliness, isolation and health needs. John Dinnie suggested that reports from the Health and Wellbeing Partnership be brought to STC meetings on a regular basis.

Safety first: The town council has objected to proposals put forward by Orbit Housing to modify access to the new housing site on the London Road. Councillors believe the company should maintain its commitment to installing a lane before any of the new houses are occupied which will allow cars turning right into the site to do so safely and without disrupting other traffic coming into Shipston.

Dog fouling action: Town councillors have agreed to invest in Keep Britain Tidy's latest anti dog-fouling campaign which will see stark warnings placed around the town with the message "we're watching you". The campaign has been proven to work effectively in other authorities and it is hoped the new posters will prompt those dog owners that don't clear up after their pets to change their behaviour.

Shipston Museum: The Heritage and Leisure Projects working group was pleased to report that there are now 12 volunteers

supporting the photographic exhibition at Clark House. A WhatsApp group has been set up to support the volunteers and aid with organising cover.

The Local History Society has applied to become a Community Interest Organisation in order to be able to agree a lease with the town council. The current plan is to keep the photo exhibition open until schools go back in January and then close to allow the venue to be transformed into a museum which will be open in time for Easter.

Charity donation: The Ladies Lunch organised by former Mayoress, Tina Cook, raise £1900 for Papyrus, a charity supporting those affected by suicide in young people. The charity was delighted with the donation and passed on thanks to all those involved.

Town council business:

Communications tenders: The Communications Working Group has updated the tenders for the Shipston Forum and Shipston Town Council website. For details, see the advert on page 2.

Precept planning: The draft Precept timetable has been agreed and work is now underway to prepare next year's budget.

Recycling reimbursement: Councillors agreed to reimburse Julie Pardoe for the recycling bins purchased for St Edmund's Church. However, councillors were reminded that funding bids should be agreed in advance before any expenditure is committed to in line with council policy.



Do you have what it takes to become a town councillor?

Shipston Town Council currently has a vacancy.

If you are keen to do more to help your community and would like to know more about becoming a town councillor, please contact the Town Clerk for details, terms and a nomination form as soon as possible.

For full details, please contact

Tel: 01608 662180

Email: clerk@shipstononline.co.uk

Don't forget to vote in the General Election

It's unlikely to have escaped your attention that a pre-Christmas election has been confirmed. On Thursday 12th December, residents are being encouraged to head to the voting booths to have their say on who they would like to see representing Shipston in Westminster.

Look out for your polling card which will include details of when and where you can vote.

Don't forget to cast your vote!

A helping hand to keep warm and well

Warwickshire County Council has extended its Warm and Well service to give local residents access to free advice.

Through this service, Act on Energy provide free services to residents to help them keep their homes warm through the cold, winter months. All residents across Warwickshire can call upon Act on Energy for information, advice and guidance about how they can save money on their heating bills and practical tips on how to keep their homes warm.

Act on Energy also provide advice for vulnerable residents about whether they are entitled to additional services, including eligibility for heating and insulation measures.

Top tips for staying warm and healthy include keeping rooms heated to at least 18C throughout the day and night and to wear suitable clothing, ideally several thin layers rather than one thick layer.

For information and advice on keeping your home warm and for help and advice on fuel bills and benefits advice entitlements, contact Act on Energy on 0800 988 2881.

Warwickshire County Council also offers a 'Switch and Save' scheme to help residents benefit from lower fuel bills. To review your energy bills and see whether you could save money, visit Warwickshire Switch and Save at: <https://warwickshire.gov.uk/switchandsave>

Calling all backstage enthusiasts: Pinocchio needs help to bring his story to the stage!

Rehearsals are well under way at Shipston Drama Group for this year's pantomime, Pinocchio, a song and dance spectacular to be shown at the end

of January 2020 about the boy whose nose grows longer with every lie. But more help is needed backstage to shine the right spotlights on the show!

Director Helen Morgan, is searching for additional backroom support to help with lighting and sound. Could you help sprinkle extra magic on Pinocchio's story? Why not give Helen a call on 07775 510176.

If you're a fan of theatre, the drama club would love you to become a "Friend of Shipston AMDRAM". At a cost of only £5 per year, you will be helping to ensure Shipston continues to have "live" theatre in the town. Friends will also be added to the group's mailing list so you can keep up with all the latest developments within the society. For further details please contact Chairperson, Sue Jeffries on 07828 893903.

For more information about Shipston Drama Group please visit shipstondramagroup.org, or the Facebook page @shipstononstourdramagroup.



Shipston AMDRAM rehearsing the opening scene from their January 2020 production of Pinocchio

Cub Scouts in Orbit

In November Shipston's cub scouts filled two mini buses and headed off to the National Space Centre in Leicester, to join 200 other scouts from all over the country for a sleep-over and evening of fun.

Cubs took part in scientific experiments seeing how rockets work before heading off to enjoy a pizza and chip supper. After dinner the cubs watched a show all about our solar system in the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium and then enjoyed a tour of the centre, getting interactive with all the displays and activities on offer.

At around 11:30pm the cubs finally got off to sleep, kipping down in the centre surrounded by all things any budding space-walking astronaut would want.

The following morning, the cubs watched another show in the planetarium before the drive home, with their certificates and badges earned during the sleep-over.

John Stolwood, cub leader and the organiser of the trip, would like to thank all the leaders and parents who helped make the trip happen and the children who were once again a credit to Shipston on Stour scout group.

If you would like your child to join one of the groups or you may want to help out and get involved in scouting as a leader or admin role, please do not hesitate to contact Martin Castle on 07714 456824 martincastle26@yahoo.co.uk



Looking for a new hobby? Why not try badminton

When did you last pick up a badminton racket? Whether you're a complete beginner or a secret champion, Shipston Badminton Club would love to see more people taking part in this fun and energetic sport.

The club meets twice a week in the winter and once a week in the summer. You can simply join for the joy of playing with fellow club members, or if you have a competitive streak, you can take part in matches played against other clubs around the county.

There's a social side too – club members have been known to occasionally replenish their energy at a local watering hole. Club nights are Mondays and Thursday from 7:30 to 10pm at the Townsend Hall. For more information, contact shipstonbadders@gmail.com

Winning streak continues into November for Shipston Rugby

Shipston Rugby Club Rams were celebrating their sixth successive victory on 10th November, with a solid performance against Didcot. This winning streak is all the more impressive given the Rams were promoted at the end of last season and now regularly face experienced teams who have played in this division for much longer.



The club as a whole has been extremely active, with the 2nd XV and Colts also performing well in recent matches against tough competition.

Shipston Rugby Club welcomes rugby fans – both players and supporters – of all ages and stages, with minis rugby starting with children as young as six!

For more information and latest match reports, visit www.pitchero.com/clubs/shipstononstourruc

The dates are already set for Shipston Proms 2020!

Shipston Proms will run from 12th-27th June 2020 and the new Committee roles have been appointed:

Chair – Charlotte Haines
 Assistant chair - Haydn Ward
 Treasurer – Peter White
 Secretary – Nicola Porter
 Friends – Jeanne Robinson
 Minutes – Haydn Ward
 Publicity and PR – Susan Perry
 Social Media/Emails – Charlotte Haines/Nicola Porter
 Website – David Farrell
 Local Events – Jeanne Robinson



All will be very ably supported by fellow committee members Tim and Helen Porter, Alan and Sally Marshall, Sue Roark, Fran Stary, Ann Holland and Nicki Gilbert.

Building on from the success of certain performances at the 2019 Proms, the committee has decided to look at more classical acts as well as repeating the Dance Party theme in some shape or form. We will also be looking at a range of tribute and original acts and if you would like to play a part please contact us. Open Mic night is very popular as is the Pub trail so if you have some music you would like us to hear, we would love to hear from you.

We will also look at freshening up the Fame Contest, possibly changing the categories from solo and group to '18 and under' and 'over 18's' to attract a wider age range.

All comments very welcome on Facebook or at shipstonproms@gmail.com.

Church services at Christmas



St Edmund's

December 22nd Churches Together Town Carol Service with the Town Band at 6pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine

December 24th Crib service 4pm
 Midnight Mass 11.30pm

December 25th Christmas Day service 10am

Catholic Church: Our Lady & St Michael's, Shipston, and St Peter and St Paul's, Brailes

December 24th First mass of Christmas 5pm St Peter and St Paul's, Brailes and 7pm Our Lady and St Michael, Shipston

December 25th - Christmas Day Mass: 9am Our Lady and St Michael, Shipston, and 11am St Peter and St Paul's Brailes

Shipston Methodist Church

December 22nd Carol service 11am
December 24th Christmas Eve Communion 6pm
December 25th Christmas Day family service 10.30am

Stour Valley Baptist Church

December 8th Festive Family Service 10.30am
Christmas Eve Christingles and carols followed by mulled wine and mince pies 4pm
Christmas Day Christmas Family Praise 10am

Quakers

Quaker meeting for worship Sundays 10.30am Broad Campden & Sibford Meeting Houses.

11am Ettington Meeting House

Weekday Quaker meeting last Thursday of month 2.30pm in St Edmund's Church. (None in December)

Also Christmas Eve, Churches Together in Shipston, Carol Singing at The Ellen Badger Hospital, meet in the foyer at 7:15pm.

Everyone welcome at all events.

MONDAY

Citizens Advice: Mornings, New Clark House. To book call 01789 200136
U3A Chess Club: U3A For details call Ian on 01608 662565.

Walking for Health - short walks at a gentle pace: 10-11am Bridge Car Park. All welcome. Contact Bob on 665995 or just turn up.

Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club: 6.45pm for 7pm, Catholic Church Hall. Penny Law 663871

Shipston Baby & Toddler Group: Term time only. 9.30-11am, Scout Hut. Contact shipstontoddlers@gmail.com

Knitting & Crochet Club: 7-9pm at Low Furlong. Contact Julie Pardoe 07956 180989 or Facebook 'Shipston knitting and crochet group'.

Shipston Badminton Club: Townsend Hall, 7:30pm

TUESDAY

Yoga for all abilities: 9.30am-11am Catholic Church Hall. Contact Lee Figures 665995 / 07526 575969

Stroke Club: Fortnightly 10am-12pm The House of Bread Retreat at The Mill, Burmington Contact: Bill King 01608 661186

Rhyme time for under 2s: 10.45am Shipston Library. Free.

Age Concern Lunch Club at Stour Court. Stella 686224

Silver Surfer Computer Lessons, Shipston Library 2pm. Free. Booking essential. 0300 5558171

Lego Club for children aged 6+: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 3:30pm-4:30pm Shipston Library. Free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact: Shipston Library 0300 555 8171

Shipston on Stour Rotarians: The White Bear, 7.30pm. Adrian Ramskill 07976 566525

Cantamus: 7.30-9.30pm, Catholic Parish Hall. Richard Emms 662163.

WEDNESDAY

Coffee at St Edmunds Church: 10:30am – 12pm.

U3A Chicago Bridge: Social Bridge 2pm-4.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Roger Smith on 238400.

Stour Valley Probud: Alternate Wednesdays at 10am, NEW VENUE: Shipston Sports and Social Club. Roger Smith on 01608 238400.

THURSDAY

Little Fishes: 9.45-11.15 am, Townsend Hall. Baby and toddler group run by Stour Valley Baptist Church. £2 per child. 50p siblings. (Term time)

Shipston Stitchers: alternate

Thursdays 10am - 3pm Catholic Church. Contact Lynda, Gerrards Rd, Shipston. 07934 203666

Active Memory Group: 3rd Thursday, 10am - 12noon. Contact Alyson Spence 01608 661703 or 07725 892087

Story Stomp: Shipston Library, 11.30-12pm. FREE For children aged 2-4.

Age Concern Lunch Club: Alternate Thursdays. Contact Sue on 01608 664490

Safer Neighbourhood Team: Fortnightly. Public surgery, 2.30pm to 3pm. New Clark House.

U3A Table Tennis. Thursdays 2pm - 3pm at the Townsend Hall. (five tables) See Shipston U3A website or contact Dave 07973 256198

The Thursday Club: 2pm- 4pm, Shipston Library. Free weekly drop-in session for adults. Board games, puzzles, colouring, crafts. Tea/biscuits.

Stour Singers - Choral Society: 7.30 - 9.30pm Primary School Hall. Yvonne Ridley 01789 269587.

Shipston Badminton Club: Townsend Hall, 7:30pm

Shipston Archers: For the winter season: Indoors at Shipston High School, 6pm until 8pm. Beginners welcome. Contact 07795 632718 or 01608 664646

FRIDAY

Walks with a friendly group. Old Mill car park at 10am. Contact: Marlene, 663616

Shipston Probud: alternate Fridays, Shipston Sports Club, Contact Tony 01608 663407

Age Concern Lunch Club at Stour Court. Contact Ann on 01608 664947

Sit and get Fit: (formerly called Exercise for the Elderly). Catholic Church, Darlingscote Road, Shipston, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Alternate Fridays. Contact Ann Smith 01608 238400

Knitting & Crochet Club: 2-5pm, Rainbow Fields. Contact Julie Pardoe 07956 180989

Bingo Night at Rainbow Fields: Doors open 6.30pm. Contact Ruth Keyte 661382

SATURDAY

Chatterbooks: 10:30am – 12pm, Shipston Library. Free monthly drop-in session. Suitable for ages 6-11. Typically second Saturday but please enquire.

Shipston Archers: For the winter season: Brailles Village Hall Pavillion, 1pm- 3.30pm. Beginners welcome. Contact 07795 632718 or 01608 664646

December Diary**30-1ARTMIX: 2019. Arts and Crafts**

Christmas Fair - Chipping Campden Town Hall, High Street, GL55 6HB. Open :- Saturday 30 November 10am – 5pm, Sunday 1 December 10am – 4pm. Contact Melanie – melaniecharles@hotmail.co.uk or call on 07803598444

1 Shipston Town Band Christmas Concert: see ad on page 7

2 Holiday at Home: Activities, games, quizzes & entertainment for the over 65s. 10am-3pm Townsend Hall. £8 for the day including lunch & refreshments. Contact Rosemary 662584 See ad on page 7.

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

Stratford Time Bank's Shipston Social Meeting: 1.30pm-3pm, Community Room at Stour Court. Everyone welcome
Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute: Festive Food & Entertainment. 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519

6 Rotary Victorian Evening: see ad on page 16

7 Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Contact: Fay Ivens 662133 or fayivens@aol.com

9 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group: Christmas Lunch. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684

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

welcome. Contact: Georgina Beaumont 662180

Stour Valley Lions Monthly Business

Meeting: 7.30pm, The White Bear Function Room, Shipston. Visitors welcome. Contact Lion Paul Macpherson, 682102 Mobile: +44 7725 105677

10 Shipston Flower Club: Mel Atkinson Christmas Special. Contact Elizabeth James 01789 450359 or Kathy Little 01608 664882 for more information

11 Shipston and District Gardening Club: Christmas Party. Members only. Further details from the secretary Tony Mitchell, tel. 01608 666933

12 Shipston and District Literary Society: Christmas Lunch. Contact Helen Marshall, 01789 740773

13 Stour Valley Carers Group - Supporting Dementia Carers: 10.30am-12pm, Ellen Badger Hospital (using the Day Unit entrance). Friendly welcome for all visitors. Contact: Carol Ruthven 662706 or Lizzy Feather 686013

Singing Down Memory Lane: Reminiscence songs for people with memory problems. 2pm -3.30pm at Stour Court Community Lounge, Old Road. Refreshments provided. Contact: Barbara Smith 01608 662433 or David Hollingworth 07970 125566

14 Shipston Tennis Club Christmas Bingo: see ad on page 7

18 Shipston Widows: Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am - 12pm, Coach & Horses. For further information,

contact Barbara Bean on 663230

Shipston Proms Meeting: 7.30pm every third Wednesday, White Bear. New members welcome. Email: shipstonproms@gmail.com

20 Norgren Bowls Club Christmas Bingo: see ad on page 10

Royal British Legion – Social: A social gathering of serving and ex-service members of HM Armed Forces at 1930 hrs in the White Bear. If you miss the comradeship and friendly banter of your service days, do come and take part. Open to all members, current and ex-service personnel and anyone interested in joining the RBL. Contact Alex Black 01608 664743

21 Shipston Cancer Support Group: Drop-In Centre. Scout Hut, New Street. 2pm-4pm

22 Churches Together Town Carol Service, 6pm, St Edmund's Church followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

23 Planning Meeting: Shipston Town Council-Monthly meeting of the Planning Working Group: 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact Georgina Beaumont 662180. **NOTE: this meeting will only go ahead if there are urgent applications to be considered.**

25 Shipston Community Christmas Lunch: See pages 1 and 7 for more details

For festive church services see page 5

Shipston Community Christmas -

Not expecting visitors on Christmas Day?

Join us for a Community Christmas at the Townsend Hall

* Full turkey dinner - with all the trimmings *

* A visit from Santa *

* Raffle & Tombola *

Contact us:

Email: shipstoncommunitychristmas@hotmail.com

Call: 07498 558149

Closing date for applications:
10th December 2019

Would you like to help?

We are looking for
volunteers!

Applications can be
collected from:

* Ivy Heart *

* The Post Office *

* Doctors Surgery *

Donations welcomed:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Shipstontownchristmas



Shipston Town Band

Christmas Concert

Townsend Hall
Sunday December 1st
7.30 p.m.
Admission Free



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN YOUR AREA

Supporting people with sight loss
in Warwickshire

Shipston Club Leader & Helpers
for our club for people living
with sight loss

If you are available every other Monday, have
good organisation skills and are good with
people then please

Contact us for more details:

Phone: 01926 411331

Email: volunteers@warwickshire.vision



@WarksVisSupport

Charity Registration

No. 1123220



Shipston Tennis Club

Christmas Bingo

Saturday 14th December

Eyes Down 7.30
at the
Townsend Hall Shipston

Great Prizes

Accompanied Children Welcome

Profits for Shipston Sports Club Ltd—Tennis Section

Remembrance Sunday in Shipston

Shipston residents turned out in great numbers to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The Remembrance Parade, led by Shipston Town Band and members of the Royal British Legion, included civic dignitaries and representatives from the Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Brownies, St John's Ambulance, Shipston High School, Shipston Community First Responders, Rotary, Lions, Police and Ambulance services and other community groups.

Following the Parade, wreaths were laid at the Town's War Memorial before the Remembrance Service took place at St Edmund's Church. Reverend Daniel Pulham from Stour Valley Baptist Church shared his own family's story about the loss of his great Uncle, and the impact of that loss on his Great Grandparents. The congregation also heard about the life of Ernest Webb, one of Shipston's fallen soldiers from WW2, while the names of all those from the town who lost their lives in the two World Wars were read out by senior prefects from Shipston High School.

Lt Col David Kernohan, President of the Shipston Branch of the Royal British Legion, announced that Richard Adams intends to step down as Chairman of the RBL and Poppy Appeal Organiser at the end of this current term, making this year's Remembrance the last Richard will be responsible

for. Spontaneous applause followed, in recognition of the considerable contribution Richard has made to the Royal British Legion, Remembrance events and the Annual Poppy Appeal.

Many residents also turned out on Monday 11th November – Armistice Day – to mark the Two Minutes' Silence.





League of Friends of
Shipston-on-Stour Hospitals

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Supporting the Ellen Badger Development Fund

Pack of 5 Cards 2 Packs for Only

£2.50

Available from

£4.50

E H SPENCER

9 Market Place

Charity No 503010



Are you over 65?

Do you need advice and/or signposting for services?

Are you feeling isolated and want to know how to get involved with groups?

Possibly questions about care options?

Perhaps you would like a quick Blood Pressure check?

Nurse Jan who works as part of the Older Peoples team at Shipston Medical Centre has a new drop in clinic starting November

Where: Ellen Badger Hospital, Ellen Ward

When: Every Wednesday morning between 9am and 12 noon

Christmas is coming.....

so come and make some preparations at

Holiday at Home



on
December 2nd

in the

Townsend Hall

10am-3pm



Activities, games, quizzes & entertainment
for the over 65s.

Costs £8 for the day,
including lunch & refreshments.

To reserve your place contact
Rosemary 01608 662584



An event organised by Christians Together in Shipston

NORGREEN BOWLS CLUB

CHRISTMAS PRIZE BINGO

Friday 20TH DECEMBER

Townsend Hall

Sheep Street Shipston on Stour

Raffle – many fantastic prizes

Refreshments available

Doors open 6pm – eyes down 7.30pm



Shipston Primary School



Stay reflective

In support of International Walk to School month in October, Taylor Wimpey donated high visibility snap bands to all pupils. The annual initiative, organised by UK charity Living Streets, aims to encourage families to leave the car at home and walk to school safely as the darker months approach.



Evidence shows walking more (and using cars less) is beneficial for children's physical and mental health, builds connected communities and friendly neighbourhoods, and improves air quality by reducing traffic congestion. A large majority of children and families walk to Shipston Primary School every day, but we welcome children from surrounding villages and the far reaches of Shipston, which can be quite a distance from the school.

According to research by Living Streets, less than half of all school children are currently walking to school. The research also found that children who exercise before school arrive refreshed and ready to learn. Christian Hilton, headteacher, agrees: "It's really important to us that our pupils are happy and engaged when they arrive at school as learning starts as soon as the bell rings at 8.45am. Walking to school is a great way for children to start the day."

Bags of Hope for Syria

For the past two years the schools in The Stour Federation Partnership participated in the 'Bags of Hope' appeal, where children filled a pink or blue bag (provided) with items they thought a child in Syria would like to have. They have been

very successful appeals and we are repeating the appeal this year: imagine a Syrian child who has nothing opening a bag that has travelled 4000 miles just for them from another child their age, to cheer up their day and for them to just have fun and play, just like opening a stocking at Christmas.

We have some spare bags in the school office for Shipston residents if anyone would like to take part. Suggested items include colouring books, stationery, small toys (no guns) sweets (these need to be Halal), stickers, drinking bottle, toothbrush and toothpaste. It's also good to add socks, gloves, hat etc as the weather is getting cold in Syria too! All items are available from the pound shops. Some children enclosed letters and cards in their bags last year and some children even wrote a message in Arabic. Bags will be collected on Friday 6th December.

Anti-bullying week

This year's Anti-Bullying Week had the theme Change Starts With Us. Children and staff were invited to wear odd socks all week to celebrate what makes us all unique and show that it's good to be different.

Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. Children were taught that by making small, simple changes, they can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, they can challenge bullying. It takes a collective responsibility to stop bullying.

Change starts here.

Change starts now.

Change starts with us.

Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

The Autumn term is often busy with unique and important annual events. In November, the school observed the national commemoration for Remembrance. The whole school gathered together for a special assembly to reflect on the commitment and sacrifice of our armed services. We were proud and honoured to welcome special guests from the Royal British Legion to the assembly, and we thank Chairman, Richard Adams, and President, David Kernohan, for joining us for the event.

The school is also represented by staff and students at Remembrance events in Shipston, notably the Sunday Remembrance service and the marking of the two minutes' silence on 11th November. We are grateful for the opportunity to be involved, and proud to have raised money for the Legion through poppy sales in school.



Students joined together later in November to be part of the national BBC Children In Need campaign. The whole school enjoyed a number of fund raising initiatives to support children which – despite the flooding delaying our plans – will also include a non-uniform day. Our involvement this year was inspired by the work of one student

in Year 10, who approached senior staff with a well considered proposal for the school to contribute to Children in Need, and worked maturely to make it a reality. This is an impressive example of initiative and student leadership; well done to Matthew and all involved.

November is also the time when we welcome back students who completed their exams the preceding summer. Our annual Awards Evening celebrates the achievements of our current Key Stage 4 students and the Year 11 leavers. It is always a pleasure to see students again and hear of their new commitments to education, training and employment. The event is supported by a range of community organisations and individuals, and we are extremely grateful to all of those who attend and contribute, both on Awards Evening and throughout the year.

In December our Year 11 students undertake their mock exams. The mocks are a valuable chance to experience the individual examinations as well as the nature of an exam week, where many students will have more than one exam on a given day. With the significant majority of GCSE grades now coming from 100% examination, the December mocks are an essential activity in advance of the real exams in May and June next year; we wish all students involved well.

Finally, as we approach the Christmas season, on behalf of Shipston High School, I wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Shipston Cycling Club



Shipston Cycling Club took the opportunity to celebrate another successful 12 months at its recent AGM.

Shipston Cycling Club is a British Cycling-affiliated club based in the town. The club has seen membership increase by 25% - including a significant rise in the number of female members, who now make up nearly a third of SCC's membership.

The club rode no fewer than 30 different routes on its regular Sunday rides while social events included a Christmas party and a regular Thursday evening ride, which stops at a local pub. Regular Tuesday evening and Saturday morning rides have continued to be well supported. Timings and route details are regularly updated at www.shipstoncycling.com and on social media.

The club holiday saw several members ascend the formidable Mont Ventoux in the Provence area of France – a climb often visited by the Tour de France.

The club was also represented by two different teams in August's Great Shakespeare Ride, securing the team trophy in the process.

SCC supported two members to British Cycling's "Level 2 Ride Leader" and five members have now achieved the "First Aid for Cyclists" qualification.

Andy Smith was elected Chairman for a further year. Dave Martin continues as Treasurer, while Tony Moss becomes SCC's new Secretary.

Lions Club Serving the Community



Diabetes is one of Lions key global causes as the condition can lead to other diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, nerves and teeth. In most high-income countries, diabetes is a leading cause of cardiovascular disease, blindness, kidney failure, and lower limb amputation. It is expected to affect 629 million adults by 2045.

For the second year running, Stour Valley Lions Club have funded a pre-diabetes event at Shipston High School involving a two-hour session with trained and accredited nurses together with presentations from a community dietician. Shipston Leisure Centre and Slimming World also participated to encourage a fitter future.

We will also be organising a "drop-in" diabetes test facility at the Ellen badger Hospital soon (pending availability of already hard-pressed nursing professionals from the Medical Centre) so look out for further information on timing.

Lions were again on parade for Remembrance Sunday providing road-marshalling backup for our Police to ensure the roads around the St. Edmund's Church and in the Town were safe for those participating in the marching ceremonies. Our Club President presented a wreath at the War Memorial prior to the start of the Service of Remembrance.

Our Club gets involved. We respond to local needs, work effectively to make a difference and have fun. If you would like to help with any of our service projects, without obligation, please contact any member of the Stour Valley Lions Club. You can find details on the town centre notice board in The Bury.

Rotary Tree of Life



Each December the Tree of Life stands proudly in the centre of Shipston, its white lights glowing symbols of love and hope in memory of loved ones who are no longer with us.

If you wish a friend or relative to be remembered in this way you are invited to sponsor a light by returning the form and making a donation knowing that every name will be entered into the Book of Remembrance. All contributions will be donated to The Time Out Group South Warwickshire which provides activities for children with disabilities.

The illumination of the **Rotary Tree of Life** will take place at the opening of the Rotary Victorian Evening on **Friday 6th December at 6pm**

Rotary Club of Shipston-on-Stour Tree of Life

Please find enclosed donation £..... (minimum £5) cheques payable to Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour

In Memory of: (Name) _____

From: (Name) _____

Your address: _____

Forms are also available in local shops, banks, library, post office and other locations or contact Avryl

Please return to: Rotarian Avryl Thompson, Willow Bank, Pillerton Priors, Warwickshire CV35 0PS. Tel 01789 740 047

Shipston – on-Stour and Area U3A

Peter Buckman's talk "Ageing Disgracefully" was an amusing account of his life, from leaving education to his present stage of thinking about ageing – one has to look for compensations, find and use them, and so enjoy life.



He originally started working as a writer but it was difficult to make much money so he decided to go into publishing. He got a job with Penguin and found this enjoyable, being able often to judge a book by its first sentence, then with two little lunches with the author, plenty of wine, the deal was done. Then he decided to go to America, where he did well, until he was liable for the draft to Vietnam, so he returned to England. Publishing was slow at that time, so he turned to plays, as dialogue was easy and soon filled up a page; he wrote much for Radio 4, including Inspector Morse. But he also acted as an agent and had a great slice of luck when a first sentence caught his eye. The book had not been written, but he persuaded the author to write it in two weeks before going back abroad. This became "Slumdog Millionaire", later made into a film, and he himself received £100,000, a fortune in those days.

Feeling himself growing old, which felt like a foreign country, he decided to write about it, and produced his latest book, from which he read extracts, of hints and tips on how to deal with it.

The December meeting is the Christmas Party which is for members only.

Shipston Rotarians and World Polio Day

World Polio Day took place on 24th October and is one of the best opportunities to tell the Rotary Polio Story. This is a chance for Rotarians across the world to come together to fight polio. Throughout many countries, events will be held to raise awareness of the fight against polio and the part that Rotary plays.



Closer to home, members of Shipston Rotary are planting 4,000 crocuses to raise awareness of the global need to eradicate polio. The significance of the crocus colour purple is recognised when painted on a finger of children, to prove that they have had their vaccination. With three countries in the world still not free from polio, volunteers from Rotary travel to these countries to help immunise the children and stop the spread of the disease.

Shipston Rotarians are very much part of this global effort within the Rotary movement in order to move towards the target of ending polio in the world.



Shipston Rotary members busy planting the crocuses to coincide with World Polio day on October 24th

Shipston on Stour Probus Club

Final specification of the proposed stairlift at the Shipston Sports Club has been agreed, in principle, and permissions are now being obtained for the installation from both the town council and the fire service.



The Sports Club, Shipston Probus and Stour Valley Probus clubs hope that installation will still be made before the end of the year.

During November we heard from the following speakers:-

November 8th: After many visits/stays in the Antarctic, David Fletcher gave us a taste of the area and how it has changed over the recent decades.

November 22nd: Our ladies day lunch included an informative talk by Jan Long entitled "The Trials and Tribulations of a Church Warden".

New members are always welcome so why not come as a visitor to see if you would like to become a member and learn more about the world and meet like-minded individuals. For further information please contact the secretary Tony Joint – 07711310272 / tonyjoint73@hotmail.com

Readers' Letters

Letter from Sylvia Uzolins regarding Shipston High School

A big Thank You to the pupils who all stood back, allowing me to pass on my mobility scooter in Sheep Street on Friday afternoon 4th September 2019. A shining example to the school.

Young Musicians' Concert for Shipston Music Society



October saw our annual Young Musicians' concert and we were delighted to welcome back Jessica Madden, a young pianist currently at King Edward VI School, Stratford. Jessica had used the fee she received last year to purchase music by Clara Schumann, a composer enjoying a revival coinciding with the 200th anniversary of her birth this year.

Jessica opened her concert with J. S. Bach's Partita 5: Praeambulum BWV 829 played with brio and sparkle. The tone changed with the delightful Three Sketches by Frank Bridge April, Rosemary and Valse Capriceuse written in 1906 which Jessica played with delicacy and sureness of touch.

Clara Schumann wrote Variations on a Theme by Robert Schumann in 1853 and presented the music to him on his birthday on 8th June that year. The first performance however was given not to her husband as one might expect, but to Johannes Brahms who was said to be deeply affected by it. It was also, Jessica told us, the last piece of music she heard before she died.

We were delighted to hear music both familiar and less familiar played by Jessica, who has just started studying at the Birmingham Conservatoire alongside her 6th form school studies. Her enthusiasm for performing was evident throughout the recital, and we wish this talented young musician every good fortune in the years to come.

December and January will see a break for the Music Society, but concerts resume in February 2020 when Charles Matthews will make a very welcome return.

Shipston Town Band



As usual Shipston Town Band will be busy in the run up to Christmas and there will be a number of opportunities to see them. As well as their annual Christmas concert on 1st December (see ad on page 7), they will be playing at the Victorian Evening, the Christmas Carol Service in the Square on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning they will be at Low Furlong, the Ellen Badger Hospital and the Community Christmas Lunch in the Townsend Hall. Weather permitting, you may also catch them playing carols around Shipston during the evenings.

The Townsend Hall

The winning numbers for the Nov Draw are:

£15 Member no 5
£10 Member no 131
£5 Member No 98

Congratulations on your winnings!



District Council Update

Grants available to help revive empty properties

A common obstacle to renovating an empty property for rental, sale or occupation is lack of funding.



Stratford-on-Avon District Council is committed to reducing the number of empty properties across the district and has grants available up to a maximum of £20,000 towards the renovation or improvement of empty homes, or the conversion of an empty non-residential property into residential accommodation.

Empty homes are seen as blighting a neighbourhood because they are left to fall to rack and ruin and they can be a source of vandalism, antisocial behaviour or can become unsafe over time.

There are many reasons why properties become long term empty. Sometimes owners of homes need support in being able to face how to sell a home or bring it back into use, or alternatively resolve family issues. The District Council offers support where it can to encourage people to bring their empty homes back into use and by using funding effectively to bring empty properties back into use, additional, affordable housing will be created for those in housing need.

Contact the Empty Property Officer to see if you are eligible to apply for an Empty Property Assistance Grant - email: sheree.johansen@stratford-dc.gov.uk or call 01789 260848.

Councillors have not submitted columns this month due to Purdah as we approach a General Election

County Council Warm & Well Checklist

WARM AND WELL IN WARWICKSHIRE

WINTER WARMTH CHECKLIST



°F	°C		
80	27	TOO HOT	Reduce heat but stay warm Be aware that babies may overheat
75	24	HOT	Turn your heating down to save money
70	21	IDEAL	The minimum comfortable room temperature is 18°
65	18	COMFORTABLE	The optimum room temperature for babies 16-20°
60	15	DISCOMFORT	Increased risk of heart attacks, strokes and falls in vulnerable people
55	12	COLD	Risk of respiratory illness
50	09	TOO COLD	Risk of hypothermia

FREE ADVICE LINE 0800 988 2881

Shipston Medical Centre

Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845

Keeping well over Christmas
Ensure you have enough medication to cover the Christmas period

In the period leading up to Christmas please make sure you have enough regular medication to see you through when the surgery is closed. Do order your medications a few days earlier than normal if you need to. We often receive requests for two or three months' worth of medications over the Christmas period. Unless there is a particular reason why you need to have more than one month's medication at a time, and do tell us if there is, we will routinely issue just one month's worth, in line with NHS policy.

It is also worth making sure your first aid box is stocked with things you might need over the period, such as plasters,

paracetamol, indigestion tablets, antiseptic cream and a thermometer.

Opening hours

As usual, the GP practice will be shut on bank holidays. If you find yourself unwell over the Christmas period consider speaking to a local pharmacist who will be able to offer advice on healthy lifestyles and common ailments. Details of the pharmacies open over the Christmas period will be on display in local pharmacies.

Information and advice about managing common ailments can be found on our website at <http://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/Library> or you can contact 111 for health advice who will also help you access the Out of Hours GP service if you need to. Alternatively evening and weekend appointments

with the extended access service can be booked via the practice when it is open or directly via 01926 695949 between 6-8pm and 9am to 12pm over weekends.

Urgent care

Minor Injuries Units are open daily at North Cotswold Hospital in Moreton in Marsh between 8am and 8pm and at Stratford Hospital between 9am and 5pm.

If you have urgent medical symptoms, such as crushing chest pain or symptoms of stroke then call 999 for an ambulance or attend A&E.



Shipston Medical Centre

Your Town Councillors


Dan Scobie, Mayor

t: 07771 772511

e: dan.scobie@shipstontowncouncil.org


Sheelagh Saunders, Deputy Mayor
Heritage & Leisure Projects Group Co Chair

t: 01608 662190/07800 889947

e: sheelagh.saunders@shipstontowncouncil.org


Ronnie Murphy

t: 01608 664518

e: c/o clerk@shipstononline.org


Paul Tesh
Planning Group Chair

t: 07711 433566

e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org


John Dinnie

t: 01608 664590

e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org


Jo Barker

t: 07748968712

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


Fay Ivens
General Purposes Group Chair

t: 01608 662133

e: c/o clerk@shipstononline.org


Peter Cox

t: 07973 442552

e: peter.cox@shipstontowncouncil.org


Ian Cooper
Finance Group Chair

t: 01608 663785

e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org


Marianne Westwood
Heritage & Leisure Projects Group Co Chair

t: 01608 662223

e: marianne.westwood@shipstontowncouncil.org


Peter White
Communications Group Chair

t: 07792 507168

e: peter.white@shipstontowncouncil.org


Gerry Kelly

t: 07471687720

e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org

Vacant

To find out more about becoming a councillor, contact the Town Clerk

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	01608 495955
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	01608 642256

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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

Georgina Beaumont, Town Clerk

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

County Council Contact:
Councillor Jo Barker

t: 07748968712 e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

District Council Contacts:
Councillor Jo Barker (Shipston South)

t: 07748968712

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

Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

t: 07969 167720

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



Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Catherine Martin, on 01608 495955 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

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

Forum copy deadline:
First Wednesday of the month

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

Copies are available to read at the Library, New Clark House and the Medical Centre.

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council to support the community and is distributed to all households. If you don't receive a copy, please contact the Town Clerk. The Forum can also be downloaded from www.shipstononline.org

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.

Shipston Rotary's Victorian Evening

Friday December 6th
6pm to 8pm

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

