



# Shipston Forum

February 2018

## **Shipston Town Council freezes its precept for 2018/19**

Shipston Town Councillors have unanimously voted to freeze the precept - the town council's proportion of the Council Tax - at last year's rates.

The town council's precept will be maintained at £232,000 for the year April 2018-March 2019. Taking into consideration changes in the council grant system, the average Band D council tax payer will see an overall increase of 22 pence compared with last year.

The town council's precept is used to fund a number of services including town cleansing, cemetery and allotment management, and maintenance of play areas. A planned reduction in council expenditure in 2018/19 of around £10,000 has enabled the town council to increase its support for community organisations by a similar amount, and set aside funds for larger projects to protect, maintain or improve the

assets of the town.

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "It is essential that we spend residents' money wisely and our Finance Working Group has worked hard to ensure we can maintain high quality services and continue to support our community groups, without increasing the financial demand on our residents."

Shipston Town Council's precept

is just one element of the Council Tax, which will also cover Stratford District Council, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police, with each authority.



## Local groups to benefit from Community Grants

Shipston Town Council has awarded over  $\mathfrak{L}17,000$  in community grants to support a variety of initiatives in and around the town. The projects include:

- Shipston Proms to support the 20th Anniversary event.
- Norgren Bowling Club works to improve the bowling green, which could be used as a practice rink by countries entering the Commonwealth Games in 2022.
- Shipston Wool Fair in support of its 10th Anniversary event.
- Townsend Hall to help fund the replacement of the existing entrance doors from Sheep Street.
- Shipston Angling Club to help fund an exciting project to reclaim and improve the riverbank at the sports club for the benefit of the public and anglers.
- Shipston Youth Club to fund three part time youth workers and offer some summer holiday activities.
- Citizens Advice providing office space and a contribution towards outreach provision in Shipston.
- Shipston in Bloom to keep the town's flower beds and planters well stocked throughout the year.
- Shipston First Responders and Shipston Link also received funds to help maintain these important voluntary services for the town.

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "Supporting community projects is a vital part of our work as a council and we are delighted to be in a position to contribute funding to projects and services which meet a variety of needs in the town."

## Independent survey shines a light on Shipston's parking pressures

At a public meeting in January, councillors, residents and local businesses heard from an independent expert about Shipston's parking pressures.

Shipston Town Council commissioned People & Places Insight Limited to survey and analyse the town's parking to provide reliable evidence on which to base any parking-related planning concerns.

The study found that while there are times when parking provision is good in Shipston, at pinch points identified between 11am and 12 noon, parking availability in the centre of the town was considerably lower than the national average. On Friday 8th December, the overall parking vacancy level was 7% - 24% lower than the National Small Towns Benchmarking Average.

In addition, large fluctuations in the availability of spaces in the Telegraph Street car park were observed, with 56% spaces vacant on Tuesday 21st November, compared with just 15% at the same time of day on Friday 8th December. Between 2pm and 3pm on Friday 8th, the vacancy figure dropped to just 5%.

A full copy of the survey findings is available to view at New Clark House and will be considered by councillors in February.





## Mayor's column

Winter always feels like a long haul to me, and this is despite the fact that I don't dislike it at all. The only real downside of winter for me is the darkness; leaving for work in the dark, and getting back in the dark always feels miserable. It is therefore with a glad heart I

welcome the winter equinox

as it always seems to signal

the start of the downward slope towards spring and the

lighter, warmer evenings.

No sooner has the equinox passed and we're in to Christmas, an occasion marked out for me this year by the Community Christmas Lunch. I'm not going to talk about this too much as I know it's being covered elsewhere in this edition, but it would be remiss of me not to give it a small mention. I had intended to drop in for half an hour, wish everybody well, and head home for my own lunch, but this was not to be. I was rather taken over by the Christmas spirit in the place, and my intended half an hour turned in to a couple of hours much to the dismay of my family and friends who were waiting at home for me to return and cook our own meal. The warmth that radiated through the event was infectious, and I'll certainly be heading back again next year.

The last thing I want to mention is to offer congratulations to Shipston Rugby Club's first XV as they've topped the table in their league. They're a young side, but they have the best defensive record in the league, and it's great to see another Shipston sports team doing so well.

**Dan Scobie** 

## **Honouring Shipston's heroes**

The Queen's Honours List, published twice a year, honours individuals who are outstanding at what they do and have made a difference to their local or wider community. We all know individuals in our own community who work selflessly for the benefit of others and these local heroes deserve to be recognised.

The Queen's Honours are awarded to people who will usually have made life better for other people through for example, their field of work, long-term voluntary service, innovation and entrepreneurship, or through displaying moral courage or acts of civil gallantry. The awards cover many fields including the community, voluntary and local services, arts and media, health, sport, education, science and technology, business and the economy and civil or political service.

Anyone can nominate an individual for an honour as long as the person is still actively involved in what they are being nominated for. The process involves writing a detailed description explaining why the individual is being nominated with evidence of their achievements and two supporting letters from people who know them personally.

Nominations can be submitted online or by post. For more information, visit https://www.gov.uk/honours.

## Fire service urges resident to test smoke alarms every month in 2018 – and beyond

With the New Year underway, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is asking people to make testing their smoke alarms at least once a month one of their New Year's resolutions.

Many people see a new year as an opportunity for a fresh start, SO month this the Fire Service encouraging everyone to put safety at the top of their list by



making sure they have enough smoke alarms in the home and that they work. Testing your smoke alarm only takes a moment and could be the difference between life and death should a fire start in your home.

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services Community Fire Safety Manager, Moreno Francioso said: "While the majority of homes across the country now have an alarm fitted, most people are not aware that the average alarm has a lifespan of just ten years and then needs replacing."

Last year, in nearly half of all fires in the home where the smoke alarm did not give a warning, the reason was that the alarm was not close enough to detect the fire. Missing or flat batteries were another major cause.

To keep your alarms in working order:

- Make sure there is at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home;
- Test your smoke alarms by pushing the button every month;
- Check that your smoke alarms are less than 10 years old;
- Fit smoke alarms on landings and hallways and near bedrooms. Also consider in rooms which have electrical appliances – e.g. a heater or charger – or other fire risks;
- Take a moment to check on your loved ones who may need help to ensure they're fully protected.

For more information about fire safety in the home visit http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homefiresafety

## In the dark about roadworks? There's a website that can help

If you're planning a journey and want to know where disruption might occur, take a look at the www.roadworks.org website.

By adding a few simple details, you can look for planned roadworks in your local area and where you're heading to. The site currently suggests the Portabello traffic lights work will begin in April - but it's worth checking back regularly as timings could change.

## News from Shipston Town Council's January meeting

## Hot topics:

**Christmas congratulations:** Councillors congratulated the organisers of the Christmas Lunch on another highly successful occasion and thanked all those involved for their hard work. For details see page 8.

**Tree stump caution:** Ronnie Murphy raised concerns about the Conker tree stump left following the removal of the tree on Campden Road. The stump is hard to see in the dark and could cause a hazard.

**Emergency tree work:** The Town Clerk updated councillors on the emergency work completed to tackle dangerous trees at Ashgrove.

**Standing water:** Fay Ivens raised concerns about standing water at the rugby club despite the drainage works that have taken place. Dan Scobie confirmed that only half the work has been done and that once it has been completed, the Rugby Club will review the works to identify if there is anything outstanding.

**Planter positioning:** A request has been received to move the brick planter outside 28 Stratford Road. Warwickshire Highways don't see a need to move it. The resident has been informed and may decide to take it up directly with Highways.

**Fence repair:** Marianne Westwood requested an update on the fence repair at Angela's Meadow. The Town Clerk confirmed it will be completed as soon as possible.

**Gritty problem:** Brian Healey requested that consideration be given to installing a grit bin at the top of Tilemans Lane following the treacherous conditions experienced there during the recent bad weather.

**Regional pride:** Ronnie Murphy led the congratulations to Coventry on being awarded the City of Culture and Birmingham on securing the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

**Parking at New Street:** A representative from the Town Band raised concerns about the difficulties parking by the Band Hall which appear to be exacerbated by residents using the car park for 24/7 parking. Councillors confirmed they are aware of the issue and are looking into ways to tackle the situation.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** The NP Team has reviewed comments and given response for submission to inspector.

## Campaigning for Shipston:

Flooding concerns: Martin Ferrier has been liaising with Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) chair, Phil Wragg, regarding flooding issues on new housing estates in Mickleton where run off is causing problems. There are concerns the problem could be replicated in Shipston and a meeting with the developers of the Campden Road (south) site is planned to talk about this.

**Important events:** 2018 will see the 10th anniversary of the Wool Fair and 20th anniversary of the Shipston Proms. In addition, the Royal British Legion and Town Band are planning events to mark the 100th anniversary of World War I.

Pettiphers garage application: Councillors remain concerned about the potential impact of the proposed Tesco store on traffic flow, congestion and parking. The county highways department has withdrawn its objections to the proposal, although town councillors could not understand why. Shipston Town Council continues to object to the scheme and will request a meeting with Warwickshire Highways to understand their thought process when it comes to these sorts of applications.

## Town Council business:

**Workload increase:** The Planning Working Group expressed concerns over a new move by Stratford District Council which appears to require a response from the town council regarding a discharge of conditions – this is where an applicant may apply for the planning authority to remove or relax conditions placed upon it when a planning application is granted. STC has not previously been required to comment. The Planning Working Group will look into this in more detail and report back.

**Caravan clearance:** Following the article in the Forum, the council-owned caravan is heading to a new home.

**New email addresses:** Councillors now have new email addresses for all their council work which are published on page 15. Residents are requested to use these email addresses for any council business.

## Free fitness support available via Fitter Futures

Warwickshire County Council is helping people to achieve their New Year goals through their fitter futures health improvement programe. Fitter Futures provides confidential and supportive services to help people become fitter, stay well, feel good and lose weight if they want to through 4 key services:



- Discounted 12 week physical activity and healthy lifestyle referral programmes for young people aged 12-16 and adults aged 16+
- Free 12 week weight management referral programmes for young people aged 12-16 and adults aged 16+
- Free 9 week family weight management programmes for families with children who are overweight aged 4-12
- Healthy lifestyle information for families with children aged 0-5

There are some criteria that service users need to meet to access the services. To find out if you're eligible, visit: www. fitterfutureswarwickshire.co.uk





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## Sheldon Bosley Hub Sports Showcase proves a huge success

On Saturday 13th January, the Sheldon Bosley Hub was a hive of energetic activity as residents from in and around Shipston flocked to the venue to take part in its first 'New Year, New You' event.

The brainchild of Zumba Fitness Instructor, Rachel Tame, the event was designed to raise awareness of the wide variety of sports clubs and exercise classes available in the local area. As well as providing clubs and local instructors with an opportunity to showcase their activities, free 'taster' sessions were held throughout the day so people could try something new and find out which forms of exercise would work best for them.



Rachel Tame explained the thinking behind the event: "January is often a time when people start thinking about their health and fitness and are keen to find ways to get the new year off to a positive start. But committing to regular fitness can be a challenge, which is why it's important to find something you enjoy and that fits around your schedule.

"There are lots of small clubs and micro fitness businesses operating in Shipston, and we wanted to make it easier for people to find out who does what, when, and where. Putting on the 'New Year, New You' event gave everyone the opportunity to find out what's available, meet people from the different clubs and classes and even have a go at a new type of exercise. We were delighted with the response."

The event, which ran from 9:30am – 4pm, offered taster sessions in Zumba, Boxercise, Pole Dancing, Fit Steps, Pilates, Yoga, Line Dancing, Kung Fu and T'ai Chi. In addition, Shipston Cycling Club took willing participants for a spin around the local area while local running club, Hook Norton Harriers, encouraged local residents to join a four mile run around Shipston and Honington. Those who prefer competitive sports also had the opportunity to find out about Shipston Badminton Club and locally-based Shooters Netball Club.

Not content with simply raising awareness of fitness clubs and offering free taster sessions, the organisers also ran a charity refreshments stall, raising an impressive  $\mathfrak{L}250$  for Shipston Home Nursing.

The Sheldon Bosley Hub now hosts a wide variety of fitness classes, while other venues such as the Townsend Hall, Sports and Social Club, High School and Catholic Church Hall also provide a base for different activities.

On its Facebook page, the Sheldon Bosley Hub said: "We would like to say a huge well done to Rachel Tame and all the fitness instructors for the amazing fitness day at the hub. A great new event for the hub and a great success. Thanks to all the participants in the sessions and we look forward to seeing you at one of the many classes or groups."

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "This kind of event takes a lot of effort to organise but is exactly the sort of occasion that helps bring the community together and gives small businesses and local clubs and societies the opportunity to reach more people. The benefits of exercise are well known and we are very fortunate to have such a wide variety of activities on offer in our town. Congratulations to all involved in this event."





## Hit the target with help from Shipston Archers

Ever thought about trying or taking up Archery but didn't know how to start? Well - help is at hand, in the guise of Shipston's own local archery club.



Shipston Archers is one of the newest clubs in Warwickshire and was launched in 2013. This amateur sports club practices and promotes all aspects of archery.

The main form of archery practiced at the club is known as Target, but the group will also support and encourage other forms of archery including field and traditional, or longbow shooting. The club shoots outdoors at the Sheldon Bosley Hub and indoors, during the winter, at the High school.

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To become a club member you will need to attend a Beginner's Course and you will receive a certificate on completion that is accepted by any ArcheryGB registered club, including Shipston Archers! These courses are usually held during the spring/summer months and more details are available from the club secretary.

Although it is open, one of the club's remits is to provide facilities and support for archery at the High School and all current students are able to shoot free of charge, on Saturdays, as well as the after-school club on Thursdays. The club has helped deliver GCSE sport as well as introducing junior archers to competitive shooting. Shipston Archers recently attended the Gloucestershire Junior Championships, coming away with one Gold, two Silver and a Bronze medal!

To find out more, drop into one of the club sessions and introduce yourself to any member, or contact the secretary, David Beeton on 07795-632718 or email dgrb@rocketmail. com. We will be running at least one Beginner's course during the coming year, so watch out for the notices!

## Shipston Youth Club throws open its doors for 2018

Shipston Youth Club has reopened its doors following the Christmas break to bumper numbers of young people at its club nights. They continue to be entertained with activities ranging from crafts, board games and baking, to more energetic activities in the gym, as well as having access to table tennis, table football and pool. The snug area has seen a makeover in recent months, assisted by the young people, creating a cosy environment in which they can relax, chat and watch movies. More importantly, Club nights give the young people an opportunity to chat through issues affecting them.

Here are just a few highlights from the past few months:

- Halloween fun....with donut eating made more difficult by the fact that the young people had to eat a donut dangling from a piece of string, with no hands!
- Marshmallow and spaghetti towers, sparking discussion about who is the tower of strength in their lives.
- Making wax crayons...just for fun!
- Guinness World Records...yes, the young people made attempts at smashing record times stacking coins, and performing step-ups!

The staff and volunteers aim to create a space where the young people can meet with their friends, have fun, and have the opportunity to share and talk about what's going on in their worlds. It's encouraging to see the Youth Club fulfilling all these needs.

It wouldn't be a Youth Club without the young people, so a Youth Committee has recently been formed made up of young people from all the school years to be a voice in making decisions about their Club, future projects, X-Fest etc. The weekly subs has been increased by 50p to £1.50, the extra

50p creating a pot of money for the young people to have control over how it is spent. They may decide they want to spend it on a club night activity, or a trip somewhere, but that will be for them to decide.

Unfortunately, due to lack of staff at the moment, the Club has gone from three nights to two, as follows:

Tuesdays – Year 7 Timetable Week A, Year 8 Timetable Week B, 7pm til 9pm.

Wednesdays - Year 9, 10, 11 and above, 7pm til 9pm.

The club hopes to resume Thursday evenings once more staff are on board.

#### More volunteers wanted

If you would like to be involved in supporting such a worthwhile resource for the young people, the youth club would like to hear from you. Whether you can offer one off support or can get involved on a regular basis, the club is in real need of help at the moment and is currently advertising for paid members of staff as well as looking for volunteers. If you would like to find out more, please contact Katie Corby at shipstonyc@gmail.com









#### **MONDAY**

Citizens Advice Bureau: Mornings, New Clark House. To book a free appointment, call 01789 200136

**Shipston Duplicate** Bridge Club: 6.45pm for 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Rd, Shipston-on-Stour, Penny Law 663871 **Shipston Badminton Club:** Townsend Hall, 7:30pm

#### **TUESDAY**

Yoga for all abilities: 9.30am-11am Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscott Road. Contact Leigh Figures 665995 Stroke Club: Fortnightly 10am-12pm The House of Bread Retreat at The Mill, Burmington

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

Age Concern Lunch Club at Stour Court. Stella 686224 Silver Surfer Computer Lessons, Shipston Library

2pm. Booking essential. 0300 5558171

Bingo: Alternate Tuesdays. Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm. Sheldon Boslev Hub. 661886

**Shipston on Stour** Rotarians: The White Bear, High Street, Shipston 7.30pm.

Adrian Ramskill 07976 566525

Cantamus: 7.30-9.30pm, Catholic Parish Hall. Richard Emms 01608 662163.

## **WEDNESDAY**

**Coffee at St Edmunds** 

Church: 10:30am - 12pm. All welcome.

**U3A Chicago Bridge:** Social Bridge 2pm-4.30pm, Catholic Church Hall. Darlingscote Road. Roger Smith on 01608 238400.

**Stour Valley Probus:** alternate Wednesdays at 10am, The George in Brailes. Roger Smith on 01608 238400.

Singing for Lung Health:

11am, Scout Hut. Contact Rose Smith on 07905 884151

#### **THURSDAY**

Little Fishes: 9:45-11:15 am. Townsend Hall, Baby and toddler group for local families run by Stour Valley Baptist Church. £2 per child. 50p siblings. (Term time only) **Shipston Stitchers:** alternate Thursdays 10am

3pm. Catholic Church, Darlingscote Rd. Contact Kath Cheshire on 01608 663486

**Active Memory Group:** First and third Thursdays, 10am - 12noon at St Edmund's Church, Alyson Spence 01608 661703 or 07725 892087

Story Stomp: Shipston Library, 10.45-11.15 am. FREE For children aged 2-4.

Age Concern Lunch Club: Alternate Thursdays. Gill Roach on 01295 680309 or Pauline Carr on 01386 700703

### Safer Neighbourhood

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

Exercise for the elderly: £5. Alternate Thursdays, 2:30-4:30, Catholic Church Hall. Contact: Ann Smith on

Stour Singers - Richard Emms' Choral Society:

238400

7.30 - 9.30pm Primary School Hall. Yvonne Ridley 01789 269587.

**Shipston Badminton Club:** Townsend Hall, 7:30pm

#### **FRIDAY**

Walks over fields with a friendly group. Leaves Old Mill car park at 10am. Contact: Marlene, 663616 Shipston Probus: alternate Fridays.

Age Concern Lunch Club at Stour Court. June on 684218

Shipston Archers: Shipston High School, indoors, 6pm

till 8pm. Beginners welcome. Contact 07795 632718 or 01608 664646

**Bingo Night at Rainbow** Fields: Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.15pm. All welcome. Contact Ruth Keyte on 01608 661382

#### **SATURDAY**

Shipston Archers: Sheldon Bosley Hub, outside, 1pm till dark, weather permitting. Beginners welcome. Contact 07795 632718 or 01608 664646

There are lots of regular classes on at venues in Shipston, including: The Townsend Hall - www. townsendhall.com or call 07514 704057 **Sheldon Bosley Hub** www.facebook.com/ thehubshipston

## **February Diary**

- 1-3 Shipston Amateur Dramatics Society: Snow White. Townsend Hall. See ad on page 7
- Shipston Cancer Support Group: Drop-In Centre. 1.30pm-3.30pm, Townsend Hall
- 3 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
- MIND Charity Party: See ad on page 16
- Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group: Improvements in Aviation by Peter Britton. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684
- 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: Kate Allen – Occupational Therapist on Staying in your Home Longer. 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519
  - Chronic Pain Support Group: 7:30 pm, Rainbow Fields. Contact Marianne Westwood 01608 662223
- Shipston Home Nursing: Spring Bridge Evening. See ad on page 7
- 12 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 Membership Officer Lion Paul Garfield on 07828 589564 or email paulgarfield@icloud.
- 13 Shipston Flower Club: Grand Designs by Dawn Keatley. See ad on
- Shipston and District Gardening Club: Wildlife Gardening by Jo Hands, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Contact: Tony Mitchell 666933

16 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. Contact: Barbara Smith 01608 662433

Royal British Legion: Social. A social gathering of serving and exservice members of HM Armed Forces at 1930 hrs in the Horseshoe Inn. 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.

Rural Cinema: Victoria and Abdul. See ad on page 16 Shipston Music Society: See ad on page 10

- Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group: Life, Food and Drink in the Georgian Navy by Graham Thomas. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 66268431
- **Shipston Widows:** Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am - 12pm, Coach & Horses. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
- 26 Holiday at Home: Come on a Safari. See ad on page 16
- Multiple Sclerosis Society: 'Drop in' meeting. 10.30am at the White Bear Hotel. Contact: Ann Bartlett 666161

Shipston U3A: See ad on page 7

Shipston and District Literary Society: Beverley Tasker – Philosophy in 28 Literature.7.15pm for 7.30pm at The White Bear (function room), Shipston on Stour. For further information contact Helen Marshall 01789-740773.





Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Townsend Hall

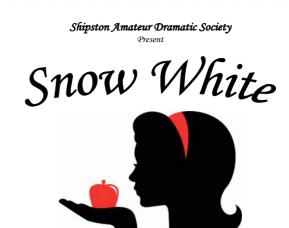


"The Queens Bodyguard of the Yeomen of The Guard" presented by Shaun McCormack

Admission, including refreshments, £2.

Visitors are welcome

Shipston-on-Stour Area U3A is a Registered Charity No: 1170969



A pantomime by Norman Robbins

Townsend Hall Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour

Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd and Saturday 3nd February 2018 At 7.30pm evening performances and 2.30pm Saturday matinee

Tickets – Adults £8, Children £5 Available from John Lyne Home Hardware or on the door

Children in fancy dress at the matinee will receive a treat!



**Presents** 

**Grand Designs** 

With Dawn Keatley

(Competition Valentine Card)



Come and join us for a fun flower demonstration
On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 7.00 for 7.30
At Shipston Primary School, Station Road, Shipston,

At Shipston Primary School, Station Road, Shipston,

Sales table and raffle

Visitors very welcome £ 5.00









## Community comes together to celebrate Christmas in style

On Christmas Day, the Townsend Hall was transformed into a winter wonderland in readiness for the finest festive celebration – Shipston's Community Christmas Lunch. But this was about a great deal more than food. The organisers had once again gone the extra mile, putting on an event which was undoubtedly the best party in town.



Taking place second vear. approximately people took part in the celebrations at the 2017 Christmas lunch. A further 40 volunteers ioined at various points during the day, some of whom would otherwise have been on their own.

The day began with welcome drinks, made all the more festive thanks to the carol singers who sang with great gusto. The High Sheriff of Warwickshire

then addressed the guests to formally welcome them to the lunch and to congratulate Shipston on its strong sense of community.

While more volunteers were busy working in the kitchen, guests made their way to the stunningly decorated hall, complete with snowflakes and snowmen, fairly lights and Christmas trees.

Guests enjoyed a three course meal with choice of puddings, with the Mayor rolling up his sleeves to help carve the

turkeys and serve the main course.



Shipston Town Band joined in the celebrations, adding their unique magic to the occasion. Father Christmas also made an appearance, and came bearing gifts for everyone attending.

The event was organised by Tessa Hince and Hayley Ash (pictured left with the High Sheriff of Warwickshire), with fabulous support from an army of volunteers. Tessa said: "I would go so far as to say that hundreds of people have been involved along the way, whether it be donations of money, food, equipment hire or decorations. Andy Lipp and



June Empson ran our Kitchen team with lots of helpers, Becky Barry led the decorations and Rachel Vial helped organise our volunteers. Mark Davies, the High Sheriff of Warwickshire donated our turkeys, and many businesses and community groups helped make the event a real success."

The organisers had support from HSBC Bank, Plato Hire, Ivy Heart, The Track House, Turners, Cotswold Marquees, Taste of the Country, Shipston Rotary Club, Bookers, The Stour Valley Lions, Clearsound, Tesco, Greenfields Nursery and the Coop.

Shipston Primary School made all the Christmas cards, while Ettington and Tredington Primary schools, Shipston Youth Club and Brailes Brownies made snowflakes for the decorations.



At the January Town Council meeting, Alison Henderson said: "This was a huge team effort made by people who are already very busy. There are a lot of unsung heroes behind the scenes, from those making snowflakes to those sewing chair covers, and they all deserve our thanks for their generous commitment to this event"

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "I was delighted to attend the Community Christmas Lunch and see just how much can be achieved when people pull together. Thank you to everyone who took part – we should all feel very proud of our town."

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## Christmas Day at the Townsend Hall – a guest's perspective By Jean Jones

A splendid Christmas day was provided for those in Shipston who might otherwise have been on their own. The Townsend Hall was transformed. Guests were first taken to a realistic fireside corner surrounded by easy chairs with colourful covers. Choices of drinks and snacks were offered by the welcomers, who included The High Sheriff of Warwickshire in his impressive 18th century costume.

The imaginative and creative decorations in the main hall were dominated by a large snowman on the stage surrounded by a snowstorm, huge stars above, and a wintry wood scene on one wall. A delicious meal followed, accompanied by the attention of the multitude of helpers to provide everything one could want, including company and conversation. Individual Christmas cards given to each guest, created by pupils of Shipston Primary School, finished the day.

Thanks and appreciation must be extended to the Shipston Community Christmas Team with their large number of willing helpers, including all those who worked backstage, to produce the kind of event which Shipston does so much better than other places.



The founders of Shipston's Community Christmas Lunch have been invited to Buckingham Palace in the spring. Tessa Hince and Hayley Ash received invitation letters to one of Her Majesty's Garden Parties from the office of the county's Lord-Lieutenant this week.

Just three Royal Garden Parties are held in May and June. Tessa and Hayley can each take one guest, and have asked Becky Barrie (who was responsible for the superb decoration of the Townsend Hall) and chef Andy Lipp.

We wish them all a wonderful time.











## **Gentle Exercise**



**Build balance and stamina** 

**Increase physical strength** 

**Keep Independent** 

Prevent falls by enjoying gentle exercise with a chair then join us for tea and biscuits and meet people for a chat and to make friends.

> At the Catholic Church, Darlingscote Road, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4GF (plenty of parking)

**Alternate Thursdays** Registration 2.15, class 2.30pm for 1 hour followed by tea. from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

£5 per session, discount if paid in advance

Contact Ann Smith on 01608 238400 to book a place or for more information (limited numbers)



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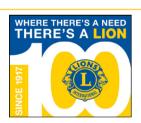
**ICONIC ENGLISH SONGS** -AN ILLUSTRATED TALK by local historian & lecturer, Tim Porter



The Methodist Church New Street, Shipston on Stour Friday 16th February 2018, 7.30pm

Guests £6.00 – Students £3.00 Accompanied Children free New Members always welcome More information: 01608 662514

Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)

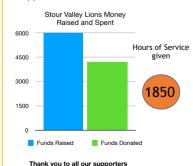


Who are we?

## Stour Valley Lions 2017 **ACTIVITIES REPORT**



things to help others and support good causes throughout our community. Globally we have more volunteers in more places than any other service club organisation, and love to help others and make things happen.



Proud to support in 2017:

- Shipston High School Shipston Food Bank
- Ellen Badger Hospital Diabetes Testing British Legion

- Baptist Church Zoe's Place baby hospice Resilient Group D of E sponsorship
- British Heart Foundation
- Marie Curie
- Cyclists Fighting Cancer Cruse Bereavement

- Sight Savers North Sea Lions Life Skills Africa
- East Africa Drought



Get Involved...





## **Shipston Town Band**

Present their

## **Stour Concert Brass** In Concert With Yarnton Band

To Celebrate Concert Brass's 20th Anniversary



Townsend Hall Sat. March 3rd 7.30 p.m.

**Admission Free** 

## **Shipston Primary School**

## •

#### **Young Voices 2018**

On Tuesday 9th January, children from Acorns and Shipston rocked the Genting Arena, Birmingham and helped raise the roof with the Young Voices choir. They joined forces with over 6000 children from primary schools across the country to perform

a huge repertoire of songs from across the genres and the decades, including 'Africa' by Toto, a pop medley and a 90's rave medley! As well as singing their hearts out, the children also got a chance to



showcase some pretty impressive dance moves and experience first-hand some amazing professional dance and vocal acts. The children worked incredibly hard last term to learn and perfect all the songs for the performance and they should be really proud of what they achieved – we are pretty certain they have come away with memories that will last a lifetime. Well done everyone!

#### **Bags of Hope**

The response to our Bags of Hope for Syrian children has been brilliant. Shipston parent Vicky Flynn and One Nation UK are delighted with the amount of bags that were returned to Brailes C of E Primary, Acorns Primary and Shipston Primary before Christmas. There were 206 bags in total, pretty much an even split between boys and girls. Thank you to all the families that took part in this wonderful act of kindness and generosity.

## **Cross Country**

There was a great turn out from Shipston Primary pupils at the last cross country race at Stratford Recreation Ground, particularly from Lower Key Stage 2. All runners performed brilliantly on a cold and sticky morning. There were a number of personal bests

and three children finished in the top six and received certificates.

#### **Polar Explorer Day**

As an exciting introduction to their Frozen Kingdom topic, Year 6 had a memorable visit from a real-life polar explorer. Simon Ward-Harris spent the day sharing his experiences of exploration all over the world before delving into the exciting, complex and often dangerous aspects of exploring the polar regions. The children learnt all about the wildlife that inhabit both the Arctic and the Antarctic and how the environment differs in both places the children were shocked to hear how freezing the temperatures

were (as low as -89 degrees celsius!) and the challenges this presented to any intrepid explorer. Some gruesome pictures of frostbitten hands highlighted just what explorers like Simon have to endure in order to reach the north and south pole and his tips on how to scare off an enormous polar bear (who can smell you from 20 miles away) had everyone on the edge of their seats.

To end this fascinating day, some of the children got to experience the clothing worn on polar expeditions and how to

avoid sweat freezing your clothes solid!

#### SBK Books of the month

One of the Sheldon Bosley Knight books of the month links nicely with the Frozen Kingdom topic. The chapter book of the month is 'The Polar Bear Explorers' Club' by Alex Bell and the picture book of the month is 'Tidy' by Emily Gravett. They have been a big hit with the children.

## Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Shipston High School has been involved with a range of charity and community activities recently, which have enabled staff and pupils to make a positive contribution for others.

We were delighted to hear from the local British Legion that our fund raising for the Poppy Appeal in November last year raised £451.91; a fantastic result from our school community.

Our Christmas jumper day in December supported each of our four houses' charities: Badger House: Mary's Meals – who provide meals for children across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Hart House: Plan International – supporting the

education of Wilmer and Eva, two children overseas. Mayo House: British Heart Foundation. Sheldon House – The Teenage Cancer Trust.

Also in December, staff and pupils helped raise awareness of Crohn's disease by wearing purple ribbons. More information on the condition is available at the Crohn's & Colitis UK website.

The school has continued its charity focus into the New Year. Monday 15th January, described in the press as 'Blue Monday', was apparently the most depressing day of the year due to its post holiday position and

the continuation of cold and dark days. Rather than give in to the gloom, Shipston High declared this 'Wear something bright Day', where all were invited to augment their uniform with a bright and uplifting

accessory. The whole school got involved, and the atmosphere was certainly lifted. Most importantly, funds were raised for mental health charities.

As a local community, we all appreciate the work of the Shipston First Responders. It is a huge reassurance to have this team available to us when emergencies occur. I am pleased to share the news that Shipston High School has raised £125 for the

First Responders by staff donating and buying books; a great way to broaden reading habits and support valuable community work.

All of these activities have been enthusiastically supported by everyone at the school. They have brightened the winter months and unified the school; an excellent example of the sustained community spirit that makes Shipston High such a positive and vibrant school.



Shipston On Stour Primary School







## **Shipston Rotary**

## Santa's sleigh tour

Shipston Rotary took Santa around Shipston for 5 nights in the week before Christmas,

delight of children and much to the



adults alike. He was also in the High Street on the Saturday morning.

Thanks to your amazing support, we raised over £2,200, which will go to local Charities and good causes.

Santa is always looking for helpers (on what are always fun evenings) so if you might be able to help next Christmas, please get in touch with us via. our Facebook page or email favivens@aol.com



## **Shipston Proms Fame Contest**

## This year celebrating 20 years of the Shipston Proms (15th – 30th June)

All bands and musicians please get in touch! We are hoping to make the competition the biggest and best yet for our 20th anniversary celebrations. The Fame Contest will be held in the afternoon of Sunday 17th June which will give more musicians the opportunity to play.

Soloists, duets and bands will have to play two songs to impress the judges and win through to playing on the outdoor stage at the Last Night.

To enter and for more information please email shipstonproms@ gmail.com

## **SHIPSTON PROMS NEED YOU!**

If you think you can help out over the busy two week fortnight the Committee would love to hear from you.

Please email shipstonproms@gmail.com



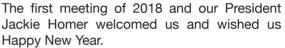
The winner of the trolley dash, James Nixon, is pictured following his trolley dash around the store with the manager of Shipston Co Op John Adams and President Fav Ivens.

grateful thanks Shipston Co op for generously sponsoring this event, enabling Shipston Rotary Club to be able to donate over £800 to Shipston Charities and local good causes.



Many thanks to everyone who supported the raffle by buying tickets in the Co op or at the Victorian Evening.

## **Shipston WI**





We started with our business meeting followed by tea and cake, then as is tradition for our January meeting our Annual Auction took place. This is a very light-hearted affair where members bring unwanted items to be auctioned. We have a very entertaining Auctioneer in Mal Lawrence, who always amuses us with her lively banter and somehow manages to cajole members to buy. A very enjoyable start to the New Year.

Our next meeting is on 7th February at 7pm when the Speaker will be Kate Allen on Staying in Your Home Longer. We meet at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Visitors are welcome.

## **Shipston Music Society Our December Concert**

On a cold December night with snow threatening, there are few things more enjoyable to keep one in good heart than a concert. Shipston Music Society was therefore delighted to welcome back Maria Jagusz, mezzo soprano, who gave us a delightful and varied programme of songs to chase away the winter blues. From the yearning lyrics of Caro Mio Ben by Giordani and the romanticism of Donizetti's Me Voglio Fa Na Casa, we were taken to the sea for songs including Elgar's Where Corals Lie and the humour of Cole Porter's 1930s Tale of the Oyster.

Maria then involved everyone in the 12 Days of Christmas and brought laughter as everyone tried to remember their lines. The concert ended with some quintessential songs for Christmas -Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and O Holy Night.

Maria was accompanied throughout by Jessica May on the piano, and she introduced Richard George who is a composer and performer of his own music. Richard sang three of his songs, and the humour and freshness of the lyrics and tunes certainly made the audience sit up and take notice.

If you haven't been along to our concerts, do try us out sometime in 2018. We work hard to bring professional and semi-professional musicians to Shipston and would be really pleased to see you - either as a guest or as a new member. Visit our website www.shipstonmusic.org.uk for more information about the Society. Our next concert is on Friday 19th January - see poster on page 10.









## **Stour Valley VIPs**

We are still a very active club and meet on a Monday fortnightly at Stour Court. We have on average 30 members at each meeting and they enjoy a speaker and a very good home-made tea. They have transport provided where necessary as several members live in the villages. We have a raffle and members have time to socialise.

Last year we enjoyed meeting the 3 talented Shipston High School girls who did so well in the Public Speaking Competition arranged by the Rotary Club. We also had talks by the Rural Dean, a puppy walker and breeder, Dr Pritchard, The Warwickshire Police Commissioner and many other interesting people. We arranged outings mainly out to lunch and disappointedly we had to cancel our excellent Christmas lunch as it was arranged on that very snowy Monday December 11th, impossible to get there safely.

#### **Townsend Hall**

There have been lots of winners at the Townsend Hall recently. The Hall held a Christmas Raffle and is pleased to announce the following winners:

Christmas lunch for two at the George Hotel - Kerri Palmer

12 bottles of wine – also Kerri Palmer (a very lucky lady!)

Large hamper of Christmas goodies from Taste of the Country - Barbara Turner

There were many other prizes and the Townsend Hall Management Committee thanks everyone involved for their support.

There were more winners in the January 150 Club draw.

Member no 1 - £15

Member no 113 - £10

Member no 103 - £5

Congratulations on your winnings!

#### Stour Valley Baptist Church

Little Fishes baby and toddler group is a popular group for local families run by Stour Valley Baptist Church Children's worker Eva Lowe and supported by a team of volunteers who keenly provide hot/cold drinks and very delicious homemade cakes!



We are back in full swing for 2018 so please do come along with your little ones to join us for a time of friendship, playing, craft, singing, rhymes and refreshments.

We will be in Townsend Hall on Sheep Street and there is a small entry fee to cover costs of £2 per child plus 50p for each additional child. We meet every Thursday during term time from 9.45-11.15 and look forward to seeing you there.

## Proud of my town

#### Lights give a lift to Shipston First Responders

Thanks to the fabulous festive lights on show in Donnington Road, an impressive £150.52 was raised for Shipston Community First Responders.

The lights are set up every year by local resident, Ray Luker, outside his house, and have become a real attraction for local residents. By adding a collection box to encourage donations, Ray has helped get the New Year off to a great start for Shipston First Responders.

CORRECTION: The lights shown on the front cover of last month's Forum (and pictured right) are the lights outside Ray's house on Donnington Road, not Mayo Road as previously stated. Apologies for any confusion.



## Readers' Letters

## Letter from Guy Harris

Dear Readers,

Many of you will know the [land sometimes known as the] Leaseholds, sometimes Allotments. Over the bridge, bear left, T-junction turn right, back by Barcheston. Generations of Shipston folk have been round, do go round, pushing a pram, walking a dog, taking a little air, enjoying a little countryside. One step from town into country. We are fortunate. Sadly a few spoil for the many. Probably young they drive their car, park, and finally throw bottles and cans, plastic and paper wrapping, out of their

I have gathered up nine sacks, heavy when full, sorted and delivered to the tip. And two mattresses.

PLEASE, a notice perhaps, TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME.

## Famous for five minutes

Fans of TV series, Father Brown, might have spotted a familiar scene. Some scenes from a recent episode of the series were filmed at Shipston Sports and Social Club. The 8 January episode is available to download on BBC iPlayer for 30 days after the initial broadcast date.







## **District Council update**

#### The budget

We are focussed on setting our budget. As I write, draft proposals are out for consultation. Check the SDC website, www.stratford.gov.uk for details. When we have all the responses from the public, stakeholders and other interested parties, we shall draw up our final proposals.



Currently, we plan to limit our Council Tax increase to 1%, but this is just for the small District Council element of the total bill. Larger increases from the County Council and the Police and crime commissioner may dwarf our real attempt to serve you efficiently, but please note that we have tried to keep down the charge we levy on you, the general public.

#### **Planning Policy**

We adopted our local plan in July 2016, some eighteen months ago. There is a lot of supplementary work underway to top up the rules. We are currently preparing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for development at Long Marston Airfield and the Canal Quarter in Stratford-upon-Avon. These are both challenging sites to redevelop, areas that have long passed their sell by date. We are looking at our employment land to see if it can be better used, including land at Alscot Park by the A3400 on our way to Stratford.

Most importantly, we are now preparing for the final stages of the work to adopt the Shipston-on-Stour Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is currently receiving the intention of an Independent Examiner who will help prepare the Plan for a public referendum later this year.

#### **Council meeting**

The full Council meets at 2.00 p.m. on Monday 26 February, at Elizabeth House in Stratford. Public participation is limited, but this is the day we set our budget. Why not attend to see democracy in action?

## Chris Saint, District Councillor - Shipston North Ward

Chris Saint & Jo Barker will take it in turns to provide the content for this column.

## **County Council update**

#### **Education:**

I have just been at a Children and Young Persons Scrutiny Committee - discussing Walking to School Routes, SEN and results.



I am pleased to report that there is going to be a rethink on the Walking to School Routes. However, having had a lot of parental concern about drop-off time at schools in Shipston, I wonder if a few more of our kids could safely walk to school?

The SEN news is that the new plans for those who were previously on the register have nearly been completed. WCC has come in no 5 in the country for achieving this and some parents affected by this have told me how pleased they are with the speed of this and further referrals - so good news. If you have had a different experience then let me know so I can pursue it for you.

#### **Highways:**

Sad to report that the mud being produced from the Taylor Wimpey site (and to a lesser extent Cala) would be spread by road sweeping and make matters worse, according to Highways. The developers have been asked to clean up and repairs will be done at the end of the project (s). If you want to email the developers up the Camden Road (and enough of us do this) we might get a bit more consideration.....

Advanced warning - Watery Lane is due to be closed from 15/2/18-28/2/18 so a reroute via Station Road is suggested.

#### **Surgeries**

Finally, finally, I am moving my surgery to Thursday mornings at 10am in the George as Wednesdays have suddenly become busy!

## **Councillor Jo Barker**

## **Shipston Medical Centre**

Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845

Over the last few months there has been a lot in the press about the increasing demand and pressures on the NHS. Sadly this issue affects all parts of the NHS and we have experienced and continue to experience this at Shipston Medical Centre.

The number of visits to the GP per person has increased over the past 2 decades as more conditions are managed in the community instead of in the hospital. The population we serve is also getting older, and evidence shows that those over 85 will visit the surgery more than twice as frequently as younger age groups.

We are therefore looking at how we can make our service as efficient as possible and therefore help you. We need your help. One of the things we have identified is that patients don't always see or speak to the right person first time. A common example of this is when a patient calls us to find out about what has happened to their referral and requests to speak to the GP. Instead of speaking to the GP (who then passes the matter to a secretary to contact the hospital) you can contact the hospital directly or speak with the secretary at the Medical Centre to request an update - select option 5 when you

phone, or email our secretarial team on shipstonsecretaries@nhs.net.

Shipston Medical Centre

We would also encourage you to use Online access so you can do various

things, including viewing your test results and requesting repeat medications. If you'd like this facility please bring a form of identification to the surgery and this access will be

We are also encouraging our reception staff to ask more questions about what your need is. The reception team are doing this with the full support of the Doctors and have been trained to help identify what is needed to then offer you the quickest and most efficient solution. Please help us help you by providing details where you can and by being open to the receptionist. This initiative is designed to ensure the skills and knowledge of the Medical Centre team members are used to their best effect. It is not a mechanism to prevent access to certain team members. Where people need to see or speak with a GP an opportunity to do so will always be provided.

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arranged.

## Your Town Councillors

**Brian Cooper** 

**Martin Ferrier** 



**Useful Contacts** 

Dan Scobie, Mayor t: 07771 772511 e: dan.scobie@shipstontowncouncil.org



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Finance Group Chair
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Ronnie Murphy
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e: ronnie.murphy@shipstontowncouncil.org



Alison Henderson t: 01608 661911 e: ali.henderson@shipstontowncouncil.org



Planning Group Co-Chair t: 01608 663237 e: brian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org



Planning Group Co-Chair
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**(** 

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Riverside Walk Group Chair
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Jackie Warner
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Peter White
Communications Group Chair
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**Marianne Westwood** 

## **Useful Contacts**

Shipston Leisure	e ner services ergency Line: er Transport Scheme Centre	01789 264491 0300 5558171 01926 499273 01926 412515 0800 7834444 01608 663122 01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre  Out of hours		01608 661845 111
Shipston Post Office		01608 661465
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		01789 444670
Team: 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:**

Jo Barker

t: 07748968712 e: jmvbarker@gmail.com

#### **District Council Contact:**

Jo Barker (Shipston South)

t: 07748968712 e: jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

**Chris Saint (Shipston North)** 

t: 01608 664048 e: chris.saint@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.

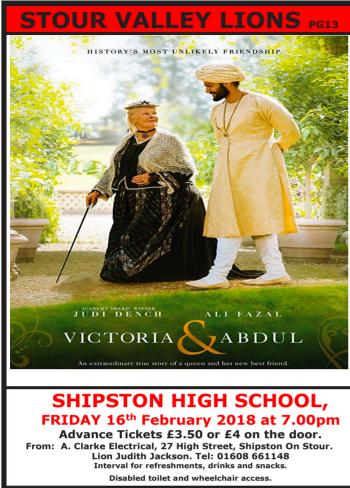
Copies are available to read at the Library, New Clark House and the Medical Centre.

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 does not accept responsibility for material submitted by readers or third parties and does not endorse any organisation or event publicised. Contributions may be edited to fit available space.

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@Shipstononline

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