

Shipston Forum

February 2021

Rotary donate £1000 for school laptops

In its latest act of generosity, Shipston Rotary has donated £1,000 to Shipston Primary School to enable the school to purchase laptops, broadening access to online home learning.

Glyn Roberts, Head of School at Shipston Primary School, said: "Throughout all of the past difficult year, and especially over the past week since Lockdown was announced, we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our wonderful community. The help that you have given to provide laptops to ensure that all of our children can access online home learning is amazing and extremely humbling.

"We have already been donated some laptops raised through donations and are hugely grateful to the Rotary for their continued support which now includes a donation of £1,000 towards purchasing more laptops.

"The support of our community means so much to us in school, not just in helping us to continue to deliver the very best education to our children that we possibly can, but also in reminding all of us in school that we are all it together. It is moments like this that we hold on to and give us the strength to know that we will get through these times. Thanks again and stay safe."



Children of Shipston Primary School, Lucy Bosley (School Computing Lead) and Glyn Roberts (Head of School) with some of the Chromebooks donated to the school.

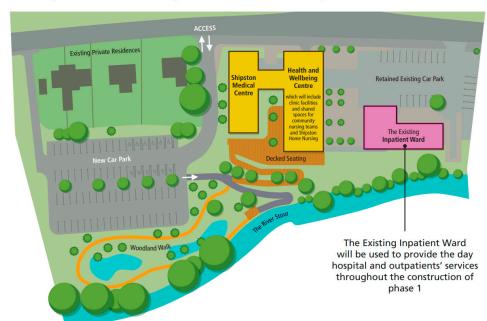
Healthwatch Warwickshire survey about planned Health and Wellbeing Centre

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust has been working with Shipston Medical Centre to develop a facility that integrates healthcare for the residents of Shipston and the surrounding villages. Phase 1 of the development will create a new GP surgery, a health and wellbeing centre with clinic facilities, integrated shared spaces for community nursing teams and Shipston Home Nursing, as well as a new car park



and landscaping. This will be in addition to the outpatients, the day hospital and physiotherapy gym. For more information please visit: https://www.swft.nhs.uk/our-hospitals/ellen-badger-hospital/ellen-badger-hospital-development-plans

Site plan for the phase 1 development



The Health and Wellbeing Centre will support the health and wellbeing needs of the community in Shipston and the surrounding villages, by delivering conventional healthcare alongside activities to address social factors. It will offer opportunities to learn, connect, get active and give something back.

The survey from Healthwatch Warwickshire allows residents to help to develop and shape the Health and Wellbeing Centre. Healthwatch Warwickshire is a local independent organisation that works to collect patient and public experiences of health and care.

Complete the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7RZXBXZ, organise a telephone interview by calling 01926 422823, or collect a paper copy from Shipston Medical Centre.



Mayor's column

I'm looking out of my window on a sparkling winter wonderland, a snowy Shipston glittering in the January sunshine. A wonderful sight after enduring weeks of heavy skies, flooding and saturated footpaths. As lockdown yawns ahead, with schools closed for weeks to come and options for any sort of local entertainment severely limited, the opportunity to play out tobogganing, building snowmen or enjoying the scenery on a chilly walk has been so welcome.

I had to set out early on Sunday morning (24th Jan) to get to The Other Place in Stratford to open up the asymptomatic COVID testing centre just as the snow started to come down. I had to give up and turn back but even so managed to get stuck along with several other cars on Brailes Hill. What could have been a miserable experience turned into another example of good old Shipston Community spirit as several local heroes with 4x4 vehicles came to the rescue.

The wait for our turn to receive the vaccination is proving frustrating for many of us. People are naturally becoming more nervous about the increased risk of the new COVID variants and the increased incidence of cases in our area. There are also concerns over the redevelopment of the Ellen Badger site and Medical Centre. We've got to keep positive. The vaccinations are coming; it is good to know that the care homes have had theirs as have many of the front line workers and the over 80's. The 'R' rate is coming down as our reward for obeying lockdown. We need to be confident that all the Health care agencies want to achieve the very best 21st century provision for Shipston going forward. Let's keep going, Spring is just around the corner.

Sheelagh Saunders

Stratford District Council Garden Waste Subscription Early Bird Offer

From April 2021, there will be a charge for green bin collection by Stratford District Council with an annual charge of $\mathfrak{L}40$ per bin. There is currently an early bird offer of $\mathfrak{L}35$ for each green bin for a 12-month subscription, available until 28 February 2021.

Householders who pay to have their garden waste taken away will be issued with a non-transferable permit to attach to their green bin.

Those without a permit will have the choice of home composting (discounted bins are available from Warwickshire County Council) or taking their garden waste to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Food waste will still be collected on recycling collection weeks for those without a permit who use food waste caddies. Free food waste caddies are available on request by calling 01789 260628 or emailing: streetscene@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Library Services

Shipston Library continues to offer Click & Collect and Staff Select services; orders can be placed online, by phone or email and collected once you have received a notification that your items are ready. Visits for book returns and pre-booked computer access is also permitted, however browsing in the library is not available.

The return date for all items on loan has been extended to at least 27th February and any overdue fines do not currently apply.

If you enter the library you should wear a mask unless exempt and sanitise your hands. You will be asked to

provide contact information for NHS Test and Trace. All visitors must adhere to the national restrictions and stay at home if you have any symptoms of coronavirus.



Shipston Probus during COVID 19

This friendly Club is meeting monthly on a Friday morning via Zoom until the Shipston Sports and Social Club becomes available again. Help with accessing Zoom is available from our members if required.

The meetings will include a talk, free to members and guests, from invited speakers.

Probus members will be automatically enrolled as Social members of Shipston Sports and Social Club when this becomes available again.

Please contact President Peter Allen – 01993 811286 - Hon Secretary Tony Joint - 01608 663407 or committee member Paul Kelly - 01608 662491 for more information.

A poem by Mrs E

I thought of a new game today Something different to play It's called 'dodge the doggie poo' That's all you have to do

Go to the left, then to the right Just keep it within your sight Once you tread on it, it's not fun And for you, the game is done

Lazy people who don't pick it up Beware...

There could be a hidden camera there!



News from Shipston Town Council's January meeting

Local housing needs: ARC4, consultants contracted by the Council to compile a new Housing Needs Survey, have prepared a draft survey which will now be reviewed by the Planning Committee.

Tree works: Treetech will soon complete all essential tree maintenance and works will not exceed the allocated £5,000 budget.

Town Council website: The Town Council has recently launched a new look website which is easier to navigate and more accessible for users. Key information that is regularly searched by residents and the town council Facebook feed have been

added to the home page.

Skate Park CCTV: The system is now operational and will be used to monitor potential anti-social activity. Monitoring takes place locally by the police rather than in the Stratford District Council CCTV control room.



Shoulderway Lane verges: The council will investigate options to protect the verges from being churned to mud by vehicles when parking. Any solution will require consent from Warwickshire County Council Highways.



Shipston Food Bank is open to anyone and you don't need a referral or a voucher.

Just come along on a Saturday morning between 10.00 and 12.00 to St Edmund's Church, Church Street, Shipston.

Since March we have given out over 550 food parcels, thanks to the generosity of our community

Donations of food and basic items can be left in the church porch on Saturday mornings, between 10.00 and 12.00. There's also a collection point in either Co-op.

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





Shipston-on-Stour Rotary Club



Victorian Evening A BIG THANK YOU

All net proceeds will support Shipston Home Nursing and other Rotary Charities

Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors for supporting the *Victorian Evening* and the *Tree of Life*:

Alderminster Electrics; Blackwell Business Park; Fosseway Tool Hire; Building & Plumbing Supplies; Greys Opticians; Holdsworth Windows; Linfoot Country Homes; Robinson Goss; **The Royal British Legion**; Robin Payne; SPN Industries; Shipston Building Supplies; J D Digital; Shipston Town Band; The Track House; Warwick County Council; R.J. Thompson Building Services Ltd; Webbs of Armscote. *Plus individual donors using 'Just Giving' etc.*

All net proceeds from the Tree of Life bulb sponsorship will go to

Acorns Children's Hospice

A List of Sponsored Bulbs can be viewed in The Book of Life at St Edmunds Church

Remember a loved one ~ sponsor a bulb Contact Avryl Thompson tel 01789 740 047 School News Page 5

Shipston High School

Shipston High School, like all households and organisations, has been adapting to an unusual start to 2021. The school is now teaching the majority of students remotely in order to follow government guidance on keeping school site closed to limit social contact and reduce the risk of coronavirus.

I have been very impressed by all the High School students and their response to an extended school closure. Teachers have set work online, and students have adapted well to this system. The significant majority of learning is via live lessons taught by staff and joined online by students in real-time. This has enabled a really valuable interaction between staff and students and has allowed both learning and the sense of school community to continue.

Remote learning does of course rely on students having access to technology. Whilst the government has pledged to provide laptop computers to schools where students do not currently have access, the actual delivery of these computers is taking some time. The school has worked with families to ensure that students can access remote learning, but this continues to be challenging.

I am sure that we would all agree that being together in school is the most effective and enjoyable route to learning, and I am sure that we will all value such apparently ordinary activities that little bit more when we return. Having students in school for the Autumn term was appreciated by everyone after the first period of closure in 2020, and I know we all look forward to a return as soon as it is considered appropriate.

It is the right decision to limit social contact to mitigate the risk of coronavirus, and sadly this does mean closing the school site in

line with government instruction. However, the school as a learning community is very much in session, with students connected and learning every day; thank

you to everyone, students, staff and families for working so hard to help learning thrive even in these challenging times.

So much this year has of course been affected by the coronavirus, and we now know that Year 11 will not be taking their exams as planned. This is a national situation for all GCSE and A – level students, and presents a challenge for them all. When the cancellation of exams was announced in January, many students felt frustrated at not being able to show their knowledge in the exams they had worked so hard towards. However, the work continues as students will still have their work assessed in some form. Grades will be awarded via an alternative system, not yet published by the government, but do spare a thought for these young people in this most unusual year

Next month, many families will find out which secondary school their children will attend in the coming Autumn; I am sure that children coming to Shipston High in September 2021 will be eager to add their own contribution to our growing community, and we look forward to meeting you in person when circumstances allow.

On behalf of the school, I wish everyone well at this most challenging time for us all.

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Community suggest names for new gritter fleet additions

In October 2020 Warwickshire County Council asked the public to pick names for its new gritters, which had recently joined the County's fleet. The rules were simple: be creative, be original, be funny and the public did not disappoint, with hundreds of suggestions coming in by email, by telephone and across social media.

Since the competition closed, in November 2020, the challenge for Officers has been to pick between the huge list of brilliant names, which ranged from the subtly brilliant 'Slip-not' to the far less subtle 'Snowgone-o-Saurus Rex, to come up with a final list:

Usain Salt

Professor Chris Gritty

Gritta Thunberg

Snowbi-Gone Kenobi

The Mighty Thaw

Charlie Boy

Grey13 Hero

Charlie Boy is named in memory of Charlie Round, a little boy from Tamworth who sadly lost his battle with a rare form of childhood cancer in 2017. Charlie is remembered as a little boy who, despite facing incredible adversity, lit the world around him with an amazing smile and outlook. The Gritter bearing this name will serve the area where Charlie and his family lived.



Grey13 Hero is named in memory of Jack Mitchell (John Arthur Mitchell) who worked for Warwickshire County Council for over 50 years, including on the County's gritting fleet where Grey13 was his call sign.

Little Shipstonians Page 6



Hello Little Shipstonians and welcome to your February edition! Did you manage to give some thought to setting a few goals for the year ahead? It's never too late to think about objectives, no matter how small, so you can still give this a go.

Now we know that February 14th sees the traditional holiday of Saint Valentines Day, where the love between two people can be celebrated, but it's important to love ourselves too. The fun activity on the next page is designed to help you think about how amazing you are!

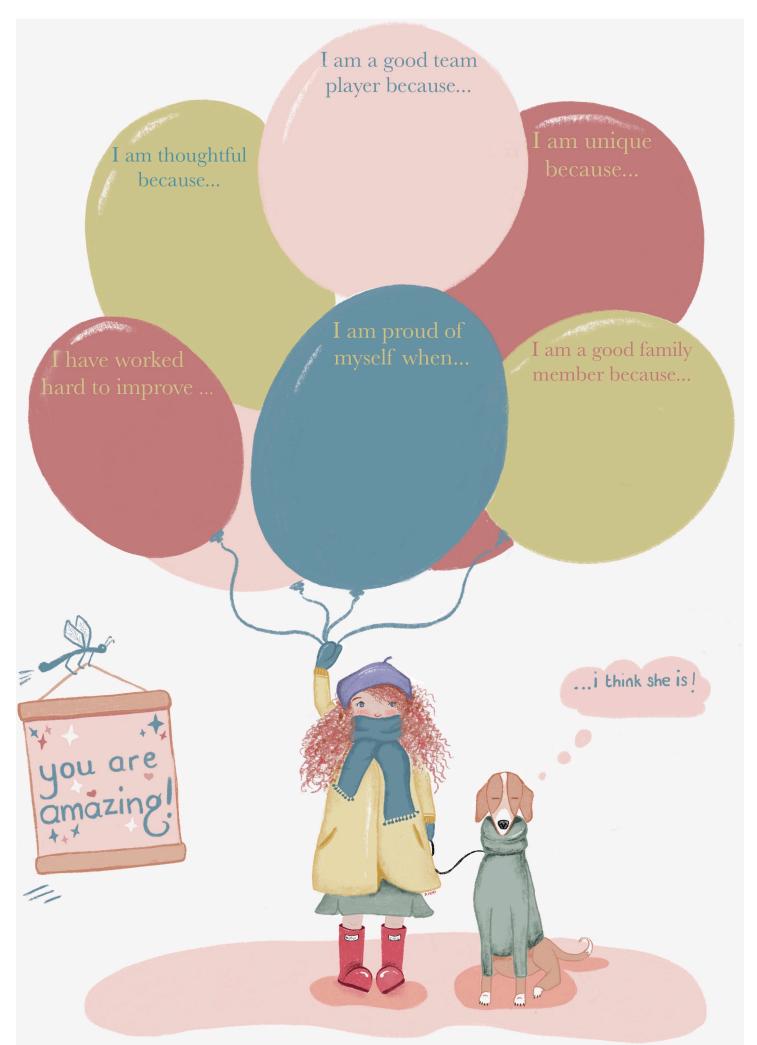
In each balloon, there is a space provided for you to write down, or draw, your answers to each statement. You could get someone to help you if you want to. You could even get a parent or carer to complete it too? They might find it fun and helpful as well.

Once you've completed it make sure to cut it out and keep it somewhere safe. Then during those times when you might be feeling a bit sad or worried about something it will be a reminder of how amazing you are.

Below is a colouring sheet with some cute wintery objects for you to add some colour to. Have fun, and see you next month!



Little Shipstonians Page 7



Shipston Proms

This month, I start with some important committee news. As mentioned in a previous edition, Nicola Porter is stepping down as Proms Secretary. She has been a dedicated and conscientious member of MUSIC FOR ALL the Committee for several years so we are



pleased she is remaining on the committee. The good news is that we welcome Michelle Kelly as our new Proms secretary and with her skillset she will be a great asset to our small team.

Going forward with preparations for this year's Proms, we are delighted that the Shapes will be one of the bands on the Last Night stage, as they are committed to getting everyone together for a night of good music and dancing. They have had a ringing endorsement from, BBC Oxford Introducing, announcing them as 'the best party band in Oxford'. Over the years, due to the different musical influences of these nine seasoned musicians, their music encompasses most genres from folk, country, rock, soul and pop to more latterly, an upbeat indie sound. With the recent addition of a brass section, they are ever-evolving.

The Shapes are a band with a relevant political message and if you want a spokesperson for these divided times, look no further than the lyrics of the song 'Oh You' written by chief songwriter Ant Kelly. Inevitably since writing the words in 2019 the political world has shifted but they still resonate in 2021. Their social conscience has inspired them to donate the profits from the sales of their recent football song, celebrating Oxford United, towards research into Covid 19.

Though it is difficult to categorise The Shapes, they have often been compared to REM, House Crowded Squeeze with their mix of catchy tunes and thoughtful lyrics. We look forward seeing them perform in June at the Proms but in the meantime, just listen to 'Oh You' on their webpage and make your own mind up.

The committee will continue to plan a festival for this summer, but we





will have to keep a close eye on government safety guidelines before we commit ourselves properly. Fingers crossed we will be able to put on some sort of music even if it is a pared-down version of what we usually do. We will give you more news in next month's edition and in the meantime, we hope to be able to give you more information on our Facebook page and website.

Susan Perry



covidfraudhotline.org or phone 0800 587 5030.



School News Page 9

Shipston Primary School

Monday 4th January 2021 was a scheduled staff training day, where all teachers and teaching assistants were in school for virtual professional learning webinars and to prepare to welcome all children back to school the following day. When the Prime Minister addressed the nation later that evening, he gave teachers twelve hours notice to amend plans for face-to-face teaching in school, plan remote learning for children at home, make arrangements for their own families and get some sleep!

All teachers were in school early on Tuesday morning to hastily rearrange their classrooms for social distancing, welcome and settle the children, teach them and leave them with their class teaching assistant so that they could meet to check curriculum plans for the half term that they'd spent time working on over Christmas, to ensure that all planned lessons and curriculum coverage could be taught remotely as well as face-to-face, and if not, move topic blocks around.

Remote learning

Remote learning is not just online learning; the digital AND paper-based work staff have created is of very high quality. The government guidance sets a minimum amount of remote education which must be provided; Year 1 and Year 2 (three hours each day) and four hours a day for Key Stage 2. Remote learning offer mirrors what the children will be taught in class - this is a lot for both children and parents!

We are not teaching live lessons, but we are doing live Google Meet video feedback sessions in all classes and have some other ideas for live elements. In most cases, pre-recorded lessons are at least as good as live lessons, and are often better - Ofsted agrees, saying that live lessons are not the 'gold standard' of remote education.

The biggest advantages of pre-recorded lessons are accessibility and flexibility. In many homes, live lessons are a challenge with a limited number of devices available in the home. One laptop can't serve three children who all have live lessons simultaneously, but it might give access to lessons they can view on demand. We also have some children whose only device is currently a mobile phone or tablet, which are satisfactory for watching video tutorials aligned to work in exercise books and paper resource packs. There can also be a problem with the amount of bandwidth that live lessons require, especially when children are trying to join live lessons at the same time that parents working from home are trying to have virtual meetings.

Pre-recorded lessons also mean that children can pause, rewind and revisit explanations they have struggled with. By pre-recording, teachers can think more carefully about the quality of modelling and explanation, and more easily build in video clips and other animations that help to bring the explanation to life. Your concentration is entirely on the material produced rather than on what all the other children online (and potentially in the classroom too) are doing.

Live catch-up sessions, such as our weekly Google Meets are proving really useful for keeping children motivated, for keeping in touch and for giving feedback on previous work.

Community laptop donations

It's been so heartwarming to have support from local charities such as Cotswold Community Awareness and Shipston Rotary, and phone calls from individual members of the local community offering to buy Chromebooks for our children who are in need. One donor wishes to remain anonymous but has purchased four Chromebooks for the school. Many thanks to university lecturer and Shipston resident Richard Hale, who as a birthday challenge set up a 'Leave No Student Behind' campaign through a GoFundMe web page to raise money to buy Chromebooks for the school and has so far raised over £1000:

hipston On Stour Primary Schoo

https://www.gofundme.com/f/leave-no-student-behind

Oscar's fundraising running challenge

Oscar Hopkins-Ellis is a very caring young man and this lockdown he was upset to learn that not everyone is as fortunate as him with access to a laptop. He wanted to make difference SO that other children would be able to logon and see their friends too. Oscar enjoys running, hiking and walking enormously - he's always encouraging parents exercise - and he took it upon himself to get fundraising.



Oscar began with a challenge of running 10km but after achieving that in four days and raising £200 he upped his target to 20km, dragging parents along with him. He has so far raised over £400 for the primary school towards the purchase of Chromebooks. Oscar's campaign is open until 6th February to make donations. His family and all of us at the school are enormously proud of him, not only for his compassion and empathy but for raising the idea himself. Thank you to the people of Shipston and beyond for all your support!

Donate to Oscar's fundraiser: https://gofund.me/e94e4b09

Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher

District Council update

When I last wrote, there was the prospect that the end of the Second Lockdown might lead to the return of a tiered system. The District Council's Cabinet initiated a Judicial Review because of the Government's decision to put the District into Tier 3 rather



than Tier 2. Its motive was to protect the interests of local businesses and residents. This was, however, overtaken by events. As I write, we now find ourselves enduring our Third Lockdown.

The difference, of course, is that we now have light at the end of the tunnel - the prospect of the availability of an effective vaccine. Two points to make. First, to thank everyone involved locally in the distribution of the vaccine, all the local staff of the NHS together with the local volunteers who are rolling out the vaccine programme, not overlooking the NHS administrative staff who have the responsibility for organising this mammoth delivery programme. To everyone involved a huge thank you on behalf of the people of Shipston. Second, to those who are on the receiving end, please be patient. The people who make up the delivery system are working as hard as they can. Their task is huge. Your turn will come and you will be called.

The pandemic has had a significant effect on the District Council's finances this year. Many businesses and individuals in the District have lost revenue and incomes since last March, and so has the Council. Where additional funds provided by the Government haven't been sufficient to compensate, economies have been made in the Council's existing budgets and the residual strain has been taken by the Council's reserves. Next year's budget presents challenges. We need to set a budget that balances revenue and expenditure next year, and that also demonstrates a minimum of £2.5m will be in the reserves in five years' time. If we are to maintain the services the Council provides to residents, we need to maintain revenue.

Some of the strain next year will again be taken by drawing on the Council's reserves. Some will come from efficiencies within the Council's provision of services, and by increasingly working more closely with Warwick District Council. Some of the strain, however, will need to be borne by residents. It is proposed that Council Tax for a Band D property will increase next year by £5, from £144 to £149. Will this be popular with residents? No, it won't. Will it enable the Council to deliver its range of services? In large measure, it will. Is that important? Yes, it is.

Trevor Harvey, District Councillor, Shipston North 01608 682415 | trevor.harvey@stratford-dc.gov.uk

County Council update

The NHS has announced that, from 14th January, its daily and weekly COVID-19 vaccination statistics will have included those administered in Vaccination Centres, Hospital Hubs and Local Vaccination Service sites (e.g. GP practices)! This is great news – as I know many people want to know what is going on!

The daily data will contain the provisional number of coronavirus vaccinations in England, showing the total first and second doses given as reported up until midnight on the date prior to publication. The weekly release then provides more accurate and detailed data by dose and age.

This weekly data publication currently includes data on:

- All NHS COVID-19 vaccinations administered in the reporting period
- Count of vaccinations by age band, defined as 80+ and under 80 years old
- · Count of vaccinations by dose
- · Count of vaccinations by NHS Region

Data: https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/

Free School Meals are a contentious issue – but – there is good news - schools must have a plan that is appropriate for their local circumstances. Options included locally are: providing lunch parcels through the school catering team or food provider; providing vouchers for a local shop or supermarket; or using the Department for Education (DfE)'s national voucher scheme. You can find further details here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance-for-schools

There is also the COVID Winter Grants Scheme for the period 1st December 2020 to 31st March 2021. It supports vulnerable families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals who have been particularly affected by the pandemic, providing the support you need to afford food, energy, water bills and associated costs. Warwickshire County Council is distributing this via the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme. www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-winter-grant-scheme

Warwickshire County Council proactively identified vulnerable families with children eligible for benefits related free school meals and they automatically received a cash voucher for food support to cover the 15 days away from school during the Christmas school holiday period. This was well received by parents/carers and schools and similar provision is currently being planned for the seven days covering the February half-term holiday – details soon!

The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme continues to help our most vulnerable residents at times of unavoidable crisis when they have no other means of help. Details can be found here: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme or on 01926 359182 or 0800 408 1448.

Or here: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/facinghardship

Jo Barker, County Councillor

07748 968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Useful Contacts Page 11

Your Town Councillors



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Ian Cooper, Deputy MayorFinance Working Group Chairt: 01608 663785e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org



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John Dinnie t: 01608 664590 e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org



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Sarah Timms

Useful Contacts

Community Links	Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:		0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	Э	01926 499273
Highways custom	er services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:		0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme		01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre		01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre		01608 661845
 Out of hours 		111
Shipston Forum		01295 788655
Shipston Link (local transport)		01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre		01926 412593
Stratford District Council		01789 267575
Townsend Hall		07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council		01926 410410
UCHW Hospital		024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital		01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)		101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood		01789 444670
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	01295 257193

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

New Clark House, West Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4HD (Currently closed to the public)



t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org



County Council Contact:

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District Council Contacts:

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

Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

t: 07969 167720

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Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Chris Rowland on 01295 788655 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

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

Forum copy deadline: First Wednesday of the month

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

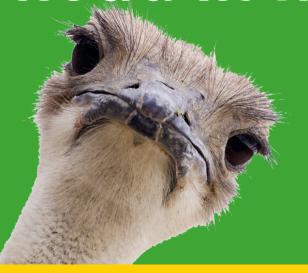
The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council. It is currently not being delivered to households due to the suspension of the Midweek newspaper. Copies are available for collection from both Co-Ops, the Post Office, Taste of the Country, and Turners.

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.



Switch & Save Page 12

Don't bury your head in the sand



Join our collective energy switch

Sign up today at: warwickshire.gov.uk/ switchandsave

For help contact:
Switch and Save Service
desk at Act On Energy
Freephone 0800 988 2881

Warwickshire County Council is running its 9th collective energy switch to help residents **save money** on their gas and electricity bills.

The scheme continues to grow in popularity, with 1,700 Warwickshire households already saving almost £1.3 million pounds on their gas and electricty bills.

All suppliers now 100% renewable electricity, so even more reason to sign up today!

Launch - 1st December 2020

Auction - 9th February 2021

Post auction info session - 18th February 2021

Offers - 22nd February 2021

Closure - 23rd March 2021



