Shipston Forum

January 2018

Shipston puts on a good show over the festive period

From stunning snowy scenes to woolly wonders, Shipston put on a fantastic show during the festive period.

As part of the preparations for the Victorian Evening, Shipston's talented knitters brought yarn bombing back to the town. Miniature penguins, Santas and robins adorned the bollards around the town. One of the most popular designs was the recreation of the late Walter Emms' cart – a unique creation for Shipston. Equally impressive was the knitted church, complete with parishioners!

Many residents also indulged their creative side when it came to Christmas lights. Farm Close once again put on a

fantastic show, while one house on Mayo Road pulled out all the stops to put on a display in aid of Shipston's Community First Responders (pictured).

Mother Nature also had a hand in giving Shipston a festive makeover, with an early coating of snow on the 10th December.







D e s p i t e causing chaos on the roads, there were some lovely snowy scenes caught on camera – many of which can still be seen on the Shipston

Notice Board Facebook page.

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "It was wonderful to see the efforts residents and businesses went to in creating memorable festive scenes for us all to enjoy.

"Thank you to all those who had a hand in putting on such a great show at the end of 2017."

Local volunteers take action over speeding

Volunteers have set up Shipston Speedwatch – a community group trained to monitor vehicle speeds around the town.

Using specialist equipment, which is shared between a number of local villages, the Speedwatch team is actively monitoring London Road, Stratford Road and Campden Road following concerns from local residents about the speed of vehicles on these routes.

Jacey Jackson, convenor of the group, said: "We recognise that the local police force doesn't have the resources to monitor speeding on a regular basis, which is why our group has decided to step in. We want to do something positive to reduce speeding in the town. It is

a major cause of accidents and the associated noise and vibration badly affect quality of life for residents."

The team is urgently seeking more volunteers to be trained in the use of the speed gun.

To find out more, please contact Jacey Jackson on 01608 661288 or email Jacey@2Jays.co.uk.



Progress made on the riverside green space

Stratford District Council (SDC) has given permission in principle for Shipston Town Council to lease the two riverside areas beside the Mill Street car parks and make improvements to the area. The town council hopes to install more appealing picnic benches, information boards and improve the landscaping.

As a first step, the district council is organising for the banks to be cleared and has indicated that SDC will bear the cost of some of the works.

Town Councillor, Sheelagh Saunders, said: "This is an exciting step forward in our plans to improve enjoyment of our riverside location. We look forward to seeing exactly what space we have to play with once the area has been cleared."

Meanwhile, the Heritage, Access and Leisure Projects Working Group is also liaising with Warwickshire County Council about potential improvements to important walking routes such as the Hanson Track.

Mayor's column

December started for me with the wonderful Victorian Evening in the centre of Shipston. Those of you who read this column regularly will know how keen I am on the events that take place in the High Street. It was great to see so many people supporting the evening, and to see money being raised for so many good causes. congratulations go out to the Rotary Club for all the effort that goes in to the organisation.

By the time you read this I hope that the snows of early December will be nothing but a distant memory, but I thought it was worth reflecting on some of the things I saw going on during this brief period. I saw so many people pulling together to help each other, to help the older or more vulnerable members of our community. I saw examples people clearing their neighbours' paths of snow, of collecting shopping and prescriptions, of helping with childcare while the schools were closed, of care workers on long shifts covering for colleagues unable to get to

It's very easy during these times to see the problems created in these situations, but when I look at what's going on it makes me feel very proud to be part of such a strong community.

I finally want to say a huge personal thank you to Shipston Town Band. You seem to be able to be everywhere during the Christmas period, and your music really does make a fantastic sound track for the season.

Dan Scobie

Shipston welcomes its new Rector

A quarter peal of bells (1260 changes) rang out over Shipston-on-Stour on the evening of Monday 27th November to welcome its new Rector, Revd. Sarah Edmonds.

Revd. Edmonds was installed as Rector of the Shipston Benefice - the churches of St. Edmund's (Shipston) with Tidmington, All Saints (Honington) and St. James the Great (Idlicote) - at a special service in St. Edmund's church led by the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth and the Area Dean of Shipston, Revd. Canon Dr. Jill Tucker.

The service was attended by 20 clergy from Shipston and the surrounding area, many of whom had assisted with taking services in the Benefice since the departure of the previous Rector, Revd. Andrew Coleby, last December. The Mayor of Shipston, Dan Scobie, and other prominent members of the Shipston community were also present,



Photo: From left, Revd. Canon Dr. Jill Tucker (Area Dean of Shipston), The Right Reverend Dr. Christopher Cocksworth (Bishop of Coventry), Revd. Sarah Edmonds

as well as the congregations of the four churches in the Benefice.

Revd. Edmonds was previously Associate Minister of Ilmington, Tredington with Darlingscott, Stretton-on-Fosse, Preston-on-Stour and Whitchurch, and has moved to Shipston from Tredington.

Revd. Edmonds said "I am thrilled to be taking on the challenge of ministry in Shipston and the surrounding villages and look forward to getting to know the various communities as quickly as possible."

Keeping up to date via social media

Shipston's social media pages are proving to be a great resource when it comes to sharing important news.

In recent weeks, pages such as the Shipston Notice Board (Facebook), Shipston Town Council Facebook and Twitter accounts and the Shipston Bugle (Facebook) have helped to share vital information about driving conditions and suspicious activity as well as positive news about events and activities in the town.

Throughout the cold spell, local residents posted timely updates about the accessibility of specific routes in and around the town – an invaluable resource for those having to decide whether to venture out. Information about school closures and bus routes was also shared. Most importantly, Facebook was also used by Father Christmas when he had to reschedule his town tour due to icy roads (we're sure he was thinking of the

children popping out to see him as clearly his sleigh would have no trouble navigating snow).

Residents also posted warnings about door to door salespeople (see article on page 5) and have used the sites to raise awareness of rogue traders and scams.

On a happier note, these sites also help to spread awareness of the many events happening in and around the town.

Shipston Town Council aims to share as much relevant information as possible via its Facebook and twitter sites: www.facebook.com/shipston.council and www.twitter.com/ShipstonTC.

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@Shipston.Council



@Shipstononline

St Edmund's seeks editor for Benefice Magazine

St Edmund's church is seeking a new editor for the monthly Benefice Magazine. This involves assembling copy, setting it out and sending it to the printer.

If you have a wish to perform this valuable community role please contact Richard Adams on 01608 662328 or richardadams5@hotmail.com for more details.

Town Council News Page 3

News from Shipston Town Council's December meeting

Hot topics:

Fire escape support: Shipston Town Council voted to support an application for a fire escape at The Horseshoe Pub to address concerns raised by the fire service. However, councillors requested that the applicant discusses lighting options following concerns raised by one local resident.

Impressive Victorian Evening: Peter White led the congratulations to Shipston Rotary on another successful Victorian Evening.

More mud: Following complaints raised last month, the Town Clerk contacted Cala Homes and Taylor Wimpey to report concerns about the mud on the Campden Road. Unfortunately, the problem has not been resolved so further attempts will be made to encourage action.

Tree safety check: A tree officer from Warwickshire County Council has assessed the trees at the Plantation following concerns raised in November. The trees are considered to be in good condition.

Secretive street name: A local resident has pointed out the lack of street name signs on the Stratford Road. The Town Clerk has contacted the district council's Streetscene department to request new signs.

New roads: The Royal British Legion will be invited to put forward names for the new roads on the Taylor Wimpey site off Campden Road. These will be based on the names of Shipston's Fallen.

Campaigning for Shipston:

Making headway on heritage: Positive progress has already been made by the new Heritage, Amenity and Leisure Projects Working Group. See page one and below for separate articles about the river walk and tourist information centre.

Flood prevention update: Shipston Area Flood Action Group has completed further interventions at Compton Scorpion and Kettles Barn. A field walk by SAFAG members provided the opportunity to visit a number of the completed interventions, to get a better understanding and appreciation of how they work.

Monitoring duties will be undertaken by some of the team members during flood events, in order to review the effectiveness of the interventions, and to record how they have performed in flood conditions.

Neighbourhood Plan: The examiner has now been appointed, and expects to commence the review of the submission version of the plan in January 2018. It's likely to take around six weeks.

Perfecting planning committees: The Planning Working Group has decided that when a representative of the council is to make a representation at a Stratford District Council planning committee meeting, a script will be prepared in advance. This will ensure that all the important points can be covered within the allowed three minutes. In addition, if a planning representative can't go, someone else from the council would be able to make the representation on their behalf, using the script prepared.

Planning appeal: The previous planning application concerning No. 39 New Street is going to appeal. Shipston Town Council will provide a detailed explanation of its comments and objections to inform the appeal process.

Tree protection: Taylor Wimpey has informed the town council that it will have to remove a number of trees to satisfy the visibility splays required by the Highways Agency. This relates both to the roundabout to be built between the new housing developments on the Campden Road, and the temporary site entrance. Martin Ferrier has asked that councillors with a particular interest in tree protection get involved to ensure the proposals are acceptable and communicated effectively to local residents.

Town Council business:

Community grants and precept: The Finance working group has put forward proposals regarding the awarding of community grants and 'wish list' items which will be made public once the precept has been set for the forthcoming year. Details will be announced in the February Forum.

New tourism office to be based at New Clark House

Shipston's Tourist Information Office will be sited in the lobby of New Clark House from the spring.

The area will house leaflets and merchandise such as postcards and tea towels and will be manned by volunteers. The Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects group is now considering signage options, including footprint markers to guide people to the information centre from the High Street.

Further details will be published nearer the time of launch. If you would like to volunteer to man the centre, please contact the Town Clerk on 662180.



Shipston's Victorian Evening proves another great success

Shipston was packed with residents and visitors on Friday 1st December for the annual Victorian Evening.

The evening got off to a great start thanks to carol singers from the primary school and Shipston Town Band playing festive favourites. At 6pm, the town's lights were switched on signalling the start of the Christmas countdown.

Many charities ran tombolas, raffles and other competitions to raise vital funds, while local crafts people and food retailers offered plenty of choice for those looking for present ideas. Mulled wine and mince pies proved very popular, as did the hog roast.

Father Christmas was kept busy all evening, with many of Shipston's beautifully behaved children queueing up to share their Christmas wishes.

Town Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "Shipston's Victorian Evening never fails to delight – it's a lovely community event and sets the tone for the festive period.

"Thank you to all those who helped make the event such



a success, e s p e c i a l l y Shipston Rotary who have now organised the evening every year for 20 years!"



Shipston Scouts bag donations at Waitrose

An army of willing Scouts, Cubs and Beavers spent a productive few hours raising funds by helping to pack bags at Waitrose supermarket just before Christmas.

On what was a very busy shopping day, the constant stream of shoppers led to a very fruitful day, with £790 raised in donations.

Group Scout Leader, Alaistair McQuade, said: "We are very grateful to Waitrose for giving us this opportunity and would like to thank all the shoppers who donated so generously. Some of our group even managed to pack for local celebrities!"

"On behalf of all the leaders, I'd also like to thank the scouts, cubs and beavers who took part, as well as the parents who ferried them to and from the supermarket. It was certainly time well spent."



Bag packing for local celebrity, David Bradley

Shipston goes 'WOODOLF' crazy

Shipston Rotary's 'Woodolfs', made by Stratford 'Men's Shed', were one of the many stars of the Victorian Evening. They sold like hot cakes and sold out soon after 6.30pm.

Many Shipston gardens and houses are now graced with Woodolfs - a marvellous way in which the buyers have supported local charities and good causes.

Thank you from everyone at Shipston Rotary.



Support your primary school via the Co-op Local Community Fund

Shipston-on-Stour Primary School has been chosen for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round started on 12th November 2017 and runs for 11 months until 27th October 2018.

Every time members shop at the Co-op, 1% of what they spend on selected ownbrand products and services goes to the Co-op Local Community Fund. The Co-op will also give the school and the other causes in our community an equal share of the money they raise from sales of carrier bags.

To become a Co-op member, sign up at coop.co.uk/membership and make Shipston Primary School your cause. If you are already a member, you can login to your account and make Shipston Primary your cause. Please encourage friends and family members to sign up too!

Co-op membership cards are either blue or orange and white. If you have a blue temporary card you'll be sent a plastic one automatically when you register.

Police Special Page 5

Shipston's Safer Neighbourhood team shares its annual update

PC Craig Purcell attended the town council meeting in December to update councillors on some of the team's key highlights over the previous 12 months. Craig is now also responsible for the Wellesbourne area as well as Shipston.

Warwickshire police officers now have much better technology to support the fight against crime. This includes body cameras, mobile phones and laptops, all of which are helping the force share information.

As with the rest of the country, PC Purcell believes crime figures have increased in the last three months of 2017. But there have been some significant policing successes and Craig was particularly grateful to members of the public for reporting suspicious activity. Thanks to a report from a member of the public, a vehicle was stopped and the driver arrested for possession with intent to supply class A drugs. Subsequent inquiries led to the suspect being arrested alongside three others and a quantity of drugs seized.

The suspect in a recent burglary in Ilmington was caught thanks to proactive work by Shipston's PCSOs, while a 67 year old male from Moreton has been convicted of conning £33,000 from an elderly resident. There has also been a successful arrest made in Shipston relating to sexual offences.

Shipston Safer Neighbourhood Team runs regular surgeries at New Clark House where you can discuss any queries or concerns you may have. Check out the calendar on page 6 for details.

What to do when someone comes to your door selling goods

Door to door sellers – so called 'Nottingham knockers' – were operating in Shipston again before Christmas. It is believed that this activity can be a cover for assessing whether homes are occupied or not.

PC Purcell was very robust in his advice on how residents should respond to door to door sellers who operate without a Pedlar's Licence. He said: "We have evidence linking these types of door to door sales activities with burglaries. If someone comes to your door trying to sell goods, do not buy anything. Close your door and call 101 straight away. If you do not get a response, call 999.

"While some call handlers may not immediately understand the seriousness, we need policemen to respond as they are the ones who can seize the bags and money and take robust action."



Warwickshire Police calls on residents to help fight crime

Warwickshire Police currently has two countywide operations in progress. These operations are focussing on reducing the number of incidents of vehicle crime and house burglaries across Warwickshire.

In order to get the very best out of these operations, they need the help and support of local communities with information and intelligence.

If you think something in your area is suspicious, it probably is. You will know your area and its usual activity, comings/goings and if you think something is odd, out of place and suspicious, we need to hear from you.

Before every incident, there is usually some suspicious activity and we need calls to make us aware of this. Please could we encourage you to call 101 if you notice suspicious persons, vehicles or activity around your home or neighbouring homes.

If you believe that a crime is in progress, please dial 999.

Beware latest bogus selling scams

Some Warwickshire residents have reported receiving cold calls from alarm/security companies who are seeking to sell their products. Once in a consumer's home, high pressure sales techniques are used to scare householders in to paying thousands for overpriced and unnecessary alarm systems, some that have long and very costly monitoring contracts. Never invite cold callers to your home. You can't tell a good trader from a bad one either on the phone or on the doorstep.

Warwickshire residents have also reported receiving cold calls from fraudsters claiming to be calling from the Telephone Preference Service. The bogus callers claim that they are improving their call blocking service before asking for debit card details. In some cases the callers appeared to know certain details about the householder already. These details may have been obtained following recent data losses suffered by utility/broadband providers.

The Telephone Preference Service is a free service. TPS will never phone you requesting payment or credit/debit card details. Once registered there is no need to update your registration.

If you believe you may have been a victim of these or other scams, make a complaint to Trading Standards via Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.

To find out more, sign up to scam alerts at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/scams and use Warwickshire Trading Standards No Rogue Traders Here approved trader scheme.



What's On Page 6

MONDAY

Citizens Advice Bureau:

Mornings, New Clark House. To book a free appointment, call 01789 200136

St John's Ambulance:

Badgers, 6-7pm. Cadets 7-8:30pm. At Shipston Fire Station. Josie Bayliss, 684834

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,

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 Bosley 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

WEDNESDAY Coffee at St Edmunds

Emms 01608 662163.

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

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 238400

Stour Singers - Richard Emms' Choral Society:

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 Bingo Night at Rainbow Fields: Doors open 6.30pm.

Eyes down 7.15pm. All welcome. Contact Ruth Keyte on 01608 661382

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/

January Diary

Burmington

- **3-5 Support Sports Holiday Club:** To book, contact physicaleducation@
- Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230 Chronic Pain Support Group: 7:30 pm, Rainbow Fields. Contact Marianne Westwood 01608 662223
- **Shipston Cancer Support Group:** Drop-In Centre: 1.30pm-3.30pm, Townsend Hall, Shipston
 - Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute: Members' auction. 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519
- 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
- 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@
- Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN) Meeting: Focus on Feet. See
- 11 Royal British Legion Shipston Branch: Committee Meeting. 7.30pm, New Clark House, West Street. All members welcome. Contact Alex Black 01608 798247
- 12 Rural Cinema My Cousin Rachel. See ad on page 10
- 13 Keep fit open day at the Sheldon Bosley Hub: Contact co-ordinator, Rachael - shipstonzumba@gmail.com
- 17 Shipston Widows: Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am - 12pm, Coach & Horses. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
- **18 Parking survey presentation:** Find out from the experts what Shipston's parking need really are. See the ad on page 7.
- 19 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 798247

Shipston Music Society: Charles Matthews and Lynn Arnold. See ad on page 10

- 23 Shipston U3A. See ad on page 7
- Multiple Sclerosis Society: 'Drop in' meeting. 10.30am at the White Bear. Contact: Ann Bartlett 666161
- Shipston and District Literary Society: Dr Roger Pringle Siegfried Sassoon's Great War. 7.15pm for 7.30pm, White Bear Function Room, Shipston on Stour. Contact Helen Marshall 01789 740773

Coming up

Feb

1-3 Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society presents Snow White. See ad on page 16

What's On Page 7

Singing

DOWN MEMORY LANE

2018

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



2.00 – 3.30pm
Community Lounge, Stour Court, Old Road, Shipston

Refreshments provided

Contact: Barbara Smith 01608 662433

Friday 19 th	Friday 16 th	Friday 16 th	Friday 20 th
January	February	March	April
Friday 18 th	Friday 15 th	Friday 20 th	Friday 17 th
May	June	July	August
Friday 21 st	Friday 19 th	Friday 16 th	Friday 14 th
September	October	November	December

Shipston On Stour – a Dementia Friendly Community





SHIPSTON ON STOUR

and surrounding communities

Tuesday 9th January 2018

Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour

10.00am for free refreshments
10.30am start

Kick Start the New Year with Fabulous Feet!

Effie Jones, Local Podiatrist

Lisa Preston from Shoe Med

(Specialist Shoe Wear)

Admission Free

We have a PA system in place for those who are hard of hearing

If you would like to attend SCAN meetings but have any difficulties such as personal mobility or lack of transport please telephone Jane Pearce on 01608 663491 to discuss possible ways in which we can help.

Marie Darwen on 01789 260108 or email marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at 2 p.m. in the Townsend Hall



"THE POLITICAL IS PERSONAL"

How the Cold War affected one German family presented by Gudrun Berry.

Admission, including refreshments, £2.

Visitors are welcome

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



Shipston Town Council

invites residents to hear the results of the

Independent Parking Survey

Mike King from People & Places will present the findings from the parking assessment on 18th January at 6pm at New Clark House.

All welcome.

Copies of the full report are also available to view at New Clark House. For details call the Town Clerk on 01608 662180

Highlights from a successful year for Shipston Area Flood Action Group

2017 was a very progressive and productive year for the Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG). As we approach the group's fourth anniversary in February, here are a few of the achievements this community-led organisation has secured in the last 12 months to help protect the local area from flooding.



Members of SAFAG share plans with Nadhim Zahawi MP

comes from this source as it disperses run off from the hills in this part of the upper catchment, so it made sense to target this area as the first priority.

Partnership working

Thanks to the co-operation and huge support of farmers and landowners and with the dedicated planning and design work of a Project Officer from Coventry University, SAFAG has implemented over 60 NFM interventions across six estates and farms on the Cam, Blockley Brook, Paddlebrook and other feeds to the Knee Brook since the beginning of August.

With continued central and local government financial backing, support from landowners and farmers, and sponsorship from local businesses and housing developers, the Knee Brook project is well on track for completion in the first half of 2018. Once finished, over 200 natural flood defence measures will be in place and will be regularly monitored (both manually and remotely) for efficiency and maintenance requirements.

Hon. Philip Smith of Campden House Estate, who has been extremely supportive of the project, commented "This is just the sort of initiative that should be encouraged by government as it is 'bottom up', involving volunteers and experts in land drainage in collaboration with farmers and landowners to the benefit of towns and villages at risk of flooding."

Did you know?

The Stour Valley Catchment extends to 187 sq kilometres, within South Warwickshire as well as parts of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

The largest watercourse locally is Knee Brook - over a third of the water feeding the Stour is believed to come from this source.

Natural Flood Management

2017 got off to a strong start with news that, with Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council support, it had secured a £110k grant from DEFRA for its flood alleviation plans.

Project plans for the area, using Natural Flood Management (NFM) techniques had already been developed for SAFAG by the Department of Agroecology at Coventry University. These use natural materials to reduce run off, "slow the flow" and delay the effects of heavy rainfall entering the 36 tributaries that feed the River Stour, upstream of Shipston. They will also improve water quality, wildlife habitat and are significantly less expensive than hard engineering solutions, such as barriers.

The Stour Valley Catchment extends to 187 sq kms, within South Warwickshire, as well as parts of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, from where the largest watercourse, Knee Brook, emanates in the vicinity of Chipping Campden. It is estimated that some 36% of the water feeding the Stour



Getting noticed

Natural Flood Management projects are being trialled across the UK and as SAFAG is in the vanguard of such schemes, the group has attracted keen interest and visits from the Executive Director of the Environment Agency and his senior management team. At the end of October 2017, Stratford MP Nadhim Zahawi joined a SAFAG meeting and visited some of the installations at Campden House. The group members are also working with Warwickshire County Council and the National Flood Forum in their efforts to establish more flood action groups across the county.

The efforts and determination of SAFAG also resulted in the group reaching the final six out of 196 nominations for a National Award in the 'Flood Re' Local Heroes Competition.

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "SAFAG is a group we should all be very proud of. The volunteers involved have become experts in flood management and it is fantastic to see their efforts recognised, not only in improvements to our flood defences, but in the positive feedback and interest from the Environment Agency and others. On behalf of the town council, I would like to thank all the members for their continued dedication to such an important issue for our town."

To find out more about flood prevention measures or to follow the progress of SAFAG in the future, visit:

www.shipstonfloodaction.org





"This is just the sort of initiative that should be encouraged by government"

Hon. Philip Smith, Campden House Estate

What's on

New Year, new challenge

Shipston offers an abundance of leisure pursuits and healthy activities to get 2018 off to a great start. Whether your New Year's resolution is to improve your health, find a new interest or meet more people, there's a local club to help you achieve your goals.

When it comes to fitness, we are spoilt for choice. As well as the swimming and gym facilities offered at the local sports centre, there are many fitness classes available at the Sheldon Bosley Hub, including dance-based FitSteps and Zumba, as well as intensive training sessions. The Sports and Social Club offers a huge variety of outdoor sports, while the Townsend Hall hosts a twice weekly



badminton club. Gentler options such as yoga, pilates and meditation are also offered by local instructors operating out of the various venues in the town, including the Catholic Church and school halls. Details of many of these classes can be found in the what's on calendar on page 6 or take a look at the notice boards in the venues themselves.

Opportunities to learn new skills are plentiful thanks to groups such as the University of the Third Age, which hosts a huge variety of interest groups and activities. There are also specialist groups such as the Literary Society and Music Society if you have a specific interest in mind. And for those with a secret ambition to perform, there are a number of local choirs where you can hone your vocal skills, while Shipston Town Band always welcomes budding musicians.

Combined with the many organisations offering a mix of talks, trips and charitable activities such as the WI, Rotary, Lions, Shipston Youth Club and Probus, there really is something for everyone. Keep an eye on the clubs pages for more details.

What's On Page 10

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 11th 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)





Shipston Music Society

CHARLES MATTHEWS





Four hands, one keyboard
Beethoven, Mendelssohn & Schubert

The Methodist Church New Street, Shipston on Stour Friday 19th January 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)

STOUR VALLEY LIONS



A young Englishman plots revenge against his late cousin's mysterious, beautiful wife, believing her responsible for his death. But his feelings become complicated as he finds himself falling under the beguiling spell of her charms...

SHIPSTON HIGH SCHOOL, FRIDAY 12th January 2018 at 7.00pm

Advance Tickets £3.50 or £4 on the door.

From: A. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour.
Lion Judith Jackson. Tel: 01608 661148
Interval for refreshments, drinks and snacks.
Disabled toilet and wheelchair access.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SHIPSTON BRANCH

POPPY APPEAL

Once again the good people of Shipston and the surrounding villages have shown their generosity and support for our former and serving members of the Armed Forces.

This year's total being:

£14681.23

Up yet again on previous year by £524.74

We, therefore, send a huge, huge "Thank You" to the people of Shipston, Brailes, Sutton-under-Brailes, Winderton, Cherington, Stourton, Burmington, Tidmington, Willington, Barcheston, and Stretton-on-Fosse for being so generous.

Also a massive **"Thank You"** goes to our team of collectors without whom this would not be possible.

If you are inspired by this magnificent community effort and would like to be a collector next year do please get in contact now. It is rewarding and great fun.

Richard Adams 01608 662328 richardadams5@hotmail.com School news Page 11

Shipston Primary School

Bags of hope

The Stour Federation Partnership are participating in the 'Bags of Hope' appeal, where our children and families fill a bag with items they think a child in Syria would like to have, just like opening

stocking Christmas.

An assembly led by parent Mrs. Flynn, and Moh and Sameer from the One Nation Charity was held where they talked about the appeal and what it would mean to the children in Syria. children The with came up



some very good ideas about what they could send. Suggested items included colouring books and notepads, stationery, small toys (no guns or soldiers), bouncy balls, picture books, Halal sweets stickers, drinking bottle, toothbrush and toothpaste. The children also recognised it was useful to send socks, gloves, hat etc as the weather is cold in Syria too! Children were also encouraged to spread kindness and thoughtfulness by writing a note to the child who will be receiving a bag.

Shakespeare Schools' Festival (edited)

On Monday 20th November 2017, actors, who were a few people in Year 5 and 6 from Acorns and Shipston Primary Schools. performed Romeo and Juliet. We set off to have an experience we'll never forget!

At 12:45pm we arrived at Warwick Theatre for the SSF (Shakespeare School Festival). Firstly, we went into our dressing rooms (boys and girls separate) and changed into our costumes ready for our rehearsal.

Shipston On Stour Primary School

While [the school performing] Othello were doing their play we headed backstage to get ready for our performance. Othello had finished. It was our big time to shine! We headed over to the wings and Ellie introduced our play. We had made it through to the last scene (the saddest scene in fact) and a little boy ran onto the stage and joined the vault! It was hilarious! At the end of the play, we took a bow and headed back into the changing rooms. We had done it! After a talk about how well we had done, we headed upstairs to watch the remaining plays. Once it was all over, we headed home happily with our heads held high.

It was amazing! by Bethany Collie and Susan Kroner (Year 5)

Christmas cooking, carols and Christingle

Lots of families supported our Christmas Bake Off in aid of school funds and Barnardos. There were enough cakes to sell at playtime and after school, with fabulously festive entries. All children who entered received a certificate for joining in with this whole school event.

It was wonderful to hear the joint choir of The Stour Federation Partnership singing on stage at the Victorian Evening. Children and staff from Shipston Primary, Acorns Primary and Brailes joined together alongside The Shipston Town Band to sing carols,

Year 4 children at Shipston Primary made 100 Christingles for the service at St. Edmund's, where our children participated by playing their instruments and reading.



Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Year 11 students completed their mock exams prior to the Christmas break. The purpose of these mock exams is to provide a realistic experience of an examination period prior to the final GCSE examinations in May and June. It also provides an opportunity to assess what students can do well and which areas require further development. With six months of study to go before the Students show off their Xmas final examinations, it is quite normal jumpers for students' mock grades to be lower than their final outcome.



Staff will work closely with students to secure good outcomes in the summer. In recent years, the school has consistently exceeded national averages in GCSE results, and we will continue to target this exceptional level of performance for 2018.

A number of subjects are moving to a new grading system this year, following English and Maths by using the new 9 to 1 scale. For some subjects this is the first year of this grading system, and we therefore have no previous national results to use as a reference. Subject teachers are using guidance provided by exam boards to inform their judgement of grades, but with no national benchmark available, this can only be a professional estimate at this stage. Crucially, all students will receive from staff a clear sense of what they did well and which areas they need to review in readiness for the final exams.



Healthy lifestyles

Shipston High School works closely with other secondary schools in Warwickshire to adopt a consistent approach to reducing the risk posed to our young people by substance misuse. We share a county wide view that illegal substances have no place in school, and any pupil bringing inappropriate substances and associated paraphernalia into school is likely to face permanent exclusion. Schools have been made aware that some illegal drugs can be taken via a vaping device. Such practices are dangerous, and I advise parents to consult Drug Action Shipston if they want further advice and information (www.dashshipston.org).

New Building

Visitors will have seen that our new building block is rapidly taking shape. Site access will continue to be slightly compromised until completion. Please take care when coming onto the site and be ready to follow guidance on pedestrian routes.

Students worked extremely well across the school in 2017. I would like to thank everyone involved with Shipston High School for their support, and wish everyone a restful New Year.

Mr Gavin Saunders

Clubs, Societies Page 12

SCAN

Partnerships are key to helping older people

Partnerships between local councils and voluntary organisations offer the best way of improving the health and wellbeing of older people, Trevor Russel, Chair of Shipston SCAN told the group's annual meeting.

He said SCAN was strengthening and developing partnerships with the county, district and town councils, Shipston Medical Centre, Shipston Rotary, Shipston Lions, VASA, Age Concern, U3A, the Dementia Alliance, and Healthwatch.

"We will continue to promote and pursue partnerships because many issues affecting older people - for example social isolation and loneliness - are too big for any one organisation to tackle successfully on their own.

20th anniversary year of the Shipston Proms 15th – 30th June

Fame contest

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

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

Townsend Hall The Christmas Club draw results are:

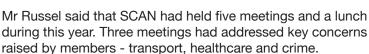
£100 - Member no. 78

£50 - Member no. 101

£25 - Member no. 7



"It is through partnership working that we can best improve the health and wellbeing and quality of life of older people as our numbers continue to grow - and grow rapidly."



"We will continue to raise older people's concerns and push for action with those who can best tackle them."

Mr Russel was re-elected Chair and Mr Brian Barratt was reelected Treasurer. The committee will be Jenny Barratt, Jane Pearce, Gary Cooper, Sandra Brennan, Anne Messenger and Coun. Marianne Westwood.

Report from the Shipston Music Society

At the November meeting, we enjoyed a very interesting talk on the life of George Formby, given by Matthew Sproston from Gloucester. George Formby was born George Hoy Booth in Wigan in 1904 and his father was a performer who changed the family name to Formby thinking it to be a more appealing stage name.

At birth George was blind but a violent coughing fit when he was a few months old gave him his sight. He began his career as a stable boy and jockey and only began performing on the death of his father. George married another performer, Beryl Ingham and we heard many amusing stories and anecdotes about George's married life "managed" by Beryl. She was to become an important critic of his act and succeeded in making him appear more formally dressed. It was Beryl who suggested he should buy and learn to play the ukulele.

Throughout the evening Matthew delighted the audience with renditions of many well known songs including those banned by the BBC (until Queen Mary insisted that she wanted to hear the originals when he went to the Palace. The ban was subsequently lifted!). The evening ended with a performance of "Leaning on a lamp-post" expertly delivered on the banjolele and the audience joined in most enthusiastically! Very warm applause showed our appreciation for a most informative and enjoyable evening.

Our concert on 19th January will feature Charles Matthews and Lynn Arnold who will be playing duets. See the advert on page 10 for details.

Shipston-on-Stour and Area U3A

An entertaining and highly hilarious talk was produced at the last meeting by Fran Sandhame as he told us about his journey on foot across Africa from west to east coasts.

This started from a rash New Year's Resolution at a party. Next morning he decided he would keep it and spent the next year working, scrimping and saving to raise funds. His starting point was in Namibia, known as The Skeleton Coast, mostly desert, and he was on his own, no guide, back-up team or transport, only a large rucksack and a very smallscale Michelin map.

His walk proved to be around 3000 miles and took over a year, although over two months was spent trying to train, first a small donkey and then a dangerous mule, to carry his belongings. Reverting to his rucksack he continued from THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE village to village where, being away



from the tourist tracks, he found the inhabitants welcoming and friendly. Food he bought or was given, usually maize porridge. He also bought other things such as books or hats and threw away as they fell to pieces. Despite being warned by friends and family of many dangers, his most dangerous moment was when he came across a poisonous puff adder lying comatose in the main road, illegally parked on a double white line.

The next meeting is on January 23rd 2018 at 2 p.m. at the Townsend Hall.

Stour Valley Lions

Happy New Year ~ new opportunities are calling

If you have been thinking that you would quite like to get involved in the community, support local charities and make some new friends along the way, then look no further. We are always on the lookout for new members. Come to one of our meetings to see what we're all about. We meet every second Monday of the month at 7.30pm at The White Bear. We hope to see you there!

In a spin at The Victorian Evening

The 20th Anniversary of the Victorian Evening was certainly well celebrated. A fabulous night was had by all, and whilst a little chilly, the good cheer, terrific atmosphere (and a little mulled wine!) kept us all warm. A huge great thank you goes out to everybody who came to support us at the Lions stand where we were doing a roaring trade to support our local charities and good causes. The wheel of fortune is now 'in recovery' until its next outing.

Beat the January Blues ~ with our Movie Night

'My Cousin Rachel' will be showing at Shipston High School on Friday 12th January at 7.00pm. Tickets are available to purchase from A.Clarke Electrical on the High Street or from Lion Judith Jackson on 01608 661148. Advanced tickets are only £3.50 or £4.00 if purchased at the door. If you need transport, please call Peter Hougham 07530 540859 to arrange a lift.

Proud of My Town

Workshop frenzy in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity

Local resident and business owner, Sharon Highway (pictured) of Mallory Journals, went into production overdrive in December in a bid to raise funds for charity.

Sharon makes leather journals of different sizes and styles by hand from her workshop. In early December, Sharon launched a one-day special offer to make mini journals for stocking fillers, with all proceeds being donated to The Brain Tumour Charity.

Following an overwhelming response to the offer, Sharon was burning the midnight oil to complete all the orders but her efforts were certainly worthwhile. Sales of her mini journals raised £300 for the Brain Tumour Charity.

Sharon said: "I was thrilled with the response – even if I did have more journals to make than I bargained for! The Brain Tumour Charity is particularly close to my heart as my husband is living with a tumour and has to endure chemotherapy every five weeks. I'm really grateful to all those who bought mini journals to help this charity."

When combined with a similar event Sharon completed earlier in the year, she has raised £600 for the charity from her mini journals this year.



Readers' Letters

Letter from P Austin

Having read Salli Campbell's letter in the November Forum I would like to say this;

Having moved to Shipston just this year, from a village in Worcestershire where we had a busy village shop which incorporated a Post Office, I would like to say how good it is to be able to shop in Shipston and get practically everything I might need locally and within walking distance. Where I used to live, there were friendly helpful assistants at the convenience store but if you wanted anything more exotic than a bottle of tomato ketchup or a standard bread loaf, you HAD to get in the car and drive 5 or 6 miles to a main supermarket. I am now relishing being able to get all my groceries both normal everyday items AND something a bit more out of the ordinary here in Shipston.

I like to support the independent shops, buying my meat from the butcher and bread etc from the baker. Where else can you buy just 3 sausages or 4 rashers of bacon instead of a plastic family pack! I feel it is important that we keep these special local shops going. I have found the town to be vibrant and people I have met friendly and welcoming. I KNOW that I am paying a bit more for my goods, but I am willing to do this to be able to shop locally. It simply means you have to shop prudently. Yes, stores like Aldi are great and I have shopped there from time to time, but Shipston is a special place, let's try and keep it so, and not suffer the fate of Evesham where there are more and more empty shop windows.

There are two sides to this, and I am aware that people's budgets have to stretch further than some. We have to weigh up the pros and cons to suit our personal situations, but please, Shipstonians – support your town. You have something special here.

District Council update

There is good news! CIL - the Community Infrastructure Levy - is coming in in February 2018. This means that more section 106 money from developments will be coming our way. The bad news is that most developments in Shipston were agreed before this came in. I still ask for all s106 money to be ring-fenced for Shipston as a condition, which means that we see more money for our infrastructure than previously.



I would also like to encourage all readers to get in touch with their good ideas and suggestions for projects we can undertake locally and issues you would like raising. My previous comments on planning have created quite a dialogue - and I am looking at ways in which SDC could facilitate local downsizing for the good of the whole community. With the SDC budget process coming up - let me know!

Get in touch and if you need me - please call.

I will be at the George on (most) Wednesdays from 10 am $\,$ - come and have a coffee and a natter.

Jo Barker, District Councillor - Shipston South Ward

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

County Council update

This year WCC gave me £5000 to distribute to local projects. These are they:



Lifespace Trust - Youth Mental Health First Aid

Training, P3 Stratford, Shipston Primary - chairs for community use, VASA - Exercise for the Elderly in Shipston, Hospice at Home for the Shakespeare Hospice, Time Bank - Stratford District, Kick Start - Street Sports Programme, Long Compton Village Hall lighting, Welcombe Radio - community interaction project and the Parenting Project - Parenting in Mind. I think that these worthwhile projects cover the area and all age groups pretty well.

Given the changes in Family Centre provision I am delighted that we have been able to fund the majority of a worker at the Parenting Project which runs the Badger Children's Centre. Coupled with outreach work and the physical and mental health projects I am glad that we are beginning to develop a holisitic approach to supporting all those who need it in our community.

Finally a mention of roads...a huge thank you to all those who have kept our roads open during the recent snowy weather. There are also salt / grit bins around the town so that we can apply grit ourselves - the Shipston way! Mind you we probably won't need to do so for another few years!

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.

Councillor Jo Barker

Shipston Medical Centre

Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845

'Tis the season for coughs and colds....

Infections, such as colds, coughs, sore throats and earache are very common at this time of year. The vast majority are caused by viruses which cannot be treated by antibiotics, but fortunately clear up on their own.

Simple measures, such as drinking plenty of fluids can help. More information is available at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/common-cold/treatment/

Usually ear infections last up to four days, sore throats for 1 week, colds 1½ weeks, and sinusitis and coughs up to 3 weeks. If infections last longer than this or occur in a child less than two years old, elderly people or those with other medical problems, you should think about seeing your doctor.

NHS Health Checks

Do you think you might benefit from a mid life health MOT?



Shipston Medical Centre

We offer NHS Health checks to adults 40-74 who do not have a pre-existing condition. The check covers a variety of aspects of your health, including screening for high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease. We will also provide advice and suggestions for leading a healthy lifestyle.

If you think you might like to take advantage of the health check please contact reception to check you are eligible.

Useful Contacts Page 15

Your Town Councillors



Dan Scobie, Mayor t: 07771 772511 e: dan@danscobie.net



Ian Cooper, Deputy Mayor Finance Group Chair t: 01608 663785 e: ian@piruk.com



Ronnie Murphy t: 01608 664518 e: veronica.murphy1936@gmail.com



Alison Henderson t: 01608 661911 e: ali.m.henderson@btinternet.com



Brian Cooper Planning Group Co-Chair t: 01608 663237 e: briancooper_1951@yahoo.co.uk



Martin Ferrier Planning Group Co-Chair t: 07814 092134 e: martinferrier4shipston@gmail.com



Brian Healey t: 07773 337134 e: brian.healey@hotmail.com



Fay Ivens General Purposes Group Chair t: 01608 662133 e: fayivens@aol.com



Paul Rathkey t: 01608 664141 e: rathersandco@hotmail.co.uk



Sheelagh Saunders Riverside Walk Group Chair t: 01608 662190/07800 889947 e: sheelaghsaunders@gmail.com



Jackie Warner t: 07717 391234 e: j-warner1@hotmail.co.uk



Marianne Westwood t: 01608 662223 e: marianne.westwood@rocketmail.com



Peter White Communications Group Chair t: 07792 507168 e: pjwhite78@hotmail.com

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 Post Office		01608 661465
Shipston Forum		01608 495955
Shipston Recycling Centre		01926 412593
Stratford District Council		01789 267575
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@warwic	kshire.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.

What's On Page 16

Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society

Present

Snow White



A pantomime by Norman Robbins

Townsend Hall Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour

Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd 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!

