



# Shipston Forum

shipstontowncouncil.org



January 2021

## Best Dressed Window competition

The winner of this year's Rotary Best Dressed Window competition is Dice of Church Street. Pictured outside her shop is Jayne Scandrett, the proud owner, holding the trophy presented by Rotary President Stuart Mclean.



In second place was the Cottage Garden Florist, The Alleyway (Jemma Parnell).



Third placed was Dr CP Grey Opticians at 29 High Street.

The judges said they were very impressed with the number of shops that took part and the quality of the beautiful displays. Picking the top three was very difficult!

This is a very good reminder to shop in Shipston if possible, but if you do need to buy something from Amazon, Shipston Rotary urges you to go to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and choose Shipston Rotary as your charity. It won't cost you a penny more, and the Rotary will receive a small donation.

This year Rotary's focus is local charities especially Shipston Home Nursing. You can donate at JustGiving, or by using the QR code here. Scanning the code using your mobile phone takes you directly to the Rotary's Just Giving page and is an easy way to donate.



## Art competition winners

Last month we invited our younger readers to take part in an art competition to produce a picture on the theme of A New Year in Shipston. We want to say a huge

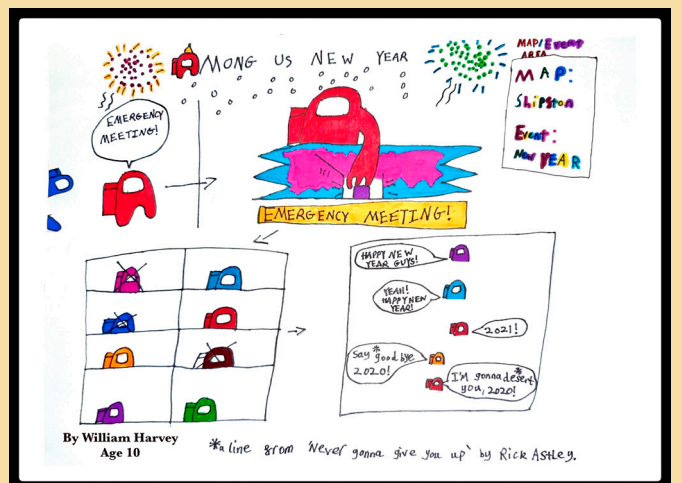
thank you to the talented young artists who submitted their entries. Finding a winner was really tricky, so the judges chose two! They adored Nell Cooper-Wilkes' beautiful sparkly rainbow, and her use of many of the things that Shipston is famed for was really clever.

They particularly loved the cute little sheep.

They also really liked William Harvey's use of modern technology in his picture. His text was funny and made the judges laugh! They hope the readers enjoy the pictures as much as they did!

Congratulations to Nell and to William. Keep drawing, everyone!

**Nikki Turner**



## Mayor's column



At the time of writing we are still waiting for the next government announcement of the latest round of tiered restrictions. I know we are all finding the repeated lockdowns increasingly frustrating, particularly when the virus rate is so low in our district. We are missing the festive spirit and buzz of all the Christmas events, parties, pantos and carol singing to name but a few. The famous Shipston Community Christmas Lunch has also fallen victim to the virus rules. However, the indefatigable team are making sure that those who are on their own receive a lunch and a visit from one of their volunteers.

With the theatres, cinemas and other venues closed and the restrictions on eating out still in place, it's been hard to find things to do in these long winter nights. I do hope those of you able to venture out managed to do a tour of the amazing Christmas lights that popped up with such exuberance all over the town. From Donnington Road to Joy Drive, from Hawthorn Way to Hay Meadow, illuminated Santas, reindeer and snowflakes have adorned homes and gardens. I think good old Shipston could give Blackpool a run for its money!

I suppose by the time you read this edition of the Forum we will have left the EU. There will have been a Brexit deal hammered out at the last minute or maybe not. Whatever our personal view of the rights and wrongs of the situation it will have happened and we will all have to make the best of it. We will all have to do certain things differently and there will be initial holdups, but we must look out for the unexpected benefits and new opportunities that will appear on the horizon.

On that note, I wish everyone the very best in this Brave New World at this time of New Year.

**Sheelagh Saunders**

## Census 2021

Households across England and Wales will soon be asked to take part in a once-in-a-decade survey of housing and population. Census2021, run by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), aims to give the most accurate estimate of people and households. The information will help decide how everyone, from local authorities to charities, spends funds and puts services in place. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

The census has been carried out every ten years since 1801 with the exception of 1941 due to the Second World War.

Early in the new year, households will receive a letter about the census with a unique access allowing them to complete the questionnaire online on their computers, phones or tablets. Paper questionnaires are available on request. Census day is March 21 but households with access codes can take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months although all personal records and any detail that would identify an individual will be locked away for 100 years and kept safe for future generations.

For more information visit: [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk)

**census  
2021**

## Safer Neighbourhood Team

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) reports that it has attended 27 Covid-related incidents across the Shipston Beat area, with three fines being issued.

With a spike in residential burglaries experienced by most areas of the country in the darker evenings, and the attraction of more gifts in homes at this time of year, the team says vigilance is key. During November there was one attempted residential burglary, three business burglaries – two from building sites – three motor vehicle burglaries and seven thefts targeting local shops.

The Rural Crime team has been doubled in size. PC Simms, formerly of Southam Safer Neighbourhoods Team, along with PC Kate Taylor, will be allocated the Shipston, Wellesbourne and Southam area to cover.

## Rotary Victorian Christmas

Shipston Rotary is delighted to report that the virtual Victorian Christmas evening and further donations over the Christmas period raised over £2,500, thanks to generous sponsorship from local businesses and wonderful support from the people of the town. Proceeds will go to local charities including Shipston Home Nursing.

The Tree of Life in the town centre, put up by RL Thompson Building Services and sponsored by the Royal British Legion, also raised several hundred pounds with proceeds to Acorn Children's Hospice.





## News from Shipston Town Council's December meeting



**Affordable housing:** Cllr Trevor Harvey highlighted that 491 new dwellings designated as affordable homes were built in the Stratford District in the past year – a figure not only the highest in Warwickshire, but also higher than any of the 37 other councils in the West Midlands.

**Ellen Badger:** Sophie Gilkes, director of development for the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust, reported to the meeting that the planning application for the redevelopment scheme and creation of an integrated healthcare hub was due to be submitted on 21 December. 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. A survey is being carried out by Healthwatch to assess the town's needs. People can take part in the survey on [www.healthwatchwarwickshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchwarwickshire.co.uk).

**Planning:** Consultation for the Site Allocations Plan Preferred Options (SAP), an update of the planning policies and site proposals that set out Stratford District Council's approach to managing development across the district, was due to close on 18 December. The council agreed to endorse the SAP as it stands but to ask for consideration to be given to infrastructure needed for Shipston. The SAP identifies the minimum requirement for Shipston for 510 dwellings between 2011 and 2031 and this number has already been exceeded by around 140. The next review date of the SAP is April 2021.

**Kickstart:** The mayor reported that the Staffing Working Group is looking into employing somebody under the Kickstart scheme, which creates new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. The intention is to undertake data entry tasks such as mapping and burial records.

**Time Bank:** The Time Bank will remain available via Zoom over the Christmas period and beyond, offering support to anyone who needs it.

**Virtual Victorian Evening:** This went ahead on the scheduled date of 4 December as a virtual event live on Facebook. The Shipston Rotary Club ensured the Tree of Life was shining brightly in the town and made a video with reminders of past years.

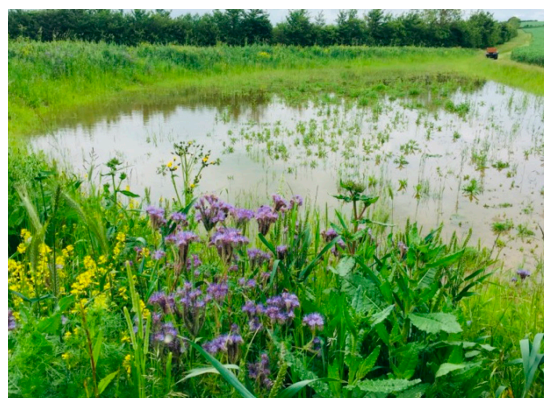
**Hanson Track:** The track, cleared by Warwickshire County Council and a voluntary group, is being used for walking, running and cycling but was noted as being very muddy. Consideration will be given to requesting further gravel from WCC to make the start of the track more accessible. Other paths in the area are also suffering similarly from mud.

## Shipston Area Flood Action Group



Phil Wragg and Geoff Smith reported on a busy year for the Shipston Area Flood Action Group, which had continued its work in slowing river flow, managing to implement 270 measures in areas upstream of the town – and a total of 694 altogether in the past three years. Interventions have included dams, ponds and tree planting, and installing monitoring equipment at Ditchford Farm. With funding from DEFRA and the Environment Agency, and involvement in three academic studies, the group is seen as a key contributor to natural water management. The team of around 12 will be continuing their monitoring throughout this winter across the 198km<sup>2</sup> catchment to see how the schemes are working, and has a full programme of works planned throughout 2021.

Below are two of the 600+ dams in action, slowing the water's passage downstream. These are on Sutton Brook, upstream of Brailes. On the right is the attenuation pond at Ditchford Farm which will fill up in flood conditions and hold back over one million litres of water for several hours before slowly releasing it back into a stream feeding Pig Brook.





## Obituary - Jim Kench

I have some sad news that Jim Kench passed away on Sunday 22 November in Warwick Hospital. He had not been well for some time, and with breathing problems was on full oxygen prior to his death. Jim joined the band in the 1950s, together with many other local youngsters, as Bert Smith the band's conductor and father of John sought to train numbers of local youngsters to secure the future of the band.



These players were to form the nucleus of the band for the next 20 years when the band was very successful. Jim remained a committed member of the band right up until he had to retire in the late 1990s after a serious heart attack made playing very difficult. Starting on cornet, Jim moved to flugel and then first baritone. Throughout his adult time in the band he was a member of the band committee and in charge of the hall maintenance and repair.

In 1973 Alan, myself, Jim and Andy Smith started raising money through carol playing which has over the years developed into the programme we operate at Christmas now and on Christmas Eve we always finished at Jim's for a party yet still made it on Christmas morning for our regular calls to Low Furlong and the Ellen Badger.



Away from the band, Jim was also an accomplished sportsman playing football as a goalkeeper for Alveston – who were at the time the Stratford area's top team – and also cricket for Shipston.

We have included a couple of pictures of Jim from different eras. In 1961 the band qualified for the National Finals for the first time and before going on stage the two youngest players – Jim and myself – had our picture taken. In 2012 Jim came out of retirement and took part in the 2012 Centenary march. In his own words he said he didn't think he would be able to play much but wanted to be there. He is pictured with another of our contemporaries Roger Hine who travelled down from Yorkshire for the event.

**David Birch, Shipston Town Band, 1958 to present day**

## Pre-School fundraising for eye charity

The staff and families at Shipston Pre-School were very busy in the run-up to Christmas raising money for the charity CHECT – The Childhood Eye Cancer Trust.



This is a cause close to their hearts as one of the children attending the Pre-School has recently been diagnosed with eye cancer. Malachi Collins has retinoblastoma, a rare form of cancer which is most commonly found in young children. Malachi's mum, Stacey-Lou Collins, noticed a very faint cloud in Malachi's eye and a cancer diagnosis followed. Malachi is now undergoing chemotherapy and laser therapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital but is still able to attend Pre-School between sessions when he is feeling well enough. The whole family have received invaluable support from the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust.



Daisy Langford of Shipston Pre-School said: "We wanted to do something to show our support and also raise awareness about this condition, so we have been fundraising for the charity. Among other things we held a raffle and the response from our parents and the wider Shipston community has been absolutely amazing! We have had lovely prizes donated by local businesses including Richard Harvey, Midcounties Co-op, the Cotswold Distillery and the Cotswold Butcher and ticket sales have raised over £1000!"

"I have been quite overwhelmed by how generous everyone has been – especially during these difficult times. I just want to thank everyone who has supported us," said Stacey-Lou.

Stacey-Lou and Daisy were very proud to make their donation to CHECT. Patrick Tonks, Chief Executive of the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust said: "This is an absolutely wonderful effort by Shipston Pre-School. We are so grateful for the generosity of everyone involved, which will enable us to support more families affected by retinoblastoma."

To find out more about the signs and symptoms of retinoblastoma, go to:

[chect.org.uk/about-retinoblastoma-2/#signs](http://chect.org.uk/about-retinoblastoma-2/#signs).



## Shipston Proms

### A Happy New Year from us all!

In spite of hoping that the last meeting would be the first and last over Zoom we had to have another virtual meeting when Warwickshire unfortunately ended up in Tier 3 in December.

We still have a great line-up for next year. No-one has backed out, and we hope to see pub venues and halls thriving again and providing musicians with the opportunity to play live. For now, we will continue putting things in place ready for the all-go signal from the government, with public safety always in mind.

As always, if you are reading this and have a suggestion for any local bands or artists that you would like to hear, or if there are any venues that would like to host, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch at [www.shipstonproms.org](http://www.shipstonproms.org) or using our Facebook page.



## Stour Valley Lions

Stour Valley Lions would like to thank residents for past support and wish everyone a healthy and peaceful New Year.



During these challenging times, Stour Valley Lions has supported our community in many ways, with donations to the Foodbank of £750, and providing furniture to those in need, to name but a few.

Our aim is to serve our community. However, sometimes for us to do so, we require funds to support the community's needs. To help the Lions with all their good work, please consider giving us a New Year donation so that we can carry on supporting people during this difficult time. Ways to do this include making a donation to our virtual bucket on JustGiving or by scanning this QR code:

If you do not have access to the internet, you can contact Stour Valley Lions by telephone to find out how to donate a cheque or cash. Contact: President David Squires Tel: 07511 694 733 We thank you in advance!



To find out more about what Stour Valley Lions do then please check out our website

<https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/stourvalley/>

or follow us on Facebook.

## Poppy Appeal

We have now collected all of the stand-alone donations, counted the contents of all the boxes and totted up the money donated for wreaths and we are delighted to say that the total amount raised in Shipston-on-Stour and the surrounding villages for the Poppy Appeal 2020 is £6,195.02.

We have enjoyed sterling support from local traders and businesses and we are very grateful for this in what has been a very challenging period for them. I know that the organisers of the Poppy Appeal hoped to raise between 10 -15% of the sum raised in a 'normal' year. Due to the generosity of the traders and residents of Shipston and the surrounding villages, almost 40% of a 'normal' year has been raised. Considering the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, no house-to-house or street collections and the new central arrangements for people to donate online, this is a really fantastic amount.

I am also very grateful to the committee members of the Shipston branch of the Royal British Legion. From a very generous recently-received legacy, they have kindly agreed to increase the amount sent to the Poppy Appeal to match last year's sum plus £400. This means that the total sum being sent to benefit the service community in need will be £15,620.

Additionally, Remembrance is actually about just that. It is not simply about raising money, it is about Remembrance and I am sure you will agree that, as a community, Shipston and the surrounding villages did this in an appropriate and dignified manner.

Hopefully, next year we will be back to normal and so I will be looking out for helpers to take part in street collections and carry out house-to-house collections. If you feel that you might like to take part, either spending an hour or two assisting with our street collection or collecting in your road or area, then please do telephone me on 07790 308548 or personally message me and I will note down your details ready to contact you next year! It is a nice way to experience for yourself what a friendly and caring community we all live in and perhaps get to know your neighbours and community better, whilst supporting a very worthwhile cause.

I do hope that everyone stays well and that we can all look forward to a better 2021. Once again, finally, thank you.

**Sharon Harcourt, Poppy Appeal Organiser**

On behalf of the Shipston Branch of the Royal British Legion



## PPE for Shipston Primary School

On 11 December Shipston Rotary President Stuart McLean presented a cheque for £400 to Deputy Head Glyn Roberts to help fund additional personal protective equipment (PPE) such as hand sanitizers for the school. The money was raised with a grant from the Rotary District Community Fund, and an added contribution from Shipston Rotary.

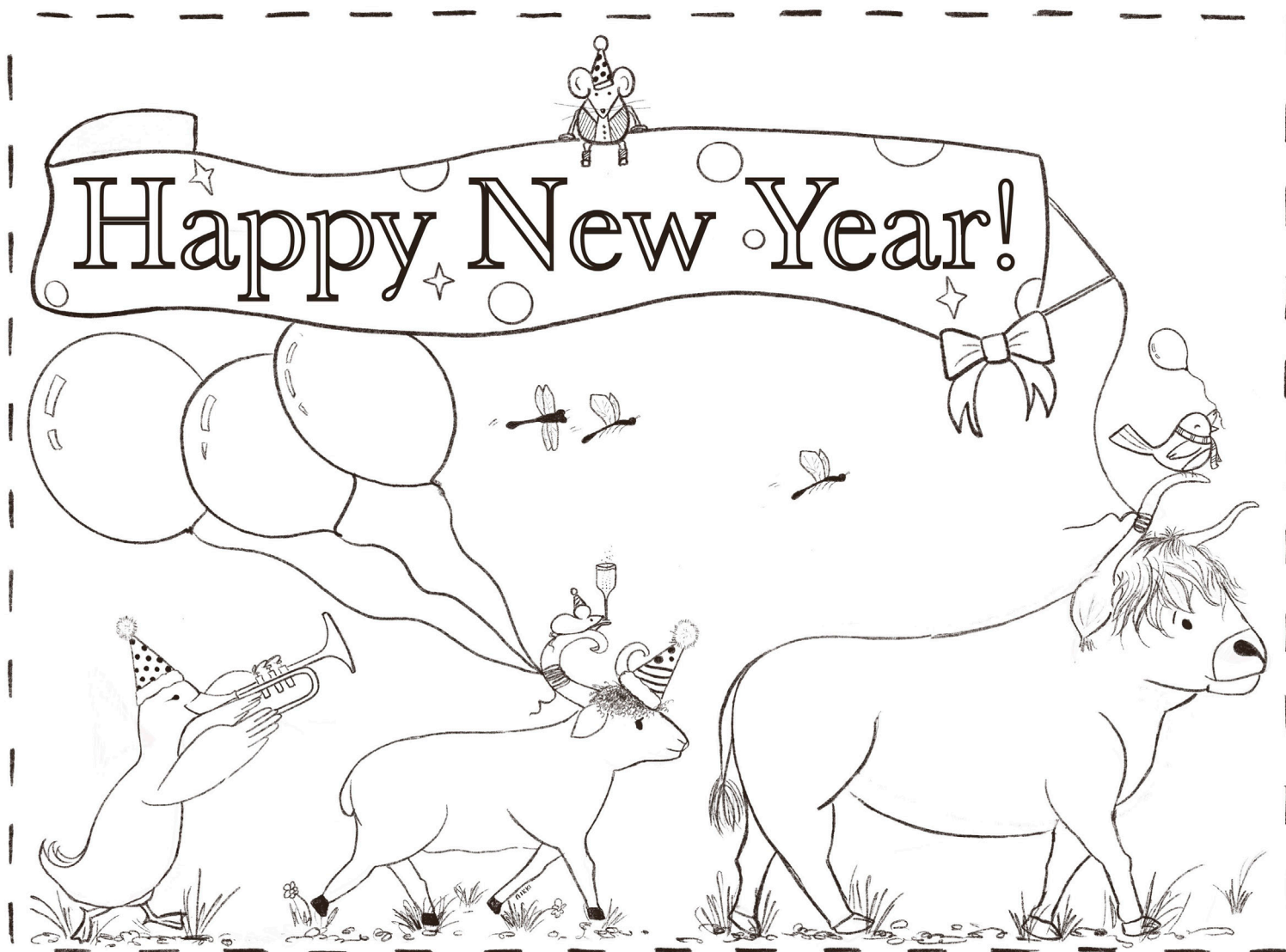






A very Happy New Year to you, Little Shipstonians! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas. Did you see the 2 winners of our art competition? Didn't William and Nell create amazing pictures?! A massive CONGRATULATIONS to you both, very worthy winners!

Now we look forward to a brand new year! This is a great time to look back on 2020 and then think about what goals we might set ourselves for the year ahead. We've attached a goal setting worksheet to help you to do this. Once you have completed it, you can cut it out. Why not put all your worksheets in a folder, so you can refer back to them whenever you want to? In this month's edition, there is also the usual 'colour-in' picture for you to complete, with lots of animals you probably see a lot of in and around Shipston. Lots for you to do this month, so you'd best get cracking!

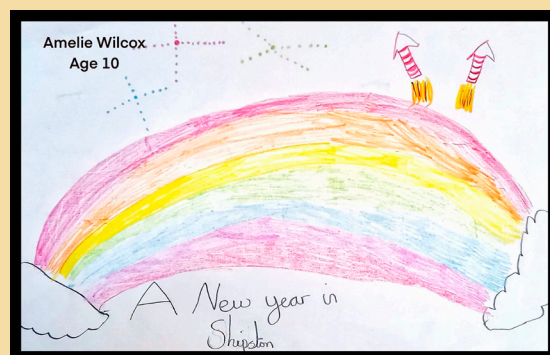


### Meet the artist

Ever wondered who does these lovely drawings and compiles our Little Shipstonians page? It's Nikki Turner, a talented local artist. Here she is with her dog Barnaby. You can contact Nikki at [noodles050@hotmail.com](mailto:noodles050@hotmail.com).

### Art competition

Here's another entry for our art competition that we could not resist showing. Amelie Wilcox, aged 10, used a colourful rainbow full of hope for 2021 with fun fireworks, too!





by \_\_\_\_\_

# Things I did last year that I'm proud of

I want to learn about...

I want to get better at...

this year I also want to ....



## Letters

Dear Shipstonians,

We moved to Shipston upon our retirement some eight years ago to find a delightful lively town with friendly people, always willing to exchange greetings in the street. We have made many friends and have joined in activities which match our interests or have helped to start and run them.

As I am sure most of you have noticed, during the past six months normal life has been disturbed. We have to treat everyone we meet as lepers, and most recreational and much retail activity has been suspended. For those online electronic communication has largely replaced face-to-face contact and interaction.

Some of our local town businesses have been unable to survive the seismic economic effect of lockdown. However, as we carefully try to get our economy and lives back to some sort of normality, albeit a slightly different normality, there are hopeful signs. We have seen a small number of new and revamped shops and eating places open and some that we feared might vanish altogether appear to have survived, so far.

If we are to see a thriving town, we all need to support our local businesses with our custom. OK, we can't get everything we need in the town and it may sometimes be a bit more expensive than the big supermarkets, but if we wish to prevent Shipston falling into terminal decline with rows of empty premises, the local businesses will need our support, especially so at this difficult time for all of us as we come out of lockdown 2. Let's be positive and support them whenever and wherever we can and do our bit towards Shipston's Covid recovery. In case you are wondering, I have no connection whatsoever with any local business other than as a customer. Happy Covid-free New Year. Viva la vaccine!

Geoff Olsson

## Police Survey

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Secombe wants to hear from the public about the future of policing in the county, as he launches a major new consultation ahead of deciding how funding should be prioritised in the year ahead.

The 'Your Police, Your Views' survey aims to get opinions from all parts of Warwickshire on how local people feel money should be spent on policing and community safety, including what types of initiatives should be financed through grants and commissioned services.

The questions also give the opportunity for people living and working in the county to provide further feedback on policing and community safety, to help understand the Commissioner understand what they feel works well and also what needs improvement.

The results will help inform the budget setting process for the 2021/22 financial year.

The survey is open now and will run until early January 2021 at: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WPFundingSurvey](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WPFundingSurvey)



**Philip Secombe**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
for Warwickshire

# "Your Police Your Views"

*What do police do well, what could they do better?  
Which types of crimes should have the greatest focus?  
How should the police be funded in the year ahead?*

**Tell us your views today!**

Go to: [surveymonkey.com/r/WPFundingSurvey](http://surveymonkey.com/r/WPFundingSurvey)

You can also write to us at Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, 3 Northgate Street, Warwick, CV34 4SP, email us at [opcc@warwickshire-pcn.police.uk](mailto:opcc@warwickshire-pcn.police.uk) or call 01926 412322.



## Shipston-on-Stour Primary School

# Open Evenings

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 4pm  
(by appointment only)

[www.shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk](http://www.shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk)

Part of the Stour Federation Partnership with  
Acorns Primary School and Brailes C of E Primary School




## Starting School in September 2021?

- Tours of the school will take place after the children have gone home to maintain the integrity of class bubbles.
- One adult per appointment. Please wear a mask and hand sanitise on entry and exit.
- Get advice on the Admissions procedure.
- Learn about our curriculum, facilities and wraparound care from 8am - 6pm.

**Email:** [primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk](mailto:primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk)  
**Tel:** 01608 661266  
**Twitter:** <http://twitter.com/shipstonhead>



## SHIPSTON WOOL FAIR

The next Shipston Wool Fair will be held in 2022. The Wool Fair committee made the decision to postpone the 2021 event at their December AGM, stating: "Organising the sheep exhibition requires considerable lead time and because of all the current uncertainties concerning public events it was decided to postpone. Planning for 2022 will go ahead early in 2021, when we will begin a major search for support from the local community for people with specific skills, knowledge and contacts relating to all aspects of the Wool Fair and in particular the management of the sheep exhibition. In the meantime, we would like to recognise and thank all the knitters who produce the blankets, in particular Linda Cornock."

## Grant awards for higher education

Nineteen High School students have been awarded grants, together totalling £2,200, by the Shipston-on-Stour Educational Charity. The charity makes educational awards each year to students leaving the High School and entering further education.



## Shipston Primary School

Shipston On Stour Primary School



### Christmas celebrations

Due to Covid-19 restrictions in and out of school, the countdown to Christmas was very different to normal: no choir at the Victorian Evening, no Christmas church service and no Christmas performances in school. However, the staff have worked their hardest to ensure it feels festive in school. Each class was able to have Christmas dinner, but this was spread out over a week, rather than on one day. Children recorded Christmas performance poetry instead of the Stour Federation Partnership choir and all 405 children received a Christmas present (book) on the last day of term. It's a rite of passage for our youngest children to perform a Christmas Nativity and a pandemic wasn't going to stop the Reception teachers from putting on a show. 'A Very Special Baby' was performed in small groups in front of a green screen and then edited together so that parents could watch their children tell the Christmas story, albeit via video at home rather than packed in the school hall.



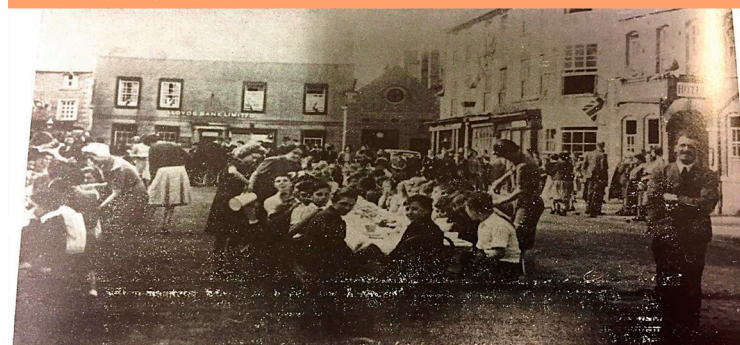
### Virtual history expert

On Friday 13 November the classes in Year 6 had a wonderful time learning about Shipston-on-Stour during World War II, as part of their Remembrance work and for their curriculum topic for this half term, 'A Child's War'.

Doctor Willis, who is an expert on the Second World War, talked to each class virtually through Google Meet. He taught us lots of facts, like how some evacuees came to live in Shipston and how there was a Prisoner of War (POW) camp here



Shipston held a huge street party in the Town Square to celebrate the end of the war



on the Darlingscote Road. There were two sides in World War II; the axis powers (the main countries were Japan, Italy and Germany) and the allied powers, mainly consisting of England,

USA, France and the Soviet Union. The ambitious classes also found out that VE day stands for Victory in Europe Day. Doctor Willis showed us photographs of the main square in Shipston on this day. He also told us that a Spitfire, which was launched in Moreton-in-Marsh, crash-landed in Shipston.

It was so interesting to know what it was like here during the war. The Year 6 classes (Flamingos and Pelicans) had an awesome time learning virtually, all thanks to Doctor Willis. We are hoping to chat with him again very soon to find out even more!

by Jessica and Freddie (Year 6 Pelicans)

### Books of the month is back

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum, inspiring curiosity, wonder and imagination through empowering our children with the essential knowledge and skills that they will need now and in their future.



All children are encouraged to read widely to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. We are very grateful to Sheldon Bosley Knight for sponsoring The Stour Federation Partnership's Books of the Month over the past three years. We have a brand new sponsor for the books: Peter Clarke Estate Agents. Miss Bayliss (Stour Federation Reading Leader) selects for all three schools this academic year.

### From open mornings to open evenings

Usually at this time of year we welcome lots of families to Shipston Primary School to show them round our wonderful school, whether it is for new starters in Reception the following September or mid-year moves.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to show groups of families around while the children are in school, but are delighted to offer tours of the school every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 4pm.

Please book your appointment for a tour of the school by telephoning 01608 661266 or email [primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk](mailto:primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk). Our prospectus is available on the school's website - <https://www.shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk/welcome/>. The closing date for Reception 2021 applications is 15 January 2021.

### Thank you

We must give thanks this year for the wonderful way that all of our town has pulled together as a community to help us stay open and continue teaching. Thank you to our parents for following the stricter rules we have put in place, thanks to our supportive governors, wonderful staff and amazing children, and a big thank you to Shipston Rotary for the incredible support they have given this year, helping to supply new sinks, hand sanitizer stations and a wide range of other PPE to help keep us safe. Although we haven't been able to be physically as close as we would like to be, the emotional connection to our community has never been felt more.



## Shipston High School

A very Happy New Year to you all from Shipston High School. I hope that you have had a peaceful Christmas, and are feeling refreshed and ready for 2021. I am sure that students and staff are fully recharged, and ready to start the new term with renewed purpose.

December finished with a fantastic Christmas atmosphere around the school, albeit without some of the traditional social activities of the season. Despite the obvious restrictions, students and staff enjoyed decorating the school, wearing Christmas jumpers, and partaking of the festive menu creating by our fantastic catering team.

The end of term was also a perfect opportunity to celebrate student achievement. The Autumn term has been the most unusual time, with students returning to school in September after several months away from the site. In these recent months, students have been excellent. They have shown real commitment to their learning while adapting to new routines with good humour. In celebration events at the end of term (suitably virtual or socially distanced), staff were pleased to be able to compliment all students in the school, along with presenting specific awards for academic achievement and good character. It is said that character shines through in adversity, and I am very proud of the way in which students have shown real resilience, ably demonstrating the school values of learning, respect, ambition and achievement.

January presents a fresh year, and I am sure we are all hoping for more positive times ahead after the challenges of 2020. This year will continue to present new experiences, and the school is ready to adapt. 2020 certainly showed the need to be flexible when circumstances are uncertain and evolving. I am also grateful for the patience and support of families and the wider community as we navigated uncharted territory together.

Academically, all students will be focused on their studies. There is a unique focus for our Year 11 students who are embarking on their final full term in the school before GCSE

examinations begin in late May and June, slightly later than usual. Students will receive mock exam results this month, which are a useful guide to the work ahead. The pressures on young people are genuine, as examinations become increasingly challenging. As always, I am impressed by how our older students manage this point in their schooling, and we look forward to a successful exam period later in the spring.



It remains to be seen when we may be able to reinstate valuable extra-curricular activities and visits, but when we do, their value will be even more precious to all involved. Like all schools, we will continue to follow government guidance on such matters whilst looking forward to returning to a full calendar of events in the future.

At Shipston High School we are looking forward to an exciting and busy year, and all of us here wish you the very best for 2021.

**Gavin Saunders, Headteacher**



### SHIPSTON ON STOUR U3A - SECRETARY REQUIRED

Your U3A is a thriving organization with over 40 groups, some of which continue to meet in these difficult times. We are, however, urgently looking for a volunteer Secretary to join the existing friendly Committee.

This is an important role requiring some administrative/IT expertise and good communication skills. The main duties will be drafting Agendas, taking Minutes, circulating information across the Committee, maintaining contact with U3A HQ and remaining up to date on its advice.

For more information please contact the Chair, Caroline Green on [cgreen.wth@gmail.com](mailto:cgreen.wth@gmail.com)

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to join our Committee. At present it is short of normal strength, which puts an additional burden on existing Committee members at a time when they are working hard to adapt to the restrictions arising from COVID19.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Caroline as above. We'd love to hear from you.

## District Council update

It's that time of year again – new year wishes and budgets! Firstly, I felt the need to have been up at midnight on 31 December 2020 and to breathe a sigh of relief at 12.01 that I'd seen the back of 2020! Secondly, the council budget is tight. Enough said.



What are we going to see this year which gives us hope? Our children will be back at school. We will be able to meet up. Go to church. Go to the pub. Restart our clubs. Go to the theatre. Sing! Hug!

For some of you who are moving into the new estates: you will have access to areas of open space which are now looked after by the District Council and not paid for by you – 'fleecehold' as it has become known. We will continue to press for the government to regularise and reduce costs to all for these open spaces. Watch this space!

One good thing arising from development across our area is that we have some money coming into the coffers to support infrastructure projects. We are continuing to work with Warwick DC which will result in cost cutting.

The 1-2-3 collection of waste will be more efficient, reducing miles travelled by our bin lorries, reducing CO2 emissions, recycling rates improved and food waste taken away weekly and I am pushing in the fullness of time that we start using anaerobic digestion.

As we start to get back to normal, let's not suggest going back to the same old. Let's remember those who we need to look after and keep them close.

I hope you have all had a peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing many of you for coffee at The George soon!

**Jo Barker, County Councillor**

07748 968712 | [jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## County Council update

Normally at this time of year you would have found me on your doorstep – hint – there's a County Council election in May. You may well see me at a distance and popping leaflets through your door. I would also like to do a few outdoor meetings when we can. Under a tree? On a green? Out and about in town and using our shops.

Many of our more vulnerable residents have started to have their jabs against Covid - and freedom beckons.

In the town we have carried out a survey and some work on our underground pipework. It's never finished, but we are making progress. As ever please keep an eye on your nearest gullies and report them to CC. Or send me a piccie and a position!

The roads and paths in the locality have been part of the annual highways plan and there has been road resurfacing – including the filling of some infamous potholes – and the stripping back and resurfacing of paths has made our daily exercise regime much easier!

The Ellen Badger project is starting and our health and wellbeing will be that much better for it. Our area has a higher incidence of mental health issues than other parts of Warwickshire, so we really need it. The main message from WCC at the moment, from which I take heart, is that of kindness. To each other and about each other.

To all our businesses I say well done for showing such tenacity and pivoting to do things differently. 2021 will be hard, but keep lobbying me to lobby for you for a better year for all of us.

Please do get in touch and also look out for some short films I will be making in the new year, with virtual surgeries for those who want them and through-the-window surgeries if you don't have the tech!

**Jo Barker, County Councillor**

07748 968712 | [jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## Shipston Medical Centre

**Medical Centre t: 01608 661845**

Shipston Medical Centre wishes our patients and the community a Happy New Year!

Reflecting on the past year, we want to say thank you to everyone eligible who had a flu vaccination. We had record levels of take-up this year, with vaccination rates ahead of local and national averages. Thank you to everyone who has taken the necessary coronavirus precautions, as we feel that had our community not complied, we would have seen significantly more cases, had more long-term serious illness and more deaths. Please continue to follow the guidelines.

The national Covid vaccination programme is progressing. Please keep an eye on our website:

<http://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/> and social media (Facebook: Shipston Medical Centre; Twitter: @ShipstonGP) for further details.

We are working with colleagues at Meon Medical Centre and Hastings House Medical Centre to provide this service for the patients of the three practices. We feel very lucky to have had so many volunteers from the community and appreciate the help being provided to us as we vaccinate our populations. It is going to take some months to vaccinate everyone, and we will contact you when it is your turn.

In the surgery we continue to work in accordance to coronavirus guidelines, that require clinical team members

seeing patients to wear full PPE and to thoroughly clean rooms between patients. This, and the need to support the national vaccination programme, means we are spread thinly.

We are all working hard to do the best for everyone. Please be patient with us, and if you can self-care through speaking to your community pharmacist or by calling 111, please do so.



Shipston Medical Centre



## Your Town Councillors


**Sheelagh Saunders, Mayor**
*Staffing Working Group Chair*

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e: sheelagh.saunders@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Ian Cooper, Deputy Mayor**
*Finance Working Group Chair*

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**Ronnie Murphy**

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**Paul Tesh**
*Planning Committee Chair*

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**Jo Barker**

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**Fay Ivens**

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**Peter White**
*Communications Working Group Chair*

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**Gerry Kelly**
*Planning Committee Vice Chair*

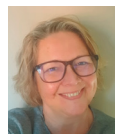
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**Peter Cowley**
*Heritage & Leisure Projects Working Group Chair*

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**Sarah Timms**

e: sarah.timms@shipstontowncouncil.org

## Useful Contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	111
Shipston Forum	01608 495955
Shipston 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
<b>Local police (non emergency)</b>	<b>101</b>
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
<b>Churches of Shipston:</b>	
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)


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**County Council Contact:**
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**Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)**

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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](mailto: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.