



Shipston Forum

shipstontowncouncil.org



January 2022

Shipston shines with Christmas lights and seasonal yarn bombing



Rotary Tree of Life and Santa Sleigh

The town Christmas lights and Tree of Life switching on ceremony was observed by a sizeable crowd, in addition, to apparently another 3,000 people online.



Rotary President David Gill, Amit Patel (Pharmacy To My Door) and Town Mayor Cllr Ian Cooper switched on the lights on the Tree of Life.

With the support and generosity of local business, Shipston Rotary took Santa, in his new sleigh and grotto (thanks to Unity Cross Roads in Tredington) around the town throughout December. The sleigh was all lit up and played Christmas music. Santa's new grotto was constructed thanks to Shipston Building and Plumbing Supplies, who supplied the materials.

While Santa was limited in what he could do he still made lots of friends from a distance. Everyone, not just Shipston parents and children were as generous as ever making donations to Rotary charities.





Mayor's column

Well, what can I say about Shipston Town band? Anyone who witnessed the remembrance parade, their street performances throughout December or attended the Christmas concert at the Townsend hall will know what fabulous entertainment they are. We should be really proud of our town band, not only are they all tremendously talented musicians, but great entertainers and a real asset to the Town.

As I mentioned on Shipston online, I was extremely shocked and saddened by the very sad news of the death of Micky Cornock. Micky was one of the Town's real characters and will be greatly missed by very many people. His work as caretaker at the primary school meant that he was known to everyone whose children attended there, but he was also so heavily involved with so many organisations especially the sports clubs. He was one of the most generous and well-meaning people you could hope to meet and would always be found volunteering to help where he could. I considered him a friend, but I know of many who were also very close to him and my condolences and best wishes are with them now. I know we will all be greatly saddened by this news but long may he live in the memories of the town.

The past year has been difficult for everyone, Shipston has managed well throughout the pandemic, but we were reminded again by the sudden outbreak at the end of November how vigilant we need to remain. This sadly led to the cancellation of the Rotary Victorian Evening, a great shame after all the effort that everyone had put into organising it. We look forward to next year's event.

And I think that's an important message as we go into the New Year, be vigilant and aware of the risks and have consideration for the needs of all our residents. I am grateful to all the organisations and individuals who have done so much for the town over the past year and continue to make this a great community to be a part of, thank you and I hope we can all build on your work and support to make 2022 better for all.

Ian Cooper, Mayor of Shipston

Be vigilant and beware of potential scams

Warwickshire Trading Standards is urging residents to be on the lookout for potentially fraudulent activity, including pandemic related scams. Recent scams and rogue trader incidents reported by Warwickshire residents include:

Email Hacking

Compromised email accounts are used to send bogus messages asking the recipient's help to buy a gift card (for a relative of the sender's birthday). The sender normally states that they are travelling and can't do it themselves. They may direct the email recipient to visit their local supermarket or shop and may even name the store to make the email look more authentic. The sender always promises to refund the money as soon as they can.

Victims of this crime have lost money after buying a gift card and sending the card number to the criminals by email. The fraudsters don't require the physical card, only the card number.

The fraudsters either send out an email directly from the hacked email account to everyone in the person's address book or copy the address book and create a new account with a similar email address (the new email might have an extra letter in it for example or use a different provider). This way, even if the victim regains control over their account, the fraudsters can continue to send out bogus emails that could be mistaken for genuine ones.

If you believe your email account has been hacked, try to change your password as soon as possible and visit your email account provider's website for further advice.

If you have received an email that you believe is bogus, you can forward it to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) email: report@phishing.gov.uk For further information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/report-suspicious-emails-websites-phishing>

Omicron variant PCR test phishing emails

Criminals have been using the Omicron variant to attempt to scam residents. Which? have issued a warning that scammers are already sending fake emails about the new Omicron variant of Covid, claiming to offer NHS tests that are claimed would allow people to "avoid restrictions" in order to steal personal data and bank details. For more information, advice and to see what the scam phishing emails look like, visit: <https://conversation.which.co.uk/scams/omicron-variant-pcr-test-fake-email/>

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue help patients from Hospital to Home

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are helping hospital patients return home safely with their innovative Hospital to Home service. The programme's aim is to support elderly and vulnerable patients who have been treated at hospital and are well enough to return home to get back to where they feel safe and can be supported to live independently. This in turn has helped to reduce the number of patients who have previously had to be admitted to hospital because they had no immediate friends or family to help them get home.

Since its launch in 2018, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue have taken home 3,900 patients through the Hospital to Home programme.



News from Shipston Town Council's December meeting

Hybrid Meeting

The meeting was conducted in a hybrid manner with some members contributing remotely using Zoom. Sufficient Councillors physically attended for the meeting to be quorate and in accordance with standing orders, only members within the Council Chamber voted on motions.

Micky Cornock

Councillors observed a moments silence in memory of Micky Cornock to reflect on his contributions to life in Shipston. The Council will be exploring potential options to commemorate his community service.

Rotary Projects

The General Purposes Working Group will meet with Shipston Rotary to discuss plans for a repair shed and sensory garden which would be funded from a generous legacy.

Mental Health

Several Councillors expressed concern at the growing number of mental health crises highlighted within the report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. Working groups will explore any potential opportunities to help support mental health services in the town.

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust Community Panel

A representative from the council will attend a session of the new community panel which has been formed as part of the Trust's review of community hospital provision.

20 is Plenty Campaign

During Open Forum, Jacey Jackson (Shipston Community Speedwatch Coordinator) thanked Councillors for their support of the campaign. As a result of six local speed monitoring sessions, a further 25 offenders have been reported to the police, meaning that a total of 1726 motorists have been reported since monitoring began in 2017. She explained that many motorists reduced their speed when the speed gun team was on patrol and explained that additional monitor surveys were needed to get a fuller picture of the situation. Later in the meeting, Councillors resolved that it agreed in principle with the concept of a 20mph for the town.

Commissioned through Warwickshire County Council and Public Health, the service offers support to hospitals in discharging patients from hospitals and helps to reduce the increase in pressures on hospital beds and services during the winter. The scheme runs in three Warwickshire hospitals; Warwick Hospital, George Elliot in Nuneaton and UHCW in Coventry. Once home, the resident is settled in by the Hospital to Home team, which could involve making them a cup of tea, putting the heating on or getting a food shop in. The team carry out Safe and Well checks in the resident's home. The check involves looking for potential hazards that can cause slips, trips and falls, carrying out a check for possible fire hazards, inspecting electrical sockets so they are safe to use, checking smoke alarms are working or installing new smoke alarms where there are none.

Enie Hickinson, who recently used the service, says: "Not only did they bring me home and put my bags in and make sure I was secure at home, they also went round the house to make

Shipston Area Flood Action Group

Inclement weather means that work has now concluded for the year, however, the group is busy finalising its programme for 2022. Councillors asked SAFAG to explore how they might be able to support the three areas for potential collaboration that had been identified by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

Lazy Pug Signage

Following representations to the planning department by Cllr Tesh, the applicant has now agreed to modify the design of the signage to be more in keeping with the area.

Felled Tree Policy

The Planning Committee will develop a policy requiring developers or property owners to ensure that felled trees are replaced with appropriate species either in the same location or in another part of the parish.

Electric Vehicle Charging

A commercial provider has expressed interest in installing charging facilities in the town. Further details of the proposed scheme will be sought.

Cornmill Meadows

A wildlife management plan is currently under development.

Sports Club

As part of the ongoing refurbishment of the Sports Club building, the Council agreed to fund a new hand dryer to replace one that had been condemned.

Town Council Staffing

A bonus was awarded to the Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk in recognition for her recent efforts, going above and beyond her expected duties. Job descriptions for Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Administrative Assistant to the Clerk will be developed ahead of the post of Deputy Clerk being advertised.

sure it was secure too. The gentleman checked all the plugs in the house and made sure we'd got the correct ones. Being in the house 30 years and being elderly, sometimes you mend and make do; everything was double checked for us so that was nice."

"When you go home [from hospital] in the ambulance it's quite conspicuous, outside and people stare, but going home in the little fire service vehicle, nobody noticed me getting out. I found that very nice. I've had it [the Hospital to Home service] twice now and I think it's a really good service. It's quick, it's efficient; from the nurse telling me I was going home, I was there within an hour. It was really good, quick service and kind service. I was home within a matter of minutes!"

"I'd had an awful lot to bring home because I'd been in hospital for quite a long time, I'd got four or five bags. The gentleman made sure I'd got all the bags and the lady made sure I was safely in the wheelchair. I didn't have to worry about anything, it was all picked up."

The Townsend Hall



Whilst times are still challenging, we were still able to honour our bookings for a fabulous weekend of live music over the first weekend of December.

We kicked off with "Jools and the Jazzaholics" – simply superb and we'll do our best to get them back, along with getting our programme of jazz fully back on stream through next year – for those of you that haven't thought of yourselves as jazz fans before, we urge you to give it a go – it's a great night out! On that front, we've already booked "Tom 'Spats' Langham Hot Fingers" for Feb-22 (proceeds for hall maintenance/facilities).

The following night, we welcomed Cotswold Events back with their "Birmingham Blues Brothers" booking – safe to say, a lot of fun was had by all; and then, not done, we finished up with our very own Shipston Town Band the following night.

On the maintenance and facilities improvement front, the replacement doors for the smaller of our two halls are now installed, which will significantly improve soundproofing and better support co-existing events.

Thanks for your continuing support - numbers are still available in our **"150 club" – the winners in the December Christmas draw are:** £100 no. 62; £50 no. 146; £25 no. 132.

Visit us at www.townsendhall.co.uk to find out more.

SHIPSTON & DISTRICT LITERARY SOCIETY

26th January

Richard Blair: *The Life of my father, George Orwell*

23rd February

John Burton: *George Eliot*

30th March

David Howe: *Remembering Frank Muir & Dennis Norden* –
two writers of comedy

27th April

Michael Bell: *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi

May/June (Date to be advised)

Annual Outing

29th June

Cheese & Wine Party

31st August

2021/2022 Annual General Meeting & Lunch

Meetings are held at Newbold Village Hall, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5 each. For further information ring Helen Marshall 01789-740773

Shipston Town Band



In early December, the Town Band brought a musical sparkle to the Christmas season. The smaller than usual audience had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with a wide array of Christmas favourites on display including an arrangement of traditional carols in An Olde English Christmas from the band's own arranger Ken Smith and popular favourites such as Jingle Bells and White Christmas.

Four of the band's soloists were featured before the concert concluded in fitting style with an arrangement of Shakin Stevens Merry Christmas Everyone.

As always Anne Hume was on hand to entertain everyone with her humorous accounts of Christmas with the audience in stitches over a particularly funny account involving ball bearings and some delicious Christmas cake.

Rotary 100 Club Draw - December

First Prize

£66.25 No 31

Second Prize

£39.75 No 11

Third Prize

£26.50 No 6



THE TOWNSEND HALL

Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour,
Warwickshire. CV36 4PE

Tom "Spats" Langham

HOT
FINGER

Friday 25th February 2022
Doors Open 19:30 for 20:00

Fully Licensed Bar

Tickets £10 from A. Clarke Electrical Services, 01608-661394, or visit
ticketsource.co.uk or townsendhall.co.uk for online booking

Music Society

It was a trio of local talents who last week entertained the members of the Shipston Music Society. Tim and Helen Porter and their daughter Hannah, are just three members of a musical family (the others were performing elsewhere!) Tim is a self-taught harmonica player, Helen is well known in the area as a piano teacher and Hannah plays the piano, flute and violin.



They produced a varied programme with many pieces easily recognised by the audience interspersed with others, new to many, some arranged by the family during “jamming sessions”. For instance, the lively “The Entertainer” by Scot Joplin was followed by the slower, slightly wistful opening of “Desperado” by Frey and Henley. The interaction between harmonica and, firstly flute then violin, swapping the melody and countermelody with perfect balance was well executed. “My Baby just cares for me” sung and self-accompanied by Hannah was a delight; she has an intuitive sense of style within the jazz idiom. Other highlights were “Ashokan Farewell” by Jay Ungar where the harmonica really became the principal performer. The piece had a rather sad “folk tune” type theme in a minor key and was performed with expertise and feeling by Tim. In contrast, “What a wonderful world” also highlighting the harmonica, was full of sunshine and joy. “Summertime” (George Gershwin) began with an introduction consisting of snatches of the main theme being passed around the players, before the flute finally took the melody into the higher range for a complete rendition which, as usual, was achieved effortlessly by Hannah. Two contrasting piano rags by Scott Joplin, “Maple Leaf Rag” and “Solace” were played with great attention to detail by Helen, and the evening ended with “The Man I Love” by Gershwin where Hannah’s flawless top notes again filled the high ceiling of the Shipston Methodist Church.

With a programme featuring pieces by composers ranging from Telemann, Debussy and Rachmaninov to John Barry, Ronnie Hazelhurst and Paul McCartney, this was an evening of contrasting styles executed with skill and obvious enjoyment and was suitably rewarded with enthusiastic applause.

We do not meet again until February but the committee hope all members enjoyed the festive season and we look forward to seeing you throughout 2022!

2022 Program



The Committee of the Shipston Music Society would like to thank its members for their support and patience during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce the program for 2022, subject to any health and safety regulations for COVID-19.

January	No concert
18th February	Charles Matthews
18th March	Pavillionaires
8th April	Bernard Lockett talk about “The Heritage of Gilbert & Sullivan”
20th May	Divertimento
23rd June	Vickers Bovey Guitar duo (St Edmund’s Church, Shipston Proms)

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership is a community-led partnership set up to support residents in Shipston and the neighbouring villages to live longer and better.

It began in December 2019 and became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in November 2020. The Partnership has developed strong working relationships with over 50 organisations and individuals involved in the area, including: Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Public Health, Healthwatch, Stratford on Avon District Council, Shipston Town Council, VASA, South Warwickshire Hospital Foundation Trust, Timebank, Friends of Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston Medical Centre, Barnardo's and a wide variety of other groups and organisations in the Stour area.

The purpose of the Partnership is: 'To improve the health and wellbeing of all residents in the Stour area through better partnership working'

The Partnership's vision is: 'To bring together in partnership organisations and individuals across the Stour Valley to support every resident at all stages to have a better quality of life and live longer by improving health and wellbeing'.

The Partnership aims to develop and implement a comprehensive health and wellbeing strategy focused on

the recommendations of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and other surveys. Members are in the process of prioritising the health and wellbeing needs of the Stour community and developing proposals, projects and initiatives to address those needs. COVID and its aftermath have added to the challenges facing the Partnership and the community.

The Partnership works through an Executive committee which is comprised of the chairs of five Work Streams - Mental Health, Children and Young People, Healthy Ageing, Transport and Environment and Climate Change – and representatives of other organisations. The Executive Committee is responsible to a Board of Trustees. This Board is registered with the Charity Commission.

There are already early signs of the benefits which will be achieved from partnership working examples include the revival of the Shipston Dementia Friendly Committee and the launch of the 'Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge' (see page 9).



Shipston – A hive of fitness and wellness

As a small town, we are very lucky to have access to many different ways to get fit, stay fit, improve our wellbeing and look after our mental health.

I started working as a personal trainer many years ago and for a long time I was the only PT, and then I went on to bring Pilates to Shipston. Now I think it's important to bring together the wealth of talented professionals we have dotted in and all-around Shipston.

But, for the people of Shipston, it is not always easy to find access to the different instructors and therapists to be able to decide which class or therapy would be best for them. So, I decided to use the social media platform of Facebook to try to bring all these amazing people together.

The new year is a time that we all tend to rethink what we want from ourselves and our bodies over the coming year. It's a short window of time in which we stay committed to this and so by using the Facebook page, you can search by type of exercise or scan through and read what each of the instructors is offering to help you on your new journey to improve the way you feel and live.

We also plan on doing some live videos to give more details about what we all do and to answer any questions posted to the page to help people decide what is the right type of movement or therapy for them.

Please check us out and join our community on Facebook: **SHIPSTON WELLNESS COMMUNITY**

I look forward to seeing you there soon and helping you to achieve your new year goals.

Debbie Williams – MELT METHOD and Pilates Matwork Teacher



200 Families

Thanks to the generosity of people in Shipston and surrounding villages, since March 2020 we have been able to provide 200 families with food.

The Foodbank is open on Saturday mornings between 10.30am and 12 noon. You do not need a referral or a voucher just turn up. No-one is turned away.

In these uncertain times we would like to ask you for your continued support.

Donations of basic items can be left in the church porch **between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Saturday.** There's also a collection point in both the Co-ops.

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

 www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank

 www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk

Shipston Proms

Discovering new music, whether it has been around for decades or current, is one of life's pleasures. There is a great radio show called 'BBC Introducing' which started up in 2007 and has since introduced the world to some now well-known performers, like Ed Sheeran, Florence and the Machines and Jake Bugg. On TV, a way of finding new music is through the BBC Jools Holland show. Jools is brilliant at including both new and popular artists in his studio show and we also have a chance to learn what their influences are.

Books by musicians are also a good way of being exposed to new artists. I've just been reading Stevie Van Zandt's autobiography. I knew him mostly from his acting role in The Sopranos, as gang member Silvio, but I didn't realise that he had been a member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, nor that he was

and still is a prolific songwriter and performer in his own right. (He also helped to get Nelson Mandela out of prison with his anti-apartheid activism). His influences are many including bands involved in, what he calls, the

British Invasion of America back in the Sixties eg. The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Small Faces, Manfred Mann. I asked Alexa to play me the songs of the 60's band Manfred Mann which were new to me, before switching back to the disco-inspired Dua Lipa album I had been listening to. She won what would be the last ever female category at the Brits Award 2020. Her influences are Prince, Outkast and Gwen Stefani when she was with No Doubt.

Our Proms is a good way of getting introduced to music that we may not normally listen to, with all sorts of genres being played throughout the festival. It may be worth checking out Tim Samsara and Harry Synge this summer if you've never been to a dance party. Or, if you'd prefer a heavier sound, then supporting band Dawn 'til Dusk are playing rockier songs on the Final Night. Open Mic Night is always a great way to listen to a variety of musicians in an informal setting. There is classical music out there too including the popular Young Musicians concert at Barcheston and also an event to showcase new musicians. More details in next month's Forum.

Hopefully, people will be able to make the most of the Proms as there is a great deal of music to be heard on our doorstep. Please keep the dates free 10-25th June, go and attend at least one event you've never been to before.....and let us know what you think!



From the mean streets to the E-street...

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA

u3a

Registered Charity No 1170969

TUESDAY 25 JANUARY, 2022
2 pm TOWNSEND HALL



'Hard Times' (detail) by Hubert von Herkomer, 1885. (Manchester Art Gallery)

'NO PLACE TO CALL HOME'
WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE
SHIPSTON UNION WORKHOUSE
A talk by Maggie Wood

In the late 1880s, a young woman called Mabel Hyatt was admitted to the Shipston Union Workhouse, where she stayed for nearly 20 years. Using various sources, Maggie has pieced together Mabel's story, and those of fellow inmates, to provide a fascinating account of lives long vanished from living memory.

Visitors are welcome
Entry including refreshments £2

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA

u3a

Registered Charity No 1170969

TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 2022
2 pm TOWNSEND HALL



@AdrianJames

"HEAVENLY BEAUTY,
EARTHLY DELIGHT –
GARDENS OF PARADISE"
A talk by Adrian James

This talk describes the history, design and symbolism of Persian/Islamic/Mughul style gardens using examples from Iran, Morocco, India, Spain and also the UK. Why these gardens are laid out as they are and how they were spread throughout the world, finally showing wonderful examples of Persian style gardens in various countries as well as in the UK.

Visitors are welcome
Entry including refreshments £2



Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge

New health & wellbeing opportunities brought to you by the Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership in partnership with Sport England and L&Q

For further information and to book please email:

juliareeves@everyoneactive.com or call 07514492468

Activity	Day	Time	Location
Seated Exercise Class	Tuesday	10:00am	Townsend Hall
Working From Home Health Walk	Tuesday	12:00pm	Shipston Town Council
New Age Kurling	Wednesday	2:00pm	Townsend Hall
Board Games Social Afternoon	Friday	2.30pm	The Coach & Horses

Activities to start W/C 3rd January 2022



Everyone Active manages these facilities in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council.



The Befriending Service

I have an elderly person in your area who is feeling lonely and isolated.

Would you like to visit or telephone this person by becoming a volunteer?

The Befriending Service helps and supports individuals to live independently by providing regular contact to help reduce any loneliness and social isolation. That is why our befriending volunteers are so important. Regular contact from a volunteer really can make a big difference to older people's lives.

Please get in touch by calling
01926 458113 / 07436 108173 or emailing
Befriending@ageukcovwarks.org.uk

Please note all Volunteers will require a police check at no cost to you and will require references.

FREE home energy check

We work with you to find the best ways to keep your home warm and save money, helping with energy bills, low cost energy measures, insulation or heating grants.

“Nobody has done anything like this before for me. My oil boiler broke as I couldn't afford to fill it. Now I've got a new gas connection and boiler and can't believe the difference it has made to my life”, Pat.

Contact us if anyone in your house has a health condition made worse by living in a cold home, such as:

- Age (elderly or young children)
- Health (breathing or circulatory problems)
- Disability or Mental Wellbeing
- Low Income or can't afford to stay warm.



call or email us

0800 988 2881

advice@actonenergy.org.uk



0800 988 2881
advice@actonenergy.org.uk
www.actonenergy.org.uk



Act on Energy is supported by local authorities and other organisations and is a registered charity (registration number 1075679) and a company limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales number 3621022). The registered office is Unit 1.4 Lauriston Business Park, Pitchill, Salford Priors, Warwickshire WR11 8SN

Shipston Primary School

Shipston On Stour Primary School



Micky or Mr Cornock as the pupils knew him, was a huge part of Shipston Primary School. Micky was our caretaker, which is the perfect word to describe him, really, because that's what he always did for us, for everyone: he took care of us. He dedicated 21 years of his life to our school and was a colleague but most importantly, our friend.

When I first took post as Shipston Primary's headteacher in 2009, Micky was not the caretaker at the time as he was recovering from an operation on his knee. After his rehabilitation, I met Micky and got to know him and his knee very well indeed - I would have almost daily updates where he would roll his trouser leg up to show me his scar! I was convinced right from the start that he loved his job, he was proud of our school and would do anything to help.

Micky was a stickler for the rules but his heart was always in the right place to ensure our school was safe, smart and secure. 'Wipe your feet! No scooting on the playground', 'Do you want your windows closed?' were familiar phrases throughout the school. He always had a bag of sweets, which he would happily share with all the staff. The last message he sent via our staff group chat was after a late virtual Parent's Evening ... 'Watch out - it's foggy out there. Drive Safely', having taken the time to wipe our car headlights for all our journeys home. He couldn't help but show his kindness and serve to help keep us safe.

On snowy and frosty mornings, he would always phone me without fail between 5am and 6am to give me an update on the weather conditions and what he thought we should do. He was in his element in an emergency - in school extra early to clear snow from the paths and playground, to grit the driveway and car park to give us the best chance to open. In torrential rain, he would put on his trawlerman outfit to clear the drains so that we wouldn't be flooded.

Mr. Roberts, our Head of School, will particularly remember Micky every Autumn as that is when he would always grumble about the leaves falling off the trees and moan about why they either couldn't just stay on the trees or why somebody couldn't invent a huge net to spread under every tree and catch them all. He would moan so much that anyone listening could begin to think that he hated his job. Then he would spend hours with his brush and blower ensuring that everywhere was tidied up.

When he slept in school during our Year 4 campouts, it was because he cared. When he would leave people a cup of coffee on their desk, it was because he cared. And

that's why we always knew that he would be there when we needed him (and often before we realised that we did). When we took the school for Harvest, Christmas and Easter services at St. Edmund's or anywhere else in town, Micky would be there to help us cross the road, to ensure that there was space for the coach to park after a school trip, that we could rely on him to make us smile.

He loved his family and would often speak about his Mum and how amazing she was with all her knitting and sewing of face masks to raise money for charity. She has raised thousands of pounds for the Air Ambulance. He was very proud of her.

Micky loved sport. He was a big supporter of Shipston Cricket Club and Shipston Rugby Club. He enjoyed going to Brandon to watch the Coventry Bees speedway team and would often come to find me at halftime, with the chance that I might buy him a pint! He also was a big Chelsea fan. An ex-parent at Shipston Primary School contacted Chelsea Football Club about Micky and the school received a letter from the club captain - Cesar Azpilicueta. The parent wanted to bring a little light to all those affected and do something nice for Micky.

Micky would always stop for a chat and ask how you were doing? He knew that can be quite stressful being a teacher and he'd always be a listening ear and make you smile. Micky would quite often ask for some feedback - have I done well this week? Well, Micky, you have - you've set an example to us all about commitment, loyalty, service and kindness.

Above all, though, he wanted Shipston, our town, his home, to be the best place that it could be. He loved living here and took pride in any and every success that anyone in town had. And he always knew how every sports team had done over the weekend. If we want to remember and honour our friend, let's all do our very best to make his wish come true. Let's make Shipston the kindest place we can make it. Let's do whatever we can to make others' lives that bit happier, that bit safer. Let's care for each other, just as Micky always did for us.

Micky, thank you for all you did for our school and our town. We know school will never be the same. The school corridors seem empty without you. You will be sorely missed and never forgotten.

Christian Hilton,
Executive Headteacher



Below is a poem that Mr. Roberts, Head of School, read to the children and staff at the Primary School in the first (virtual) assembly after Mr. Cornock's passing:

I KNOW WHAT I'M MISSING

By James Fenton

It's a birdcall from the treeline.
I hear it every day.

It's the loveliest of the songbirds
And I'm glad it comes this week.
And I stop to listen
And forget what I've to do
And I know what I'm missing -
My friend
My friend.

It's a fluttering in the palm fronds
With a flash of black and gold.
It's the whistling of the oriole
And its beauty turns me cold
And I stop to listen
And forget what I've to do
And I know what I'm missing -
My friend
My friend.

Do you wonder if I'll remember?
Do you wonder where I'll be?
I'll be home again next winter
And I hope you'll write to me.
When the branches glisten
And the frost is on the avenue
I'll know what I'm missing -
My friend
My friend
I'm missing you.

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 2022. 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. Covid-19 restrictions created some limits to our usual events, but Christmas spirit prevailed through the enjoyable run up to the break. Students across the school supported the Save the Children charity Christmas Jumper Day on 10th December, wearing a variety of festive and imaginative jumpers. Students also wore festive accessories for the final two days of term, providing a welcome and warm atmosphere in school, in contrast to the December weather!

Christmas lunch was served to hundreds of students in the final week of term. This was thanks to the hard work and commitment

of our catering team, who did a magnificent job. Well done to all involved.

Creativity has been evident all over the school, with students in art leading the way. Students created Christmas themed decorations using jars, craft items and natural sprigs and cones. The decorations looked very impressive, with the focus here on the wellbeing and therapeutic benefits of craft and creativity as an antidote to busy lives. Students clearly enjoyed this task and produced some attractive decorations for the season.

Finally for Christmas, it was lovely that students and staff involved with our choir were able to entertain residents at Low Furlong with some Christmas songs. All suitable precautions were taken to enable residents to hear the children sing which is a lovely, shared community activity at this time of year.

As we enter the New Year, all students will be focussed 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 May. 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.

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 2022.

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher



Reader Letter from Paul Kelly

Dear Sir,

It is with some concern and sadness that I read in your December edition of the division between Shipston Youth Club and Shipston High School. The Youth Club originally lost County Council funding due to severe government cuts at that time but thankfully survived due to volunteer support and assistance with accommodation from the school authorities. The school now argues that expansion requires it to maximise its "functional space" and in order to provide continuing education it can no longer host the Youth Club. Despite best efforts suitable alternative accommodation has so far not been found in Shipston. Meanwhile our county councillor assures us the Youth Club is getting back up and running," so that's alright then!

The Youth Club needs a large room to meet, ideally a hall or gym for indoor games and an outdoor area for summer activities, plus some storage and toilet facilities. The High School surely has all of these, funded by the taxpayer, and often unused during evenings, weekends and school holidays. It seems a sorry state of affairs that these valuable community facilities cannot be shared with Youth Club members, most of whom are the very same students that attend the High School. No doubt there are issues of finance, supervision and coordination but surely we should be able to resolve these amicably and set an example for our young people? Is it too much to hope that the Governors of the High School, the Trustees/Governors of the Youth Club, County Councillors together with Shipston Town Councillors between them cannot arrive at a suitable resolution?

When Shipston is expanding and young people nationally are increasingly being threatened by street violence, drugs, online abuse, physical and mental health issues, it is no time to withdraw vital support. I have seen the enjoyment and value youngsters from Shipston and surrounding villages have derived from the activities of the Youth Club, to lose these at this time would be an indictment of us all.

District Council update

This momentous week has seen the biggest decision we've taken as a council for 50 years. After months of discussion and reorganisation of our heads of service – Stratford and Warwick District Councils have voted to begin the merger process. The Secretary of State will get a formal letter asking for permission, from us, before Christmas. It is likely that we will get the go-ahead – but we are working hard to merge and rationalise services between the districts. As a super-district we will be more resilient to the changes in local government financing and will play a bigger part on the regional stage. In our area, we have car companies, technological research and engineering as well as our amazing culture and hospitality sectors. We want to support companies to come here – so we can all prosper. As a Cabinet member this year has been very hard work – with covid lurking all the time as well – but I am really excited at the progress we can make together with Warwick – and the work will only get harder!

Just as an addendum – although people worry about council tax harmonisation – it turns out that we in the parishes and towns of Stratford District Council actually pay more than Warwick District Council residents – due to the extra precepts!

PS – people are asking about surgeries again – I am happy to do them on a Saturday morning – on weeks I am not at Foodbank. Does that work for people? I'll put it on the Shipston Noticeboard.

Jo Barker, District Councillor, Shipston South
07748 968712 | jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Jo Barker and Trevor Harvey take it in turns to write this column



County Council update

As many of you know, I am a trustee of Shipston Youth Club. What a frustrating couple of years it has been! I am so sorry to those of you who needed us – we are still here for you – and an incredible number of local people support the club. When the Youth Service shut up shop in Warwickshire – the YC stepped in and the community rallied around. The club building on the school site was just what was needed. Sadly the current head needs the space so it can no longer be used (I can't say more as it would be unpublishable – but you get my meaning).

So we had to find another venue.....the Childrens' Centre seemed ideal! At this point, it seemed simple! First, we needed a licence to use the building, then we had to comply with ever-changing covid regulations.....then everything stalled.....I applied a gentle kick to the County Council and we made some progress. Then we went around this – I kid you not – another 3 times – permission, licence, keys, start date. Finally, my kicks got a bit harder and hurray – we have keys and can go in and offer the YC what we've been trying to deliver for many months! I write this, as I know that being a County Councillor and able to phone the head of legal (with whom I have a good relationship) to get things moving was the only way this was going to happen. She and I have both been perplexed by the many dropped balls on this – but we've got there. The lesson for me is to use the relationships I've built – for all our good.

Happy Christmas and a brighter New Year 2022!

Jo Barker, County Councillor, Shipston
07748 968712 | jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Shipston Medical Centre

Medical Centre t: 01608 661845

What will you need in 2022?

The new year can be an opportunity for change, whether you are looking to tackle existing issues or to develop new habits, some of the services below may be able to help:

- Would you like to give up **smoking**? Contact the surgery for information and advice on how to quit 01608 1845
- Are you caring for someone? The **Carers** Trust can offer support and advice – https://www.carerstrusthove.org.uk/help_and_advice/category/main/warwickshire/
- Living with **dementia**? Support for those diagnosed and their families locally through Dementia connect 033 150 3456
- Worried about your **drinking** or **drug** use? Contact Change Grow Live on 01926 353 513
- Help following **sexual assault**, recent or historical, call the Blue Sky Centre confidentially on 0800 970 0370, helpline open 24/7
- If you know someone affected by **domestic abuse** Freephone 0800 408 1552, www.talk2someone.org.uk
- Do you need **mental health** support? IAPT is a service for people feeling stressed, anxious or depressed – 024 7667 1090, <https://www.healthymindservice.com/> or there is the Mental Health Matters 24hour helpline - 0800 616171, available 24/7
- Worried about a **vulnerable adult**? Call 01926 412080, and choose the adult social care option; worried about a **child's safety**? Call 01926 414144
- Need advice on **healthy eating**? Have a look at <https://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/preventing-heart-disease/>

[healthy-eating.](#)

- Want to be more **active**? <https://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/preventing-heart-disease/staying-active>



Shipston Medical Centre

If you are not sure where to turn for information and advice please try the services above, or make an appointment with one of our doctors or nurses. There are other services that may be able to help.

Your Town Councillors


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Finance Working Group Chair

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 e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org

Marianne Westwood, Deputy Mayor

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Ronnie Murphy

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Gerry Kelly
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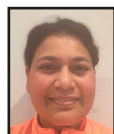
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Tony Booth

 e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org

Shirley Madams

 e: shirley.madams@shipstontowncouncil.org

Vacancy

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	01295 788655
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
Churches of Shipston:	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01295 257193

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

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


Something exciting to share?

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

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

Forum copy deadline:
Second Monday 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.

While every effort is made to ensure information is accurate, the Town Council and its contractors do not accept responsibility for material submitted by readers or third parties and does not endorse any organisation or event publicised. Contributions may be edited to fit available space.

Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society
present

Treasure Island



a pantomime by Tony Bradford and Tina Webster

Townsend Hall
Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour
7.30 pm
(Saturday Matinee 2.30 pm)

Thursday 3rd, Friday 4th and Saturday 5th February 2022

Tickets available from John Lyne Home Hardware, High Street,
Shipston-on-Stour or on the door

'ahoy mateys!'