



Shipston Forum

shipstontowncouncil.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



January 2023

Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service

Have you ever thought about becoming an on-call firefighter?

We need the residents of Warwickshire to support us by considering taking on this role. On-call firefighters are essential to ensuring we can continue to protect our communities.

Anyone looking to learn more is invited to attend our on-call online Q&A session taking place 10 January 2023 at 7pm: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/on-call-firefighter-qa-session-tickets-466252322247>



Donnington Road Festive Lights

This fantastic festive lights show was found on Donnington Road in the lead-up to Christmas last month. Mr Raymond Luker produces awe inspiring lights shows year after year attracting local residents and visitors alike.



Food Safety

Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service is supporting 'SafeFoodHacks', a campaign to provide consumers with advice on how to make food go further, without compromising on safety.

Launched by the Food Standards Agency, the campaign is a response to a growing number of people who are saying they are taking food safety risks because of money pressures and rising energy costs.

For more advice visit: <https://www.food.gov.uk/consumer-advice/food-safety-advice>

Rotary Victorian Evening

See page 3 to read about the success of Shipstons first Rotary Victorian evening in 3 years.



Corn Mill Meadows

Dear Readers,

Our Local Wildlife Site is going to need some work to enhance it over the next few years. We would like to plant a new native species hedge to support butterflies, other pollinators, and bird life. We would like to help the High School install study tables in different areas of the Meadows. We wish to deal with some troublesome creeping thistle in the North Meadow prior to sowing wildflower seeds. We would particularly like to build up a group of residents who would support us in these activities, So, would you like to become a 'friend of the Meadows'? If you are interested in wildlife and would like to promote biodiversity, then please get in touch with me.

John Dinnie

Contact details on the back page.



Mayor's column

Hello Shipston.

Only a few days until Christmas now and we have very festive weather already.

We've had lots of people asking about slippery paths and roads. We have passed on your concerns to WCC and SDC as they have the control of roads and pavements.

I was very lucky to be able to attend the Rotary Victorian evening. It was lovely to see so many of you there. I've really missed this event as it always sets me up for Christmas. The tree and the town lights look beautiful.

The Primary School choir and the town band did us proud. There was a very kind and festive atmosphere.

I also opened the Christmas fair at Shipston Lodge with Marion Lowe our wonderful Town Crier. This event was supported by the Stour Valley Lions. I gather that this is now going to be a regular event each year. Both events are great opportunities to find unique presents. I have heard that Low Furlong Christmas Fete was also a huge success.

I'm very much looking forward to the Carol service on the 18th of December at 6.30pm. I hope to see many of you there. I will also be at the Longest Night Service on the 21st at 7.00pm. This is a service designed to support those people who, for whatever reason, find Christmas difficult.

I'm hoping that this cold weather will kill off some of the viruses that are in circulation. The numbers of reported cases of Covid have risen very high again. I know there are people in Shipston who are still in isolation from Covid because of medical advice. If you know anyone in a situation like this please keep them in mind over the festive period.

We now have a new warm hub opened at St. Edmunds Church. It's open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11-4. I know both warm hubs are very happy for people to wear masks.

Stay warm and safe.

Cllr. Marianne Westwood
My pronouns are she/her

Mayor, Shipston Town Council

Q&A with Rebecca, on-call at Bidford Fire Station

When did you join Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service and what made you decide to become an on-call firefighter?

I became an on-call firefighter in June 2022. As a mum of two boys, aged 5 and 2, inwards them to grow up knowing that if you put your mind to something, anything is possible. I also wanted to instil in them the importance of looking after others.

Do you have a main job or other commitment alongside being on-call? How do the two work together?

I am an accounts manager for a nursing agency in Stratford for my main job. I work 5 days a week but do two days from home. My employer is fantastic and allows me to be on call when I'm working from home. I also give time to the fire service during the night and on some weekends.

What does being an on-call firefighter involve? Provide an overview of an average call-out.

It's difficult to say what an average call out looks like. It's such a varied role, from school visits, barn fires, rescues from height. No shout is ever the same which means the job is always interesting and every shout teaches me something new.

What's the best part about being on-call?

The best part about being on call is that I still have my main office job but that I can also use my practical skills whilst being on call. Warwickshire fire and rescue is like one big family so coming to the station feels like coming home.

What has been the biggest challenge since you joined the service?

I think my biggest perceived challenge was being the only female at my station. This, in fact, has not been a challenge at all. Everyone has made me so welcome and I truly feel part of the team.

What do your friends and family think of you being in this role? Is there anyone who's particularly proud of you?

My children love the fact that their mummy is a firefighter!

What would you say to anyone thinking of becoming an on-call firefighter?

I would say that if someone is thinking of becoming an on call firefighter to go for it! It's one of the best things I've ever done!



Fire and Rescue Information Sessions

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are also running an online information session on January 10th between 19:00 - 20:00. The session will detail the role and responsibilities of a firefighter, and will explain the recruitment process in more detail – all are welcome to join.

Follow this link to sign up: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/on-call-firefighter-qa-session-tickets-466252322247>

News from Shipston Town Council's December meeting

Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held 14th November 2022 were approved by councillors.

Victorian Evening

Mayor Marianne Westwood would like to offer thanks to Shipston Primary School and Shipston Town Band for a very successful and enjoyable Victorian Evening.

Christmas Concert

Councillor Ian Cooper would like to congratulate Shipston Town Band for the excellent Christmas Concert.

Longest Night Service

Councillor Sarah Beckett reinforced the social hardships people face around Christmas. The 'Longest Night' service at St Edmunds on 21st December was brought up, and Councillor Beckett wondered whether an online element could be introduced to aid those unable to attend in person.

Voter ID

The hotly contested issue of voter ID had been debated at the recent District Council meeting. District Councillor Trevor Harvey asked the Town Council to further inform residents of Shipston around their voting rights and voting procedures.

Warwickshire County Council

County Councillor Jo Barker was absent from this meeting due to recent illness.

Blue Light

Residents are encouraged to attend training sessions and learn more about the safe use of defibrillators after the recent new installation in Shipston.

Ellen Badger

Councillor John Dinnie informed the Town Council that Danielle Oum from the Integrated Care Board is willing to meet and discuss issues surrounding the new Ellen Badger medical centre. The closed meeting will take place on February 16th 2023.

Health and Wellbeing

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership weekly events will return at the Scout Hut (New Street, CV36 4EW) from Thursday 5th January to 30th March 2023.

Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG)

It has been reported that November 2022 was the fifth wettest month over the past three years. A recommendation was put forward to create a working group to aid with Stour River remodelling efforts.

General Purposes Working Group

The inscription of Linda and Micky Cornock's plaque was settled amongst councillors with recommendations from those close to the couple. The plaque is in recognition of their devoted and sorely missed service to Shipston. Other issues within the scope of general purposes are still being actively pursued.

Staffing Working Group

The council voted in favour of adopting the Civility and Respect pledge.

Next meeting will be on 9th January 2023 at 19:00



Victorian Evening in Shipston

The Rotary Victorian Evening was the first in three years. The children sang beautifully, Santa arrived on time and, from the feedback Rotary has received, everyone had a fantastic evening.



There were many really lovely shop-window displays throughout the town. The judges reported that they had great difficulty picking the best.

The mood would not continue. On the first two nights of the Santa Runs, the "sleigh" had mechanical problems which even Santa could not fix. Santa and his helpers walked the two routes for those evenings. Then there was heavy snow followed by freezing conditions. The "sleigh" was difficult to control on the back roads and Santa and his helpers risked breaking limbs, or worse, on the icy surfaces. Rotary was really sorry to have to cancel the runs and know how

disappointed the children must have been.

Santa did appear in the Town Square on the 17th December and, hopefully, the children who had missed him earlier were able to pass on their Christmas wishes.

The Rotary Club of Shipston-on-Stour would like to thank all their sponsors and residents who supported their events over the season. Without such assistance and support, these events would not happen. Rotary would like to wish everyone a happy New Year.



Regular Events

Monday

Seated Exercise Class:

10am Rainbow Fields and 11am Townsend Hall

IT Help!:

10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:

6:50pm for a 7pm start.

The Church Room, Darlingscote Road,
Contact Matthew Hunter: 01608 684499

Tuesday

Rhyme Time:

10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café:

Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm

Lego Club:

Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Wednesday

Dementia Friendly Café:

10.30am-12.30pm, Shipston Lodge

New Age Kurling:

2pm, Townsend Hall

Seated Tai Chi:

9.30am-10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Thursday

Story stomp:

10am, Shipston Library

Scrabble Club:

2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

Stour Singers:

Rehearsals, 7.30pm at Shipston Primary School.

Sept 2022 through May 2023.

Contact Gayle Burch, 01926 642204

Shipston Winter Warm Hub:

9am-1pm, The Scout Hut, New Street.

Every Thurs till end of March (except 29 Dec)

Friday

Pilates for Complete Beginners:

9.30am Townsend Hall

Walks with a friendly group:

10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616

Shipston Stitchers:

Every fortnight at The Church Room, Darlingscote Road.

Contact Anita Spencer on 01993 832665

Board Games Social Afternoon:

Fortnightly 2pm Rainbow Fields

Saturday

Lego Club:

Shipston Library. From 10am.

What's On Calendar

January 2023

- 3 **Shipston Library Reading Group:** 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.
- 4 **Shipston Widows:** Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
Shipston on Stour WI: Shakespeare and Me. Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary on 01608 664519
- 7 **Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment provided.
- 10 **Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN):** Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, 10am for free refreshments, 10.30am start. Scams & how to avoid them with Ian King, Design Out Crime Officer (Warwickshire Police). SCAN is free to attend and all are welcome. Contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108 or marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk See ad on page 7.
- 12 **The Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch:** Committee Meeting, location TBC. If you would like to know more, become a Committee member or a member of the Branch call or message the Branch Secretary Alex Black on 07789 968733 or email alblack32@hotmail.com
- 13 **Stour Valley Lions' Cinema:** see ad on page 11.
- 18 **Shipston Widows:** Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am - 12pm, The White Bear. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
Singing Down Memory Lane: 2pm-3.30pm, Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston. Refreshments provided. We may be able to help with transport. Contact Barbara Smith 01608 662433.
- 20 **Royal British Legion Social Evening - Shipston Branch:** Every third Friday of the month from 7.30pm in the White Bear Inn. Come and join like-minded people to share a beer, chat/ reminisce and swing the lamp. If you would like to know more call or message the Branch Secretary Alex Black on 07789 968733/alblack32@hotmail.com. Please check the noticeboard in the Bury in case of any changes.
- 24 **Shipston U3A:** see ad on page 7.
- 25 **Shipston and District Literary Society:** Ginny Davis - What Lies Beneath The Surface. Meetings are held at the White Hart Inn, Newbold on Stour at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5. Contact Helen Marshall 01789 740773
- 26 **Local Quaker Meeting for Worship:** St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

Shipston – on – Stour Music Society

November recital

In November we met for a pianistic treat by not one, but two, superb exponents of the piano. Lynn Arnold and Charles Matthews have both performed for us on previous occasions but not together so we were all expecting a really exciting evening of music from “Two Hands”. They certainly did not disappoint.

Lynn studied at Cambridge University where she held a celebrated Instrumental Award, followed by further study at the Royal Academy of Music where she won various competitions including the prestigious Sir Henry Richardson Award from the Musicians Benevolent Fund. Lynn is on the staff of the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department and is a member of the ABRSM grade examining panel.

Charles studied at the Royal College of Music in London and was an organ scholar at Trinity College, Cambridge. He has won numerous awards including the first prize in the Franz Liszt Interpretation Competition in Budapest. Charles is organist of St. Catharine's Church, Chipping Campden and also enjoys working with young people at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as piano accompanist and organ tutor. He recently became Musical Director of the Chipping Campden Festival Chorus and is the Patron of Shipston Music Society.

The first half of the programme celebrated the 150 years since the birth of Ralph Vaughan Williams and began with the Minuet from his “Suite for Four Hands on one piano” followed

by an arrangement by Archibald Jacob of the “London Symphony”. This work, portraying the sights and sounds as the morning mists rise and the city gradually comes to life, is a challenge but Lynn and Charles had no problem conveying the serenity of the scene.

After the interval we heard a very lively performance of Schubert's Rondo in A major followed by the Allegro, Barcarolle, and Moto Perpetuo from Suite No.2 Op 71 by York Bowen. He was a well-known pianist and composer, born in London in 1884, with a prolific output of orchestral and instrumental music. After the First World War however, his popularity began to fade and he died in November 1961.

To bring the evening to a close Lynn and Charles chose music by Dvorak – a Czech composer of Romantic music. The idioms of the folk music of Moravia and his native Bohemia can be heard in Slavonic Dance Op 46 “Tempo di Minuetto”, “Silent Woods” Op68 No5 and Slavonic Dance Op46 “Presto”. As with every piece performed earlier, the playing of Lynn and Charles was superb; their phrasing and interpretation brought the music alive, the clarity of the very fast sections was breathtaking and their synchronisation was “out of this world”. What a wonderful evening.

In December there is the Christmas Lunch after which we meet again on 17th February 2023 at 7.30pm to meet the Blockley Blokes. We do hope to see you there (with lots of friends!) for what promises to be a very entertaining evening.



Shipston Town Band

The Town Band has had a busy start to the Christmas season. After playing for the switching on of the Christmas Lights in Wellesbourne, they played for the Victorian Evening in Shipston where they started the evening off playing for carols with the Junior School Choir before entertaining the crowds with a variety of Christmas tunes.

Saturday saw the band return to Wellesbourne where they entertained the shoppers at Sainsbury's Supermarket. The highlight so far was the band's Christmas Concert at the Townsend Hall on Sunday. They were joined by the Junior band conducted Stephanie Wilson and the event held for the first time in the afternoon was a tremendous success with every seat taken. This as usual was the first of many events for the band in the run up to Christmas with carolling round the streets, visits on Christmas morning Christmas Carols at St Edmunds and carols by all the bands in the Square on Christmas Eve.



Shipston Rotary Draw

| | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| First Prize | £ 57.50 winner No.40 |
| Second Prize | £ 34.50 winner No.55 |
| Third Prize | £ 23.00 winner No.12 |

Congratulations to the winners.



Shipston Proms

At our last meeting of 2022, it was wonderful to welcome another three people to our committee, Rachel Watkins, Anne Sayers and Richard Martin, to help with the planning of next year's festival. We also met Joe McRoberts too, who was unable to join us last month. It is great to have them all on board.

Still in the infancy stage of ideas, we had a lively meeting at the White Bear talking about, amongst other things, possible bands for the Final Night, workshops, suggestions for new Friends, and which venues would be taking part again.

Some definite bookings have been made and that means Clearsound will again be in charge of the great quality of sound on the Final Night and the Townsend Hall has been booked for the launch night.

Our sponsors are invaluable for keeping the Proms going, and we are always so thankful of the support of local businesses.

If your business would like to sponsor this incredible, local event of a fortnight of music in and around Shipston then please do get in touch and then we can send you all the details.

Our contact details, as always are www.shipston.org or find us on our Facebook page.

The dates of the 2023 Shipston Proms are 17th June to 1st July.



Rotary report re Hardiman Fields

Hardiman Fields is a beautifully kept five acre area by the river at the south end of the town.

The field was acquired by Warwickshire Guides in 1984 as the result of a very generous bequest. The Guides make very good use of the field and, subject to certain conditions, they make it available for use by youth groups in the area.

There are two huts and a toilet/shower block.

The shower block needs an up to date heating system and metering system that will work more efficiently and minimise cost.

The cost of installing the system will be about £5,000 and it is hoped to be in place by the start of next season, May 2023.

The photo shows Shipston Rotary Treasurer, Tony Joint, presenting Rotary's contribution, £1,500, to Bridget Halpin, chair of Hardiman Fields. Also in the photo are two representatives of Warwickshire Guides who attended the cheque presentation.



Poppy Appeal

The 2022 Poppy Appeal total is £14,389.99. This is an incredible and frankly humbling total, given that there is a cost-of-living crisis going on. Huge thanks are due to all who generously supported the Appeal in Shipston Barcheston, Brailes, Burmington, Cherington, Darlingscott, Stretton, Sutton under Brailes, Tidmington, Willington and Winderton. Thanks also go to our fabulous team of collectors, without them we'd be nowhere.

While we have covered off most of Shipston's new developments, current collectors do occasionally stand down and so there are always patches available if you fancy having a go. Being a collector is both rewarding and enjoyable so, before the memory of this year's Appeal fades, please consider becoming a collector next year.

Contact Poppy Appeal Organiser Sharon Harcourt on poppyappealsosrb@gmail.com or on 07790 308548



Rubbish people

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the monthly litter pick in Shipston over the past year. The next get-together will be on January 7th, 10am outside New Clark House, and we are pleased to say refreshments will be served afterwards in the council chamber upstairs. All welcome.

Shipston Link

The Shipston Link runs a monthly Private Hire shopping trip to Morrisons in Stratford. The link always runs on the first Monday of the month excluding Bank Holidays. Passenger numbers are dwindling and three or four new folk are invited to join. Morrisons in Stratford is a large supermarket where the low prices more than cover the very modest cost of travelling.

For further information and to join call Caroline Bartlett on 07814379422 or the driver Richard Adams on 07961452182.

Stratford Shop Owner Sold Alcohol to Under 18s

A Stratford upon Avon shop owner who sold alcohol to under 18s has been successfully prosecuted by Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards.

Mr Harvinder Singh Sohal (aged 48 of Le More Sutton Coldfield), who runs Hathaway Green Stores, Alcester Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, sold four cans of Thatchers Gold Cider to two under 18's in March 2022.

For more information visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3658/stratford-shop-owner-sold-alcohol-to-under-18s>

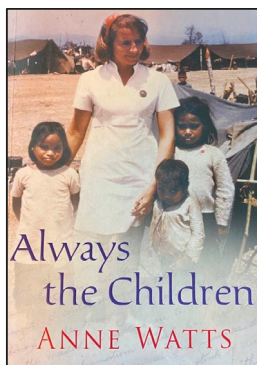
- To make a consumer complaint, obtain consumer help and advice or report an issue to Trading Standards, please contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0800 223 1133.
- For consumer or business help and advice, including details of our approved trader scheme, please visit our website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards>

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA

u3a

Registered Charity No 1170969

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY, 2023
2 pm TOWNSEND HALL



NURSING: MY PASSPORT TO THE WORLD
AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY ANNE WATTS

Anne's nursing career has taken her to war zones, displaced persons camps, hospitals and trauma units, experiencing life at the sharp end; from the frozen tundra of the Canadian Arctic and the burning deserts of Arabia. Opening our minds to the fundamental humanity and connectedness and into other peoples' reality in this world of ours. Much of her talk will focus on Vietnam and Cambodia – fascinating stuff!

Visitors are welcome
Entry including refreshments £2

scan

SENIOR CITIZENS
ACTION NETWORK

SHIPSTON ON STOUR and surrounding
communities

**Shipston SCAN invites you to its next
meeting on**

Tuesday 10th January

Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston

10.00am for free refreshments / 10.30am start

**Scams & how to avoid them with
Ian King, Design Out Crime
Officer (Warwickshire Police)**

Please DO NOT attend if you feel unwell

If you require transport to attend the SCAN meeting, VASA may be able to help with a door to door volunteer car. Mileage costs payable. Tel: 01789 262889 or

Email: transport@vasa.org.uk

scan

SENIOR CITIZENS
ACTION NETWORK

Shipston SCAN

Proposed Meetings

Programme 2023

Shipston SCAN provides information on services and support available to older people in **Shipston-on-Stour and surrounding villages**. SCAN is responsive to the needs of members - arranging information and speakers as requested & aiming to keep members updated on local issues.

Meetings take place in Townsend Hall, Sheep Street. Free refreshments are served from 10am and the talks begin at 10:30am. Meetings are open to anyone 50+ and are free to attend. Come along and see what we do.

- **Tues 10 January** – Scams & how to avoid them with Ian King, Design Out Crime Officer, Warwickshire Police
- **Tues 14 March** – Update on Ellen Badger Development
- **Tues 9 May** – Public Transport with Warwickshire County Council Transport Operations & Stagecoach representatives
- **Tues 11 July** – Shipston Community First Responders
- **Tues 12 September** – Speaker TBC
- **Tues 14 November** – AGM / Speaker TBC

Contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108 for more information.

SHIPSTON TOWN BAND

WE NEED YOU!

There has never been a more exciting time to join **Shipston Town Band**. We're always happy to hear from any brass players or percussionists interested in joining us on any instrument but we would particularly like to hear from those who could fill the following seats:

Soprano Cornet **E♭ & B♭ Bass** **Percussion (Kit & Tuned)**

GET IN TOUCH

07784300943 or 01789 269 032
 info@shipstontownband.co.uk
 www.shipstontownband.co.uk
 The Bandroom, New Street
 Shipston on Stour, CV36 4QR

Shipston Probus: The Woodland Trust

According to the Woodland Trust (WT), volunteer workers are “passionate and committed people who work here (and) are the roots of everything we do as the UK’s largest woodland conservation charity”. Liz Taylor amply demonstrated the truth of this assertion via a well-illustrated and stimulating presentation to Probus members.

The Woodland Trust started in 1972 when founder Ken Watkins and friends got together at his Devon home to discuss the plight of ancient woods. Our trees and woods continue to face a challenging combination of pressures, from climate change, human interference, pests and diseases. Currently woodland covers a mere 13% of the UK, compared to 40% in the EU. The WT aims to create new woodland, protect existing and restore former woodland.

Trees are integral to the natural environment, for example the hazel dormouse is a rare species requiring special living conditions. Working with a gravel company, the WT ensured a new access road through woodland included an overhead ‘dormouse motorway’ made up of chicken wire and grass slung between trees ensuring the dormouse could continue to thrive, and the gravel company could boast their green credentials!

Recent research has shown the importance of fungi in maintaining a healthy woodland ecosystem. Our ancient woodlands contain unique forms of fungi, whose root system or mycelia, spread underground and are essential to aid the decomposition of old wood and the development of fertile soils. Amazingly trees can communicate via mycelia, giving warning messages to neighbouring trees of impending attack by pests and diseases. At least 12 diseases have been imported into the UK in recent years. The most notorious Ash Dieback, brought from Hungary, so far with no cure, and Dutch Elm Disease is now showing some evidence of immunity. If you intend to plant a tree do make sure it is grown in this country and free from disease!

Man has destroyed trees and woods ever since he first set foot on these islands, the latest being HS2, responsible for the destruction of 140 woods. But all is not lost! The vision of the Wildlife Trust is a world where woods and trees thrive for people and nature alike. They have planted more than five million trees and now own more than 1,100 woods; nearest to Shipston are Kingstree wood, Kineton, and a small one, Flowers Wood, Ilmington.

Guests and new members to Shipston Probus are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

A group of the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides attended the Remembrance Parade on the 13th November and again on Saturday 19th November. They did a Children in Need ‘danceathon’ where they danced for 2 hours and raised over £400! That week they also took part in parliament week and the Brownies/Guides painted rocks with positive messages on and placed around Shipston for people to find. Lastly, the girls were all given smarties to take home and eat – they then used the empty tubes for cash collections which we returned and used to purchase items for the food bank.



Shipston Literary Society

Just when you thought you’d heard every variation on things Shakespeare that there is, Shipston And District Literary Society comes up with a surprise.

The speaker was Dr Roger Pringle and the subject of his talk was Thomas Hardy, Stratford and Shakespeare. What was it that linked these three things?

Some people may know of Hardy’s poem To Shakespeare – After Three Hundred Years, written in 1916 to mark the anniversary of the bard’s death. Others may be aware that Hardy’s lifelong love of Shakespeare’s work started at least at the age of 13. So far so unremarkable for a major writer of our times.

Dr Pringle, always a hugely popular speaker on the Literary Society’s varied programme of talks, is a former director of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and a dedicated, dogged researcher. He also has the ability to explain detailed and deep research in a simple-to-understand way, using light-hearted humour when needed and thoughtful seriousness as required.

It was his research on a trip that Hardy made in 1896 – his first wife, Emma, often on a bicycle, he on foot because “he hadn’t quite mastered bicycling” – that led to some interesting findings. One or probably two weeks of this trip was spent in Stratford. As the Hardy Society points out, the notoriously private author and poet left no impressions of his stay. But he was addicted to signing visitors’ books, so it is possible to chart his progress through the town, to see where he went, what he wanted to view. From this it is possible to see how identifiable, Shakespeare-related places coloured Hardy’s later works.

Dr Pringle illustrated his talk with pictures, including of a fierce-looking Emma, and brought copies of rare books for members to look at after the talk.

The next meeting is on January 25, when barrister and comedienne Ginny Davis will talk on her first novel, a legal drama, What Lies Beneath The Surface. That will be an interesting evening!

Shipston and District Literary Society meets on the last Wednesday of the month at the Halford Bridge Inn at 7.30pm. Contact the Secretary, Helen Marshall, on 07582 903212 for further details.



WRITTEN AND
ILLUSTRATED
BY NIKKI TURNER

Hello again! We hope you managed to have a go at making the hedgehog house that was in the last edition. This month we have an activity that will help you to look after our feathered friends, the garden birds. During the winter months, when it's cold and the ground is frozen, it makes foraging for food all the more difficult for birds. We can help them by providing additional food sources so they can remain strong and healthy. This will also enable birds to prepare for the spring when they will be looking to nest and raise their chicks. Below is a list of all the things you need to make your own bird feeder, along with the instructions. Be sure to ask an adult to do the cutting.

On the other page is a colouring-in picture for you to do. Can you spot the cheeky caterpillar slipping off with a berry? Stay warm and well and we will see you very soon for more activities!

How to make your own bird feeder



You will need:

A plastic drinks bottle

Scissors or a sharp knife and a willing adult

A piece of dowling or a wooden spoon for the perch

String

Bird seed



Clean and dry your bottle, removing any labels. Next get an adult to cut two holes an inch from the bottom so you can push the dowling through. This will make your perch.



Now ask your adult to cut the feeding hole about an inch above the perch, large enough for birds to feed on the seed.



Finish by unscrewing the bottle top so you can secure the string and fill your feeder with seed. Then screw the top back on before attaching your feeder to a branch.



Bees don't like to share their rosehip berries



SAVE THE DATES!!

SHIPSTON'S GOT TALENT 2023

9 - 11 March 2023
St Edmund's Church, Shipston on Stour

In aid of the Mayor's nominated charity
Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



TOWNSEND HALL
FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY, 2023 at 7.30pm
Advance Tickets £5.00 or pay on the door.
From: A. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour.
Covid restrictions – please hand sanitise on arrival.
Any enquiries please email: stourvalleylions@gmail.com
Drinks and raffle.



A Warm Welcome
from Shipston Library

Warm Welcome Drop-in

Mondays 10am–12pm

Dec 2022–March 2023

Drop in for hot drinks, board games, puzzles and chat

Everyone is welcome at the library
Shipston Library, 12 Church Street, CV36 4AP
Open 9.30am–12.30pm Mon & Sat
9.30am–12.30pm & 1.30pm–5.30pm Tues & Thurs





Singing Down Memory Lane

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



2.00 - 3.30pm

Rainbow Fields, The Driftway,
Shipston on Stour CV36 4BU

Refreshments provided
(We may be able to help with transport, please ask)

Contact: Barbara Smith 01608 662433
Alternative Contact: Pat Hutton 01608 664648
Every 3rd Wednesday, starting 18 May

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wednesday, 18 May | Wednesday, 15 June | Wednesday, 20 July |
| Wednesday, 17 August | Wednesday, 21 September | Wednesday, 19 October |
| Wednesday, 16 November | Wednesday, 21 December | Wednesday, 18 January |

SHIPSTON ON STOUR - A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Shipston Primary School

Shipston On Stour Primary School



READING

We are delighted to welcome back Core Hygiene as a sponsor alongside lead sponsor Sheldon Bosley Knight for our Books of the Month initiative. Each month there is a recommended chapter book and picture book added to the school library, funded by our sponsors. We are looking for additional sponsors to provide additional copies of our chosen texts, so if local or national businesses are interested in this initiative, please get in touch via the school office – admin5206@we-learn.com

Well done to the staff and thank you to all our families for raising £772.21 commission from the Travelling Book Fair for us to spend as a school on books.

CHRISTMAS AT SHIPSTON PRIMARY

Our Christmas celebrations at Shipston Primary School began with children from Shipston, Acorns and Brailes singing together to open the town's Victorian Evening. On the same day, children in school formed a production line of Christingles for the special service at St. Edmund's Church.

Our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children each performed separate Christmas plays this year. Due to COVID-19 disruptions, this was the first time they had been on stage at Christmas time. Our Year 3 and 4 children performed brilliantly at St. Edmund's Church. It was wonderful to see so many parents and family members attending all 8 performances!

FRIENDS OF SHIPSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOSP held their Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26th November 2022, with an amazing turnout from parents and families of Shipston Primary School alongside locals from the town. The goal from the Christmas Fayre was to raise funds that will go towards new resources and equipment for the Year 1 outdoor area.

FOSP were kindly given the use of the Shipston Enterprise Hub (formerly Sheldon Bosley Hub) by Kayleigh and Alex Seys and were supported by many local independent businesses who held stalls varying from The Bodyshop, personalised gifts, homemade bath bombs, Shipston Sewing group and the Shipston Yarn Bombers. FOSP held their own stalls where there were opportunities to win various goodies from the chocolate tombola. There was also a crafty corner where children could get busy and creative in writing their letter to Father Christmas, making magical reindeer food and general Christmas colouring. Many thanks to the local businesses in and around Shipston, who donated many prizes to the raffle.

All in all it was an extremely fantastic day, with FOSP raising £769.

On 9th December, FOSP held their very first wreath making workshop, which was a great success. Committee member Karen Jeffries led the workshop, demonstrating how to make a beautiful wreath for the festive season, with tickets including all the core materials needed to make the wreath, complementary mulled wine and mince pies served by other committee members. The school hall was a hive of activity, and the finished products were fantastic.

The autumn term has been a brilliant success with fundraising and social events. In total, FOSP has raised an amazing £1496.35 has been raised for the school. Many thanks to all the FOSP committee members for their tireless support for the school.

SNOW AT SCHOOL

Despite the very snowy weather in Shipston and surrounding villages on Sunday 11th December, our caretaker Russ Crawford and Head of School Glyn Roberts did an amazing job in enabling the school site to be accessible and safe to open on Monday 12th December. We take attendance very seriously as every lesson counts, so we were only going to close if it was unsafe for staff and families to travel to school.

With so much snow on site, it was only right that the children got to play joyfully at lunchtime, and in PE afternoon lessons it was impossible to play ball games, so the children were challenged in building snowmen. With great teamwork skills and plenty of physical exertion, these lessons will be remembered fondly for many years!

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

How do they grow up so fast? If your child was born between 1st September

2018 and 31st August 2019, then it's almost time for them to start school! Parents and carers will need to apply online to their home local authority before the national deadline of 15th January. Shipston Primary School accepts children who are out of catchment or from neighbouring counties in line with the school's admissions criteria, which is on the school website.

Please visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/primaryplace> for further information, including videos and webinars.

THE STOUR FEDERATION MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Shipston Primary School is part of The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust, with Acorns Primary School, Brailes C of E Primary School and Kineton C of E Primary School. Our Trust website is www.thestourfederation.com

Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher



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 2023. I am sure that students and staff are fully recharged, and ready to start the new term with renewed purpose.

December finished with a festive Christmas atmosphere around the school. Students across the school supported the Save the Children charity Christmas Jumper day, wearing a variety of festive and imaginative jumpers. Students also wore festive accessories for the final few days of term, providing a celebratory and warm atmosphere in school, just what we all needed at this point of the winter.

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.

Sport also had a seasonal flavour, with both the annual Santa Dash inter-house competition and the much loved Tinsel Tournament for Hockey attracting keen participation and colourful costumes. Finally for Christmas, it was lovely that students and staff involved with our choir were able to entertain the communities at local residential homes with some Christmas songs; a lovely shared community activity at this time of year.

Live music has also been a feature in school, with performances from Luke Mcquillan and Junior Andre, both performing at the school as part of our rewards scheme for students' attendance. It is always uplifting to hear music in the school, and our students are certainly developing their own skills during music lessons.

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. They are hardworking and mature, 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 a rewarding 2023.

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Brass band brings joy to Shipston at Christmas concert

A festive magic engulfed the Townsend Hall in Shipston earlier this month when the town's very own brass band gave its most magical Christmas concert in memory.

Shipston Town Band's performance proved the ideal kick-off to the festive season for the band, which will be seen in and around South Warwickshire this December with a variety of performances. It's Townsend Hall concert got off to a rousing start with a rip-roaring rendition of Christmas Joy – a veritable yuletide overture, with references to Joy To The World, Jingle Bells and Joy Come To You composed by Erik Leidzen.

The concert marked a return to Christmas 'business as usual' for the band for the first time since the pandemic put paid to a lot of its activities. Last year's Christmas concert was hampered by a spike in Covid numbers, but there were no such fears this year – with a capacity crowd filling the hall, leaving standing room only.

The cold weather outside quickly melted away as the audience were further warmed by the popular classic It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year, In The Bleak Midwinter and the energetic A Glenn Miller Christmas arranged by Philip Harper.

The talents of principal cornet Paolo Pezzangora and principal trombone Tom Evans were on delightful display with a sparkling Gordon Langford composed duet A Foxtrot Between Friends.

Langford, who died in 2017, was a leading brass composer and arranger – and his music continues to fill concert programmes for brass bands and ensembles the world over.

And whilst on the subject of great composers – the man who is known as "Mr Christmas" by some, John Rutter, penned one of the magical highlights of the evening: Candlelight Carol. The theme from The Snowman by Howard Blake proved an audience favourite – whilst the combined talents of flugelhorn Darran Wheeler and the rest of the horn section, Liz Smith and Mary Cox, brought great applause on Still, Still, Still.

The band's unique place in the community of Shipston was highlighted when the training band – made up of those who are new to playing brass instruments – took to the stage to perform a selection of Christmas carols. They will no doubt prove to the principal players of this and many other brass bands and orchestras in the future.

The highlight of the evening was perhaps Paul Lovatt-Cooper's arrangement of Carol of The Bells, a piece which builds relentlessly into a crescendo of pure festive joy before fading away again – a truly timeless music gift which has its origins in a Ukrainian folk tune.

The evening was narrated on stage by the beautifully-voiced Anne Hume, who brought light, pathos and humour to what was possibly the most festive night seen at the Townsend Hall for many years.

Media contact: Sandra Harvey – 07977 544021



District Council update



I know that some of those reading this will be employees of SDC – some in the service group of 150 people. All of those at the sharp end of service have had to deal with challenging times – never knowing what sort of desperate enquiry will come next. Next time you call – please thank them!

We have had a successful year – here is a flavour: £50k on Act on Energy support; housing advisor funding; collaboration with other councils for community development; support to Lifespace and Escape Arts to support youth mental health; 12k UBUS journeys – can we get more of you on there?; crucial support to Citizens Advice as so many are relying on them – often for the first time; support to SHWP; help to vulnerable households in poverty. We have also prevented 69% of potential homelessness with advice, support and interventions. I am proud that we put this front and centre of policy; we have collected £72m council tax, £34m business rates; paid out £9.2m in Housing Benefit, £6.8m in council tax support; £72m in covid business rate reliefs and grants; answered 600 calls a day and seen 400 residents a week at Elizabeth House – we have been fully open since April. Possibly the proudest achievement has been working with the Growth hub to allocate £1.2m securing 703 jobs and creating 135 new jobs.

On a final note, thank you very much to all who sent me well wishes during my bout of illness recently!

Not a bad year considering, eh? Happy 2023 to all of us!

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



Some of you will have received surveys from me – many have commented on the footpath destruction by contractors – as well as sympathising (or not – depending on the noise) with the long hours the contractors work! When the final permits have been worked through and any snow has cleared – we will be looking at all the repairs. Unless any are really dangerous, common sense says to me that we need to hit the repairs in a oner rather than piecemeal.....

The other really exercising issue for many (and I have sleepless nights about it) is the Ellen Badger development. I have now been elected onto the Project Board and have had discussions with many of the participants. I really want to see the Medical Centre on the site and am using my best endeavours to get this to happen. The building part of the EB will start in February with facilities for all the specialisms we saw before including Shipston Home Nursing and more wellbeing services. I am really excited that we are going to have a safe, modern facility serving our needs into the next century. Some myth busting – no there won't be houses built; yes there will be a hospital; no the bed review is not finalised; I am on the Board of Governors of SWFT – so I have been very active on the issue; yes without covid we could have got on faster; no it is not closing. I hope that reassures those of you who are rightly concerned about what is going on – when I KNOW more I will share it – and that is a fact.

The other issue has been the increasing leaks and sewage trouble. The CEO of ST has undertaken to solve the 3 major issues with our pipework and “flow” within this year. Given how well things have been fixed – I know it has not been painless – I am confident she will deliver! So things are looking positive for Shipston for 2023!

Jo Barker, she/her
County Councillor, Shipston
07748 968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Shipston Medical Centre

Medical Centre t: 01608 661845

'Tis the season for viral illness

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.

Parents may want to download the NHS Healthier Together app (<https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/about-us/adding-our-website>) or look at the Healthier Together website (<https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/>) This is an excellent resource to help advise you about illnesses your child may have, highlighting when it is important to see a GP, when to go to hospital and when self-care is appropriate.

Flu

Flu has started to circulate in our community. It can come on very quickly and can include a high temperature, feeling shivery, tiredness aching body, dry cough, sore throat and sometimes diarrhoea or feeling sick. The best treatment for flu is rest and paracetamol or ibuprofen to lower your temperature and treat the aches and pains. It is also important to ensure you drink plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration. Flu usually lasts a week. Call your GP if symptoms occur for longer than this or symptoms get dramatically worse.

The Medical Centre still has a stock of flu vaccinations, if you wish to be vaccinated against flu please call reception for an appointment.



Your Town Councillors


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t: 01608 662223

e: marianne.westwood@shipstontowncouncil.org


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Planning Committee Vice Chair

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Finance Working Group Chair

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Paul Tesh
Planning Committee Chair

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John Dinnie *Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair*

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Jo Barker

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e: jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk (for town and district matters)


Peter Cox
General Purposes Working Group Chair

t: 07973 442552

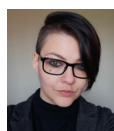
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Tony Booth

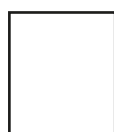
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Hilary Kelly

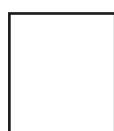
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Sarah Beckett

e: sarah.beckett@shipstontowncouncil.org


Vacancy

Vacancy

To find out more about becoming a councillor, contact the Town Clerk


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

New Clark House, West Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4HD

Town Clerk

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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 07983 342567 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

To request posts on the council's Facebook and Twitter feeds, contact Peter Cox.

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 2nd – Saturday 4th February 2023
Adults £10, Children £5

Tickets available from John Lyne Home Hardware, on the door or
online at ticketsource.co.uk/shipston-drama-group

Children in fancy dress at the matinee will receive a treat

'ahoy mateys!'