



# Shipston Forum



January 2024

## Testing the water

The Town Council has purchased three river testing kits which are now being put to use along the River Stour. Volunteers are being trained by Cllr Olivia Hatch to monitor for changes in the river environment.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact [olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



## Trolley dash winner!

Jackie Hart found herself the lucky ticket holder for this year's trolley dash when the draw took place at the Victorian Evening. Jackie filled her trolley with £150 worth of goodies in just two minutes at Shipston Co-op the following Sunday. The draw raised £660 for local charities and good causes. Shipston Rotary gives grateful thanks to Shipston Co-op for sponsoring and enabling the trolley dash, as well as to everyone who bought tickets.



## Victorian Evening fun

Kirsty the Artful Dodger stilt walker was popular with children aged from three to 93 when the festive season got off to a great start with the Victorian Evening. Event organisers Shipston Rotary, assisted by Stour Valley Lions, report that 'Father Christmas was a hit in his grotto, the primary school choir started the evening with some lovely singing, the Town Band played brilliantly, and the evening was rounded off beautifully by the Cotswold choir's carols.'



## School Santas on the run

Over 600 Shipston High School students ran around the sports field dressed as Father Christmas as the school completed its second fundraiser for the community with a much anticipated sponsored Santa Dash. The PE department also raised over £1,000 selling raffle tickets with some fantastic prizes donated by local companies and individuals. The school is still totting up the final total raised for the Shakespeare Hospice.

Students also visited Low Furlong to spend time reading with the residents and talking to them about their favourite books and put up festive decorations at Shipston Lodge.



## Could you enter the Lions' Den?

After a successful year of fundraising campaigns, Stour Valley Lions are looking for more causes to support through their new 'Lions' Den.' A little like the TV programme, the initiative will encourage local charities, groups and individuals to say what help they need and why. It's a great opportunity to promote a scheme or share a project with others, with the Lions providing funds and support for local good causes and people most in need. There are no specific criteria, but bids should have a strong civic, youth or welfare element. Apply before 15th March via a form on the Lions' website. See the advert on page 7 for details of how to find the form.

## In this issue:

Future of the fire service – pages 2 and 14

Footballing hero for U6/7s – page 4

£2,000 raised for First Responders – page 4

Health and Wellbeing focus – page 8

Archers hit medals target – page 12

### Mayor’s column

Happy New Year Shipston!

Hope you have had a great Christmas with lots of food and drink.

It was cold but the Victorian Evening was a big hit. The town centre full, the kids singing Christmas carols, lots of stalls selling Christmas bits and pieces and the town band – what more could you want?

The run-up to Christmas this year was manic, meeting many old friends from all over the country. Lots of meals and abundant apologies to my slimming club. Ex-mayors have said that the average weight gain whilst being mayor is a stone. I hope to keep it down to a pound, we'll see. Either way in the new year I hope you see less of me. (slimming joke)

We shop in different ways nowadays and when a company sends an email that an item has been ‘delivered’, the hunt begins. Where have they put it? It is like hide and seek! Did they deliver it to someone else? They seem to find a different hiding place for each delivery. This time after two days of pouring rain we found it in the back garden. It was a paper envelope and it was soaked. I brought it in and dried it on a radiator. It seemed appropriate to find that when we opened it the items were from Superdry (other clothes companies are available).

We had a Councillors’ Christmas Party in the George which was attended by most of the town councillors and their partners and all the council staff. The food was lovely and it was a great success. My thanks to all concerned in the organisation of the event.

The Mayor’s Christmas cards came through after taking me a long time to decide on an appropriate picture and then to write the greetings on the inside. I hope they all arrived before Christmas.

I get involved in the annual Shipston Drama Group pantomime and intend to use the first night as a fundraiser for my mayoral charity. This is on Thursday 8th February. It is followed by two more performances on the following nights and a matinee on the Saturday afternoon. I hope you can all come.

I hope that this year we can see the demise of Covid and a more normal way of life return.

Cllr. Gerry Kelly,

**Mayor, Shipston Town Council**



Page 2

## News from Shipston Town Council’s December meeting

### Pre-Christmas events

Councillors commented they had between them attended and enjoyed the wide range of well-supported events around the town during December, including the Victorian Evening, Stour Singers, Shipston Proms fundraising concerts, the Town Band Christmas Concert and Holiday at Home.

### Drainage

Taylor Wimpey are looking into drainage in Clifford Place where houses have had to rely on sandbags in recent heavy rain.

### Town maps and bench

The final town map has now been installed at the Black Horse pub. A bench has been positioned at the Pound.

### Traffic lights and streetlights

Council noted that it had not been notified about a number of recent street works involving traffic lights. Cllr Cooper to ask Highways to ensure the Council is always notified so that it can spread awareness, eg via Facebook. Cllr Cooper also noted streetlights on the Ridgeway development appear to be permanently on.

### River testing

River testing for water quality is now ongoing at some downstream and mid-town points.

### Blue light report

Cllr Passingham noted that the plan for fire stations, including Shipston’s own, to be downgraded to surge stations is a matter of urgent discussion at the district council. The portfolio holder and fire chief are meeting the council in January and a public meeting is also planned. Council is to collect information on the number of call-outs the town’s fire teams have attended in the past year. It was noted that the town, which has grown to a population of 10,000 and is still growing, has neither a police nor ambulance station. Cllr Dinnie requested that the Emergency Plan Working Group be reconvened.

### Cornmill Meadows

Cllr Barker requested that the signage be amended to reflect that the area is owned by the Town Council as a result of a gift. Council approved the management plan for the Meadows as well as costs of £4,711 for a community orchard and tree planting. A request for funds for picnic/ study tables will be submitted in January. A quote is also to be obtained for signage to make clearer the route of the permissive path that leads across farmland from the Meadows.

### Ellen Badger Hospital

The Integrated Care Board continues to say it will hold a consultation, but no date has been set.

Page 3

## Town Council News

### Planning

The planning inspectorate has agreed to an appeal for the replacement of an existing house with a block of flats on South Lynn Gardens. Council has opposed the plan for being out of scale with the surroundings. It was also noted that the Neighbourhood Plan may have to be updated before 2025 in advance of the Local Plan update in 2027.

### Shaping Travel

The Shaping Travel report for Shipston is due to be published shortly.

### Cecil Sandford memorial

Council learned with regret that Shipston’s motorcycle racing legend Cecil Sandford had passed away. The plan for a memorial to him will go ahead, subject to costings which are being sought.

### Thermal imaging camera

A camera which can be used to monitor energy efficiency in buildings is available to be loaned by the Council. A volunteer is putting together guidance on how to use it.

### Hub survey

Cllr Dinnie made recommendations for a dilapidation survey at the Hub to be carried out. Any further surveys needed will be carried out by the football club which plans to use the building.

### Town tourism

An organisation called Trail Tale is interested in running an online smartphone-guided free heritage trail around the town – this proposal will be taken to the Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects (HALP) working group. Cllr Howarth also attended the first VisitLocal meeting.

### Great Big Green Week

Cllr H Kelly attended a planning meeting for Great Big Green Week, a national celebration of action on climate change, taking place across the UK from 8th to 16th June 2024.

### Finance

Council will approve the overall precept in January.

### First Responders

Three new defibrillators have been installed. There are now nine First Responders in town and they hope to finance a second vehicle.

Page 3

## Medical Centre News

### New triage system

Shipston Medical Centre will shortly be changing the way patients contact it about medical and administration requests as it launches a new online triage form to replace eConsults.

### Why is it changing?

The change will streamline the way patients/relatives and carers can contact the practice and make it easier to submit requests. Requests will be triaged by a clinician to ensure that you are seen by the most appropriate member of staff and dealt with in an appropriate timeframe. Appointments will be prioritised according to need.

### Some benefits of this new system:

- Easy to access - it will only take a couple of minutes
- No waiting on hold on the phone
- Your request will be quickly seen by a GP
- Convenience - send your request whenever you need it, rather than when you can get through on the phone
- Your GP will be able to help more quickly and easily, for example with a phone call, or by referring you directly to the service you need, such as physiotherapy.

### What should I use this new form for?

You can use the form for anything you would usually contact the surgery for such as medical issues that you want to discuss with a doctor or nurse, repeat prescriptions, or admin such as getting a sick (fit) note or test results. Please DO NOT use this form for anything you need a response for within 24 hours. If you think you need help before then, call the surgery. For urgent help or if the centre is closed, call 111 or 999.


### What questions will I be asked?

If you have a medical query, you’ll be asked to describe it, how long it’s been going on for, and what you’re worried about. For admin queries, you can choose from asking about test results, repeat prescriptions, fit/sick notes, referrals, a doctor’s letter, or something else.

### How long will the form take to complete?

The form should only take a few minutes to complete. If you have any issues or can’t fill out the form, please contact the surgery and you will get help to complete your request.

Look on the Medical Centre website <https://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/> for more information.



Shipston Medical Centre



Football focus

Shipston Excelsior U6/7s were delighted to invite current Solihull Moors Manager and former Coventry City player Andy Whing to the Sports Club in December for an evening talk on both Andy’s career and what it takes to make it as a professional footballer. Having played over 400 professional matches, Andy shared some incredible experiences, with the group of children and adults captivated by his stories which included household names like Harry Kane, Wayne Rooney and playing at the Emirates stadium.

Andy spoke passionately about the need to work hard, develop resilience and never stop following your dreams. The road to a professional football career is both physically and mentally demanding over an extended period of time, requiring the continued support of both family and friends. If you are fortunate enough to be signed, the workload and pressure is relentless and requires a focused approach to training, nutrition and recovery. It was an enlightening evening and the children were quick to ask for autographs and be photographed with their star.



Andy Whing (left) with Guy Richards, Shipston Excelsior U6/7 assistant coach, Luke Basnett, assistant coach and Jonathan Patterson, head coach.

£2,000 for First Responders

Shipston First Responders were presented with a cheque for £2,000, thanks to the generosity of the people of Shipston and the hard work of the Stour Valley Lions, who sold raffle tickets over the course of a month with the aim of helping the First Responders continue their tremendous work. Duncan Cashmore, President of the Stour Valley Lions Club, had heard about problems the First Responders were having with their ageing vehicle and the Lions immediately pledged to donate all proceeds of their raffle towards this cause.

The prize was a luxury celebration hamper, with prizes donated by local businesses including The George Townhouse, Mrs Brown’s Tea Room, The Blue Bean

Cafe, Freestyle Martial Arts, The Coop and Tesco making this the most profitable Lion’s Christmas raffle ever. The draw took place at The George Townhouse and the 12 winners have been notified.

Ray Coyte on behalf of the Shipston First Responders said that he was amazed and delighted by the support and thanked everyone in Shipston and beyond who bought a raffle ticket.

Shipston Bookfest 2024

Calling all book lovers! A group of local residents is mobilising to launch Shipston’s first ever book festival. Still in its early stages of development, the festival is looking to appeal to all ages, from those learning to read to avid readers. The plan is to create a festival showcasing the best of local talent and attracting well-known authors, with an emphasis on participation, fun and learning.

Would you like to be involved? We’d love to hear from volunteers to keen participate, help organise and run the festival, as well as sponsors willing to provide financial support. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Alan Hurcombe at ahurcombe100@gmail.com / 0777 395 4929 and come along to the first meeting on Monday 22nd January.

Baptist Church alive at 25!

Stour Valley Baptist Church, which meets at the Primary School at 10.30am on a Sunday, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024. It started life back in February 1999 as a ‘church plant’ from Chipping Campden Baptist Church which had outgrown its building. None of the planting team had been part of such a venture before, but the church took ‘root’!

One thing that has helped the Church reach out and grow has been its Alpha courses. Alpha is an eight-week course based around a shared (delicious!) hot meal, a short talk and then the opportunity to ask any questions. Every course has seen people grow in their knowledge of Jesus and many have led to people being baptised and joining the Church. The Minister, Rev Daniel Pulham, encourages everyone with questions to come along: “We’ve run at least one course almost every year – even online during Covid! No question is too silly or too hard. I always learn something from each course and feedback tells us everyone is glad they came.”

The next course starts on Thursday 18th January. To find out more about Alpha or for information about the Church contact Daniel at svbc99@gmail.com or phone 07527 038154.



G.L.O.S.S.

Did you know about G.L.O.S.S. – Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings? It is a small community group for women, aiming to reach as many women as it can – helping women feel supported, encouraged and less isolated, making new friends and to try and stop loneliness.

It meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Catholic Church hall 7.30/9.30, and there is a relaxed drop-in coffee morning on Wednesdays at 11am in The George Townhouse.

Shipston SCAN

SCAN (Senior Citizens’ Action Network) exists to promote the interests of the older generation. Membership is open to residents of Shipston and nearby villages aged over 50. To become a member, all that is needed is to come to one of our meetings which take place at the Townsend Hall on the second Tuesday of every other month. The next meeting is on 9th January, 2024.

Meetings start at 10.30am, with free tea, coffee and biscuits available from 10am. We have a speaker on a topic of relevance to the members. In January we will be hearing from Susan Needham from Act on Energy. Other topics in 2024 include Citizens’ Advice, the Ellen Badger Hospital and Shipston Home Nursing. Most meetings finish by 12 noon.

We also encourage local councillors to attend our meetings to listen to members’ views and answer questions. There were originally six SCANS in and around Stratford. Now there are two. That Shipston SCAN is one of them is largely attributable to the commitment of my predecessor, Trevor Russel, who, in his seven years as chairman, ensured that Shipston SCAN survived alive and kicking.

As with so many organisations, our attendances have fallen since Covid. If you would like to give us a try, we would love to see you. If you would like any more information or to pass on any ideas, please feel free to call me on 01608 662998. If there’s no answer, just leave a message and I will ring you back as soon as possible. Laurie Grove, Chairman

Shipston Town Band

Congratulations to Shipston Town Band’s young solo trombone player Alex Jeffrey who has been offered a place in the prestigious National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain commencing with the Easter Course in 2024. Being a member of this famous brass band offers Alex the chance to play with the very best young players in the country and be tutored and conducted by the very best musicians and conductors.

Alex began playing trombone aged 11. He is a pupil at King Edwards School Stratford, where he plays in many of their musical groups. He also plays in Trombones Together quartet and always makes the most of musical opportunities which come his way. He is the latest in a long line who have become members of the NYBBGB including two of Britain’s leading cornet players Kirsty Abbotts and Luke Barker and percussionists Francesca Lombardelli and Alec Banner.



Shipston Probus – a history of bagpipes



Most of us will be familiar with the highly distinctive sound of bagpipes, but few will have much idea of the long history of this iconic instrument, or indeed how the sound is produced. Step in Hugh Gillies, a friend of one of our long-standing Probus members, to educate and demonstrate!

It is possible that a basic form of bagpipe goes back to around a thousand years BC in Sumer (Mesopotamia, now southern Iraq) and different varieties can be found throughout the world. Notably the bagpipe has military connections. It was used in World War One to lead the troops ‘over the top’ with many inevitable casualties. Last used to order troops forward at the second battle of El Alamein, each company was led by a piper playing tunes to identify their regiment in the darkness. Although the attack was successful, losses among pipers were again high and subsequently pipers led from the back. However, this was ignored at D Day June 1944, when 21-year-old piper Bill Millin led from his landing craft onto the Normandy beaches.

To play, the basics may seem simple: blow air through a pipe into a bag which is controlled by pressure from the player’s arm. Sound is created by reeds in a chanter and by several other reeds located in drone pipes. But bagpipes are one of the most difficult musical instruments to master, not least the tuning, recently aided by using a computer app. Practice makes perfect, but due to the volume of sound, practice is recommended to be limited to 15 minutes to avoid damage to hearing.

Hugh rounded off his talk with a rousing rendition of ‘Scotland the Brave’ and ‘Highland Cathedral’ to the delight of members. Fortunately, Shipston Sports Club is located well away from neighbouring residential premises!

Shipston Probus meets fortnightly on Fridays at Shipston Sports and Social Club. Guests and new members are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.



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

Community Hub: Shipston Methodist Church, 2-4pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

Age Concern Lunch Club: Stour Court 12pm. Contact Jill Case 01608 662226

Wednesday

Seated Tai Chi:  
9.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Standing Tai Chi:  
10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Indoor Curling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

U3A weekly scrabble: 2-4pm at the George Townhouse.  
Free for all U3A members

Thursday

Shipston Community Warm Hub:  
Every Thursday 10am-12pm, The Scout Hut, New Street.

Story stomp: 10am, Shipston Library

Scrabble Club: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

Age Concern Lunch Club: Rainbow Fields 12pm. Contact Christine Grant 07939 595600

Community Social Prescriber drop in: 10am-12pm, Scout Hut, New Street

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 1:30pm-4pm Rainbow Fields

Age Concern Lunch Club: Fortnightly, Rainbow Fields, 12pm. Contact Amanda Holden 01608 686268  
Saturday

Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group - Friday afternoons in Mrs. Browns from 2-4.30pm

Saturday

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

Shipston Food Bank:  
10:30am-12pm, St Edmund's Church, Shipston.  
No referral or voucher needed

What's On Calendar : January 2024

2nd. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.

3rd. Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304

3rd. Shipston on Stour WI: Social evening. Visitors most welcome. Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary on 01608 664519

6th. Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided.

8th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

9th. Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN): See ad on page 7

11th. 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

12th. Lions Cinema: The Great Escaper. See ad on page 10

14th. Film and Afternoon Tea Party: Free for senior residents. See ad on page 16

17th. 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

17th. Singing Down Memory Lane: 2pm Rainbow Fields, The Driftway. See ad on page 10

18th. Drop - In Clinic: for the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Scout Hut, New Street.

19th. Royal British Legion Social Evening: The Shipston on Stour Branch of the Royal British Legion meet on the third Friday of each month for a social gathering. We meet in the White Bear Inn from 7.30 pm onwards. Do please come and join us and share your stories with like-minded people. For further information contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com

23rd. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm - 9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, CV36 4DR. Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month. All ladies welcome. Entry £2.00 See ad on page 10

23rd. Shipston U3A: See ad on page 7

25th. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

31st. Shipston and District Literary Society: How I Gave John Betjeman a Garland by Roger Pringle. Meetings are held at The Halford Bridge Inn, Halford, at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5 ea. For further information ring Vice Chairman Alison Hook 01608 686376

GROUP LIFESTYLE CLINICS

Hastings House, Meon & Shipston Medical Centres

WHAT?

Four healthy lifestyle sessions run by your expert Wellbeing Team

WHERE?

Face to Face at a location local to you

WHEN?

At varying times across the week. Each session lasts 1.5 hours

WHY?

To support you to achieve a healthy lifestyle that suits you Making adjustments to your lifestyle can support better management of health. Group sessions increase your chances of successfully maintaining new habits through new ideas, friendship, peer support and accountability

WHO?

Anyone over 16

HOW?

Ask a member of your GP Team to refer you Follow 'DSV Wellbeing'

scan

SENIOR CITIZENS ACTION NETWORK

SHIPSTON ON STOUR and surrounding communities

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Townsend Hall, 52 Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AE

10.00am for free refreshments / 10.30am start


Act On Energy

Susan Needham, Community Outreach Officer

Please DO NOT attend if you feel unwell

Please advise us if you no longer wish to receive the SCAN notice by calling John Wilde on 01789 260933 or email [john.wilde@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:john.wilde@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

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](mailto:transport@vasa.org.uk)



DO YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION NEED HELP OR SUPPORT?

We are here for you!

we can support....

Schools

Clubs and Societies

Charities

Individuals in need and much more....

Why not take part in the Stour Valley 'Lions Den' initiative for the chance to get funding or support?

Scan the QR code or contact us now using the details below to obtain an assessment form

For more information contact Paul Macpherson on 01608 682102

<https://stourvalleylions.club>

an initiative supported by Stour Valley Lions Club

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA

u3a

Registered Charity No 1170969

TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2024

2 pm TOWNSEND HALL

BERMUDA:

“QUO FATA FERUNT”





A talk and presentation by John Keayes who with his wife, Helena, lived and worked in this beautiful place with their two sons for six years in the 1980s.

Come along to enjoy the flavour of this stunning island.

Members free: visitors are welcome

Entry including refreshments £2



## Fit and well for the New Year!

Focus on Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP)

### What is SHWP?

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP) has been running now for three years as a charity set up for the health and wellbeing of the Shipston and surrounding communities. It has had much success in creating a wealth of activities to help mobility and combat loneliness and it has been wonderful to see so many of you attend these.

### Energetic – and sociable!

The Strictly Fitsteps in Newbold on Stour and the Townsend Hall are particularly popular with the more energetic members of the community. The seated and standing Tai Chi at the Townsend Hall, are both hugely successful, with over 30 people attending each week. There are also Pilates classes on a Friday along with many more. If you haven't tried a class yet, please do. They are all currently free to you and are a great way of helping your mental and physical health as well as being really fun and a great sociable activity.

### Indoor curling

The Townsend Hall is also where we hold our weekly indoor curling sessions. These have been so popular that we also host a group in Ilmington, and there is some healthy rivalry between the two. Could we start a third group and have a league?

### Surrounding villages

We are very pleased that due to funding secured through the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund with Stratford-on-Avon District Council as the lead authority, we can not only continue to hold the classes for free, but also offer activities in the surrounding villages. A dance and exercise class has been set up in Tysoe, along with Pickleball in Brailes.



## For the young too!

The activities of SHWP are not limited to the older members of the community. Thanks to the funding secured, we have also been able to help fund the fantastic work of Lee Cooper and SEFC Pan-Disability Junior Football team, who run a weekly football session for the community. This is such a worthwhile and needed initiative, and we are proud to support them with their great work.



### Warm Hub

Did you know that SHWP also run the Shipston Community Warm Hub at the Scout Hut on a Thursday, 10am-12pm? Every week there is a different theme, from digital workshops to cooking; from a drop-in clinic with the frailty nurse for Shipston Medical Centre to the Shipston Home Nurses offering bereavement support and soup. We are always excited when new members of the community come along, and we look forward to meeting more of you.

### Volunteers needed

SHWP is run by a board of trustees who are all volunteers. We are so grateful to all the volunteers who help make all these initiatives happen, but we are always looking for more people to help. Could that be you? Please email [admin@shwp.org.uk](mailto:admin@shwp.org.uk) if you would like to know more.



## Museum's successful first season



Nearly 500 visitors took the opportunity to see the story of Shipston and surrounding area, with a host of fascinating items and special display of the town's former 29 pubs. Our young visitors especially found the chance to hold history in their hands in the Handling Room both fun and informative.

Echoing the praise from many, Mayor Gerry Kelly said: "The museum is a must for the people of Shipston to find out the history of the place in which they live."

### Officially open!

Many months, indeed years, had gone into its planning and preparation before the official opening on 5th August 2023 when Dick Burge, who together with the late Mike Ashley had dreamed of this day, cut the ribbon to Old Clark House, top of West Street car park. The occasion was marked by a troupe of Civil War soldiers, Lord Hopton's Regiment of Foot, marching through Shipston streets to the sound of drums under suddenly sunny skies to welcome our town's latest attraction.



Until closing for the winter season in early October, the Museum was open at weekends from 1pm–4pm. As well as locals, people came from Stratford, Buckinghamshire and Gloucestershire. Our furthest guest was from Australia visiting Shipston family who was surprised and delighted with its history. Further praise came from other visitors:

*"A really interesting set of displays and a credit to those who created it."*

*"Wonderful resource for the town fascinating."*

*"Beautifully laid out and presented."*

The end of the first season was an opportunity to review progress and recognise all those involved. "This was only possible due to the hard work and dedication of our trustees and other helpers", said Trustee President Bekky Hillman, "And I would also thank our many visitors and all those involved for this historic achievement including Shipston Council for providing the premises."

The museum has taken a first step of three on the path towards Museum Accreditation, the benchmark which aims for well-run museums to be 'sustainable, focused and trusted organisations, which offer their visitors a great experience.'

## Looking forward

Despite the closed doors for winter, work is still progressing towards the Easter opening. And fascinating finds are being made from items emerging from the unexplored collection, such as the old glass photographic plates showing Shipston people from the turn of the last century. A mysterious red diary – we don't know who wrote it - reports *"14 February 1900 deep snow about 12" deep," while two days later "Thomas Harris, Tredington and Ernest Wise, Shipston – ice broke while skating on the river – very nearly drowned!"*

### Share your stories

Stories like this bring the Museum alive. If you have any tales, memories, pictures to share – or would like to know more about volunteering – please contact via the Shipston On Stour Local History Society Facebook page, email [shipstonmuseum@outlook.com](mailto:shipstonmuseum@outlook.com) or drop a note into the Museum. And put the Easter opening in your diaries!



*A lady pruning roses, from the Museum's photographic collections. Does anybody know who she is?*



## SHIPSTON ON STOUR - A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

# G.L.O.S.S

**HAVE FUN, MAKE FRIENDS  
FEEL SUPPORTED & ENCOURAGED**

**ALL LADIES WELCOME!**

GLOSS2023.SHIPSTON@GMAIL.COM

**STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA**

## TOWNSEND HALL

**FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Drinks and raffle.**

On Friday 17th November, Year 6 took part in a heart dissection aided by training paramedic and former Shipston pupil, Tia Usher. Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the procedure with the majority of children carrying out this thrilling experience. Both Pelicans and Flamingos split open the heart and unearthed the crucial parts of the cardiac muscle. Inside this organ they found: arteries, ventricles, valves, heart strings and other vital components. All of the Year 6 that took part were told to wear protective aprons, gloves and spare T-shirts. Undoubtedly, most of the pupils were fond of the once-in-a lifetime practice; the smell was putrid however, that did not stop their curiosity. Each and every one of them were extremely grateful for the opportunity.





Rotary

Shipston Rotary would like to thank the Victorian Evening’s main sponsor Ward and Rider Solicitors and Dan Thompson of DV8 for sponsoring the Tree of Life, along with all the other sponsors and the businesses which kindly provided power for the stalls.



The Rotary shop window competition produced some highly imaginative displays. The judges awarded first prize to The Richard Harvey Collection. The Blue Bean Café was awarded second and third prize went to John Lynes. Congratulations to them and well done to all the participants.

Rotary 100 Club draw

First prize (£55) to number 83. Second prize (£33) to number 39. Third prize (£22) to number 29. You could be a winner too! Why not join? £5 a month – contact Tony Joint on [tonyjoint73@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyjoint73@hotmail.com)

Thank you to the people of Shipston and the surrounding villages for all your support in 2023 and we wish you a peaceful and prosperous 2024.

Women’s Institute

The Shipston Branch of the WI held our Christmas Party on a bitterly cold night which unfortunately, deterred many from attending. However, the Few, the Happy Few, the Band of Sisters, had a lovely evening. Everyone brought a little plate of something delicious, there was lots of chocolate, and mulled wine and a feeling of celebration. Some members contributed Christmas readings – The Little Boy that Santa Forgot brought out the hankies! And members did not go home empty-handed. Between eating and drinking and listening to Christmas poems, they had made Christmas baubles which will be proudly shown off to family and friends, and, hopefully, become part of their Christmas traditions.



At the next meeting on Wednesday, 3rd January 2024 at 7pm in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Barry Durman will be talking about walking the Millenium Way. A coffee morning is planned for 16th January in The Bower House. Shipston WI welcomes new members.

The Shipston Archers

From its early days in 2015, the club has been slowly building up its membership, from our initial total of four! Though we struggled to find suitable spaces that met the strict safety criteria required by Archery GB, we eventually reached an agreement with Brailes village hall, giving us a superb outdoor range area that eventually allowed us to host the County Championships, not bad for one of the smallest archery clubs in Warwickshire! We increased our membership, reaching over 25 active members. Then in 2020, along with many other sports



clubs, Covid hit us hard, and with the loss of the High School gym facilities, taking away our only indoor shooting range suitable for competition training, we saw a rapid decline. We managed to continue our outdoor shooting practices, even though setting out our targets over five metres apart meant that we took up a fair amount of the field, but we were still shooting! It wasn’t easy to keep going, but we persevered, kept the faith, and carried on!

Fast forward to 2022, our membership figures started to climb slowly again. We had also attracted some interest from Help 4 Heroes, who enquired about taster and beginner’s sessions. We also had several up and coming Junior and a few Senior novices who were showing promise, so we looked for suitable competitions to give them a challenge, not easy with so many other clubs pulling back or even folding!

Our chance came on 11th November when our little team of novice archers set off to Warwick University to take part in the Warwick Open Novices Tournament. They were facing students and other archery beginners from many colleges and universities from all over the Midlands and beyond, together with a couple of teams from other local archery clubs – so no pressure then! The tournament required them to shoot 60 arrows, at a 60cm target, over 18m away. We had a village hall to practice in that was only 12m long!

Despite their nervousness and lack of experience, they all stepped up to the mark. Although shooting against much older opponents, they practically cleared up in the medals, coming away with three gold medals, four silver and a bronze! Not only did they medal in their individual bow types, but they also came second in the team competition. One of the girls, who only started shooting in June after a Primary school taster session, walked away with a third place in her first competitive shoot! With determination and success like that, the future for the club, and our junior squad, is looking quite bright. The club shirts are on order!

All we need now is to find a suitable indoor space that allows us to train properly at the correct distance and extend archery facilities to all local schools and youth groups – any ideas? If so, please contact the club!



Shipston Proms

Our first-ever fundraisers towards Proms costs were a great success, raising over £1,000 from our two Christmas concerts. By coincidence, that same weekend a procession of over 25 brightly lit festive decked tractors made their way past the Church as part of their own fundraising campaign. Their lights and carnival atmosphere added to the general pzazz of the first concert, as well as providing a horn section!



Both concerts were thoughtfully put together to showcase the talents of the performers and entertain the audiences. The first event was Helen Porter’s Christmas Chamberpot Pourri which combined the amazing talents of two teenagers, Shipston’s 15-year-old vocalist Henry Clarke and 17-year-old Abi Rowberry, a singer songwriter and guitarist from Leamington, with renowned opera singers Anna Patalong and Benedict Nelson. Also appearing were Proms royalty Tim and Helen Porter, former Proms Introducing winner the vivacious Amber Liadan and her band (featuring special guest, Paul Hesketh, from the actual Specials on keyboard) and The Brailes Singers whose dulcet voices were directed by renowned Brailes music director Maddy Evans.



The second concert was by Shipston’s acapella choir directed by the indomitable Richard Emms who founded Cantamus in 1997. They sang a range of Christmas music beautifully, with humorous readings from the versatile Anne Hume and the audience joined in to sing popular Christmas carols.

PRJ Flooring Services who give us a lot of support during the Proms kindly sponsored these two events and it was great to see Paul at both concerts. A huge thank you to all who got involved to make this such a memorable weekend.

Chair Charlotte Haines told both audiences that it takes £30,000 to put on the Proms over the fortnight and it certainly couldn’t be done without the support of the town and wider community.

The Proms is delighted to have received a grant from a small Shipston-based charity called the A.H. Lynall Foundation. Please continue to keep your eye on our Facebook page or on [www.shipston.proms.org](http://www.shipston.proms.org) for information and updates.

Astronomical Society News



The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a club night. In January that will be on 2nd January and the speaker on the third Tuesday, which is 16th January, is due to be Professor Lionel Wilson from Lancaster University, with a talk called ‘Eruptions on Io: a guide to ancient eruptions on the Moon – and Earth’ Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Each month one of our members offers pointers to what to look for in the sky during the coming weeks.

On January 3rd at 00.38am, the Earth will be at Perihelion. This means it will be at its closest point to the sun in its yearly orbit. It will be 91.4 million miles from the sun, compared to 94.5 million miles at Aphelion (the furthest point) on 5th July 2024 and 93million miles on average. Thus, the Earth’s orbit is elliptical not circular. The sun appears to be 3.5 per cent bigger in January than July. Please don’t try and compare the sizes without appropriate eye protection, as it can cause permanent eye damage. Does this make it a ‘Super Sun’, as the press go on about ‘Super Moons’?

So why is it not warmer in January than July in the UK? The Earth’s tilt causes seasons and has a greater effect on the temperatures of the various regions of the planet. Also countries such as Australia are warmer than us because their latitude is closer to the equator than ours. The Perihelion might have marginal effect, but is greatly outweighed by these factors.

Club nights offer more information on what to look out for each month and if it is clear we do some observing just outside the Village Hall, so please join us. There is no charge initially to come along and find out more, but if you do want to become a member then the fee is JUST £15 A YEAR and it’s free if you are in full time education. For more details go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chairman John Waller [john.waller@astro.org.uk](mailto:john.waller@astro.org.uk) or on 07703 192188. Happy Observing!

Observation notes written by Adrian Wakeham and Dave Benton.





County Council

This month I have had two really serious things on my mind and to deal with.

The first is the restructuring of the fire service. Now, our firefighters in Shipston have worked really hard to increase numbers and availability. So far so good, but I was aghast to hear that training for two of them had been put on hold. If the retained firefighter number increases further, then we can hope that cover will be even better. However, as I have been lobbying for the status quo, I have come across a problem. Most fires/ callouts happen during the day and most retained firefighters have availability at night. So cover can be scant. On the other side of this I am not convinced (understatement of the year) that one F/T fire station in Stratford town, covering the whole of Stratford district, plus surge stations, will be enough. So my plea to you all is to answer the consultation and ask that not only is Shipston retained (no pun intended) but becomes the second hub for the whole district in the south of the area. I have had briefings and conversations about this but my bottom line is that we need to be able to reach people within 20 minutes to stand a chance of saving lives. See below for the link to the consultation – please do respond!

My other issue of the month has been education. I get lots of info from parents (or complaints/worries) and I hope that the job I do as an intermediary with schools, parents, kids and WCC does at least help to highlight issues. I have had conversations with schools and WCC with a specific focus on SEND. SEND across the country is on its knees – we have seen rises since Covid and a huge call on the system. I am convinced that being open and working together really helps. But if you want to raise anything with me on this, please do so.

Happy New Year – even though I write pre-Christmas!

Jo Barker  
County Councillor for Shipston  
07748 968712  
jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

District Council

There aren't many small market towns that can boast The Proms, a Food Festival, a Victorian evening, two sports grounds, its own museum, newsletter, and nature reserve (Cornmill Meadows) – I could go on – all mostly run by volunteers. That all adds up to a special and resilient community. It stands us in good stead to make the most of the opportunities and face the challenges of the coming year.

The town has got through a very wet 2023 without any major flooding (partly thanks to the hundreds of leaky dams upstream built by SAFAG). There is still much work to do cleaning up the river and making the sewerage system fit for purpose. To that end there are three sites in Shipston now testing for river pollution. We could do with a few more people to help with river testing so please get in touch if you'd like to get involved.

There are changes afoot to how the Fire Station is manned. Residents have until 10th March to give feedback on the proposed changes. See the link below. There is consensus that the service needs to be modernised but there is concern that the proposed 'surge' system (appliances/ engines covering multiple areas out of hours) has never been attempted in a rural area which covers such large distances. The Warwickshire Fire and Rescue team have been asked to come and explain to district councillors how community safety will be safeguarded under these measures.

Independent businesses are at the heart of the town centre, and times are tough. There is new council support in the form of a Business Growth Warwickshire Plan worth £4.6m. It is aimed at securing and creating jobs and helping businesses to decarbonise. Any businesses needing investment please get in touch with Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub - 0300 060 3747 or https://www.cwgrowthhub.co.uk

Finally, a 'green' reminder that if you had a real Christmas tree, you have until 19th January to leave it next to your green bin, or your recycling bin, so it can be chipped, and therefore its carbon will be returned to the soil.

Olivia Hatch  
District Councillor, Shipston North  
07752562114  
olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Fire service consultation

Both councillors make reference to the public consultation over the town's fire services. Here is the link.

https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/wfrs-r2r/.

Warwickshire County Council has more information here:

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/warwickshire-fire-rescue-service/resourcing-risk

And you can email WFRSR2R@warwickshire.gov.uk if you have any questions about the consultation.

The consultation period closes on 10th March.



Letters

Accidents will happen!

I wish to convey huge thanks to everyone involved in showing so much kindness, care and assistance after I sustained an accident in Telegraph Street on Wednesday 15 November, and subsequently to local people who have offered to help with shopping, personal care and hospital transport and visits.

My sincere gratitude,

Grace Donaldson

Gas works history

A link to a short film about Shipston's gas works popped up on my X feed as it is exactly 60 years since it was filmed. People interested in Shipston's history, or those with longer memories, might find it interesting to have a look at the film from the BBC archives. Link: Tonight: One Man Gasworks | Rewind (bbcrewind.co.uk)

Michael Checkley

Your Town Councillors



**Gerry Kelly, Mayor**  
*Planning Committee Vice Chair*  
t: 07471 687720  
e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



**John Dinnie Deputy Mayor**  
*Enviromental Working Group, Co-Chair*  
t: 01608 664590  
e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Ian Cooper**  
*Finance Working Group Chair*  
t: 01608 663785  
e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Paul Tesh**  
*Planning Committee Chair*  
t: 07711 433566  
e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Jo Barker**  
t: 07748 968712  
e: jo.barker@warwickshire.gov.uk (for town and county matters)



**Tony Booth**  
*General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair*  
e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Hilary Kelly**  
*Enviromental Working Group, Co-Chair*  
e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Brian Cooper**  
e: Brian.Cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Chris Howarth**  
*Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair*  
e: chris.howarth@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Michelle Kelly**  
e: michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Richard Walters**  
e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Vacancy**



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

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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

Town Clerk

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

County Council Contact:

Councillor Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712 e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

District Council Contacts:

Dave Passingham (Shipston South)

e: dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Olivia Hatch (Shipston North)

e: olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk

t: 077525 62114

Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Laura Parker, on 07989 530069 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact admin@shipstononline.org

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.



# DANCE AND EXERCISE CLASS

## FREE ADMISSION

**Thursdays 10:30am - 11:30 am**  
**TYSOE VILLAGE HALL**



This is a partially seated dance/exercise class using music from many genres e.g. Bach to Boyzone, Elvis to The Proclaimers and is open to both men and women.

For more information or to book a place please contact Eileen Mann on  
**01295 680921** or e-mail [admin@shwp.org.uk](mailto:admin@shwp.org.uk)

This is one of the range of FREE activities in the Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge delivered by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership in conjunction with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and funded by UK Government.  
 For more information on other activities please visit: [www.shwp.org.uk](http://www.shwp.org.uk)



Funded by  
 UK Government



# PAN-DISABILITY JUNIOR FOOTBALL

## FREE ADMISSION

**Tuesdays 5.40pm - 7pm**  
**TOWNSEND HALL, SHIPSTON ON STOUR**



Suitable for boys and girls aged 7 to 16

For more information please contact Lee Cooper on  
**07398 928917** or e-mail [admin@shwp.org.uk](mailto:admin@shwp.org.uk)

This is one of the range of FREE activities in the Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge delivered by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership in conjunction with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and funded by UK Government.  
 For more information on other activities please visit: [www.shwp.org.uk](http://www.shwp.org.uk)



*Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society*  
 presents

# Jack and the Beanstalk

*a pantomime by Norman Robbins*

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

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**Adults £10, Children £5**

*Tickets available from John Lyne Home Hardware,  
 on the door or online at  
[ticketsource.co.uk/shipston-drama-group](http://ticketsource.co.uk/shipston-drama-group)*

*Children in fancy dress at the matinee  
 will receive a treat*

*"Fee Fi Fo Fum!"*

# Film and Afternoon Tea Party

**A New Year Treat to beat those  
 January blues!**



**Come on Sunday**  
**14th January 2024**

**2.30pm to the Townsend Hall**

**for a Film followed by Afternoon Tea**  
*Get your ticket from Clarke's Electrical*



**FREE for Senior  
 residents of Shipston on Stour!**