



Shipston Forum

shipstontowncouncil.org



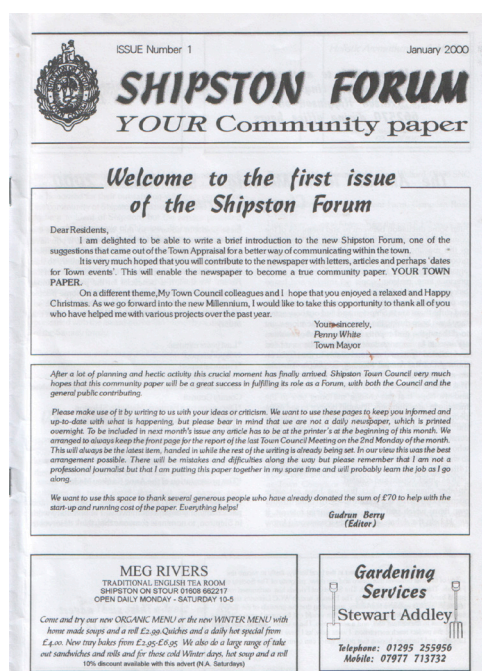
January 2020

Shipston Town Council wishes Forum readers a very Happy New Year

Shipston Forum celebrates 20 years!

January 2020 might be the start of a new decade, but more importantly – it's the Shipston Forum's birthday!

The Shipston Forum was founded by Shipston Town Council in 2000 following suggestions from members of the public. Residents had been keen to understand more about the town council and local activities, leading to a proposal for the town council to produce a newsletter. Initially, then town councillor, Gudrun Berry, took on the challenge of editing the magazine, having previously edited a popular newsletter for military wives. But getting the Forum off the ground was no mean feat.



"As with any new idea, not everyone was keen and we had precious little resource to help us." Gudrun recalls. "What we did have, though, was a Millennium Grant from Stratford District Council which gave us the financial help we needed to get our project started."

The vision for the Forum was clear – to create a community newsletter with a mix of content from the town council, contributions from local clubs and

schools, and input from the county and district councils. While the design has had a few updates over the years, the approach to content remains very similar today. In 2001, the Shipston Forum was Highly Commended in the Village Venture Competition run by Warwickshire Rural Community Council – and it continues to be valued by local residents twenty years on.



When asked what the main issues of the day were back in 2000, Gudrun replied: "Dog fouling kept coming up as an issue". No change there, then! But the need to provide services for young people was also a major priority and continues to be so now.

Producing the Shipston Forum today is a bit easier than it used to be. Whereas Gudrun had to physically cut and paste articles into the right places, we have the benefit of design software that makes laying pages out much easier. One of the biggest challenges in the early days, though, was getting people to submit information, particularly within the deadline. It's fair to say this can still be a challenge today, although we're pleased to say we do receive a lot of useful and timely contributions every month.

Despite enjoying editing the Forum, Gudrun had to hand over the reins when it became too challenging to manage while also being an active member of the town council. "It was very difficult to actively participate in discussions while also taking copious notes for the Forum – and it was also important to avoid any conflict of interest," Gudrun added. Since then the Forum has been edited independently, although the town council still oversees every issue.

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "As a Town Council we are extremely proud of the Shipston Forum. The newsletter not only allows us to keep residents informed about council news, but is an essential

source of information about the vast array of events, clubs, charities and good deeds that happen around the town. Gudrun should feel especially pleased to see the Forum, which she was so instrumental in launching, reach this 20 year milestone."



Gudrun stepped down as editor when she became Mayor in 2001. Since then, there have been a handful of different editors, all bringing their own style. 2020 will see a new face at the Forum as Catherine Martin hands the baton on to a new editor from April.

Catherine said: "After nearly nine years as editor, I feel it's the right time for me to step down, but I will be sad to say goodbye to the Forum. It's a great publication to work on and I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the town and the many different clubs, events and charities that generate so much positive news. I look forward to seeing how the Forum develops – who knows what will be making the news in Shipston in twenty years' time?"



Photos: The first ever issue of the Forum (left) and Gudrun accepting a commendation for the Forum

Mayor's column



I want to start out this month by thanking our retiring Town Clerk Georgina Beaumont. Georgina has been a stalwart of the Town Council for over 10 years and has seen some significant changes during that time. Her helpful nature, and her ability to engage positively with everyone she met was to her exceptional credit. Outside of her work for the Council itself, Georgina has contributed to a number of other causes within the town, most notably the Wool Fair, a contribution that has been appreciated by many over the years. I want to thank Georgina for all of her efforts in what is often a complex and demanding role.

As we ring in the new year we also welcome Alison Packer to the Council as the new Clerk. Ali has been a resident of Brailes for many years, her children have attended Shipston High, and many of you may have met Ali through her Shipston business, Feldon Graphics. I want to wish every success to Ali for her tenure with the Council. I'm sure she'll have the full support of councillors to help her in her new role.

I also want to mention the volunteers at the Shipston Community Christmas in the Townsend Hall. For a couple of years, I've had the privilege of being a very small part of helping with the event, and it's given me a glimpse of just how generous so many people are prepared to be; both with their time and money. Alongside the work undertaken by SCAN amongst others it's a part of tackling social isolation and loneliness in our community at a time that can accentuate these feelings in some. My thanks go to these volunteers for doing such a thoughtful thing on Christmas Day.

Finally - Happy New Year to you all!

Dan Scobie

Shipston's Town Clerk retires after more than a decade of service

Shipston Town Council bid a reluctant farewell to Town Clerk, Georgina Beaumont, who retired in December.

Georgina has led the Clerk's Office for over ten years, during which time she has become a fount of all knowledge to do with local services, events and activities. Having successfully acquired her Certificate in Local Government Administration, Georgina has been able to guide and support the town council, serving eight different mayors and seeing the town council through elections as well as a local referendum and a Neighbourhood Plan referendum.

In addition to her considerable responsibilities as Clerk, Georgina has contributed a significant amount of her own time to support local activities, including the Wool Fair and other Civic events over the years.



Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "We are very sad to see Georgina go after over ten years of very dedicated service. Georgina works extremely hard and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the town and our responsibilities as a town council. On behalf of the town and my fellow councillors, I would like to sincerely thank Georgina for all her hard work. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement."

Traffic lights up and running at Portobello Road Crossroads

After a considerable amount of campaigning – and waiting – followed by the frustration of the works themselves, the new lights at the Portobello Crossroads are up and running.

The new junction started operating at the end of November, and represents a real triumph of people power. Members of the community worked closely with local councillors to campaign for action to be taken following numerous accidents at the junction. It is hoped that the new lights will make the junction much safer for everyone travelling along and across that part of the Fosseway.



Photo courtesy of the Shipston Bugle

Allotment Holders presentation to First Responders

In November, the New Street allotment holders presented Shipston Community First Responders with a cheque to support the vital work the volunteers do to provide emergency first aid to local residents.

The donation was from the prize money the allotment holders were awarded having won first prize in the 2019 Moreton Show allotment competition.



News from Shipston Town Council's December meeting

Hot topics

Safety first: Shipston Town Council is to begin preparations for an inspection of the memorials at the cemetery to ensure they are safe. The inspection will hopefully take place early in the New Year. The Town Clerk will write to St Edmund's Church to request they confirm that they will undertake a similar check.

No spotlight on New Clark House: Peter White raised concerns about the lack of external lighting at New Clark House. The Town Clerk will look into fixing the lights and repairing the missing 'n' from the front of the building.

Praise for Victorian Evening: Councillors congratulated all those involved in such a successful Victorian Evening, especially Shipston Rotary as organisers.

Cemetery potholes: Peter Cox queried why the pothole at the main entrance of the cemetery hasn't been filled in. The Clerk explained that this requires a different stone to match the entrance and there have been problems at the quarry leading to a delay in supply. The hole will be filled in as soon as the stone is available.

Angels everywhere: Fay Ivens congratulated St Edmund's and local groups for the impressive angels display in the church which is on throughout the festive period (see page 8 for details).

Garden waste changes: Stratford District Council has approved a decision to start charging for green waste collection. Further details will be shared when available.

Tree felling: Following an independent inspection of trees in the town, approximately 25 trees in public spaces will need to be felled within the next month for safety reasons. This

includes the dead and dying trees at Railway Crescent. The town council will consider potential replacements where possible.



Campaigning for Shipston

Support for children and families: John Dinnie alerted councillors to the early help being offered by Warwickshire County Council's Family Information Service. To find out more, call 01926 742274 or email fis@warwickshire.gov.uk. John also shared news that work is ongoing to make more use of the children's centre.

Flooding restricted: District councillor, Trevor Harvey reported that only 22 houses in the district were flooded during the bad weather in November. Local experts believe this is due in large part to the work of SAFAG volunteers and that hundreds of houses may have been affected had the proactive flood management work not been done.

Chapel View entrance: Shipston Town Council has objected to Orbit Homes' application to relax the requirement for a right hand feeder lane into the London Road site prior to people moving in. Orbit has applied to delay the works until 20 homes have been occupied but both the town council and County Highways have objected on the grounds of road safety.

Town council business:

Riverbank progress: Meetings are to be held with local contractors to seek advice about the earthworks needed to improve access to and enjoyment of the riverbank.

Going paperless: The town council is planning to move to an electronic records system which will make records keeping and sharing much more efficient.

Welcome to the new team at New Clark House

It's all change in the Clerk's Office for 2020. Alison Packer has taken on the role of Town Clerk following Georgina's retirement. Alison will be working closely with assistant, Diane Neath, who joined the Town Council in August 2019.

Alison is already well known locally, both as a local business owner and for her creation of the popular 'War on Waste Shipston Area' Facebook page. As a community-minded individual who has lived in the area for over 25 years, when Alison saw the Clerk's post advertised, she jumped at the opportunity to become more involved with the town. "I appreciate the importance of the town council, particularly in supporting local groups and initiatives - working closely with local communities was something I had previously enjoyed during my career in public service and although this is a unique role with plenty to learn, I am

looking forward to sharing my experience and supporting the town."

Diane moved to Shipston approximately ten years ago and was immediately struck by the amount of events that take place in the town. "My background is in education so I am used to following policies and procedures and dealing with all sorts of unexpected situations which may arise. In the short time I've been here, I've been amazed at how much work goes in to running a town council. The work is extremely varied - from administering the Council's finances to liaising with allotment holders and contractors and helping with the organisation of events in the town.

The Clerk's office is also open for public enquiries and a lot of time is spent signposting people to the right places for



Ali Packer (left) and Diane Neath

services provided by other authorities.

Alison added: "I can already see that no two days are the same, and whilst I've no doubt this will be a challenge, I'm delighted to be given the opportunity to follow in Georgina's footsteps and do my best for Shipston."

Cubs and scouts swim for victory

In November, 1st Shipston Cubs and Scouts took part in the Stratford District swimming galas. Local Cubs and Beaver groups from across the district gathered at Stratford Leisure Centre for the annual swimming gala. Always quite a close competition and not in the slightest bit competitive, the pressure was on to bring the coveted trophies home.



It turns out that Shipston Cubs and Beavers have some great swimmers and our Beavers came in second with all of them winning at least one of their races.

The Cub team (made up of Cubs from both the Tuesday group and the Wednesday group) went one better and successfully managed to secure the trophy with Alice Corbett and George Hunt winning both of their races in some style.



A huge congratulations to both of our teams and a big thank you to the leaders and parents who came along to support.

Top tips on tackling the post-Christmas waste mountain

According to recent reports, the amount of waste we produce over the Christmas period rises by approximately 30%. Here's a few suggestions to help you reduce, reuse and recycle your festive waste.

Making the most of district recycling

Your blue bin is the ideal place for non-glittery Christmas cards and paper, biscuit tins, sweet tubs alongside the normal cardboard, plastic and glass bottles, rinsed tins and foil. If you have more recycling than you can fit in your blue bin, please leave it in a rigid or recyclable box next to your bin for collection.

If you've received lots of cards with glitter that can't be recycled – why not reuse them instead? Cut up Christmas cards can make ideal gift tags next year – saving you money and reducing waste. Bubble wrap, plastic film and bags, ribbons and bows can't be recycled in your blue bin but most of these items can be reused with a bit of planning and creativity.



Food waste can of course go in your green bin – and if you have a garden, vegetable matter is ideal for making compost.

If you have a real Christmas tree, the district council will collect it free of charge with your green waste. Trees over 1.5m (5ft) tall should be cut in half.

Fingers crossed for a new world record after the Tapathon smashes its target

There were many toes tapping in Shipston in November for the 2019 World Record Attempt for the largest tap dance class.

Shipston's Townsend Hall was a flurry of activity as 30 enthusiastic dancers from Dance with Dash joined in the 10th anniversary Tapathon organised by the Performers Project in aid of Children in Need. As well as raising funds, the event aims to break the world record for the most tap dancers dancing the same routine, across multiple venues. The current record is 7596 dancers but this year's efforts smashed through that target with 7612 people taking part.

Shipston organiser, Sarah, from Dance with Dash, was delighted with the response. "We all had great fun dancing at The Townsend hall and were joined this year by 27 dancers from Chipping Norton School of dance too. We raised £203 on our cakes stall and in excess of £38,300 was raised by the event across the country, all for Children in Need. We now await news as our record attempt has been submitted for verification."



Shipston recycling

Thanks to Shipston's own waste scheme in St Edmund's Church, there are lots of other items you can recycle, including Tassimo coffee pods, crisp packets, biscuit and chocolate wrappers which could make a huge difference to how much you send to landfill each year. Please remember that this service is run by volunteers so to make their life easier, follow the instructions about what to recycle in which boxes and only add things that can't already be recycled via your blue and green bins. Most importantly, please thoroughly rinse pet food pouches before recycling so the organisers don't have to deal with any nasty surprises.

Unwanted presents?

As the saying goes, one person's rubbish is another person's treasure and that's certainly true when you look at the success of Shipston's War on Waste Facebook page. If you've received something you don't like this Christmas – or a replacement for something which still has some life left in it – why not offer it via the Shipston War on Waste page, or take it to one of the local charity shops.

Worried about the weather?

In the event of snow and ice which could affect bin collections, please check the District Council's website at www.stratford.gov.uk or Twitter on @StratfordDC for the latest updates. Stratford District Council will also be sharing tips on how to #Recycle Right on Facebook and Twitter.



MONDAY

Citizens Advice: Mornings, New Clark House. To book call 01789 200136
U3A Chess Club. U3A For details call Ian on 01608 662565.

Walking for Health - short walks at a gentle pace: 10-11am Bridge Car Park. All welcome. Contact Bob on 665995 or just turn up.

Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club: 6.45pm for 7pm, Catholic Church Hall. Penny Law 663871

Shipston Baby & Toddler Group: Term time only. 9.30-11am, Scout Hut. Contact shipstontoddlers@gmail.com

Knitting & Crochet Club: 7-9pm at Low Furlong. Contact Julie Pardoe 07956 180989 or Facebook 'Shipston knitting and crochet group'.

Shipston Badminton Club: Townsend Hall, 7:30pm

TUESDAY

Yoga for all abilities: 9.30am-11am Catholic Church Hall. Contact Lee Figures 665995 / 07526 575969

Stroke Club: Fortnightly 10am-12pm The House of Bread Retreat at The Mill, Burmington Contact: Bill King 01608 661186

Rhyme time for under 2s: 10.45am Shipston Library. Free.

Age Concern Lunch Club at Stour Court. Stella 686224

Silver Surfer Computer Lessons, Shipston Library 2pm. Free. Booking essential. 0300 5558171

Lego Club for children aged 6+: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 3:30pm-4:30pm Shipston Library. Free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact: Shipston Library 0300 555 8171

Shipston on Stour Rotarians: The White Bear, 7.30pm. Adrian Ramskill 07976 566525

Cantamus: 7.30-9.30pm, Catholic Parish Hall. Richard Emms 662163.

WEDNESDAY

Coffee at St Edmunds Church: 10:30am – 12pm.

U3A Chicago Bridge: Social Bridge 2pm-4.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Roger Smith on 238400.

Stour Valley Probud: Alternate Wednesdays at 10am, NEW VENUE: Shipston Sports and Social Club. Roger Smith on 01608 238400.

THURSDAY

Little Fishes: 9.45-11:15 am, Townsend Hall. Baby and toddler group run by Stour Valley Baptist Church. £2 per child. 50p siblings. (Term time)

Shipston Stitchers: alternate

Thursdays 10am - 3pm Catholic Church. Contact Lynda, Gerrards Rd, Shipston. 07934 203666

Active Memory Group: 3rd Thursday, 10am - 12noon. Contact Alyson Spence 01608 661703 or 07725 892087

Story Stomp: Shipston Library, 11.30-12pm. FREE For children aged 2-4.

Age Concern Lunch Club: Alternate Thursdays. Contact Sue on 01608 664490

Safer Neighbourhood Team: Fortnightly. Public surgery, 2.30pm to 3pm. New Clark House.

U3A Table Tennis. Thursdays 2pm - 3pm at the Townsend Hall. (five tables) See Shipston U3A website or contact Dave 07973 256198

The Thursday Club: 2pm- 4pm, Shipston Library. Free weekly drop-in session for adults. Board games, puzzles, colouring, crafts. Tea/biscuits.

Stour Singers - Choral Society: 7.30 - 9.30pm Primary School Hall. Yvonne Ridley 01789 269587.

Shipston Badminton Club: Townsend Hall, 7:30pm

Shipston Archers: For the winter season: Indoors at Shipston High School, 6pm until 8pm. Beginners welcome. Contact 07795 632718 or 01608 664646

FRIDAY

Walks with a friendly group. Old Mill car park at 10am. Contact: Marlene, 663616

Shipston Probud: alternate Fridays, Shipston Sports Club, Contact Tony 01608 663407

Age Concern Lunch Club at Stour Court. Contact Ann on 01608 664947

Sit and get Fit: Catholic Church, Darlingscote Road, Shipston, 10.30am - 12-30pm. Alternate Fridays. Contact Ann Smith 01608 238400

Knitting & Crochet Club: 2-5pm, Rainbow Fields. Contact Julie Pardoe 07956 180989

Bingo Night at Rainbow Fields: Doors open 6.30pm. Contact Ruth Keyte 661382

SATURDAY

Chatterbooks: 10:30am – 12pm, Shipston Library. Free monthly drop-in session. Suitable for ages 6-11. Typically second Saturday but please enquire.

Shipston Archers: For the winter season: Brailles Village Hall Pavillion, 1pm- 3.30pm. Beginners welcome. Contact 07795 632718 or 01608 664646

January Diary

4 Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Contact: Fay Ivens 662133 or fayivens@aol.com

8 Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230

Stratford Time Bank's Shipston Social Meeting: 1.30pm-3pm, Community Room at Stour Court. Everyone welcome

Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute: Gourmet Test - which brand is best? 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519

9 Active Memory Group: Quizzes, crafts, singing and more, with lots of chat and tea & cake. St Edmunds, 2nd Thursday of each month between 10am-12noon, where people with memory problems can come along, have fun. Contact Alyson Spence on 07725 892087. See ad on page 9

Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch: 17 Committee Meeting. 7.30pm, New Clark House, West Street. All members welcome. Contact Alex Black 01608 664743

10 Rural Cinema – Judy: See ad on page 9

13 Shipston Town Council Monthly Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact: Town Clerk 662180

Stour Valley Lions Monthly Business Meeting: 7.30pm, The White Bear Function Room, Shipston. Visitors welcome. Contact Lion Paul Macpherson, 682102 or 07725 105677

14 Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN) Meeting: Climate Action, Dave Passingham & War on Waste, Alison Packer. Meetings take place in Townsend Hall, Sheep Street. Refreshments are served from 10am and the talks begin at 10:30am. Meetings are open to anyone 50+ and are free to attend. Contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108 for more information. See ad on page 10

Shipston Flower Club: Club Lunch. Contact Elizabeth James 01789 450359 or Kathy Little 01608 664882 for more information

15 Shipston Widows: Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am - 12pm, Coach & Horses. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230

Shipston Proms Meeting: 7.30pm every third Wednesday, White Bear. New members welcome. Email: shipstonproms@gmail.com

Stour Valley Carers Group - Supporting Dementia Carers: 10.30am-12pm, Ellen Badger Hospital (using the Day Unit entrance). Friendly welcome for all visitors. Contact: Carol Ruthven 662706 or Lizzy Feather 686013

Singing Down Memory Lane - Reminiscence songs for people with memory problems. 2pm -3.30pm at Stour Court Community Lounge, Old Road. Refreshments provided. Contact: Barbara Smith 01608 662433 or David Hollingworth 07970 125566

Royal British Legion – Social: A social gathering of serving and ex-service members of HM Armed Forces at 1930 hrs in the White Bear. If you miss the comradeship and friendly banter of your service days, do come and take part. Open to all members, current and ex-service personnel and anyone interested in joining the RBL. Contact Alex Black 01608 664743

18 Shipston Cancer Support Group: Drop-In Centre: Scout Hut, New Street. 2pm-4pm

27 Planning Meeting: Shipston Town Council-Monthly meeting of the Planning Working Group: 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact the Town Clerk on 662180

28 Shipston U3A: see ad on page 10

29 Shipston and District Literary Society: Lawrence Green - Shakespeare's Dysfunctional Families, 7.30pm, The White Bear. Members £15pa, Non-members: £4. All welcome. Contact Helen Marshall, 01789 740773

30 Quaker Meeting for Worship: 2.30pm – 3 pm in St Edmund's Church, followed by a cuppa. Last Thursday of each month. Contact 01608 661372 or 01608 238298. All are welcome. You do not have to be a Quaker to attend

30 – 1st

Shipston Amateur Dramatics – Pinocchio: See ad on page 16

New Year's Resolutions – Time to get active?

If you're emerging from the festivities with a new-found enthusiasm to get active or try a new hobby, the Shipston Forum is here to help. We put out a call to the many and varied sports clubs around the town to find out what's on offer for those of us looking for a new challenge. Here's what they had to say.



Shipston Archers

We introduced archery into the PE curriculum at the High School in 2012, for those pupils who were not achieving their best in sport. It was so successful that we started to need more equipment, so we applied for, and received, a grant from Sport England, through Coventry & Warwickshire Sport. The grant came with a proviso, to allow access to the 14 – 25 year age groups in the local area. We couldn't just rely on the school to provide the facilities, so The Shipston Archers club was formed.

Following a grant from Sport England, our club launched in 2015 (on the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt!) and runs beginners courses which cover technique, posture, safety and the different styles and aspects of archery. The club now has over 20 current members, aged from 11 to 71. We provide all the equipment for the courses and we also have a number of bow kits for hire or loan. We have also recently sponsored an ex-serviceman to trial for the Invictus Games squad.

We provide archery instruction for all the local schools and we run an annual Primary school tournament each spring. Our next Beginner's Course is planned for May 21st to June 25th next year, subject to take-up, and we will be running another indoor course in August/September.



For more details, please drop by one of our sessions, call 07795-632718 or email dgrb@rocketmail.com.



Norgren Bowls Club

It will be our 50th anniversary in 2020! We are based at Shipston Enterprise Hub on Pittway Avenue and we are looking for new members, young and not so young. Coaching will be available for new starters and equipment will be supplied. Past members will be warmly welcomed back by our new committee. Plus you can ease yourself in to the New Year - our season doesn't start until April and then carries on until September. For more details, please contact our Chairman, Mr Chris Dickens on 01608 664736 or chrisdickens52@hotmail.com.



Shooters Netball

Netball enthusiast? Then the Shipston Shooters Club could be right for you.

Netball training sessions take place on Wednesday evenings at Meon Vale Leisure Centre from 7 - 8.30pm. Car share is available from Shipston Leisure Centre. For more information, contact the Shooters Committee at: Shootersnetball@outlook.com



Shipston Hockey Club

Shipston Ladies Hockey Club is an extremely friendly club. It doesn't matter what experience you have, as long as you have a good sense of humour you're welcome to come along.

We play all our home games at Warwick at St Nicholas' park. Our squad of 16 players is in the Warwickshire league in Division Two.

Training is on Wednesdays from 6-7pm at Shipston High School. Find us on Facebook or come along to one of our training sessions.



Badminton

After the festive season you may be looking for a fun, energetic and social club to help get a bit fitter? Did you know there is a friendly badminton club who play at the Townsend Hall in Shipston, that is open to new members?

Why not come along and meet us and see if you'd like to join - bring a racquet (if you can) and some trainers (preferably with light coloured, non-marking soles) and have a go, or just come and watch for your first visit. We play on a Monday and Thursday evening from 7.30pm from September to April and have players of different levels - we welcome those who can play badminton or have an aptitude to play.

We are a competitive club too and have teams that compete in the Leamington and Evesham leagues and we try to let all players who'd like to have a go at competitions be part of a team.

If you want to know more then you can either drop an email to shipstonbadders@gmail.com or give Sue Sturgess (07733 260025) or Nick Watts (07928 252196) a call.

<http://www.shipstonbadminton.org/>



Shipston Bowls Club

Yes, you read that right – Shipston has not one but two bowls clubs!

Shipston Bowls Club is based at the Sports and Social Club where the emphasis is on social. Although we do take part in competitions, our main focus is on encouraging people to get out and about and have some fun. We play short mat bowls on Mondays from 1:30-3:30 and tea and cake are as much of a fixture as the bowls themselves!

From April - Sept we play roll ups on Mondays and Fridays. Age is no barrier – and no experience is necessary. Contact Pete on ginaandpete@talktalk.net for details.



Tennis

You might be thinking that tennis is only for the summer months but happily that's not the case. With floodlit courts and a new mini tennis court for children play continues year round (as long as it's not pouring with rain – we do have some limits!)

We offer classes for children and adults and both members and non-members are welcome. New classes are open for over 65s on Thursdays at 9.30am. We're also planning new tennis fitness classes in the near future.

Contact Jose on 07969055032 or jolilian24@yahoo.com for this and any other information about classes.



Shipston Excelsior FC

Shipston Excelsior Football Club was founded in 1903! The club boast Mens and Juniors teams.

We are an FA charter standard club. Our first team plays in the Midlands Football League Division Three and two Colts teams (17/18 year olds) play in the Stratford Alliance league on Saturdays. We also have two teams playing in the Evesham Sunday league.

The club has a busy junior section, with teams starting from under 7s (age 5+) up to under 16s playing in the Ambassador Evesham league with FA qualified coaches.

We're a small club and are always keen to welcome new players, committee members, coaches and volunteers. For more information, contact Jennie on 07846 429111 visit <https://www.facebook.com/shipstonexcelsior/>



Shipston Cricket Club

No need to miss out on cricket just because it's winter. We have just booked the Meon Vale Leisure Centre for a block of net sessions aimed at anybody who would like to come and try cricket at Shipston on Stour Cricket Club. The sessions will be held on Fridays, 7.30-9pm and will begin on 10th January, running for 10 weeks.

The idea is to welcome players, old and new, to a more casual form of practice in the hope that it will attract some new players from around the town and surrounding areas to come and give cricket a go. We will be stopping afterwards at a local pub to have a couple of drinks, again in the hope that this will make any potential newcomers feel more welcome (well, I suppose the New Year can't all be about being healthy). If anybody would like any further information, please call club captain, Jack Murphy on 07833 545474.



Shipston Rugby

As reported last month, Shipston has a very busy and successful rugby club with a number of different activities to suit different ages. To find out more, take a look at <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/shipstononstourrfc>



Cycling

Shipston Cycling Club (SCC) has a plan to help you get the New Year off to a fit and healthy start.

Potential new members are being invited to try out a group ride, free of charge, on Sunday 5th and Sunday 12th January. The rides will set out from Shipston Leisure Centre, Darlingscote Road at 9am.

We are a friendly group of riders of many different abilities and we always welcome new members. What unites us is a love for the great outdoors and with so much beautiful scenery on our doorstep, a bike ride is the perfect way to get out and explore our area while enjoying a great fitness boost. The January rides will you the chance to take part in a group ride for the very first time, or perhaps to return to cycling after a period out of the saddle.

All you need is a roadworthy road bike and a helmet. Oh, and be sure to bring along some change as all of our Sunday group rides stop off at a local café for coffee and cake! (so a fit and healthy-ish start to the New Year then).

Anyone wanting to try out a ride with Shipston Cycling Club should contact club chairman, Andy, on andy@shipstoncycling.com – or via facebook. [com/ShipstonCycling](https://www.facebook.com/ShipstonCycling)



Is your sports club missing?

If you run a local sports club and would like to let Forum readers know about it, please contact us at forum@shipstononline.org

Christmas Cheer in Shipston

Woolly Christmas scenes bring festive fun to the town centre

Did you spot the wonderful Christmas creations on show in local shops around the town? Shipston's Knitting and Crochet Group was hard at work preparing some festive friends to brighten up shop windows. They also left some crocheted Christmas tree decorations around the town for people to pick up and take home with them.

This year the group decided to keep its creations indoors so they would last throughout the festive period for everyone to enjoy. But they couldn't resist dotting a few surprises around the town for people to take home. Hopefully these acts of kindness will bring a smile to those that found the decorations.

Lights fantastic – another great show for Shipston

One Donnington Road resident brought joy to lots of residents again this year with their now legendary Christmas lights. A quiet corner of the road was transformed into a must-see attraction at Christmas as people stopped by to enjoy the wonderful Christmas scene, created to raise money for Shipston First Responders.

Not to be outdone, there were lots of other houses around the town with lights to enjoy – some complete with climbing Santas or dazzling projections. Farm Close continues to be a highlight on the Christmas lights pilgrimage, with many houses going all out to impress with their festive creations.

And of course the town centre itself has been looking lovely with its warm lights and Christmas Tree of Life, with lots of creative decorations livening up the windows of local restaurants, shops and cafes.

What a great show for Shipston!



Angels delight in St Edmund's Church

St Edmund's Church was filled with Angels throughout the festive period thanks to community groups throughout the town.

The Angels Everywhere display showcased a journey through the Christmas story with different angels created by community groups.

Photos: Angels created by Shipston Knitting and Crochet group (left) and the Active Memory Group (right).



All smiles at the Shipston Rotary Victorian Evening

The Shipston Rotary Victorian Evening was a great success, attracting the crowds and keeping everyone entertained with activities, competitions and retail therapy. The evening got off to a great start thanks to beautiful singing by the school children from Shipston, Brailes and Long Compton schools, as well as festive tunes from the Town Band.

After the big lights switch-on, Santa made his way to his grotto where he was kept busy most of the evening, while the High Street and Market Place remained a hive of activity. A new first for the Victorian Evening was the opportunity to visit the photographic museum which proved popular with residents of all ages – visitors got pretty competitive when it came to the bagatelle (pinball). The museum will remain open until the end of the school holidays, so there's still time to improve your score.

The Richard Harvey Collection were the proud winners of the Best Dressed Window competition, while the Shipston Rotary Co-op trolley dash was won by a gentleman who is a regular at the Stratford Leisure Centre. Keeping fit can have surprising rewards it seems!

Huge congratulations to Shipston Rotary on another enjoyable event for the town – and Father Christmas passes on his thanks to Rotarians too, both for helping out with the Grotto and for escorting him around the town during December.



What's On

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



RENÉE
ZELLWEGER

JUDY

Judy Garland: the legend behind the rainbow.
Judy Garland arrives in London in the winter of 1968 to perform a series of sold-out concerts.

Certificate 12A

SHIPSTON HIGH SCHOOL,
FRIDAY 10th January, 2020 at 7.00pm

Advance Tickets £4.00 or £4.50 on the door.

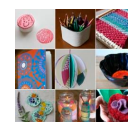
From: A. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour.

Lion Judith Jackson. Tel: 01608 661148

Interval for refreshments, drinks and snacks.

Disabled toilet and wheelchair access.

ACTIVE MEMORY GROUP



We are a friendly group of people who meet at St Edmunds Church on the 2nd Thursday of each month between 10am-12noon, where people with memory problems can come along, have fun doing quizzes, crafts, singing and more, with lots of chat and of course tea and cake.

Future Dates: Thursday 9th January 2020
Thursday 13th February 2020
Thursday 12th March 2020



If you know of anyone who you think could benefit from our Group or need any other information please contact Alyson Spence on 07725 892087.

Dementia Friendly Shipston

scan

Shipston SCAN

SENIOR CITIZENS ACTION NETWORK

Programme 2020

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

- **Tues 14 January** – Climate Action, Dave Passingham & War on Waste, Alison Packer
- **Tues 12 March** – Warwickshire Vision Support, Louise Jelley & VASA's Volunteer Driver Scheme, Ali Gravestock
- **Tues 12 May** – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Celebrating 50 years
- **Tues 14 July** – To Be Confirmed
- **Tues 10 September** – Switch & Save Scheme (TBC) - a collective energy switch to help residents save money on their gas and electricity bill.
- **Tues 13 November** – AGM / Speaker TBC

➤ Meetings take place in Townsend Hall, Sheep Street. Refreshments are served from 10am and the talks begin at 10:30am. Meetings are open to anyone 50+ and are free to attend.

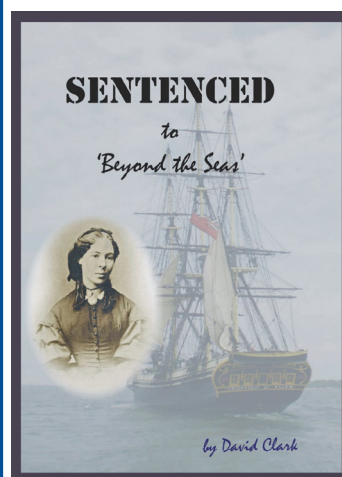
Contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108 for more information. Please note the programme is subject to change.



TUESDAY 28 JANUARY, 2020
2 pm TOWNSEND HALL

SENTENCED - A TRUE STORY

A talk by David Clark



When David was Mayor of Worcester, he opened the cells of the Worcester Guildhall to the public. Then he became interested in the people who had gone through those cells over the years. This is just one of those stories.

It is the story of eight female convicts sentenced to death or transportation to the "Land Beyond the Seas". That land was to become Australia and those women would be the foundation of a new nation.

Visitors are welcome

Entry including refreshments £2

Interested in embroidery? Join Shipston Stitchers!

We are a friendly group that welcomes hand embroiders of all standards - cross stitch to goldwork.

Spring Term starts on Thursday 2 January. We meet on alternate Thursdays from 10am-3pm in the Catholic Church Rooms, Darlingscote Rd.

Come along or contact Lynda for further details on 07934 203666

Shipston Forum Tender

**Deadline Extended
until 30th Jan 2020**



The Town Council is inviting bids for the writing, editing & production of the Shipston Forum

The new 3 year term contract will begin on the 1st April 2020.

For full details, please contact

Tel: 01608 662180 Email: clerk@shipstononline.co.uk



Are you over 65?

Do you need advice and/or signposting for services?

Are you feeling isolated and want to know how to get involved with groups?

Possibly questions about care options?

Perhaps you would like a quick Blood Pressure check?

Nurse Jan who works as part of the Older Peoples team at Shipston Medical Centre has a new drop in clinic starting November

Where: Ellen Badger Hospital, Ellen Ward

When: Every Wednesday morning between 9am and 12 noon

No appointment necessary

Shipston Primary School

Flooding

During my time at Shipston Primary School we had only closed early due to flooding on one previous occasion - Thursday 21st November 2013. That was until Thursday 14th November 2019 when I made the decision to close at 10.43am due to flooding in the surrounding areas and the increased risk of staff and pupils being unable to get home safely due to rising waters.

The vast majority of children were collected within 1 hour of the text message being sent out, which enabled staff living far away to leave school as early as possible. The promptness and consideration of parents was very much appreciated. Many, many thanks to the staff who lived in Shipston who stayed until every child was collected, providing snacks and entertainment.

A 5am alarm call and drive to Shipston, Long Compton and Brailes the following morning proved that a delayed decision was the correct one as the water levels had receded and our schools were open on Friday morning.

Football winners

On Tuesday 26th November a team of Year 5 and Year 6 boys took part in the Stratford District round of the English Schools FA 7-a-side cup at Henley-in-Arden School.

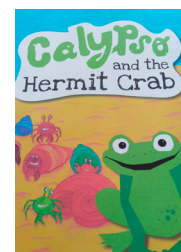
Showing great teamwork and great defending, the boys were undefeated in their league, winning three games 1-0 and drawing the other two 0-0. The semi-final was tense; again Shipston defended valiantly. The full time score of 0-0 meant that penalties were required, in which Shipston triumphed 2-1.

Thanks go to Mr. Schumann, Mr. Lane, Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Picard for their help and to Mr. Roberts for organising the fixture. We now progress to the regional round of the tournament where we will play against schools across the

Midlands. The winners of that tournament will then play against all of the regional winners in the national final, potentially at Wembley Stadium!

Calypso's first adventure

Mrs. Roberts, who teaches music and art at all schools in The Stour Federation Partnership, has written her first book starring Calypso the frog. It's called Calypso and the Hermit Crab. Mrs. Roberts shared her story with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, who thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gave her great ideas and inspiration for Calypso's future adventures.



Christmas

The Christmas spirit well and truly arrived at Shipston Primary School at the end of term, commencing with Year 4 children making Christingles for St. Edmund's church service and nearly 100 pupils singing beautifully to open the town's Victorian Evening.

As part of our continuous work to be a values driven school, we have had a Values Christmas tree in our school hall, donated by Warwickshire Christmas Trees. All children were given a tag and asked to write a Christmas message, reflection, promise or prayer linked to one of our values. Lots of children brought in their tags and hung them on the Christmas tree.

Children from Reception to Year 4 all performed Christmas plays to parents and family members. There were 7 performances in total and all were fantastic - congratulations to the children and to the staff involved.

Happy New Year!

Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

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 2020.

Autumn term finished with a fantastic Christmas atmosphere around the school, culminating in our Christmas carol concert. It was wonderful to hear



selections from bands, choirs and soloists. School performers past and present also got together to contribute to the town's Victorian evening in December; there is an abundance of musical talent in the school, driven by real enthusiasm. Thanks to Mr. Hunt for preparing the events, our many performers and to everyone who attended the evenings; enjoyable activities just before the Christmas break.

All of our Year 7 students enjoyed a recent trip to Warwick Castle. Whilst learning about the history of the castle and the region's power, students represented the school superbly, and thoroughly enjoyed their day. We are fortunate to be able to access such important and historic sites so close to the school. I am always very proud of the compliments our students receive when out in the community, and this was no

exception.

Looking ahead, we are very excited about school events in 2020. This year will see our first school trip to Poland. Students will experience local culture, and also visit the site of Auschwitz. This is certain to be a powerful experience, and we shall share more on this after the trip.

The school is also preparing students for the national Rotary Youth Speaks competition. The school has achieved well in this event in the past, and students are well prepared via our own inter-house speaking competition. We look forward to this year's event, with thanks to participants, Mr. Warren and, of course, the Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour for their tireless support.

Academically, all students will be focussed on their studies. There is a unique focus for our Year 11 students who are embarking on their final full term in the school before GCSE examinations begin in May. Students will receive mock exam results this month, which are a useful guide to the work ahead. The pressures on young people are genuine, as examinations become increasingly challenging. As always, I am impressed by how our older students manage this point in their schooling, and we look forward to a successful exam period later in the spring.



Shipston Proms

With the onset of the New Year, Shipston Proms is just six months away so there is plenty of planning to do. It was great therefore to welcome two new members Gillian and Hywel Connell who have offered to help where they can.

There was much discussion at our last meeting as to who will be performing over the fortnight, including the idea of a themed launch night that will encourage dressing up. We have several bands interested in appearing at the Proms and we are researching those as well as looking into suggestions which have appeared on our social media pages.

The Music Society have invited the Warwick choir Divertimento to sing at St. Edmund's during Shipston Proms. They have an extremely varied repertoire of both sacred and secular music which should attract a full church.

Those thinking of a career in music or for performers who enjoy playing to the public, should apply to participate in the Fame Contest, where the winners get to play on stage at the renowned Last Night of the Proms in the High Street. Previous winners, Artists and bands, have gone on to appear on BBC Introducing and tour Europe, so it certainly is a great leg up. In addition, during the competition you will be offered great support and guidance from experts and your sound will be produced by professional sound engineers. There is the added bonus of a cash prize too!

Further details of this and any further developments will be in future issues of the Forum. In the meantime, please keep checking our social media pages for any updated information. All comments as usual are welcome on Facebook or at shipstonproms@gmail.com. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.



Shipston-on-Stour and area U3A

Amusing and often surprising stories of incidents during Peter Mitchell's 60 years in museums entertained members and visitors at the last meeting.

Peter's career began when he walked through the Science Museum in London with a job-seeking advert. After a short informal interview, he walked out with a job. Aged just 20 - 45 years younger than the youngest curator - he was to be a "guinea pig" for bringing in younger curators.

One of Peter's tutors was Sir Charles Harvard Gibbs-Smith, a Senior Keeper at the V&A Museum who asked Peter to accompany him to offer help and condolences to the widow of a curator who had died at work. Looking around the house they realised that almost everything, from the flowered Victorian washbasin plumbed-in, to the priceless, 9th century silver figurines on the mantelpiece representing the 13 Apostles of the Greek Orthodox Church, must have come from the museum. Sir Charles gently told her that all the items "borrowed" from the museum would have to be returned, but would be replaced with new. Peter was given the job of refurbishing the whole house and told to give the bill to Sir Charles.

Many distinguished people came Peter's way. For example, he became friends with a man who said he was a tour guide, but also wrote poetry; he proceeded to recite his most recent and yet unpublished poem "Christmas", and Peter discovered he had been talking to John Betjeman.

His career nearly came to an end when he accepted a request from the Bristol Company asking if he could take for the museum the Bristol 188 research aircraft, together with the TSR2. This contravened a secret Prime Ministerial Order by Harold Wilson, who wanted to have Peter held up for treason. Peter had many more stories to share, including that some of his most rewarding experiences were with parties of disabled children, who had hardly ever left the homes where they were cared for, and to whom he was able to open a new world.



Shipston on Stour Lodge of Freemasons



November saw the first meeting with new Worshipful Master Royston Williams occupying the Chair. Twenty-nine Masons including visitors met at Townsend Hall and enjoyed an excellent meeting where a ceremony of initiation was demonstrated, followed by a delicious dinner. Charitable grants were agreed of £500 split equally between Shipston Home Nursing and The Friends of Shipston Hospitals. The lodge has a long tradition of supporting local good causes, as well as national ones.

The Lodge enjoys regular social events where members, their wives, partners, families and friends can get together and enjoy each others' company. Our latest event was a superb Xmas Sunday Lunch at the Norman Knight. A full schedule of events are already organised for 2020.

Our next meeting will be held at Townsend Hall on Friday 24th January 2020 at 6pm. If you are already a Freemason and would like to visit us, we will give you a very warm welcome. If you are not a Freemason and would like to learn how you can become one, we would be delighted to hear from you to tell you more about us. In either case, please contact our Secretary Rob Nichols on 01608-663485

Royal British Legion - Poppy Appeal



The 2019 Poppy Appeal total is £15,216.45. A very good result and thanks as ever are due to all who generously supported the Appeal in Shipston, Burmington, Barcheston, Willington, Tidmington, Stretton, Brailes, Cherington, Stourton, Winderton & Sutton under Brailes. Thanks of course are also due to all who collected often in cold and wet weather this year without whom the Appeal would not get off the ground.

While Shipston particularly continues to grow with new houses being occupied, the need for more collectors next year and onwards is ever present. Being a collector is rewarding and enjoyable so before memory of this year's Appeal fades please consider becoming a collector next year.

Contact Richard Adams on richardadams5@hotmail.com or 07961452182.

The Townsend Hall

The winning numbers for the Nov Draw are:

£15 Member no 5
£10 Member no 131
£5 Member No 98

Congratulations on your winnings!



Shipston-on-Stour Music Society



At the November meeting of the Shipston Music Society, musician Howard Skempton gave a talk entitled "What makes a composer?" Howard has worked as a composer, accordionist and music publisher. He studied in London with Cornelius Cardew and has won several awards for some of his compositions. He is now a lecturer in composition at the Birmingham Conservatoire. Throughout the evening Howard was assisted by Charles Matthews at the keyboard, playing with his usual expertise, all the examples required to illustrate the points being made.

Howard began by explaining that as a 17 year old, his piano teacher had allowed him to learn whatever he chose, but then things changed when his next teacher presented him with a planned scheme to widen his knowledge and improve his technique! He began to listen to lots of music in a wide variety of styles and became interested in the compositions of John Cage. Immediately he was inspired to start writing his own music in this more modern genre. He experimented with ideas to try to find the necessary harmonic structure and choice of instruments to achieve the desired results.

In 1973 he composed a piece for accordion, later arranging it for the piano. We heard the piano arrangement first before Howard played the original on his accordion – a very interesting listening experience.

The evening ended with extracts from a song cycle based on the poem "Man and Bat" by D. H. Laurence. Composed in 2017 it is scored for baritone soloist with string quartet, double bass and piano and describes the antics which ensued during the man's efforts to persuade the bat to fly out of the room. It was a fitting finale to a fascinating journey from inspired teenager to widely acclaimed composer.

A Badger's Eye

At last we have an idea of what the new Ellen Badger can look like and will do. The architects designing the new hospital and Medical Centre have been chosen and we are excited by the possibilities they have presented.

As well as a new and much, much bigger space for the GPs and nurses and new hospital beds - at the moment half to be single, ensuite rooms - we will have a Health and WellBeing Hub not just to make people better but also to keep them well.

Trevor Russell's work with SCAN is now leading toward the creation of a Health and WellBeing Partnership. That Partnership will be at the heart of the Hub, which will have meeting space for Shipston's many health groups, a drop-in cafe together with counselling rooms for young people.

The space running down to the Stour will allow for trim trails, outdoor "exercise on prescription" equipment and opportunities for developing a community garden to offer produce for the cafe. The cafe will offer a healthy eating menu and a demonstration kitchen to help reverse the obesity epidemic which now threatens to overwhelm the NHS.

It will be at least another half year before the final specification is put out to the developers. That is the time we hope the whole community will say what they want from the "New Badger".

The League will hold other events in the New Year to bring people together with the architects and the NHS managers. We will also now accelerate our own fund raising to ensure the outcome is the very best we can make it. It feels this is going to be a very happy - and healthy - New Year!

Lions Serving the Community, with a financial boost from the Coop



Stour Valley Lions have received a wonderful donation from the Cooperative Group, Local Community Fund Project. This project, which



ran from October 2018 to October 2019, enabled Co-op customers to select one of

The photograph shows the presentation to Stour valley Lions. From the left is Lion President Dave Squires, Past President Fran Stary, Store Manager John Adams and Store Team Leader Leon Ions

three charities to benefit from a small donation when purchasing goods from the shop. A massive thank you to the community for selecting the Lions as one of the three charities to qualify. The fund accumulated a total of £21,049 and Stour Valley Lions benefitted from a £7,041 share of this sum.

It was a requirement before the start of the project, to specify how proceeds were to be used. Our Club chose projects to address both the young and the aged in our community. The youth project was to establish a Leo Club for the young and as the proceeds were greater than expected we will also be assisting local youth sports clubs with their attire. For the elderly we will organise a senior citizens party or a day out for those in need.

Readers' Letters

Letter from Marilyn and Cameron Chalmers

As you are aware, a band of us have been working on the Hanson track, trying to make it passable to the fields for dog walkers and families alike. It's an uphill battle but it looks like there is light at the end of the tunnel.

I'm not at liberty to say what's going to happen just yet, but hopefully, in the near future, major work will be carried out to alleviate the drainage problems up there.

So please bear with us and as soon as we know anything concrete, we'll let you know.

It's still a major problem with people letting their dogs loose and not clearing up when they foul though, so please, please, please clean up after your dogs. It's just not acceptable to not clear up. In fact, I caught a man recently with two Labradors at the Cala Homes end of the track, who didn't like it when I pointed out his dogs had fouled. He just brushed it off and said he didn't have any bags. I promptly gave him two! There's no excuse other than no dog bin up there.

Many thanks.

District Council Update

As many of you know, I have been somewhat distracted with my Mum's ill health over the last couple of months. She died peacefully at home in December. In her memory I would like to share some of the insight I gained into our local health care through my mum's experiences, of which I would otherwise have been blissfully unaware!

On many hospital visits I have seen the reality of NHS care – usually exemplary – often tired and usually for the nurses no lunch until 4pm if they are lucky (I handed over one of Mum's choccy biccies to a faint looking Healthcare Assistant). A lesson there for SWFT and me to promote staff wellbeing. If the workforce falls over we are not doing anything for the patients either. However, it was good to see the positive achievements at South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust recognised by the Care Quality Commission

My other observation is how heavily the NHS relies on overseas nurses and healthcare assistants. We had a briefing about the status of EU nationals, their families and extended family in light of Brexit. In my view the Home Office information was fiendishly complicated. If you are an EU citizen – please consult <https://www.the3million.org.uk> for advice. SDC are putting on roadshows with councillors to get the message over.

Jo Barker, Councillor for Shipston South

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



County Council update

My Mum also helped me to appreciate a service offered in the community by WCC – called re-ablement (no it is not a real word – but it is a real help). The former Home Help service still exists in this form. The NHS sort of took it over but WCC run it with our staff. And what staff – I shan't name them – but their ability to motivate gently and get someone up again after hospital, is amazing. They also helped me settle into a caring routine too. Underpaid but rarely overwhelmed – can I encourage anyone who wants an independent job caring for people to look at it? This is the way to get people out of hospital and back to some form of normality – and hopefully to where they were before they were ill. It's also cheaper and much nicer for people to be at home.

On a different note, I hope you are all pleased with the Portobello? Thanks to WCC for pushing this up the list of works. Now for some rewinding of our verges with seeds from the AONB, tree planting and for all of us to think about our impact on the world around us. Happy New Year Shipston!

Warwickshire libraries launches new e-book and audio book service

Did you know that you can also borrow e-books, audio books and digital newspapers and magazines from Warwickshire Libraries?

Having previously been operating two systems, Warwickshire Libraries is moving to Borrowbox – an app that allows users to borrow eBooks and eAudiobooks for free from their library which is available across most digital devices, including the iPad and Kindle Fire. Borrowbox has been trialled successfully since February and will shortly replace the previous

Overdrive service some library users may be used to.

Borrowbox is expanding all the time and already includes a number of electronic books and audio books. Your library membership also gives you access to lots of digital magazines and newspapers for you to download and read at your leisure.

To find out more or to register for Borrowbox, visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries

NHS News

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT), which operates the Ellen Badger Hospital and Warwick Hospital, has been rated as an 'Outstanding' provider. This rating is the highest awarded by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England.

The Trust is the only hospital trust of its kind in the West Midlands region, and one of only 10 nationally, to receive an 'Outstanding' rating.

The rating follows inspections of a number of clinical services across the organisation's acute hospital and community services. In addition, the CQC carried out 'Well Led' and 'Use of Resources' inspections. All areas inspected were given 'outstanding' ratings. Examples of outstanding practice were identified across many of

the Trust's services and the inspectors were extremely complimentary in their observations of the culture of the organisation.



**Following our recent inspection
the CQC have rated the Trust as:**

Outstanding



We've known it all along but now it's official!

Your Town Councillors



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e: dan.scobie@shipstontowncouncil.org



Sheelagh Saunders, Deputy Mayor

Heritage & Leisure Projects Group Co Chair

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Vacant

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

Useful Contacts

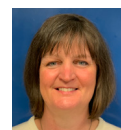
Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	111
Shipston Forum	01608 495955
Shipston 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	01608 642256

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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

Alison Packer, Town Clerk

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org



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Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

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



Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Catherine Martin, on 01608 495955 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

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

Forum copy deadline:

First Wednesday of the month

- but the sooner you can notify the editor of a potential story the better.

Copies are available to read at the Library, New Clark House and the Medical Centre.

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council to support the community and is distributed to all households. If you don't receive a copy, please contact the Town Clerk. The Forum can also be downloaded from www.shipstononline.org

While every effort is made to ensure information is accurate, the Town Council 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*

Pinocchio



A pantomime by John Packham

*Townsend Hall
Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour*

*Thursday 30th and Friday 31st January,
Saturday 1st February 2020
At 7.30pm evening performances and
2.30pm Saturday matinee*

*Tickets available from John Lyne Home Hardware
Adults £9 in advance or £10 on the door
Children £5*

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