



Shipston Forum

shipstontowncouncil.org



July 2020

The history of Shipston in print

The Shipston Forum connects our community, ensuring everyone knows about the latest events and developments in the town. For the past few months, the coronavirus pandemic has posed challenges in producing the publication, with less content available due to cancelled events and many clubs being unable to meet. In addition, deliveries have been suspended for the time being. Thankfully, we've been able to overcome these issues and ensure continuity of this vital communications lifeline.

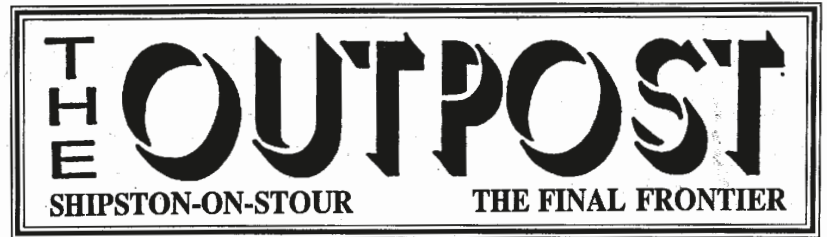
Over the years there have been many other Shipston specific publications. Mayor Sheelagh Saunders recently managed to uncover a copy of the first edition of 'THE OUTPOST', from December 1992, which promised "gossip, pub talk, an agony aunt page, competitions and some hard hitting comment" [sic] for the sum of 40p. Readers could be forgiven a moment's panic reading the headline "Swarm of Wasps Invade Shipston", though fortunately, it turns out this was due to a recent influx of traffic wardens following complaints about illegal parking on the high street, rather than a horde of angry insects.

In August, the Forum will be looking at some of the earlier editions, diving through the archives to discover the hot topics from years gone by. If you would like to contribute an article or have a topic that you would like us to explore, please email forum@shipstononline.org

Swarm of Wasps Invade Shipston

Owing to numerous complaints a swarm of traffic wardens will be operating in Shipston between now and Christmas time. They are particularly concerned with illegal parking in the High Street and shoppers are advised to park legally until further notice.

On the subject of traffic, we understand that the Darlingscote Road will remain closed until December 23rd - whether this refers to 1992 or 1993 is a matter of conjecture.



Issue 1 - December 1992

Published Monthly Price 40p

At last, a paper for Shipston!

Welcome to THE OUTPOST, the new community magazine for Shipston-on-Stour and its surrounding villages. We shall be providing you with a monthly round up of news and views, laced with a little gossip, pub talk, an agony aunt page, competitions and some hard hitting comment. Perhaps you have seen the posters around town and also received a mail shot announcing our forthcoming publication.

First and foremost THE OUTPOST is a magazine for the entire community, regardless of age and occupation. It is designed, edited and produced by volunteers and has no connection with any other organisation in the town.

Well, enough about us! The point of this magazine is that you - the readers - will make this paper your very own. We need to know what is happening in Shipston and the area which other people will want to read about.



We need news to fill this page - and several more - so that you don't need to plough your way through ramblings like this each month! We also want to uncover the talent in the area - part time poets, able artists, courageous cartoonists and steadfast story tellers. If you feel this is not in your line, there must surely be something about our town that you feel needs to be said - our 'Letters to the Editor' column can be your platform.

However, we also want to 'show off' strawberries' as well as 'blow raspberries' so if you know someone who needs a 'pat on the back' - let us know.

This paper will belong to the readers and although naturally we reserve the right to edit, we would welcome any contributions.

Let's put Shipston-on-Stour on the map once and for all - with THE OUTPOST - THE FINAL FRONTIER.

GRENSON LIMITED
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Shipston Household Recycling Centre Re-opens

A booking system facilitated the re-opening of the Shipston Household Recycling Centre on 22nd June, following the successful implementation of the scheme across the six main centres countywide in mid-May. Measures have been designed to ensure the maximum level of safety for both visitors and staff by allowing social distancing to take place while also minimising queuing on the road.

Residents are also being encouraged to make full use of kerbside refuse collection. For example, small electrical equipment, textiles and household batteries can be sent for recycling by leaving them on top of any bin lid or to the side of any bin on a normal collection day. To ensure their collection any items must be small enough to fit into the storage facility at the rear of the refuse collection vehicle.

Slots to visit the centre can be booked online: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentres>

Mayor's column

So, we are all another month into this strange world of lockdown!



Shipston seems to be getting into its stride as we have all adapted to the social distancing regulations that now dominate our lives. The essential public-facing businesses have installed their screens and one-way routes. We have stitched our facemasks and learned to dodge each other on the pavements and to queue patiently. The streets are quiet and the birds are singing. The sensationally good weather we enjoyed for much of May has made this transition so much easier to bear.

Let's give a big shout out to the hard-working teams in our community, whether front line services or the newly created voluntary agencies who are doggedly soldiering on. Every day I hear stories of small kindnesses, neighbours, friends and strangers helping each other out. We really do have much to be proud of in this little town.

At the time of writing, we are beginning to emerge into a fresh stage of relaxation of the rules. The steps are tentative and the government information is, at times, confusing. We are eager to exercise our newly regained freedoms to see friends and family, to shop, to enjoy certain sports and before long to enjoy a visit to a café, a beer in a pub garden, a meal at a restaurant or a visit to our places of worship. We will, however, have to be patient. We still need to pull together, to comply with the rules as they are issued and not overstep the mark by abusing these new freedoms and putting our precious community in jeopardy.

From the start of Lockdown my husband, Baggy Saunders, has been running a Facebook live pub quiz on Friday afternoons for a bit of fun and to keep up morale. He has kindly allowed me to hijack the quiz by adding a link so that players can make an optional online donation to this year's mayoral charity, Cruse Bereavement Care. I've been overwhelmed by the generosity of so many quizzers who, after only 2 sessions, have donated a grand total of £210. THANK YOU!

We are looking forward to applications from residents of the town to fill the vacancy for a town councillor. As we emerge into the "brave new world" post coronavirus this could be the time for you to really help shape the future development of our community. Please contact the Town Clerk for more information

Sheelagh Saunders

Potential temporary road space changes in town centre

Warwickshire County Council has been working on plans to temporarily reallocate road space to facilitate social distancing, supporting the re-opening of town centres across the county. Potential measures under consideration include road closures, one-way systems and suspension of on-street parking, with changes to be active at all times. These could be introduced with the aid of barriers, cones and signs, including some signage specially designed by the government to promote social distancing.

Priority has been given to schemes within the major towns, however, Shipston may also be considered for a scheme, with each being conceived to meet the characteristics and needs of each locality. The concept was discussed during the Town Council meeting of 8th June and there was a strong feeling that any changes should have the support of local businesses. Cllr Cooper reported some initial enthusiasm based on his discussions with traders and Cllr Saunders said she would speak with



publicans about the potential of them using TENs notices on weekend evenings as an alternative to a full-time scheme. Following the meeting, the Town Council received notification from the County Council that Shipston was not currently under consideration for a full time road closure scheme.

Support in principle for Ellen Badger Hospital Development

The Town Council has agreed to write a letter expressing support for the principle of redeveloping the Ellen Badger Hospital into a new integrated Health and Wellbeing Hub. This was in response to a request from the Medical Centre, who were seeking to demonstrate the

business case to the Clinical Commissioning Group. Councillors felt that a new facility was needed, however, they expressed some reservations about the design, though it was revealed that the badger statues will be kept and the new building will share the pitched roof shape of the current structure.

Several Councillors noted that as plans were currently in the pre-application phase, now was the time for the Council and members of the public to express their opinion to assist with "ironing out any rough edges".

As reported in the June issue of the Forum, the plans are available for inspection on the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust website for public comment: <https://www.swft.nhs.uk/our-hospitals/ellen-badger-hospital>



News from Shipston Town Council's June meeting



Outdoor Gym Equipment: The equipment at the sports ground has become loose due to gaps appearing around the encasing concrete. Due to current regulations, the equipment is closed to the public, however, the equipment has now been taped off to further discourage use whilst repair is organised.

Recycling Centre: The continued closure of the recycling centre has been causing issues for people with large items to dispose of. Following the successful opening of other larger centres around the county, it is expected that the same system will be rolled out to Shipston shortly.

Shipston Forum: It was noted that the current climate had created difficulties in producing the Forum, and the number of pages had been reduced due to a lack of available content. Councillors also authorised the signing of contracts with contractors to produce the Forum.

Grants: The Finance Working Group's recommendation that allocated grant funds still be paid, even in the case of cancelled events (eg. Wool Fair and Proms) was approved by Councillors. Next year, grant allocations will take into account these payments and the funds will still need to be used for their original purpose.

Paperless Office: The council discussed the £3,000 budget previously agreed to purchase tablets for use by Councillors, alongside a £2,000 budget for the CMIS system, a cost-effective, web-based committee management system. Councillors agreed that these will be ordered once a suitable specification has been advised.

Old Clark House: Councillors agreed to apply for a change of use to the building and to carry out electrical work necessary for the Town Council to fulfil its obligation as the landlord. This will allow the building to be leased to the Historical Society as the new site of the museum.

Town Council Vacancy

Following Dan Scobie's decision to step down from the Town Council, a notice of vacancy was published. No requests for an election were made before the statutory deadline on 16th June meaning the vacancy may now be filled by co-option. Anyone interested in filling the vacancy should contact the Town Clerk (clerk@shipstononline.org)

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor go to Town

On the morning of Monday 15th June, in glorious sunshine, Deputy Mayor Ian Cooper and I toured the town centre, calling on the shops and businesses who had finally been allowed to open their doors after the lockdown. We were eager to welcome them back with open arms (but no hugging!) after closing their doors all those months ago on 23rd March. The High Street was already noticeably busier with traffic, and many more people on the pavement, carefully socially distancing. Shipston is starting to feel more like itself again!

As we went from shop to shop meeting excited proprietors, each trader had a different story to tell. All of them have had to adapt their premises and devise strategies for dealing with the public. They are all very well prepared to welcome people through their doors while ensuring that the health and safety of everyone remains paramount. Many have installed screens and one-way systems, and all have sanitiser available. Some staff are wearing masks and visors and the dress shops have steamers to treat the clothes after people have tried them on. As ever, each business is individual and has had different problems to deal with. One shopkeeper, for example, decided to install new shelving which has arrived but, owing to current shortages, he is unable to buy the wood for battens to install it.



It was a nice surprise to discover that there are some new faces on the scene. At least one business has changed hands in the interim and it was also encouraging to discover at least two empty shops are being redecorated ready for their new occupants.

We are of course incredibly grateful to all those Shipston businesses who have traded throughout this coronavirus crisis, keeping us all supplied with the essentials. It is impressive how local traders have adapted, for example moving to online ordering and delivery services. We are also only too aware that there are still many who cannot yet open for a variety of reasons. So, we really look forward to also welcoming them back as soon as they are allowed or feel able to trade.

Sheelagh Saunders, Mayor of Shipston

Shipston Area Flood Action Group Update

Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) has continued its programme of flood alleviation measures throughout the lockdown period with existing health and safety procedures augmented for social distancing and appropriate use of PPE for contractors where relevant.

As all our work is outside, and being blessed with good weather, our progress has barely slowed although the Environment Agency's monitoring training sessions were cancelled causing the subsequent postponement of community team monitoring programmes.

It is worth reminding everyone that most works take place well upstream of Shipston as the aim is to slow the flow of water reaching the main river in heavy rainfall. I am pleased to report

that following 2018's programme of more than 300 NFM (natural flood management) interventions and last year's programme of more than 100 NFM interventions in and around the Upper Stour upstream of Stourton/Cherington, the 2020 programmes for Long Compton and Brailes are now well under way.

Work at Long Compton should be finalised in July with the installation of over 140 interventions on and around Nethercote Brook and its feeder watercourses.

In Brailes we have already completed 50 interventions around Sutton Brook with a further 70 planned after the harvest period. Some finishing off work is also to be done in the Sibford area with another 15 features planned for July/August.

Last winter's rain caused damage to several of our dams on Pigbrook, Paddlebrook and Kneebrook which need repair. This has also highlighted the opportunity for some augmentation with 25 additional dams and some water retention areas now planned within the 2018 scheme area around Kneebrook. This additional work and repairs will be done later this year.

The damage from last winter's rain has also led to Long Compton and Brailes' Parish Councils agreeing to include funding for long term NFM maintenance within their annual precepts. It now seems clear that climate change will continue to deliver extreme weather at increased frequencies, so the

interventions we are doing will require maintenance. We are therefore now encouraging all Town and Parish Councils to allocate the necessary funding.



By the end of summer 2020 our programme should total around 800 interventions on the main watercourses feeding into the River Stour above Shipston. Considering only 50% of these were in place last November when we had the heaviest rainfall since 2007 and we know that they helped alleviate flood risk to the town and downstream villages, this further work can be reasonably expected to improve protection still further.

We are also scoping out further programmes elsewhere in the catchment, including further upgrades to existing schemes, and we are seeking additional funding to undertake such work later this year or in 2021. Besides Long Compton and Brailes, other community groups from Cherington/Stourton, Darlingscote and Sutton-under-Brailes have also joined with us so we really do have full catchment wide community involvement.

There is a need for a major upgrade of SAFAG's website which we currently do 'in house' as best we can. We simply do not have the professional skills, time or money to undertake this properly and despite being one of the leading flood groups in the country in terms of results the presentation and promotion of our achievements, particularly via social media, is being left behind. We need a modern website to promote our work and secure new funding to build on our success. This will also help us attract the volunteers young and old which we will need to sustain the programme into the future. If anyone with experience in web design would be willing volunteer their help it would be much appreciated.

Meanwhile, and as ever, we would like to thank all our agency and local authority partners for their help but especially the approximately 40 farmers, landowners and others in the catchment community whose unstinting support has made and is making all this possible.

Phil Wragg, Chairman.
Shipston Area Flood Action Group

Riddles

1. David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle, and ____?
2. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?
3. What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you?
4. A man rode out of town on Sunday, he stayed a whole night at a hotel and rode back to town the next day on Sunday. How is this possible?
5. They have not flesh, nor feathers, nor scales, nor bone. Yet they have fingers and thumbs of their own. What are they?
6. I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?
7. What question can you never answer yes to?
8. What can you keep after giving to someone?

See page 9 for the answers

Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher



As we move into summer, 2020 continues to be an unusual year for everyone, with all of our lives affected by the impact of the coronavirus. We are all living through unprecedented times. Just a few short months ago, none of us would have predicted that school sites would be largely empty and that students would be working remotely. The change for school staff, students and families has been enormous.

At Shipston High School, we are working with as many students as we can on the school site, with others largely learning at home. Teachers are setting work and activities remotely, and students have plenty to do to support their learning. The government has provided clear guidelines on which students can attend school, advice-driven by both public health and educational considerations.



As a school community, we are saddened not to be together as we would wish and are really looking forward to a wider opening to all of our students when we are able. As with all venues and businesses, schools must follow government guidelines at this time.

The good news is that whilst we may not have everyone in the school building, the school ethos, values and commitment to

learning prevail. Despite all the recent upheaval and uncertainty, one constant has been the indomitable spirit of the school community. Everyone has adapted so quickly and good-naturedly to this new learning experience, and students have engaged with incredible enthusiasm and commitment.

As staff, we have been really impressed with the high quality of work students have produced. Diligent, creative and thoughtful attitudes to study have produced detailed, challenging and joyous pieces of work.

At this time of year, we would normally be welcoming students from Year 6 to visit the school in advance of joining Shipston High School in September. Whilst our normal transition activities may not be available this year, the school will ensure that all new students are welcomed into our community when we are able to do so. We very much look forward to welcoming them when we can.

In 2020, Year 11 students will not be taking their examinations as usual. The government has worked with Ofqual, the national body responsible for examinations, and devised a system to award GCSE grades to all students. Shipston High School has worked with exam boards to support the awarding of fair and objective grades to our students. It is the exam boards who will decide the final grade awarded, not the school. The school has no influence over the calculation of the final grades awarded by exam boards, so we look forward with anticipation to the publishing of GCSE grades later in the summer.

Whilst the school community has been dispersed by the recent lockdown, it has been powerful to observe that the Shipston High School values live in our students' attitudes regardless of the current limited access to the school building. The school is defined by the shared values of learning, respect, ambition and achievement.

Shipston Medical Centre

Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845

Help us help you – if you can, go online!

Shipston Medical Centre has been fortunate to have received investment in technology recently and we are now able to offer online and video consultation. E-consult, the online consultation system, is simple to use. You tell us what we can do to help you by completing a simple form:

1. Access the service via the NHS App or go to our website <https://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/>
2. Click the button to contact your doctors online and select your condition or general advice.
3. You will be asked the same questions in a short form that a doctor would in a face-to-face appointment.
4. The practice will look at your answers

and we'll get back to you no later than the end of the next working day.

- If the doctor thinks you need a prescription it can be sent straight to your local pharmacy or the dispensary, so you don't need to come into the practice.
- If the doctor needs more information we will call you back or get in touch to arrange an appointment if necessary. If we can help you over the phone we will try to save you from having to travel to the practice.

We encourage all our patients to use this option to contact us, as it helps us provide the best care in the most efficient way. We are also using e-consult to support the reviews of long term conditions such as asthma, and have dramatically reduced the number of patients needing to be seen face to face as a result. If you receive a text or letter from us asking

you to complete the online form, please do.



Shipston Medical Centre

If a clinician needs to see you we will offer a video consultation where we can. This is a secure service provided by Accurx, where you can be seen virtually, with the assurance of a private connection. To use this service we will text you a link that will take you to the virtual consulting room.

Please do let us know if your contact details change, particularly mobile phone numbers. You can do this on the 'Do it online' section of our website.

We also encourage all our patients to utilise the NHS App for other online services such as ordering repeat medications and booking appointments. <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/the-nhs-app/>

Shipston Proms

Last month I asked people to share their memories of the Proms, large or small. Thank you to everyone who has been in contact so far. Memories of the Last Night particularly inspired people to get in touch.

Firstly, it was great to read that The Proms have brought people together. Natalie Stockford met the lovely Andrew Scott on the Last Night of the Proms in 2018 and two years on they are still going strong. "Even through a tough lockdown", added Andrew - a true test of love indeed!

Amidst all the music and merriment, Rose Canning recalls enjoying some memorable dance moves from Josh Thompson who was clearly enjoying the music. Josh did modestly call his dancing "questionable" but no doubt they made an impression and we look forward to some of those moves in 2021!

It's easy to lose someone in the crush of the Final Saturday and Daisy Langford and Jack Foster were no exception. There were a lot of 'where are you' text messages exchanged throughout the evening!

Isla Perry remembers being lifted onto someone's shoulders during the set by The Brit Pop boys in 2019 and joining in the rousing obligatory arm waving to the Oasis anthem 'Don't Look Back in Anger'.



Nicola Porter, our very efficient Secretary, wrote that her favourite memories are the fun of the Last Night where the whole square is singing and dancing and laughing. That is just the tonic that we are all looking forward to next year!

We will publish some more comments in

the next edition where we also hope to give you a further update of anything that may be happening in the Proms calendar later in the year, depending on government guidelines of course.



Shipston Lions



National Volunteer's Week took place during the first week of June as it does each year. The volunteers in Stour Valley Lions Club are taking this opportunity send our thanks to the community for supporting our fundraising events and causes: the monthly cinema, Australian Fire victims, Food Bank, dementia groups, maintaining the gyratory garden, Diabetic Awareness meetings, distance thermometers for the Medical Centre, Shipston High School donations, Air Ambulance and First Responders.

The numerous pairs of spectacles people have donated over the year are now being used by people less fortunate than us in developing countries. Finally, thank you for supporting our ever-popular book shop in town.

Today we are supporting our family, friends and neighbours but when this pandemic has subsided, we will be back supporting our local community. Thank you.

If you are interested in volunteering with our group please contact Paul Macpherson paul@paulmacpherson.co.uk.



Shipston Rotary

"How do you plan an event or events when Rotarians can't hold any meetings?"

Answer: the miracles of modern technology!



Twenty Shipston Rotarians recently got together, seen and heard from their own homes, all socially distanced, to plan the Victorian Evening. If you have been locked down, shielded, socially distanced, hopefully not locked up, for the last few months, Shipston Rotary has something really positive for you to look forward to. The Christmas lights, music, Father Christmas's arrival, Santa's grotto, lots of stalls, mince pies, mulled wine and the wonderful Shipston Christmas spirit.

Do the Rotarians really think it will be possible? They just hope so, just as they hope that Father Christmas will be able to tour the town in his sleigh as usual. The Rotarians know perfectly well that life may not have returned to normal by Christmas,

but they are doing their best to plan for all eventualities.

If you would like to help the Rotarians at the Victorian Evening or with the Santa's street collections please email: daviddragonfly@yahoo.co.uk

Annual Sunflower Competition

The keen-eyed may have noticed sunflowers appearing in people's front gardens. This is the fifth year of Fay Ivens' Rotary competition to see who can grow the tallest sunflower.

The competition is open to anyone but there are three categories, under 11, 11-16 and over 16.

In a close contest last year, the tallest was an incredible 8ft 8ins (2.64 m). Can anyone beat that this year? Perhaps the fine weather has helped, perhaps some special compost?

Judging is in August.

Who can grow the

Tallest

Sunflower?

Judging in August

**Shipston on Stour Rotary
Club**

To enter contact Fay Ivens

01608 662133



Shipston Food Bank is open to anyone
and you don't need a referral or a voucher.

Just come along on a Tuesday or Saturday morning
between 10.00 and 12.00
to St Edmund's Church, Church Street, Shipston.

Donations of food and basic items can be left in the
church porch on Tuesday and Saturday mornings ONLY,
between 10.00 and 12.00.

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

 www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank

 www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk

Shipston Food Bank

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, the number of customers at the Shipston Food Bank based at St Edmund's Church has increased significantly. In the first two months of the lockdown (mid-March to mid-May) we supported 42 needy households from Shipston and the surrounding villages, many of them with several food parcels. This means that, over that period, food and other basic items were provided to at least 71 adults and at least 26 children (we don't always know the exact number of people in each household). We continue to serve new customers each week as the economic impact of the pandemic affects people's lives and livelihoods.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of local residents, businesses and charitable organisations who have given us food and money throughout the past few months. Thank you to you all! At the time of writing, we are well stocked to meet the ongoing needs which many households have. We still need some items to be donated from time to time and into the



future. Please see our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank/) or our website (www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk/) for the current list of things we need most.

Donations of food and other basic items may be left in the porch of St Edmund's Church between 10:00am and 12:00 noon on Tuesday and Saturday mornings ONLY. If you can't get to the church at those times there are collection points in both the Co-ops. So, please don't leave food outside the porch, and don't forget to check the sell by dates on donated items - we can't give out food which is past its 'Best Before End' date. And please, no fresh or perishable food, only long-life items.

The Food Bank is open in the church for customers at the same times: between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. You don't need a referral or a voucher – just come along if you think we can help you.

Thank you, Shipston, on behalf of all our customers, for your marvellous support for this community project.

Frolickless festival will still go-ahead

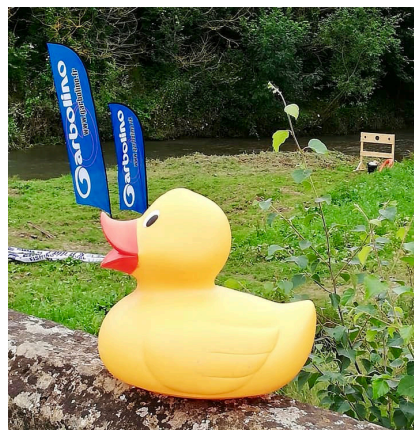
Shipston and District Angling Club's annual FISH'n'FROLICS will go-ahead from 24th to 26th July without any of the usual frolicking due to the coronavirus pandemic. The festival will not feature any of the usual music and other attractions,



but fishing will proceed on the River Stour, River Avon and Aston Magna pools. This is a tremendous shame as many new musicians and bands had been booked to perform alongside many festival favourites. We hope to be able to host the 'frolicking' later this year, however, this is dependent on a number of factors including whether we will have sufficient time to plan.

The annual fundraising Duck Race in aid of Shipston First Responders normally held in early July is unable to proceed at this time. We hope to possibly run this event later in the year.

Fishing has only recently been permitted to resume and the club are taking great steps to ensure compliance with Government



TOWNSEND HALL 150 CLUB WINNERS



March 1st Prize	Member No 54	£15.00
March 2nd Prize	Member No 51	£10.00
March 3rd Prize	Member No 1	£ 5.00

April 1st Prize	Member No 106	£15.00
April 2nd prize	Member No 136	£10.00
April 3rd Prize	Member No 10	£ 5.00

May 1st Prize	Member No 114	£15.00
May 2nd Prize	Member No 117	£10.00
May 3rd Prize	Member No 4	£ 5.00

'YOU HAVE TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT'

Answers to the Riddles on page 4

1. David, 2. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, 3. Your name, 4. His horse is called Sunday, 5. Gloves, 6. An echo, 7. Are you asleep yet?, 8. Your word

District Council Update

Lots of change is afoot. Our town centres are starting to look a bit different as we do some pedestrianisation. We are all getting used to queuing for longer so our shops and services can serve us safely.

At the end of July companies will start to contribute to furlough payments and people may go back part time, to work. I am afraid that we are going to see an increase in unemployment locally because so many of us work in hospitality, leisure and tourism. Local tourism chiefs do not expect a return to "normal" until 2022 - with improvement slowly until then. I (and others) have been talking to our MP Nadhim Zahawi and lobbying for help. As he is in the Business Department (BEIS), he is working 7 days a week to help some of the largest companies in the country - but he also spends time talking across departments for us. We have raised the fact that Stratford District is the fourth worst financially affected area in the country as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Nadhim has heard this being quoted back at him so we know we are gaining traction! Let's hope we get more government help as a result.

I lobbied for hairdressers to open - sorry (mostly ladies), I failed to win that one before 4th July - celebrated by me as 'Independence from grey hair Day'! I am keen that we reduce social distancing to 1m - in line with WHO guidelines. Without this, getting cafes, pubs, restaurants, any very small shops open will be uneconomic. However, for me the biggest need is for our children to go back to school - as normal - in September. I can safely say that I am boring everyone I can lobby on this one. They need, not only their education back, but their ability to form relationships and socialise. I am not sure how much more stoicism we can expect from our kids.

You can contact me via email or phone and I am at the Foodbank most Saturdays.

Jo Barker, District Councillor, Shipston South

07748968712 | jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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



County Council update

As your County Councillor I am being kept extremely busy - like many of you - keeping up with what seem almost daily changes in the regulations relating to coronavirus (as well as endless Zoom meetings, helping with the Foodbank and sorting out a lot of benefit issues). Before writing, I checked the most recent updates - and realised if I rehearsed them here - they would be out of date long before you read this! So, I am going to take a "Jo" approach to this. Common sense seems more common in Shipston than in a lot of places, so I suggest that we bear that in mind as we watch virus figures continue to fall. BUT - and this is the big one - I know that there are people who are really frightened of what is going on around them and if we put others before ourselves then we will be doing our absolutely best for our friends and neighbours.

On a weekly basis - now going fortnightly - we are briefed by the senior officers at Warwickshire County Council, including the wonderful Shade Agbola - the Head of Public Health Warwickshire. Mid-June is momentous for us as Warwickshire - together with Coventry and Solihull - is a pathfinder area for the new Test and Trace system. Stratford District Council, Warwickshire County Council, the NHS - and the other two authorities - are working at what I can only say feels like breakneck speed, even for current circumstances, to get the protocols in place and get started across the patch. This is really important so that we can spot and then lockdown areas if there is an outbreak. The hope is that a more normal life will be possible - I do hope so. I am on the Track and Trace Members' Board overseeing this! When I became a councillor I can safely say that I never expected such huge responsibility - but I am up for the challenge and I appreciate the support I get locally in getting on with it.

Finally, I am acutely aware of the impact this is having on all of us. Our ability to work has been severely affected - and if you have caring responsibilities - many are finding themselves with a double load. So, if this is all getting too much - and you are finding life hard - may I suggest the Big White Wall online via the Warwickshire County Council website? It's free to us in Warwickshire and you will find help and support there.

Jo Barker, County Councillor

07748 968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Cruse Bereavement Care named as Mayoral Charity for 2020

In her inaugural column last month, Mayor Sheelagh Saunders announced that Cruse Bereavement Care would be her chosen charity for her mayoral term.

Volunteers from the charity have been supporting bereaved people in Shipston and the surrounding area for many years and it is the leading national charity for bereaved people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Cruse offers support, advice and information to children, young people and adults when someone dies, and works to enhance societies care of bereaved people.

Cruse offers telephone and website support and, until the coronavirus pandemic, had been providing face to face support for 60 years. It has a free National Helpline (0808 808 1677) local services and a website specifically for children

and young people called Hope Again. Its services are provided by trained volunteers and are confidential and free. Cruse also provides training and consultancy for external organisations and for those who may encounter bereaved people in the course of their work.

People can get in touch with the local Cruse branch at Coventry@cruse.org.uk, or visiting our website here: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/local-services/west-midlands/coventry-and-warwickshire>

Cruse will support anyone grieving as a result of coronavirus and new website resources are available: www.cruse.org.uk/coronavirus.



Your Town Councillors



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Vacancy

Useful Contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	111
Shipston Forum	01608 495955
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
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

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Something exciting to share?

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

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

Forum copy deadline:

First Wednesday of the month

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

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council. It is currently not being delivered to households due to the suspension of the Midweek newspaper. Copies are available for collection from both Co-Ops, Taste of the Country, and Turners.

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



JULY "SOCIALLY DISTANCED" WALK AT BLACKBERRY FARM

Walking in July

Price: £5 per adult
6 people at a time

Children FREE

Through July you can book a time to walk around Blackberry Farm's uninterrupted views across the Stour Valley, for a "socially distanced" walk. This stunning location situated between Honington & Halford, takes you through fields with well marked paths on a search for beautiful butterflies and stunning sculptures. Donations welcome

Please call Richard Gray to book your individual slot at a time to suit you & him on 07977 587911

Blackberry Farm, Halford, CV36 5DL

For more information please call Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929

Many thanks to Richard Gray for his support



Registered Charity: 1162586