# Shipston Forum

July 2022

### Shipston lights beacon for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

On Thursday 2nd June, to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Shipston joined more than 3,500 communities across the country by lighting a beacon on top of Whaddon Hill.

The Shipston-on-Stour Beacon was prepared and built in the traditional way, as it always has been. Over the last four months, several local farmers allowed the Beacon Volunteers to use hedging to make the faggots for a 25-foot high beacon and construct it in Farmer Tim Withers's field.

It was constructed under the direction of Ron 'Scobie' Edmunds, along with Max Stevens, Keith Higginson, Steve Yates, Darren Clark, Nick Jennings, Malcolm Bryan, Simon Hartwell, David Hudson, Nigel Hunt, Sam Hunt, Will Hunt, Trevor Gilkes and Joe Johnson.

A very large crowd of over 1,000 people gathered at the top of Whaddon Hill at 9pm. The ceremony began with some kind words and thanks from Ron 'Scobie' Edmunds then the Mayor of Shipston, Marianne Westwood, announced the opening of official proceedings. The Town Crier read the special proclamation followed by the Shipston Town Band Bugler playing a piece called Majesty officially announcing the lighting of the Beacons.

Finally, Mr and Mrs Withers took hold of the lighting plunger and after the crowd counted down from 10, the lighting of the beacon started. The assembled crowd also enjoyed views of up to 11 other local beacons, including Ilmington, Brailes, Stow on the Wold, Campden etc. alongside an incredible



firework display, thanks to Alan Wright.

"It is always an honour and pleasure to be involved with the building of the Beacon," commented Ron 'Scobie' Edmunds. "Seeing the happy faces of the community and hearing all the positive feedback makes all the hard work worth it. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the beacon volunteers, Shipston Lions and Shipston Town Council plus Mr and Mrs Withers and family who helped to make this special occasion to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee happen."

In Memory of Sid Peachey, a collection was taken for the Coventry and Warwickshire Air Ambulance, which raised £640.00.

### Jubilee celebrations across the town

Many streets and neighbourhoods hosted parties during the long bank holiday weekend, with many residents eager to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

Railway Crescent and Signal Road was no exception, hosting a fantastic party on Thursday afternoon. As the sun shone, Nick Nickerson kept everyone singing and dancing with a live music set. Gazebos, bunting, flags and balloons decorated the green, where neighbours of all ages chatted and forged new friendships. Children made their own fun on the playground and much delicious homemade food was eaten and fizz and beer drank!







### **Jubilee Big Lunch**

Hosted at the Sports and Social club, the Jubilee Big Lunch brought people together from across the town for a picnic and fun family activities. While it was slightly damp, everyone who attended had a fantastic time.

The Willey family did an incredible job creating some chalk art, led ably by Elizabeth. It certainly added some colour to a grey day!



### Mayor's column

It's been a very busy month for my first proper month as Mayor.

It was almost at the beginning when we celebrated the diamond jubilee of our beloved Queen. I think Shipston did



her proud. I want to formally thank Scobie and the team that made the beacon for us. It was a piece of heritage art. I know it involved months of work and commitment, including a lot of early Sunday mornings for the team. I'd also like to thank Whaddon Farm for letting us use their land once again. It was lovely to meet them.

Our Crier Marion was kept busy too during the Jubilee. She was up at the beacon and although her cries were very loud, she was no competition for the beautiful fireworks that we had that night! I want to thank her for keeping me company over the weekend at all the events. Lots of people have said they couldn't hear our speeches, so we have noted that and are going to make sure we have proper audio equipment if the need arises again.

I also want to thank the cornet player and our amazing Town Band. We had a wonderful - if slightly soggy - performance from them at the big jubilee lunch. It brought back some happy memories listening to the music they played for us. I sang along and did a bit of in-chair dancing. It was great fun.

After all the excitement of the Jubilee, I attended a meeting at the site of the council's new bit of green space, Cornmill Meadow. A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes and I'm happy to say that this precious bit of wild green space will be open and available to all the residents of Shipston very soon. I wanted to go there especially to see how accessible it was and can report I made it all the way down to the river and back again in my chair. There are lots of plans afoot to increase the biodiversity in this space, and with the help of Shipston Area Flood Action Group and the Environment Agency, we hope to build some more flow-slowing flood prevention measures too. It was very calming sitting by the river and something I know will be of much benefit to the mental health of our town residents too.

I'm very much looking forward to the concerts I'm attending during the rest of this month of Shipston Proms. It's been great to have live music again and I'm very much looking forward to the last night. Hope to see many of you there!

I've been very touched by the support of the town for Pride this month too. So many shops and businesses joining in the celebration of 50 years of Pride. It was heart-warming to see so many people at the very moving Pride Service in St. Edmunds too. We are so lucky now that in Shipston we have so many allies that stand with the LGBTQIA+ community of our town.

Marianne Westwood, (she/her) Mayor of Shipston

# Town Council says thank you to retired Councillors

At the Town Council meeting on Monday 13th June, recently retired Councillors Ronnie Murphy and Peter White were thanked for their service to the town. Speaking on behalf of the Council, the Mayor expressed her thanks for their incredible efforts, speaking of Ronnie's legendary reputation and noting how it was a shame that she had never had the chance to meet the Queen. The Mayor also commented on Peter's unyielding efforts to improve the Council's communication efforts, including the recent overhaul of the website.





### **Shipston Youth Club finds a new home**

After being forced to vacate its home of over 40 years on the High School site, Shipston Youth Club has finally found a new home. Various different locations were explored at length to find somewhere that was the safest for young people and offered the most. The Club has now moved to Shipston Enterprise Centre on Pittway Avenue. It meets there on Tuesday evenings from 7pm. Although it has only been open a couple of months it has already proved popular. Attracting up to almost 30 young people for an evening.

Young People can enjoy chilling out, playing table tennis or pool, organising their own competitions or just chatting with the staff and volunteers.

"At last we have been able to run again and already we have shown that Shipston does still needs somewhere young people can go to and feel safe, with people to talk to and something to do," said Daniel Pulham, Chair of the Club's Management Committee. "We are immensely grateful to so many in Shipston who have encouraged us to keep going. We are especially grateful to Clear Sound who kindly agreed to move our equipment out of our previous premises for free and to Carl Starkey. That generosity really blew us away!"

The club is now looking to appoint a new Worker in Charge to help take the club and its members into a new exciting future. Application details can be obtained from Mr John Round at jasround@gmail.com. The club is also looking for more volunteers.



# News from Shipston Town Council's June meeting

### St Edmund's Churchyard

Shipston Beekeepers will soon be introducing bees to the recently installed hives in the churchyard.

### **Ellen Badger Hospital**

South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust hopes to be in a position to provide an update on plans in July/August.

### **Mayor's Charity**

Shipston on Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership has been selected by the Mayor as her charity for the year.

### **Sewer Issues**

Cllr Barker is pursuing the persistent sewerage issues with Severn Trent Water via Warwickshire County Council.

### **Shipston Area Flood Action Group**

The group anticipate expending their full Community Infrastructure Levy grant provided that projects proceed as intended. Councillors approved the latest revised budget and works programme.

#### **Corn Mill Meadows**

Councillors agreed their support in principle for the installation of natural flood prevention measures being developed using flood modelling commissioned by Shipston Area Flood Action Group.

### **Riverside Project**

Councillors approved the heads of terms for the land transfer and agreed to appoint a solicitor to act on their behalf.

### **Museum Repairs**

Quotes will be sought for repairs to both the roof and exterior back wall of the museum building.

### **Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

Councillors approved the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which contains the findings of the internal auditor, alongside statements about governance and finance.

#### Queen's Avenue Play Area

Councillors approved a  $\mathfrak{L}1,400$  uplift in the quote for the new play equipment (bringing the total to  $\mathfrak{L}18,500$ ) to allow for metal feet to be used, extending the expected life span of the wooden equipment.

### Jubilee Bench

The commemorative bench installed outside New Clark House will be securely fixed to the ground and a clear coating will be applied to preserve the wood.

### **Regular Events**

### Saturday

Lego Club: Shipston Library. 10am and 11am.

### Tuesday

Seated Exercise Class: 10am Townsend Hall and 11.15am

Rainbow Fields

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

### Wednesday

Dementia Friendly Café: 10.30am-12.30pm, Shipston Lodge

New Age Kurling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

### Friday

Walks with a friendly group: 10am Mill car park. Call Marleen

01608 663616

Wellbeing Coffee Morning: 10am-12.30pm, Townsend Hall.

### What's On Calendar - July 2022

- 1 Rural Cinema: Belfast. 7.30pm, Townsend Hall. Advance Tickets £5 from A Clarke Electrical. Raffle and drinks. Contact stourvalleylions@gmail.com
- 3 Shipston Rotary Cotswold Tour d'Ilmington. Start/finish Newbold Village Hall. Registration online www.shipstonrotary.co.uk/tour. Enquiries: tour@shipstonrotary.co.uk
- 5 Shipston Library Reading Group
- 6 Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
  - **Shipston on Stour WI:** Taster session for Lawn Bowls at the Hub Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary on 01608 664519
- 8 PROBUS Club Meeting: 10am at the Sports and Social Club.
  Evening Swift Walk: see ad on page 9
- **8 & 22** Shipston Stitchers: The Church Room, Darlingscote Road. Contact Anita Spencer on 01993 832665

**Board Games Social Afternoon:** 2pm, Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston. A social, fun get together with playing cards and board games. Fortnightly on Fridays

- 12 Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN): Healthwatch Warwickshire & SDC's Independent Living Officer. Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, 10am for free refreshments / 10.30am start SCAN is free to attend and all are welcome. contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108 or marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk
- **14 Royal British Legion Shipston Branch:** Committee Meeting. All members welcome. Contact Alex Black 01608 664743
- 15 Royal British Legion Social Evening Shipston Branch: Third Friday of each month We meet in the White Bear Inn from 7.30 pm onwards. Come and join us and share your stories with like-minded people. Contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com
- 17 Party in the Park: see ad on page 9
- **20 Shipston Widows:** Join us for a friendly and informal gettogether. 10.30am 12pm, The White Bear. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230

**Singing Down Memory Lane:** 2pm-3.30pm, Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston. Refreshments provided. We may be able to help with transport. Contact Barbara Smith 01608 662433

- 22 PROBUS Club Meeting: 10am at the Sports and Social Club.
- **26 Shipston U3A Film Afternoon Lion King:** see ad on page 9 **Townsend Hall AGM:** see ad on page 11
- 28 Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

### **Shipston SCAN – Older People, Active Lives**

SCAN
SENIOR CITIZENS
ACTION NETWORK

The Shipston Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN) aims to keep older people informed on local issues and to raise awareness of services available to older people and how to access them.

Meetings take place every 2 months and provide an opportunity to have a chat and a cuppa with other SCAN members. By inviting private, public and voluntary sector organisations to the meetings, Shipston SCAN gives older people a chance to have their say and influence services.

At the May meeting members heard how Warwickshire Vision Support can help people with severe vision impairment to remain independent.

SCAN is free to attend, and all are welcome. For more information contact Marie Darwen on 01789 260108 or marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk

### **Future Meeting Dates**

**Tuesday July 12th** – We will be joined by Healthwatch Warwickshire, who aim to understand the needs, experiences, and concerns of people who use health and social care services. We will also hear from SDC's Independent Living Officer, who will explain how he can help people remain living independently at home.

Tuesday September 13th - How to avoid scams.

Tuesday November 8th - AGM & Christmas event.

# Divertimento celebrates the Platinum Jubilee – a report from the Shipston Music Society

"Live at Last" was the title of May's concert put on by Shipston Music Society. And the relief felt by singers and audience alike to be back together enjoying live music was palpable.

This year's Royal Jubilee was in evidence in the line-up of songs presented by Leamington Choir, Divertimento at the Music Society's concert in May.

But the evening started - and the audience immediately engaged and gripped when they were invited to join in a real tongue-twister with All I Want is a Proper Cup of Coffee. Tongues were duly twisted and then the choir began their evening.

First of all, Java Jive, a song which continued the coffee theme and was made popular by Manhattan Transfer. We were then treated to two songs based on late 19th-century vesper hymns, Ave Maris Stella by Grieg and Beati Quorum Via by Stanford.

The Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in a number of pieces reflecting Queen and Commonwealth, starting with O Taste and See composed by Vaughan Williams for the Coronation in 1953. This was followed by a version of The Lord is my Shepherd arranged by Howard Goodall for the Vicar of Dibley, a favourite television programme of Her Majesty. Then we were treated to Ubi Caritas which was dedicated to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on their wedding day, followed by O-Re-Mi, a Nigerian highlife song ("Come on, let's dance!)

With the ladies dressed in colourful jackets – red, green and purple, and the gentlemen in smart suits, Divertimento presented a sense of real togetherness which was reflected in the high standard of their singing. Goodness knows how much rehearsing went into such pieces as the folk song from Finland, Sakkijarven Polkka, which brought out chattering voices, loud and soft, and appeared at times like a Mexican wave. Then Sleep by Whiteacre was eerie and mysterious; so difficult to convey this in song and yet so easy for the audience to enjoy and quietly absorb. Transformational songs, The Lion Sleeps Tonight (A traditional Zulu song), I'm a Train (La Chaine), and humour from Cole Porter's Tale of the Oyster completed an evening of variety and pleasure.

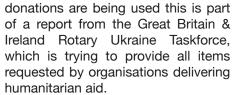
Divertimento is a group of singers from Leamington Spa and this was their second visit to us in Shipston. It was high-quality entertainment and a real treat.

Yes - Live at Last!

Christine Russel

# **Shipston Rotary**

To give readers an idea of how their



#### Medical:

Tourniquets; CELOX, and other tactical first aid needs; mobile operating tables and lamps, external fixation systems and lamps, backpacks and boxes with operation instruments and support in promoting vaccination against Polio, Covid -19 and other diseases.

#### Water:

A team of Rotarians from Ukraine, GB&I, USA, Italy

and Cayman Islands is tackling this major challenge. In Mykolaiv, emergency water solutions have been deployed to provide clean water for babies and clean water filters for hospitals.

### **Shelters:**

Flashlights (forehead, mechanical), power banks, sleeping bags, mats, mobile dry closets; First Aid kits, generators.

### 'Deoccupied' people:

Solar batteries, lamps, generators, water filters, sleeping bags and mats, drugs, medical instruments, glucometers, nebulizers, tonometers, electrical generators 10kw or more, Tools and protective equipment.

Teams are having to provide advance notice of what is being sent to ensure delivery routes and logistics are prepared. We also need to ensure that equipment is compatible with Ukrainian infrastructure and that the recipients have the knowledge and skills to use it quickly and effectively, often in extreme circumstances.

Nigel Willis



### **News from the Shipston Archery Club**

Well, what a couple of years those were! It seems an age since we were going on about how successful the club had been and how well we were doing and then everything went a bit pear-shaped! Covid-19 struck, just at the start of the outdoor season again, and we were hit hard with the lockdown, losing both outdoor as well as indoor shooting due to the closure of the High School.

ArcheryGB has now allowed us to restart shooting, and we are currently planning a new Beginner's Course as well as looking to host an Instructor's Course, to train up some of the current members ready for the future. The Brailes Village

Hall has agreed our plans for the courses, and we will be confirming them shortly. We are also running a series of taster days under the ArcheryGB banner of "Start Archery"



Over the last

couple of years, we have fought hard to keep our small club viable, and the members have pitched in to make sure that we can continue to provide a safe and inclusive sports facility. Everyone chips in to set up and take down the range in Brailes, and with our cleaning and sanitising regimes, we are as safe as we can be. We have had to change our routines a little, but for the older members of the club, it gives a bit more time between shoots to ease the strains! The fitting of wheels on some of the heavier target frames has also been a welcome feature for us "Elders"!

I mentioned in an earlier Forum that we had sponsored a prospective member of the Invictus Games team. Unfortunately, he did not get selected that time round, but he has teamed up with some of the other veterans and ex-service guys to form a

new Veteran's Archery Society, and we wish them well for the future. Perhaps we will meet them in competitions later on!

One of our key achievements has been to secure the hosting of the County Outdoor Championships. This is a prestige event,



with World Record status, and takes place in July each year. On the 3rd of July, we will have some of the leading archers from Coventry and Warwickshire - as well as from across the East and West Midlands - competing in a match, where they will be expected to shoot 12 dozen arrows over a range of distances starting at 90m!

From day one, one of the aims of the Club has been to provide free archery instruction for all the local schools, and that remains a key element of our constitution. As soon as we can arrange the sessions, we will be recommencing the archery activities and will also run our annual Primary school tournament in the Spring of 2023.

As well as shooting outdoors, we can also shoot indoors, though over a much shorter distance! Up to the start of the Covid outbreak, we had been using the High School gym, but that was withdrawn during the lockdown, and we have been unable to restart there. If anyone is aware of a suitable covered space that might be available for us to use, please get in touch. It needs to be at least 30m long and, ideally, 10m wide. Normal room height is fine, though 3m would be better! We are happy to pay for the use, because, without it, we are unable to prepare for competitions or run some beginner's courses. For some time, we have been looking at building our own dedicated indoor facility and that is going to remain the focus of our future fund-raising.

We hope that other local groups will also be able to take advantage of the facility, not just archery because it will provide a large indoor space, which could be used for a variety of activities.

For more details about the club - or if you wish to find out what we can offer you - please drop by one of our sessions, call 07795-632718 or email dgrb@rocketmail.com.

### **Shipston-On-Stour Women's Institute**

The very elegant Shipston Branch of the Women's Institute met on Wednesday, 1st June to pose for a commemorative photograph. Hair was coiffed and much mascara was applied for the 100th-anniversary photograph which was taken amidst great hilarity!

The meeting continued in this jovial tone. Dalziel Ellis entertained the meeting with poems and anecdotes of her life and work which has been rich and varied. And she has the knack of observing the quirky and off-beat which most people would miss. For example, whilst working with the NHS ambulance service she had cause, on numerous occasions, to explore patients' bathroom cabinets which revealed much information besides the medication they were on. Most patients seemed to have a fixed interest in their feet. Corn plasters, anti-fungal ointments, bunion relief – it was all there!

Dalziel wrote her first poem for the BBC about a world turned up-side-down, where Prince Charming turns out to be rather boring, the Ugly Sisters have plastic surgery, the farmer's wife's knife is blunt so the little pigs keep their tails, and her

career was launched. Bad health has dogged her, but she achieved her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award whilst suffering from osteoarthritis. A period of depression was helped by writing poetry, especially limericks which are very



clever and also very difficult. She also travelled alone by motorbike from Lands End to John o'Groats to raise money for charity. Dalziel finished her presentation with a rendition of You Are My Sunshine to which everyone sang along.

Instead of tea and biscuits before the business of the meeting, Pimms and cake were served, and the meeting raised a loyal toast to Her Majesty.

The recent coffee morning was a great success and raised a goodly sum: members had contributed generously. Members were asked to contribute to the Shipston food bank. Some local shops and St. Edmunds Church have donation bins.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 6th July at Shipston Sports Club when the Branch will learn to play lawn bowls. The meeting will be at the usual time of 7pm.

Stour Valley Lions Page 6



### Stour Valley Lions Club

Chartered Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Registration Number: 1191826

The Stour Valley Lions would like to thank our Shipston residents and outlying villages for their continued & generous support, due to you we have been able to fund the following groups & individuals during our President Duncan Cashmore first year in office.

Air Ambulance - collection made at The Beacon whilst on Marshalling duties - £347.16p

Brain Tumour Research - £250

CIB - £100

Christmas day meal @ the Townsend hall - £1490

Ekica Fund (African school) - £500

Holiday at Home - £2000 budgeted

LCI re Blind charity - £100

RBL Remembrance - £25

Senior Citizens tea Party - £1284

Shipston tennis Club - £83

Solihull Blood Bikes - £500

Stour Court - planted a tree, renovated a bench, pergola & donated & planted flowers· £700

Tonga Appeal - £620

Ukraine Easter Egg fundraiser - £1200

Warwickshire County Council - mattress - £92

We have also supplied Curling sets to Shipston, Brailes & Long Compton Primary Schools.

Maintain the Gyratory Garden

We are always looking for like-minded people to join us and make a difference to our community.

We meet at the George  $2^{nd}$  Tuesday of the month 7 for  $7.30 \, \text{pm}$ ·

If you would like to have an informal chat and learn more about us, please contact

Paul Macpherson - 07725 105677

# Royal British Legion leads Falklands 40 commemorations

14th June 2022 marked the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Falklands Conflict. To mark the occasion, there was a Service of Remembrance at the Memorial Garden on the Gyratory.

The Service was preceded by local piper, Tom Lear, playing a specially chosen piece. The Service itself was taken by Shipston RBL Branch Chaplain, Rev Sarah Bourne, supported by St Edmund's Curate Hannah Gregory.





Marianne Westwood, Shipston Mayor, delivered the reading, 2 Corinthians 5.16–21, and a special commemorative wreath was laid by Falklands Veteran Martin Isaacs. Shipston Town Band member, Adrian White, kindly provided Bugler cover for The Last Post/



Reveille and The National Anthem and we finished with piper Tom Lear's moving rendition of The Crags of Tumbledown Mountain, which was written on Mount Tumbledown by Pipe Major Riddell of 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, immediately after the taking of Mount Tumbledown by 2nd Scots Guards on 13th/14th June 1982.

In total about 25 RBL members, Falklands Veterans and Townspeople were present, including Branch Standard bearer Connor Begley.

In March 2023, the wreath will be relocated to the Falkland Islands and re-laid on behalf of the Branch and Townspeople.



### **Shipston embraces the spirit of Pride**

Shops and businesses across the town have been flying the rainbow flag throughout June in support of Pride Month and several events have taken place in the town to celebrate and support the local LGBTQIA+ community. In addition to an afternoon of family activities in St Edmund's, there was a colourful Tribute Parade and an incredibly moving inclusive church service.





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**SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA** 



### TUESDAY 26 JULY, 2022 2 pm TOWNSEND HALL FILM AFTERNOON



Visitors are welcome
Entry including refreshments £2
(Free entry for all children)





# **Shipston Home Nursing celebrates 25th Anniversary**

In July we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Shipston Home Nursing with our Party in the Park. Set in the beautiful grounds of Alscot Park (by kind permission of Emma Holman-West), we're planning a fun-filled family afternoon.

Enjoy afternoon tea and Monsoon Estate coffee (or a cocktail at the bar), live music, a slice of wood-fired pizza and a stroll around the grounds. Enter your feline friend into the dog show, admire the classic cars and entertain the children with face painting, music, dancing and a lucky dip. There will also be a car boot sale and some lovely local stalls including Shipston Beekeepers Honey and Granary Oils.

Tickets cost £5 per person and are on sale online at www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events

Advance tickets: £5. Tickets on the day: £7.50

The spectacular private gardens at Alscot Park will be open on the day, between 2 and 4pm. Tickets for Party in the Park will also enable access to the gardens (while Party in the Park is a dog-friendly event, no dogs in the private gardens please)

As part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration Party in the Park,



we will be running a **Silent Auction**, we have some fantastic Auction Prizes to share with you.

For further information on all Auction Prizes and to see current highest bids, please visit <a href="www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/">www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/</a> <a href="the-silent-auction/">the-silent-auction/</a> To place bids, please contact Rebecca Mawle on: <a href="mailto:rebecca.mawle@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk">rebecca.mawle@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk</a> or 01608 674929, quoting the lot number and your bid value. Bids will also be accepted at our Party in the Park event on Sunday 17th July.

Bidding will be open until 5pm on Sunday 17th July. We will be in contact with winning bidders by Tuesday 19th July.

### LOT 1: Simply Spa Stay Experience at Hoar Cross Hall, Staffordshire

An overnight stay at Hoar Cross Hall for two people to include:

- Unlimited use of the award-winning spa
- Spa treatment of your choice per guest
- Three-course dinner in the Ballroom
- Breakfast
- Three-course lunch the following day in Hugo's

Redeemable Sunday to Thursday. Valid until 1.5.23

With thanks to André Elshout

BIDDING STARTS AT: £300

### LOT 2: Tasting Menu for 2 at The Royal Oak, Whatcote

A fabulous six-course tasting menu for two people at The Royal Oak, with a glass of fizz on arrival.

With thanks to Solanche and Richard Craven

BIDDING STARTS AT: £150

### LOT 3: Children's Bicycle from Shipston Spokes

Freespirit Gizmo Children's Bike, Black/Blue - 16" Wheel, Single Speed. The Freespirit Gizmo Boys Bike is fitted with a quill stem allowing the front end of the bicycle to heighten so that the



bike can grow with the child. This bike comes equipped with powerful V-brakes for great braking performance. Additionally, it comes complete with single speed gearing, 16" tyres, rubber grips, and padded saddle; to give young riders the best and smoothest ride.

Child height and age range 3ft 5 - 3ft 11 / 6-8 years

With thanks to Stuart Walsh at Shipston Spokes

BIDDING STARTS AT: £85

### LOT 4: Two-night stay at The Idle Rocks, St Mawes

Your stay will include overnight accommodation for two people for two nights and a delicious Cornish breakfast each morning. You can also choose from one of the following to make your stay truly unique:

- Luxury cinema experience
- Dinner for two at The Idle Rocks
- Cornish Vineyard Experience
- The Reef Knot Retreat

Voucher valid until 18.7.23

Subject to availability, redeemable Sunday to Thursday only, not in high season

With thanks to Karen and David Richards

BIDDING STARTS AT: £800

### **LOT 5: Chauffeur driven Bentley experience**

Richard Gray, your chauffeur will collect and return up to two people and drive them to a destination within a ten-mile radius of Alscot Park. This could be perfect for a couple looking for a stylish way to travel on their wedding day.

With thanks to Richard Gray

BIDDING STARTS AT: £100

### LOT 6: Seven-night stay at Meadow View cottage, Dittisham

Spend seven nights at this picturesque Grade II listed threebedroom cottage in the heart of Dittisham, near Dartmouth. Located on a tranquil meander of the River Dart in the South Hams, the cottage sleeps six people and features a large meadow garden.

Subject to availability, prize must be taken by the end of December 2022

With thanks to Anneli Cowper

BIDDING STARTS AT: £600

### **LOT 7: Family ticket to Berrybank Amphitheatre**

Enjoy a family ticket to a show of your choice from the Summer 2022 season at Berrybank Amphitheatre.

This ticket is for four people, for any event (subject to availability).

With thanks to Judy Reaves, David Hamblett, Jono and Keith

BIDDING STARTS AT: £30

What's On Page 10

### Welcome to Shipston-on-Stour Masonic Lodge.





Shipston-on-Stour Lodge is seeking to attract good men from the surrounding area who identify and associate themselves with our key attributes of friendship, integrity, respect and charity

Freemasonry is open to people from all walks of life. It's a unique institution with a truly global membership and one of the world's largest and oldest fraternal organisations.

For many, Freemasonry is about making new friends and acquaintances. For others, it's about being able to help deserving causes and charities in our communities, from food banks to youth groups, from dementia care to hospice support, national charities including international disasters and humanitarian relief.

If you are interested in becoming a Freemason or would like further information, contact.

Shipston-on-Stour Lodge <a href="mailto:shipstonlodgesecretary@gmail.com">shipstonlodgesecretary@gmail.com</a>

Tel.01789 565831

Further information - www.shipstonlodge.com



Townsend Hall Management Committee

Registered Charity Number 522997

52, Sheep Street

Shipston on Stour CV36 4AE

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Holden Room

Tuesday 26th July 2022

7 p.m.

You are invited to this meeting to find out how you can support this valued town amenity.

### **Welcome to Shipston Music Society**

Shipston Music Society is a registered charity that was founded in 1989. We offer a programme of six live performances and two illustrated talks in our regular annual season, which runs from September to June. We aim to keep subscriptions as low as possible, while offering a programme of music to rival much larger music societies.

We try to include something that will appeal to a wide range of musical taste, and sometimes arrange outings to musicals and concerts during the year as well. The Society is noted for its friendly and informal atmosphere, including arranging for a Christmas lunch each year for members to socialise.

The Society's events are normally held at the Methodist Church in New Street, Shipston on Stour, starting at 7.30pm though occasionally we may have concerts at other venues.

If you would like more information or would like to become a member for our next season, please phone 01608 662514 or contact us via the form on our website, shipstonmusic.org.uk. We are also currently searching for committee members from September this year, so if you are interested in contributing to the ongoing future of the Society, please get in touch.





### **Speedwatch Update**

The Shipston Community Speedwatch Team completed their most recent period of speed monitoring on 12th June and despite the cost of fuel, the volume of traffic using the A3400 was as high as (and at times higher than) pre-COVID levels. Speeds monitored by our volunteers on the Stratford and London Roads support the most recent findings of the County Council's automatic monitoring devices, which showed that 45% of vehicles on London Road, and 80% on Stratford Road, were breaking the 30mph speed limit.

Having taken our concerns in the 20mph petition to the County Council earlier in the year, a meeting with Road Safety traffic engineers took place in May and discussions continue. The process is, of course, long and slow, so nothing will be rushed through! As part of Shipston's Neighbourhood Plan, a Cycling & Walking Plan is also underway, and this will feed into any changes to speed limits.

Police resources are very thinly stretched, so we as volunteers are pleased to support them in their role of making our roads safer for all road users in our community. Information gained under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that the Police monitored speeds in Shipston during the 2 years Jan 2019 - Dec 2021 on 5 separate occasions, when 44 drivers were sent Notices of Intention to Prosecute. Average speeds were found to be 37.2mph, with 42mph as their highest recorded speed.

Please take care to moderate your speed as you drive through and around Shipston. It will also make your fuel go further!

Jacey Jackson, Shipston Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator



### **Shipston Proms**

As the Forum went to press before this year's Proms finale, we will have a full round-up next month. We really hope that you enjoyed the variety of music that was on offer and thank you for all the support you gave us. Thanks to Lawns to Mow for putting the banners up for us on the five access roads into Shipston. Hopefully, the ground was softer than in 2019.



For the first time, the Sponsors night was held at the Hub, courtesy of Kayleigh and Alex. It was a great success with over 30 sponsors attending and an ideal opportunity for the Proms to meet sponsors and thank them for the invaluable financial support they give.

If you have any feedback you would like to share on anything you heard over the fortnight please get in touch and let us know on www.shipstonproms.org, on our Facebook page or chat to one of our committee members.

Comments will be gratefully received and help put together next year's programme, though I think, we will have a rest first!

Susan Perry

### **Beer Festival Update**

The Stour Valley Lions would like to express their "Thanks" to all the wonderful sponsors for their generosity to our Beer Festival event held in conjunction with the Shipston Rugby Club on Saturday 11th June 2022.

Mototech, Project 12, PIR Accounting, Shipston Building Supplies, Co-op, Cotswold Jewellers, Langford Building Supplies, J Hogan & Sons, Storm Geomatics, Curfew Hair(Simon King), Sam Russell Group, Venture 4x4, Dryspell Irrigation (Matt Corby), Easylay Concrete, Cotswold Concrete Pumping (Phil Hall), Guy Hawkins Farming, AJ Ray Construction, Crimscote Barns (Jon Cowper), Pete Gardner Building, Budget Skips, Hills Groundworks, Peter Clarke, Abssac.

And of course, to all the volunteers.

Our share of the profits will be shared equally between **Shipston First Responders & Solihull Blood Bikes** 

A wonderful day had by all

Sue Jeffries

### **Shipston Primary School**

#### **OUR CHILDREN THRIVE**

The Thrive children have been enthusiastically taking part in the gardening club. The courtyard is where it takes place; they have been working exceedingly hard at caring for the plants, which are: radishes, green beans, courgettes, potatoes, lettuces, a range of flowers and trees, strawberries and a miniature herb garden. Many more are still to come.

The garden is a tranquil place for children to experience the wonders of nature. It is also a place for children to unwind and settle down. Every review of the club has been extremely positive.

Many thanks to the children and the school staff, especially Mrs Faulkner and Mrs Turner for participating in creating this wonderful garden.

"I go to Thrive every morning to settle down before I go to class. I've been doing this for months now and I've found it helps. It clears my mind and when we do our breathing, it slows down my breathing." Sophie (Year 5)

"I go to Thrive in the morning, it gets me started for school. When I'm sad it really cheers me up."

"Thrive helps me wake up and makes me ready for the day. In Thrive we use metaphors to express our feelings."

"I go to Thrive in the morning to help me get to school and it helps me relax when I am feeling worried."

### JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Our Platinum Jubilee celebrations started on Monday 23rd May with the FOSP (Friends of Shipston Primary) Jubilee Bake Off and cake sale.

Children from all year groups created individual and collaborative artwork, which is now on display in the school









hall. To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee, all staff and pupils created a human 70 on the school field.

Shipston On Stour Primary School

### BATSFORD ARBORETUM

By Billy (Kingfishers)

On Wednesday 8th June Kingfishers went to Batsford Arboretum because our new topic is called The Scented Garden. We were very excited to go on our first school trip. We went to learn about trees and plants.

At half past nine we finally arrived at Batsford. We carefully got off the coach

and went into the building slowly. Some of us were already tired and asking when lunch was!

When we were in the building we weren't allowed to touch anything. After that we went to the toilet (again) and got into our groups. I was with Morgan, Eva and Mrs Aubrey. Next Woodpeckers started trail one and Kingfishers did trail two. First on the map was the waterfall with a bridge. I was happy when we got there and it reminded Miss Lamb of the Three Billy Goats Gruff.

Once we had completed trail two we plodded our way to lunch. Some of us were picking up leaves and using them as fans. Eventually we got to the lunch tables. When I opened my lunchbox I had chunky Hoola Hoops, rice cakes with butter and a Pepperami. After I had finished my lunch I was full of energy again and Kingfishers were very ready to start trail one.

First we had to go past the four seasons bunny but we weren't allowed to climb on it. Next on the map was the pond and when we got there the pond looked beautiful. It made me feel very happy and calm. The next thing was a cave. Nervously I crept in the Hermit's cave. It was damp and cold with lots of creepy cobwebs but luckily there were no bats. After that Kingfishers saw two deer under two different trees. Miss Lamb asked us to be quiet so that we didn't scare them but some of us didn't listen. Next there was the waterfall which was amazing and cool because it was so big. I saw the water dripping downwards. It felt cold! The water eventually ran into a huge swamp.

After that it was sadly the end of our adventure. My favourite part was rolling down the hill and playing tag because it was so much fun!

**Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher** 

School News Page 13

### **Shipston High School**

The summer months are always an active time in school, with a range of events in the calendar. Students have the opportunity to contribute to some fantastic activities, including Creative Arts, Sport and Careers.

The Music department has been busy preparing for a Summer Recital. After so many months of the pandemic limiting such events, it is wonderful to hear live music in the school once again. We have some very talented musicians and our thanks go to Mr Flint and all the students involved.

Students studying Drama will be visiting London later this month for a theatre trip. Students will see *The Woman in Black* in London's West End, so whilst related to examination study it will also be very enjoyable. Thanks to Mrs Evans and all the staff involved; another activity we are delighted to see return.

Amongst all of this our Year 11 students have of course been focused on their final examinations. Most school subjects are now assessed with 100% examination, often with several separate papers for one subject. This is a notable pressure for our young people, who had an intense six-week period of exams sometimes with more than one exam on the same day.



The timetable for exams is set nationally, and it was impressive to witness the maturity shown by our Year 11 as they worked diligently on revision and the exams themselves. Exams concluded at the end of June, and results will be available later in August. I wish all Year 11 students a restful summer after their hard work - well done to all.

Students in Year 6 who are joining the school in September visit in July to meet staff and students and experience a typical High School day for themselves. This is always an enjoyable day, and Year 6 students benefit enormously from seeing the school in action.





All of these activities are part of the rich and varied provision provided by Shipston High School. If you are a parent of a current Year 5 pupil considering a secondary school for September 2023, please note our forthcoming Open Morning:

### SHIPSTON HIGH SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

For parents and pupils currently in year 5

Monday 11th July 2022 9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.

Please be aware that for safeguarding reasons places must be booked in advance of the day. To book a place or for further details please contact apunt@shipstonhigh. co.uk giving the name of your child and the primary school they currently attend or telephone 01608 661833

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

### **Could you serve on Shipston Town Council?**

For any residents of Shipston interested in contributing to their community, there are currently three vacancies for Town Councillors. Two of the vacancies are open for the Council to appoint via co-option procedures and the third will also become subject to this process if insufficient electors request a by-election is held.

The Town Council is eager to find expressive and confident individuals who have an interest in the inner workings of Shipston's community governance and a desire to improve the local environment and services. The council consists of an elected body of Councillors, including a Mayor and Deputy who are assisted by a town clerk and assistant. Meetings are held on each second Monday of the month. Additionally, Councillors are encouraged to join working groups depending on preference and expertise!

Please contact any of the current Councillors (current list available on contacts page) if you wish to discuss the finer points of what it means to be a town Councillor and what the responsibilities entail.

### **District Council update**

As I am writing the dog is getting up a scare with dust bathing sparrows, the sun is shining into the kitchen of our new home. (Shipston really has a lot of bird life!)



I digress – June is pretty quiet after the hoopla of the new municipal year. I am turning my mind to the projects we may start in town. I think it is time to sort out the High Street. I seem to be able to park at an angle more easily than straight these days – is it time to have angled spaces? Might it even be time for a one way system? Do you want some more crossings? Footpaths? I am thinking all of this because I am so proud of Shipston and want as many people as possible to enjoy it too!

I wonder whether any of you are concerned about the way in which you'll get your £150 rebate (Council Tax bands A-D)? It did seem odd that bank statements are needed – I questioned this and was told the government asked for it! I suspect that in Whitehall when they came up with this, no one thought that some of us don't pay by direct debit. If you don't want to provide this detail then you will be credited against your Council Tax and if you are in credit already - guess what? You'll get the money! I would laugh if this sort of administrative waste was funny. Sometimes I reflect that there are a few of us who do the weekly housekeeping who could do this better!

See you at Foodbank if you need us, my restarted surgery on Thursdays at the George or give me a bell.

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

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

### **County Council update**

A report was published by Warwickshire County Council last week into the effect of covid on our young people. I don't think there was anyone on the Children's and Young Peoples Overview and



Scrutiny Committee (14 June) who was not moved to tears by the contents. It is fair to say that the effects have been profound on development, mental health, progress and safety of our children. School, for many is a sanctuary and for months was not available to the majority. Locally I know children who became emotionally vulnerable and worse – during lockdowns. I am glad the Sec of State for Education has said never again! If you want to come and unload any lockdown experiences (or anything else) I will be at the George on Thursday 30 June from 10am for a coffee and a natter.

We know that sudden unexpected costs can create real challenges for people experiencing financial hardship. If this is you or anyone you know, help is available: The Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme supports the most vulnerable of us in crisis when there is no other means of help. The scheme provides basic and essential help for food and energy. www. warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme or call 0800 408 1448.

If you're finding it hard to feed your family help and advice is online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodsupport and www.warwickshire.gov.uk/foodbanks - in Shipston you do not need a referral.

Act on Energy provides free advice and grants to help keep you warm this winter. www.actonenergy.org.uk

**Jo Barker, County Councillor, Shipston** 07748 968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

### **Shipston Medical Centre**

### Going on holiday?

Nationally there are 0.45 whole time equivalent fully qualified GPs per 1,000 patients. This has dropped from 0.52 WTE in September 2015. At Shipston Medical Centre we have around 0.55 WTE GPs per 1,000 population, which is higher than the national and regional average. We also have the highest level of practice nursing in the Coventry and Warwickshire area. As a practice, we have invested as much money as we can in ensuring the provision of front-line services.

Despite being better staffed than the majority of practices, it is now not uncommon for demand for our services to be higher than our clinical capacity. The European Union of General Practitioners and BMA have recommended a safe level of patient contacts per day in order for a GP to deliver safe care at not more than 25 contacts per day. Our GPs and Advanced Practitioners, along with most other practitioners across the country, consult at levels significantly higher than this. Each day the 'on the day' demand is over 1% of our practice population,

Medical Centre t: 01608 661845

recently topping 160 in a day. Alongside this we are also providing appointments for more routine care.



On days of exceptional demand, we have to limit services to ensure that we are able to deal with those who access the service in a safe manner. This is not something that we want to do, but our top priority has always got to be ensuring that we are doing the right thing for each individual patient we see. We cannot be making mistakes due to fatigue – pilots and drivers have defined safe limits for a reason, and we must ensure our clinicians also have these.

We would very much like to be able to offer a shorter waiting time for routine appointments and additional care, but we do not have additional funds to invest in more clinicians. We support the national campaign for long-term investment in increasing the workforce of the NHS. **Useful Contacts** Page 15

### Your Town Councillors



Marianne Westwood, Mayor

t: 01608 662223

e: marianne.westwood@shipstontowncouncil.org



Gerry Kelly, Deputy Mayor

Planning Committee Vice Chair

t: 07471 687720

e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Ian Cooper

Finance Working Group Chair

t: 01608 663785

e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org



Paul Tesh

Planning Committee Chair

t: 07711 433566

e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



John Dinnie Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair

t: 01608 664590

e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org



#### Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712

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



**Peter Cox** 

General Purposes Working Group Chair

t: 07973 442552

e: peter.cox@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Tony Booth

e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Shirley Madams

Youth Working Group Chair

e: shirley.madams@shipstontowncouncil.org



### **Hilary Kelly**

e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



#### Vacancy

Vacancy



### **Useful Contacts**

Community Links Transport Shipston Library: - 24/7 renewal line Highways customer services Severn Trent Emergency Line: Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01789 264491 0300 5558171 01926 499273 01926 412515 0800 7834444 01608 663122 01608 662354
Shipston Leisure Centre	
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
<ul><li>Out of hours</li></ul>	111
Shipston Forum	01295 788655
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood	01789 444670

#### shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk Team: **Churches of Shipston:**

Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01295 257193

### Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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

**Town Clerk** 

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

### **County Council Contact:**

Councillor Jo Barker

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### **District Council Contacts:**

Councillor Jo Barker (Shipston South)

t: 07748 968712

e: jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

t: 07969 167720

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



### Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Chris Rowland on 07983 342567 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

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

### Forum copy deadline:

Second Monday of the month

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

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council.

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



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