



# Shipston Forum

shipstontowncouncil.org



June 2020

## VE Day 75 commemorations

Restrictions on public gatherings due to the coronavirus pandemic meant that long awaited plans to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May with a series of street parties had to be altered at short notice. Fortunately, the whole community, determined not to let the sacrifices of the wartime generation be forgotten, hosted a town-wide stay at home street party. There was a fantastic demonstration of community spirit as people sat in their front gardens, enjoying the sunshine and chatting to their neighbours, with many also decorating their houses to mark the occasion.

At the break of dawn, Dan Scobie, then Mayor of Shipston, Sheelagh Saunders, then Deputy Mayor, and David Kernohan, President of the Shipston-on-Stour branch of The Royal British Legion gathered in the Gyratory Garden. They placed bouquets of flowers on the memorial sundial that was erected in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.



VE celebration photographs by Charlotte Wright Photography.



## Mayor's column



Firstly, I would like to thank Dan Scobie, together with his wife Cal, for his term as Mayor 2019-2020. He has been a great leader of the Council and ambassador for the town. I know we are all very grateful for his strong direction in adapting the operations of the council in the rapidly changing coronavirus crisis. He will be a hard act to follow. We are saddened to learn that Dan is standing down from the council with immediate effect. His knowledge and guidance will be sorely missed. I wish him well in all his future endeavours and am sure he will not disappear from the Shipston scene!

As a team, the Council are learning to adapt to this new socially distant environment. We are conducting meetings by Zoom, working out ways to ensure that meetings are open to residents digitally. Our Town Clerk, Ali Packer, not yet six months into her new role has embraced these challenges head-on. Having been granted delegated powers she is working remotely from home keeping the operations of the Council going.

It is hard to guess what this year will bring for our town, its institutions, residents and businesses. One thing is certain; that in this period of social isolation individuals will need extra support in times of crisis. For this reason, the charity I have chosen to support is CRUSE Bereavement Care – Coventry and Warwickshire. People who lose a loved one whether through coronavirus or another cause may be cut off from their usual support network, not even able to ask for a hug at what is, at the best of times, a lonely situation. Funerals are limited and may be delayed. Coronavirus bereavement may be particularly traumatic. CRUSE has had a long association with the Medical Centre here in Shipston, offering bereavement counselling sessions. These must for the time being be conducted by phone. They will need extra funds to deal with their inevitable extra workload.

This time last year it became apparent that our footpaths were becoming heavily overgrown and impassable. As fresh air and exercise is so important during this pandemic, I would like to see, socially distanced groups organising a programme to clear and keep clear our paths so that we all can benefit. Would anyone interested please contact the Council so we can get the ball rolling!

**Sheelagh Saunders**

## Council goes virtual

The Town Council has continued to operate under a scheme of delegation that allows the Clerk to conduct business after consulting with Councillors. However, after several test sessions on Zoom to allow Councillors to experiment with the technology, future council meetings are now planned to be hosted on the platform until physical meetings can resume, allowing for democratic decisions.

The first ever virtual Annual Town Council Meeting in Shipston took place at 7pm 18th May, with Councillors gathering to conduct the election of a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Dan Scobie as the outgoing Mayor opened the meeting by requesting that

all participants remain on mute until called to speak, and that all contributions should be addressed to the Chair as would be normal procedure. Voting took place through the raising of hands, which were then tallied.



*Zoom capture showing Dan removing the chains of office and "passing" them to Sheelagh*

## Election of new Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Shipston's new Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected at the Annual Town Council Meeting on 18th May. The Mayor Making process was somewhat unconventional, being conducted on Zoom, however this important civic event was still able to take place. For example, Councillors voted to receive verbal acceptances of office, with the essential signed paper copies to follow later.

Cllr Sheelagh Saunders was the sole nomination for Mayor and received unanimous support. Dan Scobie, as the outgoing Mayor, then invited the new Mayor to recite the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Following this he symbolically removed his chains of office, placing them out of shot of his webcam.

Mayor Sheelagh Saunders then addressed the meeting, thanking Dan Scobie for his service as Mayor, praising his frequent willingness to "go above and beyond" and that he had proved to be a "steady hand on the tiller" during the challenges of recent months.

Cllr Ian Cooper was unanimously elected as Deputy Mayor.

## Dan Scobie stands down from Town Council

After congratulating Mayor Sheelagh Saunders of her election, Dan Scobie announced that he would be standing down from the Town Council, with effect from the end of the meeting. He said that serving as a Councillor and as Mayor of Shipston had been a "privilege and a joy", however he had made a commitment to his wife to stand down following a personally challenging year, where in addition to his roles as Mayor and Chair of the Rugby Club, he had been very busy professionally.

Mayor Sheelagh Saunders expressed her sadness at this news, stating that this was a "huge loss to the Council" and it would "leave a gaping hole". She said that she understood the need to find a balance between work and personal life and thanked Dan for his service to the Council over many years.



## Overcoming the challenges of chemo

*Shipston Cycling Club member Pete Cornthwaite, who lives in the town, has begun chronicling his chemotherapy treatment in the club's weekly newsletter. Here is the first instalment of 'Finding Chemo'.*

People can sign up for the newsletter via the club's Facebook page – [facebook.com/shipstoncycling](https://facebook.com/shipstoncycling)

I was diagnosed with aggressive, metastatic (spread to other parts) cancer of the prostate last November and started on a four-month course of chemotherapy in mid-February. As a very fit man who thought this would never happen to me, believe me, it was a big shock!

I was dreading the effects of the chemo, with six bouts every three weeks, and thought that I would be spending a lot of time sitting around tired - but I was wrong! Being fit to start with helps a lot with coping both mentally and physically, and to aid my recovery I was determined to keep as fit as possible throughout my treatment. So regular bike rides and the occasional run have been a big part of my routine.

Chemo works by knocking off the rapidly multiplying cancer cells but the drug cannot distinguish between the cancer cells and normal healthy cells with a high turnover, so the latter get hit as well. These latter cells are hair (slows growth and falls out), skin (small cuts don't heal - annoying with little finger cuts), gut lining (I won't go there), but more importantly bone marrow, which produces both red and white blood cells. The latter cells are reduced which makes the immune system less effective, so I am extra careful of social distancing as infection through something like coronavirus would probably see me six feet under! This reduction in the number of red blood cells is the most important for me as a cyclist as my oxygen-carrying capacity is reduced.

Four to nine days after the chemo is given is the time the body's natural cells are affected. You feel very tired and lethargic and exercise is really hard work. After that time recovery starts slowly and after 21 days you are feeling pretty good – just in time for the next dose! However, the doses are cumulative so having had my fourth dose recently, the effect is really noticeable with my haemoglobin reduced by up to 15%, meaning I have to walk up the occasional really steep hill before the recovery period kicks in (very frustrating). However, despite all the drawbacks, I try and exercise at least every alternate day and so far, I have been managing between 80 -120 miles a week on the bike and two shortish runs per week, albeit a lot slower than usual but the mental benefit has been enormous.

The message to take away is don't be deterred by what you might have heard about chemo. If you are fit to begin with and you are prepared to work hard to maintain some fitness during treatment then it makes life more enjoyable and should pay off in the long term - I'll let you know!

## Shipston remains open for business

The independent shops which have had their doors open during this lockdown period have all been working extremely hard to get your essential items to you, whether it be through vigorous precautionary measures taken on their premises to ensure social distancing and hygiene measures are carried out, or working extremely long hours to service customers who are self-isolating and need essentials delivered to their door. There has also been a continued sense of local businesses supporting each other, without having to break social distancing rules.

Totally Locally Shipston have put together an information sheet to enable businesses to reach out to customers and let them know how they can still use their services and support local independents. This can be viewed on their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/totallylocallyshipston>) or a paper copy can be collected from the Post Office.

Chris Sands, founder of the Totally Locally movement, said: "These are strange times. And a lot of people have all of a sudden 'discovered' local shops again - those that care, that deliver and have adapted to serve our communities. And this is great, because the High Street we have when this is all over will be a direct reflection of how people have shopped over the lockdown time."



## Weekly cyber church proves a hit

Stour Valley Baptist Church in Shipston has been broadcasting its Sunday service for a couple of months. 'Live at Eleven' has been introduced to replace regular services at Shipston High School made impossible by the coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

The Church was delighted to find more people tuning in 'live' than they used to have in the congregation. Approximately 100 people watch the 40-minute service live, and many others opt to watch the recordings. As many of the 'views' will represent couples and families watching together, that probably means that more than 200 people are participating each week.

Daniel Pulham, Pastor, said: "The feedback has been great! Even though we are all watching in our own homes, there's been a tangible sense of being together! The technology has just about worked, in a Heath Robinson sort of way – apart from our VE Day Special, when just about everything that could go wrong did! But that's technology for you!"

"It's just really moving that so many are seeking in this time and choosing to tune in to what we are putting together. I suspect we will be broadcasting like this even when we are back in the school meeting as 'normal! We now have a whole new online congregation!"

The service can be watched online by visiting [www.stourvalleybaptistchurch.com](http://www.stourvalleybaptistchurch.com) and clicking on 'Live at Eleven'.



## Town Council Meetings

List of Town Council meeting dates for the year which the public can attend (either on Zoom or at New Clark House, depending on how business is being conducted):

Main	14th December	Planning	29th December (TBC)
8th June	11th January	22nd June	25th January
13th July	8th February	27th July	22nd February
10th August	8th March	24th August	22nd March
14th September	12th April	28th September	26th April
12th October	10th May	26th October	24th May
9th November	(Annual Meeting & Mayor Making)	23rd November	





## Lions continue to support the community

One of the Stour Valley Lions' objectives for the current year is to support as many youth activities as possible. The photograph (taken prior to social distancing restrictions) shows the Shipston High School basketball team with their new shirts sponsored by Stour Valley Lions.



This year, we tried a new approach at Easter. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we wanted to give the children something to do, with a prize for the winner. In parallel with several Lions Clubs up and down the country, we held an online colouring competition encouraging families to print a picture shared on Facebook for children to colour in and post. In total there were 13 submissions and after much deliberation within the club (virtually) the winner was decided. Congratulations to Alfie, aged 8 who won a 1kg chocolate Easter egg!



Stour Valley Lions received kind thanks from the Shipston Medical Centre for the purchase of three distance thermometers, urgently needed to reduce the risk of cross infection between patients.



We were only too happy to help and are pleased to have supported such a need. As the saying goes... "Where there is a need, there is a Lion". We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Shipston Medical Centre and all key workers for working tirelessly and selflessly during these tough times! You are all heroes.

Our very own Lion Fran Stary will be hosting fortnightly virtual quizzes. These are free to join, but you are encouraged to donate a small amount toward the "Lions Brain Tumour Research Appeal". This is a national Lions project being led by Fran, committed to raising £1 million over the next four years. It is particularly close to her heart as she lost a friend/work colleague to a brain tumour a couple of years ago when he was only in his 40's. Brain tumours are indiscriminate and sadly affect so many – a cure is needed, and the money raised will go directly to research and towards buying much needed equipment. Fran is playing her part by hosting these live virtual quizzes on the "Lions Brain Tumour Research" Facebook page and the first two quizzes raised over £600. She hopes to continue each month during lockdown to support a great cause and to bring families at home together for an hour of fun and entertainment. Please show your support by joining and donating. The next quiz will take place on 21st June at 7pm.

Lions have also been collecting for the "cottage industry" in Queens Avenue, finding fabric (plain or patterned) that can withstand a hot wash for those who are making 'scrub bags' and headwear to help with the national supply effort.



# QUIZ NIGHT

# SUNDAY

## 21<sup>st</sup> June, 7pm






Find us on Facebook, search "Lions Brain Tumour Research"



## Shipston on Stour Food Bank

### Food Bank is still open

The Food Bank in Shipston is open to anyone who finds they might be in need of a bit of help to tide them over. We know there may be people who need something at the moment, but who have never accessed help before. That's fine, you're not alone.

**Those who need an emergency bag of supplies can collect one from St Edmund's Church on Tuesday and Saturday mornings between 10am and 12noon. No referral or voucher is required.**



Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated to the Food Bank. Any donations of non-perishable food items, cleaning products and toiletries can be left in the porch of the church between 9am and 5pm Monday-Saturday.

You can find us on Facebook – search for Shipston on Stour Foodbank, or phone Sarah Edmonds 01608 661210 or Jo Barker 07748 968712 for more details.



### Town of Shipston-on-Stour

#### VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF TOWN COUNCILLOR FOR THE SHIPSTON SOUTH WARD

NOTICE is hereby given, in accordance with Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 that a vacancy exists in the office of Town Councillor for the Shipston South Ward of the Town of Shipston-on-Stour, by reason of the resignation of Councillor Dan Scobie on the 18th day of May 2020.

Any ten local government electors for the Town may require an election to be held to fill the said vacancy. To do this, they must send a written request to the Chief Executive, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, which must reach him not later than 16th day of June 2020. No set form of words is necessary.

If such a request is received by the Chief Executive, an election will be held. If no request is received, the vacancy will be filled in due course by co-option by the remaining members of the Town Council.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

By order of the Town Council.

*OPacker*

Alison Packer  
Town Clerk  
Shipston Town Council

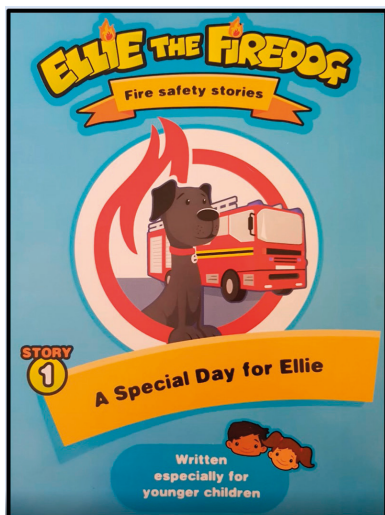
\* Please note that due to the recent passing of emergency regulations governing the conduct of polls then should an election be requested in respect of the above vacancy it is unlikely this may be held before Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## Fire and Rescue Service launch bedtime fire safety stories

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are encouraging young children to learn about fire safety in a fun and engaging way through a new online video bedtime story activity programme (<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fire-safety/fire-safety-education-programme/2>).

The books, read by members of the service, including the Chief Fire Officer, Kieran Amos, are from the Ellie the Fire Dog series. These stories, produced by West Midlands Fire Service, help children learn about how to make a 999 call, the importance of having smoke alarms in your home and what the role of a firefighter entails. Each fun story incorporates important safety messages for the children to learn and there is an accompanying activity to help develop their understanding further.

Gemma Childs, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services, Community Fire Safety Officer, said: "The stories are really engaging and have been produced specifically to support the learning of young children, to better understand how to keep themselves safe from fire, learning when and how to make a 999 call, learning about smoke alarms and the importance of not playing with fire."



## Norgren Bowls Club celebrating 50th anniversary

Initially comprising only Norgren employees the Norgren Bowls Club soon became a significant club on the bowls scene following its formation 50 years ago. The green has been one of the best in the county for many years and was selected by Bowls England for their international bowls trials which ran at Norgren for a number of years.

Many Norgren bowlers have played for the county and over the years there have been at least five county presidents from the Norgren club – a statistic unmatched by other clubs. This year's county president was also president in 2016 and has been Norgren president for 20 years.

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, Bowls England have cancelled their planned visit to Norgren Bowls Club to celebrate this achievement, but it is hoped this will be rearranged for either later this year or during the 2021 season.

I hope that the bowls scene will soon return and implore all existing members to continue their support and invite all potential members to not hesitate in joining a friendly and successful club.

Check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Norgren-Bowls-Club-109761383968748/>) or email [norgrenbc@gmail.com](mailto:norgrenbc@gmail.com)

**Clive Faulkner**  
President



## Reminiscing past proms

Has anyone got any memories of the Proms they would like to share and that could be published in a future edition of the Forum? It could be anything from not going to the right venue to finding their soul mate in the crowds of the Last Night?



My memory is that there was one year on the Last Night when it was raining and when we hadn't lived in Shipston for that long. I felt sorry for the Proms as I envisaged an empty square with drenched supporters and performers trying to make the best of the evening. So, I decided to walk down to give some support. Well, I need not have worried. The square was full of heaving bodies clearly enjoying every moment of the music, regardless of the weather. That taught me that the Proms is a mighty force to be reckoned with, though sadly not against the coronavirus.

Please email to [shipstonproms@gmail.com](mailto:shipstonproms@gmail.com) or let us know via our Facebook page. We look forward to hearing your stories.

**Susan Perry**

## Work continues on Ellen Badger Hospital development

Despite the pressures of the coronavirus pandemic, work has continued on the development of plans for a modern integrated Health and Wellbeing Community Hub at the Ellen Badger Hospital.

Outpatients, Day Hospital, Diagnostics and part of the GP Practice would be located on the ground floor, accessible via a shared area providing reception, waiting, café and facilities to support general Health & Wellbeing activities. Inpatients, the remainder of the GP practice as well as meeting areas would be on the first floor, with the remaining staff accommodation and storage distributed across the second and third floors. In addition to two separate parking areas space would be available to enable mobile units to be located on the site to provide additional flexibility in catering for local health needs.

A full update on the latest plans can be downloaded from the South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust website: <https://www.swft.nhs.uk/our-hospitals/ellen-badger-hospital>



## Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

2020 has so far proved to be a unique year for everyone, with all of our lives affected by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. On behalf of everyone at Shipston High School, I wish you well and hope that you and your loved ones are safe. We also express our sympathy for families adversely affected by this virus.

### Virtual learning

The majority of our students are currently working from home. At the time of writing it is unclear how long this will continue, but I do know that the whole school community should be proud of their quick adaptation to unprecedented working conditions.

Staff are setting work online and students are working hard to continue their learning. As in all areas of life, the school community has had to be creative and flexible in managing change, and I thank all students and families for their positive and pragmatic approach.

### Learning provision onsite

We continue to host a small number of students at school, as directed by government guidelines. These young people have also had to get used to a different sort of day in school, and have worked really successfully in building new and effective routines.



The school site continues to operate with limited staff and

students in attendance, all observing appropriate social distancing. Like many people, the students on site are enjoying daily exercise at a pace that allows us all to enjoy the beauty of the season and appreciate the simple pleasures of a spring walk. I am grateful to the community for respecting the fact that the school site is private property with young people being educated on site, and therefore not an area of public access.

### GCSE grade awards

As mentioned last month, Year 11 students will not be taking their examinations as usual. Many readers will know families with young people in this unique position, and we recognise the frustration of Year 11 students who wanted to have a chance to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in their exams. They have worked with real commitment during their time at Shipston and are naturally disappointed not to have their final weeks at school.

The government has worked with Ofqual, the national body responsible for examinations, and devised a system to award GCSE grades to all pupils. Shipston High School will work 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. I look forward to the results being published in August, and for our young people to then begin the next phase of their education, training or employment.

### Community spirit continues

The school community may be physically distanced, but has proved itself proud and resilient. We have all been reminded of the importance of patience, kindness and understanding during this experience, and as a community we will maintain these values when the world is able to come together again.





## District Council Update

How the world has changed since my last contribution appeared in the April issue. The coronavirus pandemic has left virtually no part of the globe untouched. I hope this contribution finds the good people of Shipston in sound health and bright spirits. Few could have imagined the profound impact the pandemic would have on the way millions of people are able to live their lives, both in the short term and in the longer term. It has been impressive to see how the people of Shipston have rallied round to support one another in so many tangible ways to look after those who are vulnerable, sheltered or who have other specific needs.



To their great credit, the staff of the District Council have also gone the extra mile. The overwhelming majority have been working at home since late March maintaining normal service levels. The Revenue and Benefits team has succeeded in paying out more than £26m to support over 2,122 local businesses within the District. Together with Warwickshire County Council and other partners, the District Council has operated a Community Hub providing essential deliveries to the most vulnerable in the District. The refuse collection service has continued to operate normally despite an increase of 20% in the tonnage collected. Thanks to all their efforts, it has been business pretty much as usual.

The local economy, driven as it is by manufacturing, tourism, hospitality and the arts, is likely to be the fourth hardest hit district in the UK measured by Gross Value Added. Like many businesses and individuals, the pandemic has also had a severe effect on the Council's finances, notably its income. It is estimated that the Council's income in the first half of the financial year will be lower by at least £8m. So far the Government has provided grants to the Council of just over £1.3m. Without further support, the Council faces some very difficult decisions over the coming months.

I hope that by the time residents read this piece the lockdown has begun to unwind, those who have been furloughed have been able to go back to work, that home schooling has become a thing of the past for many and that families are able to get back together in a tangible way. It all can't come too soon.

**Trevor Harvey, District Councillor, Shipston North**

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

## County Council update

Another year in the council calendar passes - all our annual meetings are being foreshortened and held virtually. It is truly weird - and tricky for someone like me who has a tendency to be demonstrative - as I can only see people on a screen. "Unfortunately", I can now attend even more meetings from my sofa than by travelling around the area!

I am sorry that at the time of writing our tip is not opening - we are working to get it open in the next phase. Please be as patient as you can be. The car parks at our country parks opened on 18 May so you can get out and about more easily.

County Council committee meetings will recommence in a virtual format in June - so we are trying the new normal. I sit on the Adult Social Care committee - meeting on 24th June - so if anything is on your mind let me know so I can raise it.

Our primary schools are starting a phased return - and I know that all involved are working hard to make sure that children, parents and staff have confidence to return. I am really concerned that our children get back to school - my own will have had six months out of school by September - and he has access to his own tech and two parents at home (not that he always thinks the latter is an advantage). I really feel for families trying to juggle working from home and doing online education using a shared device.

I last wrote that I hoped we would all have time to slow down a bit and think - I've found the odd moment, but I miss people. I don't know when I'll be able to have face to face surgeries again - but in the meantime please ring or email me. At the time of writing it is Mental Health Awareness Week - If you are feeling on your own - you are not - just call.

**Jo Barker, County Councillor**

07748 968712 | [jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## Shipston Medical Centre

**Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845**

### Coronavirus safety measures in the surgery

We would like to remind our patients that they should not be attending the Medical Centre premises unless they have been asked to do so and then social distancing measures should be observed. Our clinicians and other team members who need to be close to patients will continue to wear PPE in line with guidance.



Because of coronavirus and the need for heightened infection control measures we are unable to work at the same pace as we may have previously done. The PPE can slow face to face consultations down and the need for additional cleaning of clinical spaces after each patient also has an impact. This, along with staff adhering to the required self-isolation policies has reduced our capacity and so we need to work as efficiently as possible. We therefore encourage patients to use our online consultation feature on our website at <https://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/Home> as this will help us help you.

### Development of a new Medical Centre and Ellen Badger Hospital

We are making progress towards the development of a new Medical Centre and Ellen Badger Hospital - please see the news item on page 6. We would like to hear your views!



## Your Town Councillors


**Sheelagh Saunders, Mayor**
*Heritage & Leisure Projects Group Co Chair*

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*Finance Group Chair*

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**Peter Cowley**

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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
<b>Local police (non emergency)</b>	<b>101</b>
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
<b>Churches of Shipston:</b>	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01608 642256

**Shipston-on-Stour Town Council**

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

**Alison Packer, Town Clerk**

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**Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)**

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## Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the 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 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.