

# Shipston Forum



June 2023

# **Coronation Celebrations in Shipston**











# Big Help Out - Shipston's Rubbish people

Many thanks to the many people who turned out for a couple of hours on Coronation Holiday Monday to volunteer to collect litter on the outskirts of the town to mark His Majesty the King's Coronation. Huge amounts were collected and Shipston is now looking much more attractive.





The eldest and youngest residents of Glen Close (pictured) at the Coronation street party - Nora (106) and Freya 6 months)











# Mayor's column



Hello Shipston,

Following the Mayor Making meeting on the 9th May I have taken up post as your Town Mayor and hope to make it a successful and interesting year for all. I would like to thank Marianne Westwood on behalf of the town for her time as Mayor, and hope she continues to stay involved with council business. I am also pleased to welcome Councillor John Dinnie as the Deputy Mayor.

As a new Mayor, you can never be completely prepared for how much is involved, and so my diary is filling very fast. I hope to support as many of the events in Shipston and the surrounding areas as possible this year, which will make me a very busy person indeed.

I attended the Mayor making for Alcester on the 16th May in the Town Hall Alcester. It was more about networking than an actual meeting and I soon realised I will be needing a small notepad to collect names and their positions. Notably, I met the High Sherriff of Warwickshire, Sofie Hillary who expressed an interest in visiting Shipston.

Additionally, I attended a meeting on the 17th May to discuss a new initiative for Shipston - the creation of a Repair Shed (based on the Repair Shop – Man Shed concepts on the television). There are hundreds of them around the country and there is a lot of local backing for this project. More about this as the year moves on.

We also have some new staff in the offices. Helen Morgan, your Town Clerk, is to be joined by a new Deputy Clerk, Daisy Hands, and a new Administration Officer, Emily Booth. I am sure they will make a great team in the office.

Finally, I'd also like to thank outgoing councillor Pete Cox, who has given a huge amount of time and hard work to the people of Shipston, through his service on the Town Council.

Cllr. Gerry Kelly,

**Mayor, Shipston Town Council** 

# **Play Park Areas Repairs and Improvements**

Over several months, the Town Councils General Purposes Group has

been engaged in improving the towns play areas with various contractors, from fitting all the swing sets with new seats & chains, to adding some homemade anti pigeon measures above the seats, which appear to work if left alone by mischievous hands. New wooden steps on the multiplay equipment at all play areas that



have them. Introduced four new recycled plastic Pic-Nic tables at the Sports Club area. New rubbish bins. New signage with the council's name & logo. And numerous other small repairs to various pieces of equipment.

New surfaces laid at Mayo Rd & London Rd. New play equipment at Queens Avenue along with a repaired goalmouth area. Another bench has also been ordered. This work along with other issues around town that the General Purposes Group oversee is ongoing and seemingly a neverending task. This in some part because of ASB by an exceedingly small minority of people.

There are, of course many other areas where the Town Council must spend money on maintaining its infrastructure and the play areas is one small part of its expenditure. So, value for money must be of prime importance when negotiating with suppliers & contractors and is the reason we strive to get a minimum of three quotes for everything. (I negotiated with five play equipment suppliers for Queens Avenue which took several months to conclude and get to the final choice).

The repair of the perimeter fencing for Queens Avenue play area had also

been investigated and a local contractor awarded the contract.

#### Pete A Cox

Outgoing Councillor and Chair of the General Purposes Working Group









# **News from Shipston Town Council's June meeting**

#### **Election of Mayor**

Cllr Gerry Kelly was unanimously elected as Mayor

#### **Election of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr John Dinnie was unanimously elected as Deputy Mayor

#### **Council Processes**

Councillors unanimously approved Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee

#### Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor

As the newly elected Town Mayor, Cllr Gerry Kelly led a vote of thanks to Marianne Westwood, the outgoing mayor who retired from the council at the May 2023 elections. He noted that she had helped the council navigate a number of challenges, including the end of the pandemic-era, the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the coronation of HM King Charles III.

Marianne responded by explaining that she had accepted the role "with my fingers crossed" that she would prove useful to the town during her term of office. She gave thanks to her husband and children for their support, explaining that they could always be counted on to reassure her that she was acting in the best interests of the town. Finally, she expressed her gratitude to the Councillors and Council staff for their support over the last year.





# Bus travel to stay cheaper for longer in Warwickshire

It's great news for residents as the government announce that adult single bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 until the end of October, making it cheaper for residents to travel by bus.



In addition to this extension

to the popular scheme, the government also announced that, from November 2023, single adult fares would be capped at £2.50 for another 12 months.

The scheme means that bus passengers in Warwickshire will only pay a maximum of  $\mathfrak{L}2$  for a single bus journey, regardless of the distance travelled. The Government has committed  $\mathfrak{L}200$  million of further investment to extend the scheme. Further investment has also been confirmed to protect vital bus services people rely on for work, education, medical appointments and shopping.

Most Warwickshire bus operators have signed up to the scheme and this will help families, commuters and other passengers save money on travel over the next 18 months.

In Warwickshire, the following operators have signed-up to the scheme:

#### Stagecoach

Arriva

National Express Coventry

**National Express West Midlands** 

**Pulhams** 

A&M Group - Flexibus (Service 9 only)

#### IndieGo PLUS Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)

Designed to help with the rising cost of living, it's hoped that Warwickshire residents will seriously consider leaving the car behind and use the bus instead. With a major network of routes spanning the county, there's sure to be one that'll make it a real viable alternative to car travel. Most Bus operators now offer free Wi-Fi and USB charging points on-board, as well as apps that you can download and track your bus with.

Cllr Jan Matecki, Warwickshire Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning, said: "We are delighted to see the £2 bus fare cap extended in Warwickshire. This is fantastic news for our residents, particularly those who may be struggling with the rising costs of living, and those who rely on buses to get to work, school or college. It will also improve employment opportunities for people from lower income households.

"The extended bus fare cap is also good news for the environment, as it will hopefully encourage people to use public transport instead of driving their cars, reducing traffic congestion and air pollution in the county."

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# **Regular Events**

# **Monday**

### **Seated Exercise Class:**

10am Rainbow Fields and 11am Townsend Hall

#### IT Help!:

10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

#### **Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:**

6:50pm for a 7pm start.

The Church Room, Darlingscote Road, Contact Matthew Hunter: 01608 684499

# **Tuesday**

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

# **Wednesday**

**Seated Tai Chi:** 

9.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

**Standing Tai Chi:** 

10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Indoor Curling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

# **Thursday**

### **Shipston Winter Warm Hub:**

9am-1pm, The Scout Hut, New Street. Every Thurs till end of March (except 29 Dec)

Story stomp: 10am, Shipston Library

Scrabble Club: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

#### **Stour Singers:**

Rehearsals, 7.30pm at Shipston Primary School. Sept 2022 through May 2023. Contact Gayle Burch, 01926 642204

# **Friday**

**Pilates for Complete Beginners:** 

9.30am Townsend Hall

Walks with a friendly group:

10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616

### **Shipston Stitchers:**

Every fortnight at The Church Room, Darlingscote Road. Contact Anita Spencer on 01993 832665

**Board Games Social Afternoon:** 

Fortnightly 2pm Rainbow Fields

## Saturday

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

# What's On Calendar: June 2023

**1Wellbeing Walk in Nature:** Meet at 10am at the Warm Hub in the Scout Hut, New Street. Back by 11.30am for a cuppa. Contact Rosie Charter 07796 380771 rosie.charter@wkwt.org.uk

- **3 Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided.
- **6 Shipston Library Reading Group:** 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month
- 7 Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230

**Shipston on Stour WI**: Alistair Price – What did you do in the War Dad? Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary on 01608 664519

7-8 Evening Swift Walks: See ad on page 7

8, 15, 22 Cost of Living Workshops: 10am-12pm, Scout Hut, New Street.

Free. See ad on page 11

9 Lions Cinema: Empire of Light

- 12 Shipston Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House.
- **13 Shipston Flower Club presents A Touch of Summer a** demonstration by Bev Short. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at Shipston on Stour Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor Entry £5.00 There will also be a raffle of demonstrated arrangements.
- **14 Shipston and District Gardening Club:** Evening garden visit to Abbotsbury House, Chipping Campden. Contact Tony Mitchell 01608 666933 or email a.mitchell434@btinternet.com
- 16 1 July Shipston Proms see ad on page 16
- **16 Townsend Hall Concert:** Baby Jools and the Jazzaholics see ad on page 16
- **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
- **18 Shipston Town Band Proms Concert:** 3pm, St Edmund's see ad on page 7
- **21 Shipston Widows:** Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am 12pm, The White Bear. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
- Singing Down Memory Lane: 2pm-3.30pm, Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston. Refreshments provided. We may be able to help with transport. Contact Fay Ivens on 01608 662133
- 22 Shipston Music Society: Alexander Ardakov see ad on page 7
- **28 Shipston and District Literary Society:** Annual Cheese & Wine party. Contact Helen Marshall 07582 903212
- 29 Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat
- 2 July Rotary Tour d'Ilmington see ad on page 16

# Clubs, Societies and Charities **Shipston Music Society**

"Sax a Trois" was the group of musicians who entertained us at our April meeting and what a talented group they were. Anna Young, Paynor Tsate and Samantha Matthews from the Birmingham Conservatoire have all won prizes for their solo performances and as members of trios and quartets. The accompanist was Charles Matthews, a tutor in piano and organ at the Conservatoire. He is in great demand for his legendary accompanying skills not just at the Conservatoire but also in the wider circle of professional music making.

The programme consisted of a trio to both begin and end the entertainment with each student playing a solo piece in each half of the programme.

"Dance for three Saxophones" (originally for three violins) arranged by Charles Matthews set the scene with a very robust and rhythmic performance with excellent attention to detail. Anna then played "Fuzzy Bird Sonata" by Tokashi Yoshimatsu in which after several attempts Fuzzy Bird finally manages to take flight. After the interval Anna played Vocalise by Messiaen which demonstrated her beautiful legato tone quality. Paynor chose "Majorca" by Albeniz which, as expected, displayed a real Spanish atmosphere particularly as Paynor was very keen to highlight the rhythmic content. For his second piece he chose "Escapades" (from the film "Catch me if you can") by John Williams. After the opening section the mood became mysterious with a rather free rhythmic content before ending with "Joy Ride" which brought the piece to a very lively conclusion. Samantha played "Concerto" in three short movements by Lee Actor and in the second half she played the soprano saxophone and played "Fujiko" by Andy Scott. This demonstrated her control of the instrument and her beautiful smooth legato playing as the piece ended very softly and mysteriously. The final piece is best known when played by three violins but Pachelbel's "Canon" nevertheless was an interesting choice and in the hands of such talented performers one could always hear the melody as it is passed from one player to the next.

Charles, as usual, was superb in the way he coped with some unbelievably difficult accompaniments and, after an evening of excellent music-making, the performers were rewarded with long, enthusiastic and well-deserved applause.

We meet again on Friday May 19th 7.30pm at the Methodist Church when Jazz 59 will be entertaining us.

Our 2022 – 2023 programme will end on Thursday, June 22nd at 7.30pm (as part of the Shipston Proms) when the international pianist Alexander Ardakov will be playing for us.

We hope to see you at both of these events – and don't forget to invite your friends to join us. They would be most welcome.

# **Fosseway Chamber Orchestra**

Do you play a musical instrument? Would you love to play with others and improve your mental and physical well being at the same time?

We meet every Tuesday morning 9.45 to 12.00 in Stretton on Fosse Village Hall GL56 9QX, playing a wide variety of music. Players are mostly grade 4-7 but we welcome anyone who can play four reliable notes.

Did you learn to play a musical instrument at school or have you started later in life and would like to play with others in a friendly unpressurised environment? We are always keen to welcome new players. String players especially welcome. We are part of Shipston u3a and think we may be the only u3a branch with an orchestra.

For more information please contact our conductor Christine on 07967 423550

# **Shipston Town Band**

We are performing this year in St Edmund's Church similar to our successful Christmas concert last December and we will be holding an afternoon concert beginning at 3 p.m. As

usual the concert will be free admission with the usual retiring collection. The concert will include many well known easy listening tunes including some from the pen of the late Burt Bacharach.



Stour Concert Brass began their Summer Programme with a visit to Droitwich where they performed a concert in the bandstand in Lido

Park. The large appreciative audience were already sat down in their deck chairs for the concert to start. The band's varied programme opened with Kenneth Alford's classic march The Middy and included a variety of music from stage and screen including Toy Story, Singing In The Rain, Everything I Do, I Do it For You from Robin Hood Prince Of Thieves and Cruella De Ville from 101 Dalmatians. Two Solo items were featured with Flugel Horn Soloist Mike Butler featured in Burt Bacharach's Alfie and the trombone trio of Andrew Scarboro Marshall Faizey and Richard Barker featured in Ray Steadman Allen's Peter James and John. The ever-popular Breezin Down Broadway, a selection of music from popular Broadway Shows, brought the concert to a fine conclusion. Several members from the local Salvation Army Band came to support and were very complementary, about the band's performance and their choice of programme.

#### **Success at the European Brass Band Championships**

Two of our former players had a very successful time at the European Brass Band Championship's held in Malmo Sweden last weekend. Luke Barker who is studying in Switzerland for 12 months has been playing for Brass Band Treize Etoiles. They won the Swiss National Championships and qualified to represent Switzerland at the European Championships. They gave a tremendous performance and were crowned Champions Of Europe above many famous British Bands including Black Dyke and Cory. Needless to say Luke was on Cloud 9 for this magnificent achievement.

Young Percussionist Alec Banner was playing with one of England's Top Youth Bands, Brass 2000 who are based in Northamptonshire. They were competing the Premier Section of the European Youth Brass Band Championships where they were placed 3rd

A big well done to both of them.



### Clubs, Societies and Charities

# **Astronomical Society News**

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a Club Night, in June that will be on 6th June and the speaker on the third Tuesday, which is on 20th June is due to be Steve Tonkin, with a talk called 'Fuzzy Blobs – A guide for the perplexed', which is a talk about nebulae. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

Club nights offer information on what to look out for each month and if it is clear we try observing nearby. There is no charge initially to come along and find out more, but if you do want to become a member the fee is JUST £15 A YEAR and free if you are in full time education. For details go to the website http://www.astro.org.uk or contact the Chairman John Waller john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

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

#### **Noctilucent Clouds**

By June, astronomers are becoming desperate for things to observe, in the night sky.

Clouds are normally the bane of observers, but at this time of year, (usually from late May to Mid-August) they are on the lookout for Noctilucent Clouds.

These clouds come from the Latin for night shining which describe them perfectly.

They appear in the north, about 45mins after sunset or before sunrise. They are electric blue and very shiny, (once seen, you'll recognise them) and come in various patterns (herring bone, wispy etc). They are visible to the naked eye and make great targets for astrophotography.

What are they? They are extremely high clouds, 80 km high (in the Mesosphere) made up of very small crystals (possibly from pollution and/or rockets launches). They shine because they are so high that they still reflect the sunlight when the sun has set at ground level.

Well worth the effort to look for.

Happy Observing.

# **Townsend Hall**

CHARITY No 52299



It's a hat trick! The last three of

our Traditional Jazz events have been sell-outs. With the proceeds, the stage lift isnow on order—a serious piece of kit that will provide 'access for all' to the stage. It doesn't stop there;the hall is like the Forth Road bridge, always something to chip away at on the list, with us recentlygetting repairs sorted out to the roof and arranging the replacement of one of the gas heaters. Thanksfor your support and our Traditional Jazz events will continue through this year with the proceeds goingtowards the many other items on the list. The full schedule of events can be found at:www.townsendhall.co.uk.Next up is the ever popular 'Baby' Jools and the Jazzaholics on Friday June 16th-a lovely warm up to The Proms fortnight.

Tickets are £10, available fromwww.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, where you can bag your own table and seating, or for general availability seating from Clarke Electrical Servicesin town. For more, take a look at our website (address above) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

## **Warm Hubs**

Mondays: 10am-12pm Shipston Library
Tuesdays: 2-4pm, Methodist Church, New Street
Wednesdays: 11am-4pm, St Edmunds Church
Thursdays: 9am-1pm, Shipston Scout Hut
Fridays: 1.30pm-4pm, Rainbow Fields
Sundays: 11am-4pm, St Edmund's Church

# **Shipston Rotary 100 Club**

The draw was made at The Lazy Pug, April 26th, and drawn by Chris.

The results were:

First Prize (£57.50) - Winner No.78 Second Prize (£34.50) - Winner No.83

Third Prize (£23.00) - Winner No. 82

# **Stour Health And Wellbeing Partnership**

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP) are pleased to advise that the free Safe Family Rides in the Countryside booklet is now available to pick up from the following locations:



- Shipston Town Council Office
- Shipston Library
- Shipston Post Office
- Shipston Medical Centre
- Shipston Cycle Shop in Church Street
- Townsend Hall, Shipston
- Brailes Village Hall

- Long Compton Shop
- Ilmington Community Shop
- Charity Cycle Shop Stratford Road, Alderminster
- Ilmington Community Shop
- Charity Cycle Shop Stratford Road, Alderminster
- VASA

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**Local Reports** 

# My journey to become an on-call Firefighter by Royal British Legion - Remembering

**Tony Hill** 

My last hurdle to negotiate on my journey was the fitness test and medical assessment which took place at WF&RS Headquarters in Leamington Spa on 25 April.

The assessment began with a blood pressure and pulse check after which I was introduced to the fitness instructor. He took me over to the gym where the Chester Treadmill Test awaited me. I have been training on this since I discovered, back in October, that this would be the basis of the fitness test



and would need to be passed in order to progress. Whilst I was confident, the speed of the treadmill felt faster than the treadmills at Shipston Gym (which might be down to calibration) and combined with having to converse in part with the instructor, the task seemed more difficult.

For the test, the treadmill is set at a constant speed of 3.9 mph (6.2 kmh) for the entire 12 minutes of the test. This is a brisk walking speed and jogging or holding on is not allowed. Beginning at 0% incline for the first two minutes, the gradient is then increased by 3% every two minutes. The last two minutes is therefore at a gradient of 15% and this is where the lactic acid build up in the leg muscles begins to really take effect.

I am very pleased to say that I kept going for the 12 minutes and was much relieved to hear the instructor confirm that I had achieved the required standard.

The fitness test was followed by a comprehensive medical assessment by the Occupational Health Assessor. This included a range of tests including blood pressure and pulse, hearing, eyesight including colour blindness, lung capacity, urine and cholesterol level. After this I was seen by the Service Medical Examiner who viewed the test results and my medical history and then carried out a further examination in relation to heart function, reflexes and mobility.

After two hours it was all over and the Doctor congratulated me. At that moment I felt relieved but above all so proud to go through to Initial Firefighting training during June and July at Kingsbury. Assuming all goes well I will become an operational Firefighter (trainee) at Shipston Fire Station on 24 July. For this I am extremely grateful to the Shipston crew members who have encouraged me throughout my journey.

Whilst writing I am also pleased to report that Hayley Cotton, who has joined me at Shipston Fire Station, has also qualified for Initial training.

Once we become operational the crew at Shipston will number seven but ideally the Watch Commander at Shipston FS, Chris Townsend, is looking to muster a crew of at least 12 to give more opportunity for Shipston's fire appliance to be 'on the run' so if anyone is interested in becoming an on-call Firefighter to serve the Shipston community and surrounding villages, do come along to the Fire Station in Telegraph Street on any Tuesday evening (drill night) for an informal chat about the role.

# Shipston's Fallen

# 123845 Sergeant (Observer)

#### **TERENCE WONG JOY**

Born on the 19th April 1922 in Liverpool, Terence was the son of Frank and Gladys Wong Joy. Frank and Gladys seem to have been fairly mobile, which was presumably due to Frank's work as a Laundryman. They had been married in Wolstanton in the Potteries area of Staffordshire in the spring of 1918.

In February 1936 Terence arrived in the Shipston area and on the 14th of the month he was enrolled into King Edward VI Grammar School in Stratford-upon-Avon. The school records show Frank as being Terence's father, but interestingly also seems to list a guardian, a Mrs Maria Brooks of Church Street, Shipston-on-Stour. Maria and her husband Joshua are Gladys' parents.

Sadly, Frank died in early 1938 when he was working in Doncaster and whilst it is not known when, it is known that Gladys came to live in Shipston and the 1939 Register records her as living in High Street with her parents in a house called Shamrock. In the autumn of 1941 Gladys married Percy Varnham in Shipston and later lived in Bishampton, near Pershore.

Terence joined the RAF (Volunteer Reserve) at the outbreak of war and by the time of his death had reached the rank of Sergeant-Observer. He served in number 23 Operational Training Unit (23 OTU), part of 91 Group, which was based at RAF Pershore, Worcestershire.

On the night of 24th/25th June Terence took part in the third and last of the 1,000 bomber raids, this one on Bremen. Terence's Wellington, X9875, crashed into the North Sea on the journey home. The plane was one of 49 lost that night and one of 2 lost from Pershore. The heaviest casualties of the raid were suffered by the OTUs of 91 Group, which lost 23 of the 198 planes

Terence's body was washed up on the Dutch coast and he is buried at Harlingen, Netherlands. He is remembered on the Town Memorial and on a Bronze Tablet in the King Edward VI Grammar School War Memorial Library in Stratford-upon-Avon.



# FX/86847 Ldg Airman

# **GRANVILLE AUGUSTUS CLIFFORD**

Born on the 1st September 1924 Granville 'Gus' Augustus was the son of Angelo Augustus and Ellen Emily Clifford of New Street, Shipston-on-Stour.

On the 8th April 1929 Gus enrolled in the Infants School and moved up to the Boys School on the 30th August 1932. In the class at the same time was Leslie Sutton, who also joined the Fleet Air Arm. Gus is recorded as leaving school for full time employment on the 22nd December 1938. The 1939 Register confirms the family are still living in New Street. After a period of work in the Surveyors Department of the council he returned tohis studies and was student. Gus was a close friend of Terence Wong Joy who had joined the RAF (VR) at the outbreak of war.

Joining the Fleet Air Arm in September 1942 Gus was sent to HMS Kestrel, a land-based training school at Worthy Down near Winchester, Hampshire. It specialised in training Telegraphist Air-Gunners using Hawker Ospreys up until 1942 and then specialised in a School for Aircraft Maintenance.

On the 25th June 1943 Gus was killed in a flying accident. The Percival Proctor training plane, P6061, that he was in, was reported as spinning into the ground during a steep turn at low altitude and crashed at Charlecot Farm near Whitchurch, Hampshire. He was just 18 years old.

Gus is unusual in that he does not have a Commonwealth War Grave Commission headstone; instead his father who was the town Stonemason carved his memorial, which is in Shipston Cemetery. He is remembered on the Town War Memorial.

# HANDEL"S 'MESSIAH' COMES TO SHIPSTON AGAIN!

In St. Edmund's Church, Shipston on Stour on the 13th of May, Richard Emms, founder, musical director and conductor of The Stour Singers for over forty-five years, with wonderful professional soloists and the young Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Orchestra gave a lively and moving performance to a packed church of Handel's 'Messiah'

The four soloists soprano Natalie Montakhab, counter-tenor James Neville, tenor Matthew Minter and bass-baritone William Burn all gave with amazing clarity of diction, every word audible, outstanding performances which were not only highly audience inclusive but provided a range of voices that were musically complementary. The powerful and very expressive opening soloist voice of tenor Mr. Minter, counter-balanced the meaningful depth and warmth of bass-baritone Mr Burn while the exquisitely haunting voice describing the sorrow and suffering of Jesus of counter-tenor Mr. Neville met something very tender and lyrical in the light yet strong voice of Ms. Montakhab. This was a generous performance and all four professionals applauded the young members of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Chamber Orchestra for whom this work was an opportunity to publicly project and hone their skills. Special praise perhaps goes to the young trumpet player with her clear, bright and expressive playing of the air 'The Trumpet shall Sound'. Within the orchestra was the ever-present skill of keyboard player, Rachel Bird, the choir's own, much appreciated accompanist across the years,

Traditionally the audience rose to its feet for the Hallelujah Chorus and cheered at the final Amen, a lovely response to a heart-warming performance. We can now look forward to the Stour Singers Christmas Concert, details of which you can find on their website at: www.stoursingers.org.uk.

# **Shipston Probus**

# Fun facts about the brain, that you didn't know you needed to know, by Kate Bellamy



Is your brain just like a computer? A challenge for Probus members and their guests from cognitive neuroscientist (and niece of botanist David Bellamy) Kate Bellamy. Answer -No! A computer operates as a serial processor, in other words it goes from A to B to C to get to D whereas our brains operate as parallel processors capable of proceeding directly from A to D - much more sophisticated!

A second question - how is memory formed? Kate enlightened us with the most recent research using bags of Lego bricks! Six Probus members were each given a small bag, all containing the same group of coloured bricks. Members were asked to construct a feature from five of the bricks, excluding the green one. The resulting model represented a memory 'engram', or memory trace, which is a term for the set of changes in the brain on which a memory is based. Of course, our intrepid Lego builders, although using the same set of five bricks, each produced an individual and personal construction, just as we all have a slightly different memory of an event common to us all. In the same way each time the bricks were taken apart and put together again the result represented a distant memory, with similarities and differences. Asked to add the green brick, members once again all produced something similar but different. The green brick represented 'memory transference' by which we may change our view due to subsequent events. Kate illustrated this feature again by relating some very pleasurable memories she had of a Mexican holiday in 1984 with relatives. These happy memories drastically changed when in later years she discovered her relatives were at that time experiencing 'the worst time in their life' and about to agree a divorce! This inevitably changed Kate's own memory of that holiday. Memories are malleable, our brain edit bits and fits in new experiences and is constantly subject to change.

A further question - what is reality? Answer: whatever we want it to be (brownie points to Mike M for getting this correct!). Is there such a thing as reality if, as our memories fade, the brain goes in search of the missing bits, finds something suitable in our past experiences and slots them in! Each person's reality is personal to them – we may see a glass resting on top of a table, but to a person with autism it might be a table underneath a glass!

Despite remarkable progress in artificial intelligence (AI), the human brain remains more sophisticated than any computer, but with the advent of quantum computing this could change. What then for humans?

Thanks to Kate for a riveting talk giving us all a new insight into our own memories – or lack of them!

Brains thoroughly tested, members and guests sought further inspiration at the bar, and food for thought from a welcome buffet lunch!

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

# Bats! .... or just Crazy!?

I know people will disagree with me, but I can't find bats endearing; in fact, I think they're rather ugly with those sharp little teeth and I'm not that keen on them close-up. There is definitely something 'of the



night' about them, which is, after all, only to be expected of these nocturnal creatures! But bats do fascinate me in being such a crazy quirk of nature ~ a mammal rather like a mouse that can fly! And they flit around rather like butterflies, with amazing agility, yet without using sight – just echo-location

So, I love these late Spring evenings, when the damp air has warmed up enough for insects to emerge at sundown, to be chased around our garden by the bats. I love the way they indicate that there are still insects for them to eat and bats do such an amazing job for us on their night shift patrols as pest controllers. And insects in their turn, need plenty of flowers, trees and shrubs to flourish and propagate.



Did you enjoy spending some time in nature over the various May holidays? Woodland flowers have been spectacular this year. As well as the beautiful haze of bluebells interspersed with primroses we saw an early purple orchid on a walk in Snitterfield Bushes. Cornmill Meadows will be open and available soon for Shipston citizens to enjoy nature closer to home.

At the time of writing, I'm eagerly awaiting the arrival of our day shift pest controllers. Swallows and house martins have already arrived in this area and the swifts won't be far behind

if the weather stays in their favour. Our new nest boxes are up and ready for their return, so we're anticipating an expansion to our colony. Do join me on one of my Swift Walks in July during Swift Awareness Week, to



experience the thrill of watching the evening homecoming of a colony of swifts. (See advert on page 7)

Reduce your lawn mowing frequency

Desist from using chemical pesticides

Allow our natural pest controllers to do their work

Jacey Jackson 01608 661288 jacey@2jays.co.uk

# Shipston Probus discovers 'Swifts are Making a Comeback'- a presentation by Jacey Jackson

Shipston resident Jacey Jackson delighted Probus members and their guests with a beautifully illustrated talk demonstrating local and national efforts to encourage swifts – the birds which thrill us with their screaming aerobatics in the Summer evening skies - not only to survive, as unfortunately they are under threat, but to thrive in Shipston and the surrounding area.

For those of us not too sure, Jacey outlined the difference between swallows, house martins and swifts. Swifts are a distinctive family, related to hummingbirds, recognised by their continuous flight – they eat and sleep on the wing, in large groups, only pausing to breed and feed their young. Their annual migration takes them huge distances from S.E. Africa via the African west coast, across the Sahara onto the Mediterranean, Europe and the UK, and in some cases, to Shipston. Generally, they arrive here in early May, always returning to the same nesting site. After three years of this annual migration the young birds are mature enough to breed and having raised a new generation, they set off again on the long return journey, followed a little later by their fledglings, who have to find their own way!

Sadly, these remarkable birds are under threat – from 1995 to 2018 their population declined by 58% and they are now on the 'red list' – in danger of extinction. One reason is swifts love to nest in old buildings, finding safe places high up in cracks in roofs and walls, but of course such places are increasingly rare – we humans renovate old buildings and build new ones, leaving no convenient nesting points.

Another problem for swifts is they feed on air-born insects – midges, mosquitos, tiny spiders, flies, gnats etc., themselves under threat due the use of agricultural and garden pesticides, pollution of air and water and of course climate change. Shipston had a good-sized population of swifts in 2013, but by 2016 they were greatly reduced and by 2019 there were probably only about nine or ten pairs left.

How can we help swifts to survive? – Jacey demonstrated the use of nest boxes including three high up on a wall of her own home. Swift bricks can be seen inserted into a wall of the new Shipston Tesco building and Jacey currently has a project fitting eleven swift bricks (sponsored by members of the Shipston Action for Swifts) high up on the east-facing wall of Shipston's Old Brewery building on the Stratford Road\*.

In 2018 Jacey and her husband Ed put up three nest boxes on the outside of their home, which were occupied by two pairs and possibly one chick in 2021; last year the boxes were re-occupied by those two pairs and two chicks fledged. This year four more boxes have been added to expand the colony and hopefully the swifts will return and successfully breed once again.

If you would like more information from Jacey, or you would like to experience one of her 'Evening Swift Walks' in July, please contact her by email jacey@2jays.co.uk.

Guests and new members to Shipston Probus are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further information.

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School News Page 12

# **Shipston Primary School**

#### **CELEBRATING THE CORONATION**

The day before the King's coronation (thanks to SPLASH for making my crown). Children and staff wore red, white and blue to mark the coronation of Charles III and Camilla as King and Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries.



Reception children completed some wonderful writing about the new King.

All the children received a book donated by Shipston Baptist Church. We thank them for their kindness and generosity. Our school catering team did a wonderful job creating a delicious coronation meal including tasty royal biscuits and cupcakes.

#### **RIVER WALK**

Year 4's summer term topic is Misty Mountain, Winding River, which has a geography focus about physical geography and reading maps. As an introduction to the topic Eagles and Falcons classes took a walk around the river Stour in Shipston. Year 4 were lucky to have excellent weather so they were able to sketch the river by Shipston bridge and talk about the elements of physical and human geography in that area. The children were challenged to follow the route on an ordnance survey map using grid references to describe their location.

#### **LET'S GO ZERO**

In Egypt at COP27 in 2022, Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General said "We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator." That's why all schools in The Stour Federation have sustainability as one of our strategic goals for the next three years.

We've taken the Let's Go Zero pledge, declaring our aim to become zero carbon by 2030. Although the road to zero carbon is very complicated and there is no funding in place for schools yet, we need to lead as change makers towards the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis.

We're joining schools across the UK in this national campaign to show the overwhelming support for zero carbon schools, and inviting government, local councils and the community to work with us to reach this goal. We know that schools can be the trailblazers for their community, responding to young people's calls for action. In fact, they can inspire whole communities to tackle the climate crisis.

In the coming pivotal 'climate decade,' we will be part of Let's Go Zero's national network of schools and sustainability, sharing information about how to reach zero carbon, and working with local councils and government to make it happen. We're committing to reduce our carbon footprint in a number of key areas, including energy, food, water, travel, waste, school grounds and procurement.

By joining the Let's Go Zero campaign, we're taking a positive step on a local level to help combat the climate issues we all face globally. It sends a strong message to our whole school and community that together we can safeguard our planet for future generations.

Find out more about the Let's Go Zero campaign here: https://letsgozero.org/



#### **BRITAIN AT WAR**

On the first day back of summer term, Year 6 dressed up as World War II evacuees for our new topic, 'Britain at War'.

We were required to bring in a gas mask box, which we made at home. We learnt about many of the different wars Britain had taken part in from the Norman conquest to the Napoleonic and Crimean wars. It was fascinating listening to some of the sounds of WWII such as: Lancaster bombers flying overhead, air raid siren warning, the 'all clear' signal and a bombing raid.

Additionally, we listened to an evacuee's point of view and children's descriptions of the war and its destruction of their homes. In the afternoon, we created silhouette artwork of the Blitz bombing of London.

We all had an amazing day and are looking forward to finding out more about the First and Second World Wars.

By Nerys and Freya (Flamingos)

#### **MANOR ADVENTURE**

Year 5 children from Shipston and Acorns had a wonderful time at Manor Adventure in Powys, Wales during the last three days of the spring term. After a stop off at the Small Breeds Farm Park in Kington, Herefordshire, the children arrived at the Abernant Lake Hotel and took part in nine different activities to offer new experiences, provide personal challenge and independence.

Huge congratulations to the children in Year 5 who showed determination, empathy, compassion and many more values during the three days away from home and school. The activities and challenges really showcased the children's character as they displayed tenacity, grit, perseverance and resilience. Collaborative working played a meaningful role in many of the tasks which required the children to work together as a pair or team, often with children from different classes and some they had only just met from Acorns. Other activities, such as abseiling and rock climbing, also required high levels of independence and courage.

Many thanks for Miss. Brogan for the huge amount of work involved in making the trip arrangements and to Mrs. Faulkner for co-ordinating and leading the trip. A huge thank you to all the staff for giving up their time to create powerful moments and making memories for our children.

All the photos and videos from the residential can be viewed on Twitter - https://twitter.com/shipstonhead

### **STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2023**

We are very much looking forward to meeting our new cohort of Reception children who start in September 2023. We still have a few spaces available for Chicks and Ducklings classes so please get in touch with Warwickshire Admissions https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions to apply for a place. Alternatively you can contact the school on 01608 661266.

#### THE STOUR FEDERATION MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Shipston Primary School is part of The Stour Federation Multi Academy Trust, with Acorns Primary School, Brailes C of E Primary School and Kineton C of E Primary School. Our Trust website is www.thestourfederation.com.

**Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher** 

School News Page 13

# **Shipston High School**

We are now embarked on the summer term in school, and it's good to see students using our green fields during the day and for after school activities. We are blessed with a uniquely attractive school site, and students benefit from the nature that surrounds the school. Students in the school know and value this, and are keen to enhance this environment further.

The summer also brings the annual exam period, and year 11 students are now engaged in their GCSEs. Students have worked hard and are keen to do well. I am sure that they will get the results they deserve when they are published in August. Students have approached the exams with great commitment and maturity. Results day is always exciting, and I look forward to sharing the students' success later in the summer.

Creative subjects such as Art, Drama, Music and Design and Technology require examination students to produce a portfolio of work across time, as well as taking final examinations. The talent and commitment on display are both impressive and motivating; for example the quality of work produced in textiles is highly imaginative and professional. It has been a real delight to experience the fantastic creative work of our students. In all disciplines there has been astonishingly high quality work from such young people; well done to all.

As you will already be aware, Shipston High School is delighted to have secured funding for further development of the school site. Warwickshire County Council has agreed to fund new refurbished specialist spaces at the school, and this work will start on site soon. With regard to the quality of creative work just mentioned, it is exciting to know that our Technology spaces will be completely transformed and ready for the challenges of a 21st century curriculum. The students will really benefit from this work in Technology, Sport and Science.

This investment is a real vote of confidence in the quality of

education being offered at the school. The new classrooms will offer a state of the art environment for our students, and enable us to ensure that more

families can make Shipston High School their first choice. This is the beginning of the next exciting phase of the school's growth, and we will keep you updated as the project develops.





# CELLIST, GEORGE WILKES, PERFORMS RECITAL IN MEMORY OF HIS GRANDMOTHER

Local cellist, George Wilkes, will perform a cello recital at Butlers Marston church on Friday, 16th June, in memory of his grandmother Jenn Grove who was cared for by Shipston Home Nursing.

"Jenn was diagnosed with a cancer too far advanced to be treatable in early July 2022," explains her husband, Laurie. "Very shortly afterwards, we were referred to Shipston Home Nursing. Quite simply, none of us could have coped without SHN. If, in these circumstances, the word "lucky" can be used, then

we were very lucky. Jenn's illness was relatively short, she was never in pain, we are a mutually supportive, closely knit family living within a few minutes of each other but, above all we were lucky in having SHN available. There is no equivalent in most places. We can never thank them enough for the way they eased Jenn's last few weeks and so made everything so much more bearable for her and the rest of her family."

Grandson, George is in the final year of his undergraduate degree at the Royal Academy in London, where he has studied with Josephine Knight. George grew up in Shipston where he attended the Birmingham Junior Conservatoire. This year he will perform in the Hellens Music Festival before spending the summer in the US where he will be studying with Hans Jensen. He has given solo and chamber music recitals at venues in London such as St James Piccadilly and Regents Hall.

On Friday 16th June, he will perform at Butlers Marston Church, accompanied by pianist Lynn Arnold. All funds raised from ticket sales and donations will go directly to Shipston Home Nursing.

Tickets are £15 (to include refreshments) or £5 for under 18's and full-time students.

For more information and to book tickets, please visit: www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events

For further press information and images, please contact Kate Bamford: *kate.bamford@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk / 07932 747365* 



# **District Council update**

I feel honoured to have been elected to represent Shipston South ward along with my colleague Olivia Hatch who was elected for Shipston North. I would like to thank everyone who voted for us. We will of course do our best to represent everyone in the town.



Since being elected on May 4th life has been hectic. We have had several induction meetings to get to know how the District Council is run and what members of staff are responsible for. We have learned new computer systems and procedures. I feel better equipped to do the job now but there are still some things to get used to. We know the arbitrary split of Shipston into North and South is confusing. However, Olivia and I intend to work together to represent the whole town. If you have any problems or issues, please contact either of us... Dave Passingham, davepassingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk or Olivia Hatch, olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Dave Passingham

**District Councillor, Shipston North** 

# Supporting young people through Caring Together Warwickshire

For many young people who look after family members who couldn't otherwise cope without them, downtime is not an option.

A young person with caring responsibilities may help at home with a variety of tasks including, tending to siblings, cooking and cleaning and even providing emotional reassurance. Warwickshire County Council and its partners can help provide some needed respite and allow the young person to have time to unwind and socialise with other young people with the same experiences.

Carers Trust, Heart of England is the organisation which runs Young Carer CTW on behalf of Warwickshire County Council. Claire Dale, CEO of Carers Trust (Heart of England), said: "Through consultation with Carers Trust nationally, young carers have told us that access to improved support in schools, breaks from their caring role, easy access to counselling and financial support would help to make them feel less overwhelmed, healthier, and happier."

For information about Young Carers Warwickshire Caring Together please go to www.caringtogetherwarwickshire. org.uk or for general support visit www.warwickshire. gov.uk/carers

# Update from South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust regarding the review of community beds in south Warwickshire

South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust has completed its review of the community beds in south Warwickshire through a robust and rigorous process, with advice and guidance from the Consultation Institute. This review included the inpatient wards at Ellen Badger Hospital in Shipston on Stour and Stratford Hospital.

It has been important that all aspects of the review have been considered thoroughly with involvement from different stakeholders. The review was impacted by Covid and other events such as local elections, this in turn impacted on the timescales. The review considers several options for the future of community beds in the area and offers a recommendation as to the Trust's preferred option.

The Trust are now able to share its recommended approach. This is to:

- •Increase the number of Community Hospital beds in the area (from 35 to 41 beds)
- Invest in community alternatives
- •Retain the Community Hospital offer but change the location (permanently relocate the inpatient ward from Ellen Badger Hospital to Learnington Spa Hospital)

For more information, please see the press release:

# Shipston Medical Centre Medical Centre t: 01608661845

#### **Covid Vaccination Update**

Those eligible for a spring booster are people aged 75 and over and those who are immunosuppressed. Immunosuppression is when someone's immune system does not work as well as it should. Those could be because of specific medications they are taking, such as high dose steroids or chemotherapy, or it could be for another reason, for example where someone does not have a spleen.

In our area this spring's vaccination programme is being run by the South Warwickshire GP Federation, and they will be providing appointments at Shipston Medical Centre on Saturday 10th June. Alternatively there will appointments available for our patients at our neighbouring practices, Meon Medical Centre and Hastings House Medical Centre.



Those eligible for vaccination will be contacted to book an appointment, or you can choose option 8 on the Medical Centre telephone system main menu to be put through to book. If you are housebound that we will be able to offer you a vaccine at home. If you have previously been vaccinated at home then you will likely be on the list already. If you are newly housebound please ensure that those booking appointments are aware to ensure you are scheduled for a visit.

**Useful Contacts** Page 15

# Your Town Councillors



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



John Dinnie, Deputy Mayor t: 01608 664590 e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org



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



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



Jo Barker t: 07748 968712 e: jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk (for town and district matters)



**Tony Booth** e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



Hilary Kelly, Co-chair Environmental Working Group e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Sarah Beckett e: sarah.beckett@shipstontowncouncil.org



Zoltan Kovari e: zoltan.kovari@shipstontowncouncil.org



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



Christopher James Howarth (Chris) e: howarth@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 Shipston Leisure Centre Shipston Medical Centre - Out of hours Shipston Forum Shipston Link (local transport) Shipston Recycling Centre Stratford District Council Townsend Hall Warwickshire County Council UCHW Hospital Warwick Hospital Local police (non emergency) Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team: shipston.snt@warw Churches of Shipston:	01608 662354 01608 661845 111 01295 788655 01386 593446 01926 412593 01789 267575 07514 704057 01926 410410 024 7696 4000 01926 495321 101
Stour Valley Baptist Our Lady & St Michael	01608 664876 01608 685259
St Edmund's Methodist Church	01608 661210 01295 257193

### **Shipston-on-Stour Town Council**

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

#### **Town Clerk**

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

#### **County Council Contact:**

#### **Councillor Jo Barker**

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

#### **District Council Contacts:**

### **Dave Passingham (Shipston South)**

e: davepassingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk

#### Oliva Hatch (Shipston North)

e: olivia.hatch@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 Cox.

# 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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### A TASTE OF WHATS TO COME AT THIS YEARS SHIPSTON PROMS!

SKA BANDS, TINA TURNER TRIBUTE, OPERA, CHOIRS, DRUMMING, DANCE & MUCH MUCH MORE!

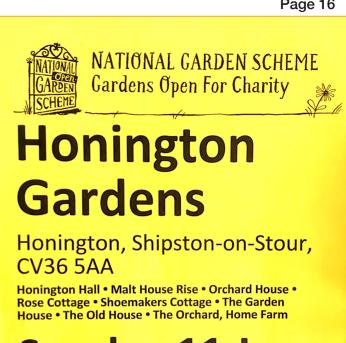
17th June to 1st July 2023



FINAL NIGHT - BOOGIE BAND KING PLEASURE AND THE BISCUIT BOYS

Check out all the info on www.shipstonproms.org or Facebook or our special Proms booklets

Tickets where applicable available from Eventbrite or Clarkes Electrical



# Sunday 11 June 2 - 5.30pm

Combined entry £6 Children free









More information at ngs.org.uk



- Jools: Drums
- Mike Henry: Trumpet
- Karl Hird: Reeds
- Kevin Grenfell: Trombone
- Warren James: Banjo / Guitar
- Jim Swinnerton: Bass

Doors Open 19:00 for 20:00

**Fully Licensed Bar** 

#### Tickets £10 from:

