



# Shipston Forum

[shipstontowncouncil.org](http://shipstontowncouncil.org)



March 2019

## Book a free Safe and Well visit from Warwickshire Fire and Rescue

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is offering local residents a free 'Safe and Well' check to reduce the risk of fires in the home.

Safe and Well visits – previously called a home fire safety check – are an important part of the fire service's role to raise awareness of potential fire hazards and other safety concerns. A fire officer will visit to assess the hazards in your home and provide advice on how to reduce your fire risk.

Imran Dean, Engagement Officer for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue said. "Our Safe and Well visits are about more than checking you have a working smoke alarm. Our firefighters will also check for trip hazards and provide tips on avoiding falls. They will also discuss health advice such as keeping warm in winter, as well as home security."

Feedback from some members of Shipston's Senior Citizen Action Network

suggests the visits are really useful.

Imran Dean attended Shipston Town Council's February meeting to talk more about the fire service's community work. The service is working hard to improve access to becoming a firefighter and is about to embark on a recruitment drive. The team is particularly keen to hear from women who may be interested in a career as a firefighter.

A career in the fire service is very varied. As well as training and active duty fighting fires, officers now provide community services including a hospital transport service to ensure vulnerable patients are returned home with support to settle back in. This new service has been piloted in the last six months and has been well



received by patients.

"We are keen to expand our work with local communities," Imran continued. "We are also hoping to become more actively involved within Shipston, through open days and inviting community groups to use our facilities."

To book your Safe and Well visit, contact 01926 466282 or visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/safeandwellvisit>.

## Shock as Co-Op store is raided

As the Forum went to press, news emerged about the theft of the cashpoint from the larger Co-Op. Police have since recovered the stolen ATM - the thieves were unable to obtain any money from it.

Mayor, Ian Cooper, said "This raid shows that Shipston is not immune to the criminal activities we hear about elsewhere. I am grateful to the police for their swift response and hope the perpetrators will be brought to justice quickly."

Police enquiries are ongoing and witnesses with information should call 101 quoting incident 18 of 18 February 2018.



## Smiles all round at the Mayor's Wedding Blessing



Civic dignitaries were among the guests at the Mayor and Mayoress' wedding blessing in January.

Ian Cooper and Tina Cook were married at a civic ceremony in Devon in November 2018 but wanted an opportunity to celebrate their marriage in their home town. There were plenty of chains of office on show at the event, which was held in St Edmund's Church.

Mayor, Ian Cooper, said: "We were delighted to be able to share our special day with friends, family and fellow councillors from across the region who have been so supportive throughout my period as Mayor."

## Mayor's column

Thank you to everybody who supported our charity ball in February. We are extremely grateful to all the sponsors, donors of raffle prizes, all those who helped organise the event itself and of course all those who attended. We had a fabulous evening, a real showcase for Shipston and I would like to think that we can make this into an annual event to support and raise awareness for our youth charities. This of course was our main aim, and I'm pleased that we managed to raise significant funds, both on the night and through direct donations.

One of the highlights of the evening was the way the Townsend Hall looked (see page 9). It goes to show what a fabulous and versatile asset this venue is for the town, and one that we should all make more use of. I urge you all to go to events there and see for yourself. It also serves to point out the value of such community facilities to the town, and how we should all look to protect what we have and ensure that these facilities are there for future generations to use. As a Town Council we are aware of these needs and will focus our attention towards such safeguarding.

On a less positive note, dog fouling continues to be an issue for the town, and although we are determined not to introduce restrictive practices, we all need to be more vigilant in this respect. If there are any bright suggestions as to how we get the message across to the small number of offenders, we would like to hear from you.

In other news, plans are afoot for our Annual Town Meeting and Civic Service, both in April, and the Wool Fair in May. I hope to see many of you at these events which will all celebrate our community in different ways.

**Ian Cooper**



## More evening and weekend GP appointments now available

South Warwickshire



The GP+ service which offers evening and weekend appointments for patients in South Warwickshire has been extended. Shipston residents can book evening and weekend appointments at more hubs, with the closest ones to the town being Stratford and Wellesbourne. Hubs are also available at Leamington Spa, Kenilworth, Southam and Alcester (Wellesbourne and Alcester appointments available from 11 March).

Patients can book a face-to-face or telephone appointment at their preferred hub by calling the medical practice they are registered with.

The GP+ service is provided by South Warwickshire GP Federation – a group of practices, including Shipston Medical Centre, working together.

Managing Director of SWGP Federation, Tim Morris, said: "Offering more convenient appointments should help patients get the advice they need to look after their health, whether that's for a specific illness, health screenings or a routine check-up. Patients can also book a GP+ appointment with a pharmacist for a medication review." For more information, visit [www.southwarwickshiregpps.nhs.uk/extendedaccess](http://www.southwarwickshiregpps.nhs.uk/extendedaccess)

## Becoming a town councillor - an insider's view

In the last in our series of interviews about becoming a town councillor, Peter White and Ali Henderson share their views on why residents should consider putting themselves forward for nomination.

### Ali Henderson



I was thoroughly daunted at the idea of applying to join the Council and were it not for some mild coercion (aka bullying!) on the part of my husband I don't think I would have put my head above the parapet.

Playing your part in this particular tier of Local Government may require many aptitudes - learning, listening, tackling 'new' topics, being a team-player, speaking in public, debating without getting emotional, taking the occasional knock, and many other similar skills that could have been acquired in your daily life. But daunting or intimidating, it ain't!

Tempers or passions may rise, temporarily, over heart-felt issues, but there will always be an invitation to the pub afterwards, all friction forgotten. And no rudeness, "language" or butting in is allowed within the Chamber - the Mayor sees to that!

Hand on heart I can say that some of my best friends in Shipston hail originally from the Town Council. That's the sort of genuine niceness you find in a group of individuals whose mutual aim is to do their best for their community and their town. It's not all sweetness and light, though. You will have to get your head round some complex issues (especially planning). You will have late sessions if the agenda is long or tricky. You may find yourself having to

write a report, attend extra events, or vote with head not heart.

But health and elections permitting, I look forward to doing more time on this splendid Town Council and giving a warm welcome to any newbies who I hope will decide to dip a toe in these waters!

### Peter White



I have served as a Town Councillor for over four years and chair the Communications Working Group which is responsible for the STC website, Forum newsletter and the social media pages. I initially joined the council to assist in making Shipston a better place for future generations. I have two young children and am keen to ensure that the town remains a safe place for people to live and work.

Being a town councillor is very rewarding but not without its challenges. Shipston is increasing in size so quickly and we need to make sure that the infrastructure is improved to support the additional homes. I've learnt that the town council is limited in what it can do but can still play a major role in making key decisions to support its residents.

I enjoy being part of the council and working with the local clubs and organisations, many of which contribute to the fantastic calendar of events which help to attract visitors to the town. If you would like to see our great town continue to thrive and you want to do your bit for the community then stand for the upcoming elections to be able to have your say.



## News from Shipston Town Council's February meeting

### Hot topics:

**Rugby success:** Councillors congratulated Shipston Rugby Club on securing the highest points average across the Midlands at all levels of the club.

**Oldbutt Road green space:** The open space is to be reseeded in March/April. The self-closing gate agreed with the developer is to be installed later in the project when the rest of the boundary work is being completed.

**Repeated road issues:** Jackie Warner alerted councillors that the surface of the road at the bottom of Berry Avenue has still not been repaired. In addition, a member of the public reminded councillors that the pavement and entrance to the Springhill development remains very uneven and messy, with raised kerbs potentially causing a trip hazard.

**Event thanks:** Ian Cooper thanked the Town Clerk, Ali Henderson and Richard Henderson for all the effort they have put in to organising the Mayor's ball (see write up on page 9).

**Litter problem:** A local resident alerted councillors to problems with litter at the business village where buses and trucks park overnight. The council will speak to the area's management company to see what can be done. The town's next litter pick will target the area.

### Campaigning for Shipston:

**Last chance to nominate for the Shipston Award:** Residents are being reminded to consider nominating an individual for the Shipston Award for voluntary work for the community. Nominations must be received by 4 March. See last month's Forum for more details.

**Dog fouling problems continue:** Further concerns have been raised about dog fouling. Councillors discussed a complaint about dog fouling from Stour Valley Lions regarding the Gyratory Garden which is a place of remembrance. One resident walking three dogs on the site failed to clear up after his dogs despite being challenged by a member of the Lions at the time.

New signage is to be installed to remind residents to clean up after their dogs. Councillors remind residents that where evidence can be obtained, they will take action against dog owners failing to clean up. The Communications Working Group will also consider other promotional activity to encourage the community to work together to resolve this ongoing issue.

**Planning highlights:** Councillors debated an application to convert 24-26 Sheep Street from retail storage to a two bed residential dwelling, raising concerns about parking provision. Based on past experience of objecting to similar developments, councillors opted not to object but to request conditions regarding parking.

Councillors have objected to an application to convert a garage into two dwellings on Pittway Avenue as this would lead to the loss of a well-used path.

An application to convert the former Stour Art Gallery into a beauty salon has been supported by the town council in what is seen as a positive move to bring it back into retail use.

Churchill Homes has lost its appeal for its initial planning application at South Lynn House.

**Tree replacement** The council will ask WCC to plant new trees to replace the mature trees that were removed from the Orbit Homes London Road site. The new trees are being funded by Orbit.

**Portabello progress:** Jo Barker confirmed that tenders have gone out to seek contractors for the Portabello Crossroads traffic lights. The council has also received notification of a temporary speed restriction which it believes is linked to the planned work.

### Town Council business:

**New projects:** Councillors have agreed an allowance within next year's precept to contribute to 'wish list' projects. These include funding for a planning consultant, the housing needs survey and investment in open spaces.

**Housing Needs Survey:** Councillors heard from Sarah Brooke-Taylor from Warwickshire Rural Community Council (WRCC) whose role is to help rural communities get the housing they want. There were over 190 households registered on Homechoice Plus seeking social housing in November 2018. The town council's last Housing Needs Survey was conducted in 2013 and the council is now reviewing options to repeat the survey to seek up to date information on housing needs.

**Planning working group:** Shipston Town Council will hold an extra meeting in late February to discuss changes to the Planning Working Group. The aim is to make it easier for the council to manage the workload associated with planning applications and ensure there is access to specialist support.



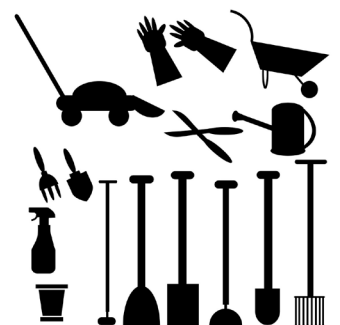
### Allotment fees due in April

Annual fees for allotments will be due on 1st April. Fees for the year 1/4/19-31/3/20 are as follows:

New Street – whole plot £43.00, half plot £21.50

Shoulderway Lane – whole plot £34.00, half plot £17.00

Payment can be cash or cheque, payable to Shipston Town Council at New Clark House. Payments can also be made electronically - please contact Jayne Potter for details on 01608 662180 or [assistant@shipstononline.org](mailto:assistant@shipstononline.org)



## Low Furlong care home residents create their own blend of tea

Residents at Low Furlong residential care home recently enjoyed a professional tea blending session to create their own bespoke tea, aptly named the Low Furlong blend.

They happily sampled lots of different kinds of loose leaf tea from the Golden Monkey Tea Company in Warwick, then got creative mixing them together to make their perfect cuppa.

The end result combined Assam, Ceylon, Rwandan and Keemun Panda varieties of tea leaves to create a blend that was robust, yet mellow, smooth but refreshing.

The Golden Monkey Tea Company will now package the bespoke 'Low Furlong' blend for the home, which will be served at Low Furlong and will be available to purchase at the home's community and social events.

New residents moving in to the home will find a bag of the very special tea waiting for them in their rooms with a china cup and saucer and an infuser, to help welcome them to their new home.

Residents of Low Furlong agreed that tea tasted better from their pretty vintage china and enjoyed the sensory reminiscence of brewing tea the proper, old-fashioned way.



### Chronic Pain Group Update

The Chronic Pain Group, which was set up to support those who live with regular pain, is not currently holding monthly meetings. However, the group's organiser, Marianne Westwood, is very happy to talk to those living with chronic pain, to offer advice and support.

Please contact Marianne on 01608 662223 or Marianne.westwood@rocketmail.com

## Shipston Primary boosts book collection with Cala Homes Donation

In Autumn 2017, children at Shipston Primary School read a huge 17,976,879 words, far higher than any previous year. However, in Autumn 2018, the children smashed that total by reading a whopping 35,218,032 words. Little surprise, then, that more books were needed for the school's library.

Shipston Primary School was therefore pleased to receive a donation of £500 from house builder CALA Homes to purchase some new storybooks.

The donation forms part of a larger project at the school, which will see the library being refurbished with new books and seating areas for pupils to enjoy, plus outdoor reading spaces – all aimed at inspiring a love of reading in young people. The school is continuing to raise funds for the project through activities including the recent Summer Fete, film shows, school discos and the Christmas Bake Off.

All the staff and pupils would like to say thank you to CALA Homes for their generous donation. Updating the library is a wonderful way for pupils to enjoy some quiet time and get lost in a book.

The donation from CALA Homes, which has its Foxgloves development less than a mile away from the school, is part of the company's commitment to support the local communities in which it builds.

## Shipston Medical Centre's smear success!

The practice nurse team at Shipston Medical Centre has made cytology screening a focus for 2019, having noticed a drop in the number of eligible women taking up cervical cytology (smear) screening last year.

Their campaign began with a Women's Health evening in January. Leanne Hale, Practice Nurse explained "having a smear test is really important as it can prevent 75% of cervical cancers". The women's health evening was a success with many ladies pre-booking an appointment and others just 'dropping in'.

The publicity surrounding the event helped increase cytology rates overall and the practice saw a 33% increase in women having smears in January, compared to the same period in 2018. Corinne Beirne, Nurse Manager enthused, "This is great! But there is still work to be done. We have nearly 500 women registered with us who are eligible for a smear but have not had one. We are continuing our campaign and encourage women to get in touch".

Shipston Medical Centre can offer a range of appointments during the day or on Thursday evenings at the Medical Centre, or evenings and weekends at Trinity Court Surgery in Stratford or Hastings House Surgery in Wellesbourne. Women who might be anxious about the process are encouraged to speak with a nurse initially. "We will talk with you about the process and listen to your concerns" Leanne says, "all the practice nurses perform dozens of smears each year for women of all shapes and sizes. We've seen it all. The most important thing is preventing cancer where we can".

The NHS eligibility criteria are women aged 25 to 64 who have not had a test in the last three years (if aged 25 to 49) or in the last 5 years (if aged 50-64). Women who are not sure if they might be eligible can contact their GP practice to find out.





## Shipston Proms reveals headline acts for 2019



After signing on the dotted line, the Proms Committee has revealed who is playing at the 2019 Shipston Proms.

Get set for a thriller of a night when internationally renowned impersonator and top tribute sensation, David Boakes, conjures up all the moonwalking magic of Michael Jackson. Boakes will be performing his live singing, dancing, and show stopping moves on the Launch Night of the Shipston Proms on Friday 14th June.

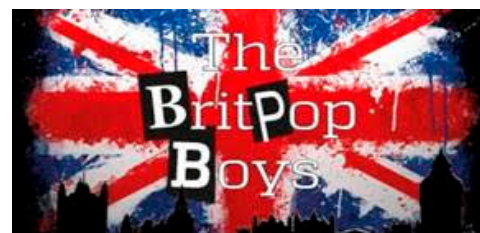
The headliners on the last night will be tribute 90's band Britpop Boys, who will bring their swagger and rousing 90's anthems to the stage on Saturday 29th June. We're promised all the popular songs from bands including Oasis, Blur

and Pulp. Also on the last night, one of the best – and local - blues bands on the UK music scene, Oliver Darling and the Living Legends, will be playing 50's R & B, swing and rock and roll to add to the excitement.

Between the Launch Night and the Last Night the Proms will once again offer music for all tastes. For lovers of classical music one of the world's finest classical guitarists, Australian-born Craig Ogden and his opera-star wife mezzo soprano Claire Bradshaw will be appearing at St. Edmund's on 20th June courtesy of the Music Society. For a younger audience, on the middle Friday, there will be DJ set and Dance Party at the Townsend Hall hosted by legendary dance party promotor and DJ Tim Samsara. And, of course there is the Fame Competition for all ages to enter.

More villages are set to take part in this year's Proms. Amongst them, Halford Village Hall will be hosting a Sing a Long Sound of Music show and Long Compton will be host to the sounds of the Mississippi Delta from The Big Ginge Blues Band who are in the process of recording their first album.

With such a strong programme, the Proms team is now seeking sponsorship from local businesses as well as entrants to the fame contest. To find out more, email: [shipstonproms@gmail.com](mailto:shipstonproms@gmail.com) or visit [www.shipstonproms.org](http://www.shipstonproms.org)



## Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service ask residents to register their appliances

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) is reminding residents to register appliances following attendance at almost 40 fires in the past 12 months caused by a faulty appliance.

Whether you have recently bought a new appliance or have a trusted old one, it's worth registering it on [www.registermyappliance.org.uk](http://www.registermyappliance.org.uk) which will mean you will be alerted if any manufacturing faults are found or a recall is necessary.

Many manufacturers even reward customers who register appliances by automatically entering them into prize draws.

Station Commander for Prevention Keith McDermott said: "Registering your appliances is a quick and very important task. Few people realise that you can also register older appliances, so even if you've inherited an appliance in a house move or bought second-hand, they can still be registered."

The Fire Service is also encouraging residents to have smoke alarms fitted on each level of their home and test them regularly.

For more information on staying fire safe in your home, visit <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/firesafety>

## Scouts Seek New District Lead Volunteer

The Stratford upon Avon District Scouts are seeking a new Lead Volunteer to work as District Commissioner to help "Prepare Young People with Skills for Life". Could that be you?



Scouting is the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation, changing lives by offering 6 -18 year olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventures, and not least the chance to help others make a positive impact in communities.

The award-winning training schemes for volunteers means that adults get as much from Scouts as young people.

Mike Hayward, who has been Lead Volunteer / District Commissioner for Stratford upon Avon Scouts since 2014 is now moving to another role in Scouting. A new Lead Volunteer / District Commissioner is now needed to lead a team of District and Group Leaders and bring life skills to young people through an inspiring programme of activities. The District has 8 Groups, 24 sections and nearly 600 youngsters, supported by over 150 adults, in Stratford and surrounding towns and villages.

To find out more, contact Tony Guy, District Chairman on [tonyguy@tonyguy.co.uk](mailto:tonyguy@tonyguy.co.uk)

**MONDAY**

**Citizens Advice:**

Mornings, New Clark House.  
To book call 01789 200136

**Shipston Duplicate**

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

**Shipston Baby & Toddler**

**Group:** Term time only. 9.30-  
11am, Scout Hut. Contact  
shipstontoddlers@gmail.com

**Knitting & Crochet Club:**

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

**Shipston Badminton Club:**

Townsend Hall, 7:30pm

**TUESDAY**

**Yoga for all abilities:**

9.30am-11am Catholic Church  
Hall. Contact Lee Figures  
665995 / 07526 575969

**Stroke Club:** Fortnightly

10am-12pm The House of  
Bread Retreat at The Mill,  
Burmington

**Rhyme time for under 2s:**

10.45am Shipston Library. Free.

**Age Concern Lunch Club**

at Stour Court. Stella 686224

**Silver Surfer Computer**

**Lessons,** Shipston Library  
2pm. Free. Booking essential.  
0300 5558171

**Lego Club for children aged**

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

**Bingo:** Alternate Tuesdays.  
Doors open 6.30pm. Sheldon  
Bosley Hub. 661886

**Shipston on Stour**

**Rotarians:** The White Bear,  
7.30pm. Adrian Ramskill  
07976 566525

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

**WEDNESDAY**

**Coffee at St Edmunds**

**Church:** 10:30am – 12pm.

**U3A Chicago Bridge:**

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

**Stour Valley Probus:**

alternate Wednesdays at  
10am, The George in Brailles.  
Roger Smith on 01608 238400.

**THURSDAY**

**Little Fishes:** 9:45-11:15 am,  
Townsend Hall. Baby and  
toddler group run by Stour  
Valley Baptist Church. £2 per  
child. 50p siblings. (Term time)

**Shipston Stitchers:**

alternate Thursdays 10am  
3pm Catholic Church. Contact  
Kath Cheshire on 663486.

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

**Story Stomp:** Shipston

Library, 11.30-12pm.  
FREE For children aged 2-4.

**Age Concern Lunch**

**Club:** Alternate Thursdays.  
Gill Roach on 01295 680309  
or Pauline Carr on 01386  
700703

**Safer Neighbourhood**

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

**U3A Table Tennis.** Thursdays  
2pm - 3pm at the Townsend

Hall. (five tables) See  
Shipston U3A website or  
contact Dave 07973 256198

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

**Stour Singers - Choral**

**Society:** 7.30 - 9.30pm  
Primary School Hall. Yvonne  
Ridley 01789 269587.

**Shipston Badminton Club:**

Townsend Hall, 7:30pm

**Yoga for all abilities:**

5.45-7pm. Catholic Church  
Hall. Contact Lee Figures  
665995 / 07526 575969

**Shipston Archers:** Indoor

shooting at Shipston High  
School on Thursday evenings,  
from 6pm until 8pm until the  
end of March. Contact 07795  
632718 or 01608 664646.

**FRIDAY**

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

**Shipston Probus:** alternate

Fridays. Shipston Sports Club,  
Contact Nick 01608 662928

**Age Concern Lunch Club**  
at Stour Court. Call June on  
684218

**Sit and get Fit:** (formerly  
called Exercise for the  
Elderly). Catholic Church,  
Darlingscote Road, Shipston,  
10.30am - 12-30pm. Alternate  
Fridays. Contact Ann Smith  
01608 238400

**Knitting & Crochet Club:**

2-5pm, Rainbow Fields.  
Contact Julie Pardoe 07956  
180989

**Bingo Night at Rainbow**

**Fields:** Doors open 6.30pm.  
Contact Ruth Keyte 661382

**SATURDAY**

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

**Shipston Archers:** Brailles

Village Hall, 1pm till dark,  
weather permitting. Beginners  
welcome. Contact 07795  
632718 or 664646

**March Diary**

- 2 **Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Contact: Fay Ivens 662133 or fayivens@aol.com
- 4 **Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group** Dash by Dr Pritchard. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684
- 6 **Shipston Widows:** Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230  
**Stratford Time Bank's Shipston Social Meeting:** 1.30pm-3pm, Community Room at Stour Court. Everyone welcome  
**Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute** If Warwick Walls Could Talk by Trevor Langley . 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519
- 8 **Rural Cinema: A Star is Born:** See ad on page 7
- 11 **Shipston Town Council Monthly Meeting:** 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact: Georgina Beaumont 662180  
**Stour Valley Lions Monthly Business Meeting:** 7.30pm, The White Bear Function Room, Shipston. Visitors welcome. Contact Lion President Fran Stary, 07903 661881, zoneD@lions105m.org.uk
- 12 **Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN) Meeting:** See ad on page 7  
**Shipston Flower Club:** Sophie O'Keefe – New York New York. 7.30pm, Shipston Primary School. New members or visitors are welcome. Contact Elizabeth James 01789 450359 or Kathy Little 01608 664882 for more info.
- 13 **Shipston and District Gardening Club:** Hidden Gardens and Orchards of the North Cotswolds, Pearl Mitchell and Margaret Fisher. 7.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Shipston-on-Stour. Further details from the secretary Tony Mitchell, tel. 01608 666933
- 14 **Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch:** Committee Meeting. 7.30pm, New Clark House, West Street. All members welcome. Contact Alex Black 01608 664743
- 15 **Stour Valley Carers Group - Supporting Dementia Carers:** 10.30am-12pm, Ellen Badger Hospital (using the Day Unit entrance). Friendly

welcome for all visitors. Contact: Carol Ruthven 662706 or Lizzy Feather 686013

**Singing Down Memory Lane:** Reminiscence Songs for people with memory problems. 2pm -3.30pm at Stour Court Community Lounge, Old Road. Refreshments provided. Contact: Barbara Smith 01608 662433

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

**Shipston Music Society:** See ad on page 16

18 **Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group:** Outing. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684

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

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

23 **Shipston Home Nursing - Marmalade Festival:** See ad on page 7

25 **Planning Meeting:** Shipston Town Council-monthly meeting of the Planning Working Group: 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact Georgina Beaumont 662180.

26 **Shipston U3A:** See ad on page 7

27 **Shipston and District Literary Society:** Annual General Meeting. 7.30pm, The White Bear. Members £15pa, Non-members: £4. All welcome. Contact Helen Marshall, 01789 740773

28 **Allotment Holders Meeting:** 7pm at New Clark House. See ad on page 8



## NORTH COTSWOLD MARMALADE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 23 MARCH: 10.00-12.00 noon

AT THE HALL, CHERINGTON  
Entry £5

GUEST SPEAKER: KYLE ap SIMON  
COOKERY PUBLISHER AND AUTHOR



THE COMPETITION WILL BE JUDGED THE DAY BEFORE, WITH ALL ENTRIES OF HOME-MADE MARMALADE TO BE DELIVERED ON THURSDAY 21 MARCH TO SOPHIA CORLETT (sophiacorlett@btinternet.com) 01608 684 369 AT BERRY'S ORCHARD, WHICHFORD (CV36 5PG) £2 fee per pot of marmalade entered for the competition

FOR THE BENEFIT OF SHIPSTON HOME NURSING  
(Charity Number 1162586)



Learn, Laugh, Live

**TUESDAY 26 MARCH, 2019**  
**2 pm TOWNSEND HALL**



### 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY HISTORY STUDIES

How will future historians see the 21st century? This unique presentation sets the scene in which the audience forms the student assembly in a 24th century classroom.

Andrew as a Professor of History Studies will give the 'accepted' interpretation of life in the 21st century.

There are many humorous jibes at the way in which artefacts are interpreted as well as a possible history of 21st century events.

A great piece of satire that will leave you wondering about life today and how it will be viewed in the future.

**Visitors are welcome**  
**Entry including refreshments £2**

## scan

### SENIOR CITIZENS ACTION NETWORK

**SHIPSTON ON STOUR**

and surrounding communities

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

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

10.00am for free refreshments

10.30am start

- **Chris Dobson, Stratford District Council - Recycling**
- **Fay Ivens, Proud of My Town Litter Pick**

Admission Free

*We have a PA system in place for those who are hard of hearing*

If you would like to attend SCAN meetings but have any difficulties such as personal mobility or lack of transport please telephone Jane Pearce on 01608 663491 to discuss possible ways in which we can help.

Marie Darwen on 01789 260108 or email [marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

## STOUR VALLEY LION'S CINEMA



A musician helps a young singer find fame, even as age and alcoholism send his own career into a downward spiral.

**SHIPSTON HIGH SCHOOL,**  
**FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at 7.00pm**

**Advance Tickets £3.50 or £4 on the door.**

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

Lion Judith Jackson. Tel: 01608 661148

Interval for refreshments, drinks and snacks.

Disabled toilet and wheelchair access.



**The U3A Pavillionaires Present...**

**"April in Paris"** (well Brailes actually!)

**Please join us for a Jazz afternoon  
Celebrating Count Basie and The Blues...**



**Thursday 4th April in Brailes Village Hall**

**2.30pm – 4.30pm**

**Admission £5 to include tea and cake**

**Enquires: Paul 07938 799802 / pjdowler@mail.com**

## Sit and Get Fit!



**Build balance and stamina  
Increase physical strength  
Keep Independent**

**Join us for a fun, gentle exercise session  
and stay for tea and biscuits, for a chat  
and to make new friends.**

We meet at the Catholic Church, Darlingscote Road,  
Shipston on Stour, CV36 4GF  
(plenty of parking)

**Alternate Fridays from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019  
Between 10.30am and 12.30pm.**

£5 per session, discount if paid in advance

Contact **Ann Smith** on **01608 238400** to book a place  
or for more information (limited numbers)  
or email [hello@vasa.org.uk](mailto:hello@vasa.org.uk)

*Drop in* **SILVER SURFERS** *Free*

★★★

**Every Tuesday 2-4pm**

★★★

**Over 50?  
Need computer, laptop,  
phone, tablet help?**

★★★

**Speak to a member of staff  
for more information**



## Calling all allotment holders

**The annual meeting of  
Shipston on Stour Allotment Holders  
will be held at 7pm  
on Thursday 28th March 2019  
at New Clark House**

*All allotment holders welcome.*



**Any queries, please contact  
Jayne Potter, admin assistant at the  
Town Council office on 01608 662180.**



## Masked Ball raises money for Youth Charities

Shipston's first Masked Valentine Ball, hosted by the Mayor and Mayoress of the town, saw civic dignitaries and local residents party the night away while raising money for local youth charities.

The Townsend Hall was transformed into a 1920s-style ballroom, ready for approximately 70 guests to enjoy an evening of fine food, music and dancing. Dressed in black tie and a wide range of masks, guests were treated to a four course meal with wine, followed by the opportunity to work it all off on the dance floor.

Champagne Charlie & The Bubbly Boys provided a lively accompaniment to the party. These sharply dressed musicians brought to Shipston the thrilling live sound of the jazz age. Charlie's cabaret soon had guests taking to the dance floor to Swing, Tango and Foxtrot. Dancing continued with a mammoth conga around the hall, and to Charlie's renowned "Champagne" call outs to switch partners during the Charleston.

Amidst all the fun was the serious business of a fund raising raffle, kindly supported by local businesses. Thanks to generous donations ranging from bottles of gin to hampers and massage treatments, the raffle raised additional funds for Shipston youth charities.

Mayor, Ian Cooper, said: "It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying what I hope will be the inaugural masked ball in aid of youth charities. I'm very grateful to all those who supported the Ball and would like to say a particular thanks to Georgina Beaumont, Ali and Richard Henderson and the Mayoress, all of whom worked tirelessly to organise the event."



*Photos (clockwise from top): Can you guess the guests behind the masks?, the event organising team, Champagne Charlie and the Bubbly Boys, and the conga in full flow.*



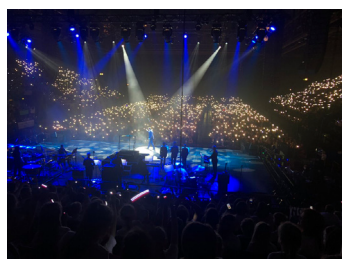


## Shipston Primary School



### YOUNG VOICES

Key Stage 2 pupils took part in one of the largest children's choir in the world in January. Shipston Young Voices choir has been practising songs and dance moves since September, before joining schools from all over the Midlands and Wales to come together as one and sing!



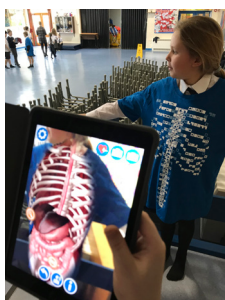
After a 3 hour rehearsal all afternoon at the Genting Arena, Birmingham, the choir of 6,500+ children were ready to perform. The schools were the backing singers for Tony Hadley from Spandau Ballet, jazz singer Sharlene Hector and Beau Dermott from Britain's Got Talent 2016.

### BURPS, BOTTOMS AND BILE

To help support Year 4 in their understanding of the digestive system as part of their current topic, the children were involved in two very memorable experiences. The first was creating their own digestive system using everyday items such as a potato masher, a resealable plastic bag, tights and paper cups. Add in crackers and bananas to put through this process and a lot of fun, laughter and learning took place.

The children deepened their understanding by wearing special t-shirts which linked to the Virtuali-tee augmented reality app and allowed them to view the inside of the body, studying the digestive system in more detail.

All this learning has led into their writing and enabled them to write a clear and detailed



explanation of this amazing body process:

Interestingly, the human digestive system can be extremely fascinating. Are there different parts of the digestive system? Shockingly, there are a lot of different parts like the stomach or the small intestine. However, food contains energy which our bodies need.

Firstly, when you put food in your mouth, which is the gateway to the digestive system, the strong teeth work together to grind the food. Interestingly, saliva (spit) can be found in your mouth where food is chewed and then travels down the long windy tube where food is broken down even more. This is called the oesophagus. Next, the food travels into the stomach which is shaped like a bag. In the stomach there are gastric juices, which is made of enzymes and acid. Following that, the gastric juices also break down food even more so it can go in the small intestines.

Furthermore, after the food has been in the stomach it enters the duodenum which is the first part of the small intestine. Shockingly, there are more digestive liquids found here. However, the small intestine is quite narrow. Next, bile and enzymes from the pancreas break down proteins and carbohydrates. Interestingly, in the small intestines the nutrients are absorbed through the wall of this organ into the blood stream. Consequently, the food now enters the large intestine. This is where water and salt are absorbed. Amazingly, anything that hasn't been absorbed is considered waste which then turns into faeces (or stools). Finally, the rectum stores the stools and the anus releases it from your body.

This means you should eat a healthy balanced diet and not eat too many fats to keep your digestive system healthy. Finally, food can take a whole day to go through the digestive system.

*by Freddie (Year 4)*

## Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Shipston High School students have been enjoying a range of interesting visits to the school. The PE department recently welcomed Team GB athlete Eden Francis. Eden is a discus and shot athlete who started her training aged just 10, and was awarded her first Team GB place at the age of 15.

Eden's latest achievements include top ten positions for shot put and discus at the Glasgow Commonwealth games; she is now training for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. Her visit provided a unique opportunity for our year 10 students to train with an international athlete. They participated in two circuit training sessions followed by an inspirational assembly and question and answer session. The necessary qualities of dedication, commitment and regular hard work were given focus as the foundations for success; a great message for our young people.



We are very grateful to Eden and Team GB for making this visit possible and would like to wish Eden every success for the future. We shall certainly be keeping a close eye on her career.

Both years 7 and 8 have enjoyed careers days this term. The

usual timetable was suspended to allow students to focus exclusively on their futures. Students worked in teams to try and decide what they would like to do in the future and what skills they would need to achieve their goals. It was a really fun and interactive couple of days and students thoroughly enjoyed it whilst beginning to think about their aspirations and career paths.

Year 9 students are at the point of considering their futures in terms of GCSE study. Alongside core subjects studied by all, students can select a range of option subjects for study. These options allow students to follow areas of personal interest and aspiration. At Shipston High School we are proud to offer a broad range of subjects, including languages, arts and creative subjects, humanities, technology and sport. Students and families give considerable thought to these choices, and the successful record of achievement on all subjects at the school suggests that students are enjoying their studies.

Finally, in the interests of security and safeguarding, I politely remind readers that Shipston High School and its grounds are private property. The school runs a range of events out of school hours, and local groups also hire the premises for community activities. Please be aware that the site is only open to people involved with a structured activity arranged with the school, and the school fields and facilities are not open to the general public. There is no public right of way across the school premises. Any enquiries should be directed to our school business manager.





## Shipston WI



On 6th February, Steve Allen took the Women's Institute on a journey through the 19th century Industrial Revolution illustrated with slides and songs.

The story of the Industrial Revolution began with Richard Arkwright harnessing water power for his cotton mill at Cromford in Derbyshire. He built the first factory in Britain and with it came life controlled by time: the machines ran for 24-hours and demanded constant upkeep by men, women and children (some as young as 5). Families had always worked together living by natural rhythms, but rural poverty drove them to the new factories and the tyranny of the clock! In 150 years a predominantly rural population became urbanised. The change was fast and brought much suffering to many and immense wealth to a few.

Almost every aspect of daily life was affected by the Industrial Revolution. Water power led to more efficient steam power and the development of the railways. Before that canals had been built facilitating efficient distribution of raw materials and finished goods around the country. Shipping moved from wooden hulls to steel, powered by steam engines, and exports thrived. Fishing, medicine, nursing, farming, education, there was nothing untouched by the Industrial Revolution. Eventually over the next 150 years working conditions improved, children were not allowed to work and education became compulsory. The fast, clean, technical, efficient world we now live in comes as a result of the brilliance of men like Richard Arkwright and James Watt, and children scrabbling under looms and hauling coal in the mines.

The next meeting will be on 6th March when Trevor Langley will give a talk entitled – If Warwick Walls Could Talk. Visitors welcome.

## Shipston Area U3A



**Small Island by Little Train** - Chris Arnot gave a fascinating talk about the narrow gauge railway lines of the UK. His obvious love and fascination with narrow gauge railways began in his childhood when his Mother took him for a ride on the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway across the flat lands adjacent to the sea in Kent. He was hooked but it was not until his fifties that he began to investigate how and why the various narrow lines had been built. Some were built by wealthy landowners mainly for their own entertainment and amusement but other lines had developed for commercial reasons across terrain which did not have room for the standard 4ft. 8.5 ins. rail track.

He spoke about the history behind the long established narrow gauge railways, many of which are still in operation, in particular the famous and well known Blaenau-Ffestiniog to Porthmadog Harbour line which was used to move many thousands of tons of slate down from the quarries to the harbour for shipping to far flung destinations. Originally the loaded trains ran down to the harbour under gravity which was a hair-raising adventure indeed. Locomotives were built to make a safer journey including a Double Ended Engine named James Spooner which ran up and down the line without needing to be turned at either end of the line.

Chris Arnot's enthusiasm for his subject was boundless and he answered many questions in addition to selling and signing his published books.

## Sheldon Bosley Hub becomes the Shipston Enterprise Centre

Following financial challenges in 2017/18, a decision was made in December 2018 to close Sheldon Bosley Hub in its existing form. However, it has now reopened in its new guise as the Shipston Enterprise Centre.

As a charity, the centre intends to maximise its rental potential by hiring out space to community enterprises. The aim is to host a wide range of activities including sports, education, employment and social events.

However, the move has not been without controversy. The Town Council was disappointed with the comments reported in the Stratford Herald regarding lack of support from the council for the new centre. Mayor, Ian Cooper, said "Despite requests for information, the Town Council has been as much in the dark over what was happening at the Sheldon Bosley Hub as anyone else. We had not been informed of any plans let alone been approached for help with existing operations. The Town Council are determined to ensure that the Sheldon Bosley Hub is retained as an asset for the community."

To find out more about the venue visit <https://www.facebook.com/ShipstonEnterprise/>

### Townsend Hall 150 Club Draw

The February 100 club draw winners are:



Member no. 119	£15
Member no. 74	£10
Member no. 105	£5

Congratulations on a fabulous start to February!

## Lions

If you shop at the co-op then you can support Stour Valley Lions without spending a penny! We are part of the Co-op fund that gives money to local organisations to fund local community projects including our Youth. When members buy Co-op branded products and services, the Co-op will give 1% to a local cause. Your support can help raise more funds that will benefit your community. So far, the fund has grown to over £500 and we thank everyone who has supported us so far!

Go online [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership) and make us your cause.



## Rotary

### Tree of Life

The sale of Tree of Life bulbs in memory of loved ones at the Victorian Evening was particularly successful in 2018. Rotary decided, at the suggestion of Rotarian Avryl Thompson who organises the Tree of Life bulb sale each year, that all proceeds should go to a wonderful charity called The Time Out Group. A remarkable total of £906 was raised and at a recent Rotary meeting a special presentation was made to two representatives of the charity, Nick and Sally Keegan.

Time Out is a registered charity based in South Warwickshire. They provide specialist support for children with complex disabilities, and their families. The youngsters, from age 4 to 18, are split into two age groups and with the help and support of skilled workers, the children are able to access leisure activities including swimming, bowling, farms, parks, soft play areas, train rides, theatre, arts and crafts, cinema, walks, boat trips, cafés and museums.

It is testament to the group that most children who join stay till adulthood. The charity was very pleased to receive the cheque and asked Rotary to pass on their gratitude to all those who donated by buying a bulb.'

### Hockey

Stuart Guise lives locally and played hockey for Stratford for many years. He now organises and plans much of the highly sophisticated coaching systems that Great Britain Hockey applies to the sport.

Hockey requires incredible skill, determination and also courage to cope with sticks that can easily get in the way of legs/arms etc and a sometimes flying puck. The sport reached a much wider audience after the London Olympics when GB women won Bronze, and it attained national recognition when they did even better at Rio with a Gold.

Stuart explained to Rotary how far hockey training has moved on in recent years, becoming a carefully planned and highly organised process. First find the right trainers (there are now 3,000 in the UK) and train them in the skills of training, encouragement, motivation and team building so they can then apply their skills to the players.

The men hockey players won Gold at Seoul in 1988 under the direction of the brilliant Roger Self but resources were very limited and Hockey England actually went bankrupt in 1999. The sport is now well financed and ready to go on to even greater things, with Stuart's help.

Do you want to help Rotary try and do some good in Shipston and our wider world, and have a lot of fun? Contact Bob Armstrong 01789 450952.



## A Badger's Eye View

The NHS 10 year Longer Term Plan published in January commits to funding local "integrated care systems".

The Ellen Badger is described under those stone Badgers at our front door as "A Cottage Hospital" and the League has long argued that the cottage hospital model is a positive way of keeping people well. We have long wanted the Badger to be a Wellness Centre, treating those who need health care but also offering proven ways of staying well and dealing with life's inevitable challenges with confident independence.

That is what the NHS Plan says too. It commits to 3.4% growth every year (we've averaged 1% since 2009-10) and gives an additional £4.5 bn to community and primary care services, a real shift from our overwhelming investment in large hospitals.

The Plan's priorities must be ours too: child obesity and mental health, adults' longer but healthier lives and older people's avoidance of acute hospital admission with better end of life choices.

The Plan's priorities: Cancer, Cardio-vascular treatment, maternity and neonatology, mental health and stroke, diabetes and respiratory infection are all susceptible to early intervention. Diagnostics and "joined up" medical practices and community nursing and therapeutic services will cover the whole country with "Integrated Care Systems" by 2020. Putting the health jargon to one side, that is a description of what the League is hoping to develop by bringing our hospital and medical practice together on a shared site with shared resources.

We can have fully integrated community based health care with District Nurses, GPs and Pharmacists offering "Urgent Treatment Centres", GP-led outside hospitals with a third of acute admissions being avoided and discharge back home on the same day.

All of that can be supported by digital technology giving everyone access to an NHS app offering access to personal care plans and communication with health professionals. By the end of the 10 year Plan remote monitoring with wearable devices is envisaged. Already in remote, rural parts of the country fracture clinics linked by Skype to orthopaedic centres are delivering local care avoiding 70 mile plus round trips to trauma centres.

Now we must think through how a new Ellen Badger can serve that vision.

Bryan Stoten

*Chair, League of Friends of Shipston Hospitals*

## Shipston Primary School Admissions



Shipston Primary School has a few spaces available for the next academic year.

The local birth rate suggests that the September 2019 Reception intake will not be oversubscribed so it is likely that we will have places available for children to start school in September 2019. Please contact Warwickshire Admissions to apply for a place - <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/applyforschool>. Families living outside Warwickshire (e.g. Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire) can also apply for a place.

If you would like to visit the school and speak with the Executive Headteacher please make an appointment by telephoning 01608 661266.



## Shipston Flower Club

Shipston on Stour Flower Club has been part of the town for over 28 years and is affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies.

Over the last 28 years we have completed many fund raising flower-themed events to donate to local charities in the town and still help with the flowers in the Ellen Badger every month.

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at the primary school with different and varied themes on flower arranging, complementary craft forms, and outings during the summer to gardens and nurseries.

The programme for the rest of the year has already been finalised. Our theme for this month is "New York, New York", while next month is all about spring - something many of us are looking forward to! We are planning a garden visit in June and workshop in August, as well as other themed talks.

While Christmas might seem a long way off, we've already booked a festive open evening in November, with more Christmas-themed activity in December. Details of each month's theme will be included in the Shipston Forum's monthly 'What's on' Calendar.



We welcome any new members or visitors to come along to any meeting night at 7.30pm. Alternatively ring Elizabeth James 01789 450359 or Kathy Little 01608 664882 for more information.

## Proud of my Town: Remembering Shipston's Fallen

### 96377 Lance Corporal ALBERT EDWARD SALISBURY

Born on the 2nd January 1894 Albert was the youngest son of George and Ellen Salisbury, who were then living in Horn Lane, Shipston-on-Stour. He was baptised on the 25th February 1894 in St Edmunds. Albert had a twin sister, Ellen. The Boys School register indicates that the family moved to Church Street sometime between late 1896 and mid 1898. It is in this same period that Albert enrolled in the Infants School and on the 2nd July 1900 Albert moved up from the Infants to the Boys School.



As in 1891 the 1901 census shows Albert's father George working as a Guard on the Railways. The family are recorded as living in Church Street in one of the larger houses at the Stratford Road end. Albert completed his education on the 6th December 1907, four weeks before his fourteenth birthday.

Albert joined the Army in April 1915 and in January 1916 was sent to join the 11th Signals Company who had been withdrawn from Gallipoli just before Christmas. Whilst it is known that Albert's rank was Lance Corporal, his medal index card also details the rank of Sapper, which gives us an insight into his job in the Army. It is also known that he served with the 11th Signals Company, who supported the 11th Division which fought in all the major battles on the Western Front from late 1916.

On the 13th April 1919 the Evesham Journal reported:

It is with deep regret we report the sudden death of Lance-Corpl A Salisbury, son of Mr and Mrs Salisbury of Shipston-on-Stour. The deceased soldier was for some years a porter at the Great Western Railway station, Shipston-on-Stour and for some time prior to the outbreak of war was signaller at Henley. In his civilian occupation and in life generally he was

respected for his quiet courteous and obliging manner, and his absence will be very much noticed on many occasions.

He joined the Royal Engineers in April, 1915, being sent to Egypt in the following January. From there he returned to France in the July, and was with his company right up to the time of demobilisation, going through his part of the campaign without being wounded. He crossed from Le Harve to Southampton on 15th March, arriving at the demobilisation station at Havant on the 16th, when he was immediately taken into hospital with influenza. He gradually got worse and his parents were sent for on the 20th and remained with him until he died on Thursday the 27th.

The body was brought to Shipston for burial on Tuesday evening last. The funeral took place at Shipston Cemetery, and although there is no Old Comrades Association or anything of a like kind at Shipston, two or three of the discharged non-commissioned officers and men decided to give him, if possible, a military funeral. At 2pm about 40 discharged non-commissioned officers and men paraded outside the Council Schools and, under Corpl W E Cox RAF, followed the hearse. The coffin, which was provided by the military, was of polished elm with brass furniture, was covered with the Union Jack and on the breastplate "Lance-Corporal A Salisbury RE Born January 2 1894 died March 27 1919 aged 25 years". The bearers were old school chums who have come through the campaign, Ptes W Baker, G Barnes, B Barnes, J N Walker, all of the MGC. There were many beautiful floral tributes. Amongst the regiments represented were MGC, RE, Tank Corps, Gloucesters, Warwicks, KRR, RAF, HM Navy, and Warwick Yeomanry. Deceased was brother of Mr W Salisbury, who has been booking clerk at GWR station at Evesham for several years.

Albert died on the 27th March 1919 and was buried with his brother George, who died in 1916, in Shipston-on-Stour cemetery and the gravestone commemorates both brothers.

Albert is remembered on the Council School and Town Memorials.

## District Council Update

I'm focussing on Orbit and other Housing Associations currently. We've had a committee looking in detail at homelessness prevention. We've seen the contrasting styles of different social housing providers in how they offer coaches to help people manage their tenancies. Sadly there is no room in the National Curriculum for this. Over the next few years 20% of people are expected to use private rented accommodation, so many of us need to get to grips with it.

Every time a person becomes homeless the financial cost is approximately £16k - let alone the emotional and personal costs. There are clearly benefits in keeping individuals and families in their homes. I am hopeful that the plans put in place by the providers - working with Stratford District Council - will see an ever decreasing rate of evictions.

However, a word of warning. As Universal Credit is rolled out to more people who in the past have had their rent paid direct, there may be another spike. Please contact me if you know you believe you will be in this position when Universal Credit reaches you - and let's try and find a solution.

**Jo Barker, District Councillor – Shipston North Ward**

*Chris Saint & Jo Barker take it in turns to provide the content for this column.*

*County and district councillor columns will not be included in the April and May issues of the Shipston Forum due to the Purdah period in the run up to elections.*



## County Council update

The sun is shining, the scooters are ready - we've finally found a weather window to tour Shipston looking for the best spots for dropped kerbs to be put in. Having seen someone reversing down a normal height pavement – albeit a beautiful manoeuvre - I think its time for things to be a bit easier. So we should get approximately 20 new dropped kerbs in and around the town soon.

In other news, I'm afraid the County Council part of Council Tax has increased by 4.99%. Part of this - 2% - is for Adult Social Care for which we are having to find more funds to look after vulnerable and older adults.

On a positive note - big drum roll - the Portobello Traffic Light Scheme has been put out to tender. You may have noticed that trees have been cut back in preparation and the design means bird nesting will not be an issue this time! Thanks to all of you who campaigned so hard for this - we're finally going to see it delivered.

From now on please use my personal email to contact me - jmvbarker@gmail.com as during election periods we can't use any council facilities - to prevent any unfair bias.



**County Councillor, Jo Barker**

## Shipston Medical Centre

**Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845**

### Shipston Medical Centre Patient Participation Group - Who we are, what we do

Most GP practices in England now have a Patient Participation Group and Shipston Medical Centre is no exception – indeed Shipston PPG has now been operating for several years.

We are patient volunteers who work closely with members of the practice team to ensure that the patient perspective is always taken into account when changes or improvements to services are being planned.

Maintaining an outstanding primary care service for the people of Shipston and surrounding villages is of course top of our agenda. No-one would dispute the current pressures on the practice team (especially with more families moving into the area), not least having to work in premises which are no longer fit for purpose. The PPG will continue to play an active part in all discussions regarding the need for a new medical centre – and

where it should best be located.

In fact PPG members get involved in a whole series of initiatives which ultimately affect Shipston Medical Centre patients.

Perhaps you're pregnant and need to regularly see a midwife? The PPG lobbied for a change to the South Warwickshire Foundation Trust (SWFT) plan for Shipston mums to travel to Lighthorne for an appointment – there will now be a satellite hub in Shipston.

Or perhaps you are elderly and could do with an opportunity to get out of the house and get fit? One of our members instigated the 'Sit and Get Fit' exercise sessions which now take place at the Catholic Church on a fortnightly basis. These are invaluable for helping people to meet others whilst learning how to avoid falls and maintain their independence.

We are active members of the Ellen Badger Project Board, wanting to

play our part in ensuring that the new services developed on that site are in tune with the needs of Shipston Medical Centre patients, both now and in the future.



Shipston Medical Centre

PPG members are also involved in the Town Council, SCAN, the Warwickshire Older People's Forum, the WI and the Stour Valley Partnership against Social Isolation and Loneliness to name but a few. We represent Shipston Medical Centre patients at meetings of the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the GP Federation and SWFT.

*We would love to hear from you so we can represent YOUR views!*

*Carole Nossiter, Chair, Shipston PPG*

shipstonppg@gmail.com



## Your Town Councillors


**Ian Cooper, Mayor**
*Finance Group Chair*

t: 01608 663785

e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Dan Scobie, Deputy Mayor**

t: 07771 772511

e: dan.scobie@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Ronnie Murphy**
*Planning Group Chair*

t: 01608 664518

e: c/o clerk@shipstononline.org


**Alison Henderson**

t: 01608 661911

e: ali.henderson@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Brian Cooper**

t: 01608 663237

e: brian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Martin Ferrier**

t: 07814 092134

e: martin.ferrier@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Brian Healey**

t: 07773 337134

e: brian.healey@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Fay Ivens**
*General Purposes Group Chair*

t: 01608 662133

e: c/o clerk@shipstononline.org


**Paul Rathkey**

t: 01608 664141

e: paul.rathkey@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Sheelagh Saunders**
*Heritage & Leisure Projects Group Chair*

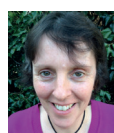
t: 01608 662190/07800 889947

e: sheelagh.saunders@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Jackie Warner**

t: 07717 391234

e: jackie.warner@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Marianne Westwood**

t: 01608 662223

e: marianne.westwood@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Peter White**
*Communications Group Chair*

t: 07792 507168

e: peter.white@shipstontowncouncil.org

## Useful Contacts

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

**Georgina Beaumont, Town Clerk**

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

**County Council Contact:**
**Councillor Jo Barker**

t: 07748968712 e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

**District Council Contacts:**
**Councillor Jo Barker (Shipston South)**

t: 07748968712

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

**Councillor Chris Saint (Shipston North)**

t: 01608 664048

e: chris.saint@stratford-dc.gov.uk



## Something exciting to share?

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

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

**Forum copy deadline:**
**First Wednesday of the month**

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

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

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

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

## Shipston Town Council Annual Town Meeting



All residents are invited to  
attend the

**Annual Town Meeting  
on 9th April 2019 at 7pm**

**NEW VENUE: Townsend Hall.**

The Shipston Award will be  
presented at the meeting.

*All welcome*

For more information, contact the town clerk  
on 01608 662180 or [clerk@shipstononline.org](mailto:clerk@shipstononline.org)

All community groups are invited to submit  
annual reports for inclusion in the meeting  
booklet. Please email submissions to [clerk@shipstononline.org](mailto:clerk@shipstononline.org)  
by 15th March 2019



**JOIN IN THE FUN**

# OPEN DAY & MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FRIDAY

**5 APRIL 2019**

**TOWNSEND HALL**

**Sheep Street**

**SHIPSTON ON STOUR**

**10.30 TO 3**

**FREE REFRESHMENTS**

**See you there!**

☺ FIND A NEW INTEREST!

☺ 35+ INTEREST GROUPS!

☺ 370+ MEMBERS & GROWING!



**LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE**

## Shipston Town Council Annual Civic Service



Residents and visitors are invited  
to join a celebration of Shipston's  
community, with a particular focus on  
the town's younger generation.

at  
**St Edmund's Church**

**3pm, 28th April 2019**

All welcome. For further information,  
please contact the Town Clerk on  
[clerk@shipstononline.org](mailto:clerk@shipstononline.org) or  
01608 662180



**Shipston Music  
Society**

[www.shipstonmusic.org.uk](http://www.shipstonmusic.org.uk)

**Tom Pickles**  
*Graduate of the  
Birmingham Conservatoire*

**Cello Recital**



The Methodist Church  
New Street, Shipston on Stour  
Friday 15th March 2019, 7.30pm

Guests £8.00 - Students £3.00  
Accompanied Children free  
New Members always welcome  
More information: 01608  
662514

Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)