



Shipston Forum

shipstontowncouncil.org



March 2020

Shipston Town Council agrees marginal increase in precept

Shipston Town Council has agreed a marginal increase of £500 in its precept for the next financial year. The overall precept has increased from £243,000 to £243,500. However, thanks to an increase of just over 43 in the number of households contributing towards Council Tax, the average amount being charged to Band D homes will remain at £107.93 per annum.

Shipston Town Council's precept is just one element of Council Tax, which also includes charges from Warwickshire County Council, Stratford District Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Town councillors have to plan sufficient funding to support the needs of the local community and meet its statutory

responsibilities, while ensuring the burden on residents remains as low as possible. This has been made more challenging this year with the removal of the Council Tax Reduction Grant – a grant from central government towards the local parish precept. Last year this grant contributed £4,260 to town council funds but will reduce to £0 for the 2020/21 financial year.

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "Thanks to the diligent work of our Finance Working Group, we have been able to minimise the precept increase such that residents will pay the same amount as last year. This is despite setting aside funds for some exciting projects for the town as well as maintaining our commitments to support local community groups."



The other authorities in receipt of Council Tax are responsible for setting their own precepts. As such, overall Council Tax bills are expected to rise for Shipston residents from April 2020.

Community grants announced for 2020/21

Shipston Town Council has agreed to award grants totalling £21,050 to support community groups and charities over the next financial year. This is an overall increase of £1,000 compared with last year.

The grants are designed to support a wide variety of local initiatives and this year's recipients include:

- **Shipston in Bloom** - for the provision of flower displays in Shipston
- **Shipston Wool Fair** - to fund new and innovative attractions
- **Shipston Cricket Club** - to provide a non- turf practice facility
- **Shipston Community First Responders** – to help cover the response vehicle running costs, response equipment and public access defibrillator costs
- **Townsend Hall** – to fund facilities for a portable wheelchair lift to enable disabled access to the stage
- **Shipston Proms** – contribution towards the staging of the 2020 Proms (pictured)
- **Shipston Tennis Club** – to resurface the practice court with all-weather tiger turf and new fencing
- **VASA** - to support the recruitment and training of volunteer drivers and office volunteers, Sit & Get Fit, and core costs for the first year of The Caring Kind
- **Shipston Youth Club** - to continue funding existing staff
- **Shipston Churches Holiday Club** – covering the running costs of the holiday club
- **Town Band** – to fund instrument mutes and equipment upgrades

- **Shipston Sports Bowls Club** – towards a new sprinkler system for green watering
- **Citizens Advice South Warwickshire** – a contribution to CASW's outreach service

In addition, the council has put aside nearly £40,000 towards identified Shipston projects, including support for the new Shipston Museum and the riverside amenity project which was identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "Supporting our community groups and voluntary organisations is one of the tasks we most enjoy as a town council. We are really pleased to be in a position to increase our grant funding this year and look forward to seeing the community benefit from these investments."



Mayor's column



It was an honour recently to be invited to the Rotary Awards Evening at the Townsend Hall. It was a great evening, not just because it was great to see the results of all of the fundraising efforts of the Rotary, but also because of the array of recipients of funding.

I've always been a huge admirer of the volunteers within our community who give their time and their efforts for the wellbeing of others, and the evening reinforced this enormously.

There was a real variety of voluntary organisations that benefited on the night, including: Shipston Food Bank, Children's Air Ambulance, Shipston Youth Club, Shipston Parkinson's Support, Shipston Community Christmas, Shipston Rainbows, Shipston Town Band, Shipston Visually Impaired Group, Myton Hospice, Shipston in Bloom, Shipston Stroke Group, Shipston Home Nursing, Papyrus, Stratford Sea Cadets, Singing Down Memory Lane, and The Time Out Group.

One point I found particularly interesting was the circularity of goodwill that the evening represented. The Rotarians are all people giving up their time to raise money for good causes. Some of this money has then been donated to the groups of volunteers who use the funds to deliver services to the people of Shipston. But it's the people of Shipston that have put their hands in their pockets and so generously donated and supported, as without the donations none of this would have been possible.

For me this demonstrates that everyone can play a part in the wellbeing of our community. That can be simply by buying a raffle ticket, or by dropping a few coins in to a collection bucket. It could be holding that bucket, or by donating a prize for the raffle. It could be by using some of the funds to directly support people in need. There really is something that everyone in the town can contribute, and I think we can be rightly proud that so many people do.

Dan Scobie

Save the date - VE Day celebrations planned for 8th May

Preparations are well underway to ensure Shipston celebrates the 75th anniversary of VE day in style.

On Bank Holiday Friday, 8th May, Shipston's High Street will be transformed into a street party in the afternoon and early evening. Exact details are still taking shape but are likely to include a themed 1940's singer, other music, a WWII vintage vehicle display and a piper. St Edmund's bells will be rung to herald this momentous day.

Please keep the day free to join the party and celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the end of the war in Europe. Hopefully our remaining WW2 veterans will join the celebrations.

A special church service will also be held on Sunday 10th May – keep an eye out for more details in the next few weeks.



Last call for Shipston Award nominees

The deadline for nominating your community heroes is almost here.

The Shipston Award recognises individuals who contribute significantly to our local community through voluntary work. Previous winners include Bob and Kath Armstrong (pictured, right) for their many years' commitment to the Wool Fair and other local events, Tim Porter for his contribution to the Proms and Stuart Eastbury – then one of the youngest recipients of the award – for his role as a community first responder.



Mayor, Dan Scobie, said: "We are always proud to announce the winner of the Shipston Award.

Voluntary work is the backbone of our community and there are so many people in this town who give up their own time to help others. We're looking forward to reading this year's nominees and facing the challenge of picking a winner!"

The deadline for nominations is 2nd March. Please send your nomination, with the name of the person you are nominating and why, to clerk@shipstononline.org or contact Alison Packer on 01608 662180.

Planning for tackling climate change

Stratford District Council recently consulted the public on its Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document which looks at the planning process for future developments regarding climate change. It is based on five principles:

- Increasing accessibility
- Improving energy efficiency in buildings
- Adapting to higher temperatures
- Mitigating flood risk
- Mitigating biodiversity loss

In reviewing the paper, Shipston Town Council will also consider what it could do to support climate change action.

This could include improving the energy efficiency of town council buildings, encouraging the district council to provide an electric car charging strategy for Shipston, or looking into providing ways to encourage more cycling in the town.

The town council could also use the SDC proposals to support environmentally-friendly conditions on new developments.

The council's Planning Committee will consider the consultation response in the first instance, as well as how best to begin developing ideas for the town council's own climate change initiatives.

To find out more about SDC's climate proposals, visit www.stratford.gov.uk/climatechangespd

News from Shipston Town Council's February meeting

Hot topics

Cemetery potholes: Due to the lengthy delay in finding the right materials, the town council is now looking at a temporary fix for the potholes at the cemetery.

Fitness equipment installed: New adult fitness equipment has been installed at the Sports Club and is free for residents to use.

Annual allotment meeting: The allotment-holders meeting is due to take place on 26th March at New Clark House.

Tree replacement: The dead trees in Railway Crescent have been removed and the General Purposes Working Group is now considering replacements.

Celebrating local good causes: Ronnie Murphy congratulated Shipston Rotary on its successful awards evening which highlighted the range of local charities and good causes in and around the town.

A proud birthday: Councillors congratulated Fay Ivens on the ninth anniversary of the launch of the Proud of My Town litter picking group – see article on page 5.

Campaigning for Shipston

Tackling poverty in Shipston: Councillors were concerned to hear that according to official statistics, 17.5% children in central and west Shipston are living in poverty compared to the average county figure of 11.5%. This highlights the importance of initiatives such as the Children's Centre and food banks in supporting those in need. The council is keen to look at other initiatives to help address child poverty in the town.

Planning concerns: John Dinnie highlighted that proposals to

erect chicken sheds in Barcheston are due to return. Although not in the Shipston parish, the sheds are likely to house over 150,000 chickens, resulting in an increase in traffic to bring the birds in and out of the sheds. Shipston Town Council will consider the proposals when they come through the planning process.

Voluntary transport: VASA's bookings scheme has been rehoused at the Ellen Badger Hospital. The team is keen to encourage more people to join as drivers, with a view to ultimately offering a lift sharing scheme.

Town council business:

Planning committee roles: The first meeting of the new STC Planning Committee was held in January. Paul Tesh has been elected as chair of the committee, with Gerry Kelly as vice chair.

Shipston Forum: The council has not received any expressions of interest to cover all elements of the Shipston Forum. However, KMS Litho and Busybiz have both confirmed they are keen to continue providing the design, print and content coordination roles they currently fulfil. A new company has come forward to cover the editing and writing. Following a meeting with all parties, the Comms Group will come back to full council in March with full costings based on the three organisations working together.

Town council website: Redwax has been appointed to provide the town council website for a further three years. This will include a refresh of the website as well as ongoing maintenance.



Shipston welcomes new town councillor

Shipston Town Council has co-opted Peter Cowley as a new councillor, filling the one remaining vacancy on the council.

Peter moved into Shipston in December 2019, moving from Southport in Merseyside to be close to family. He spotted the advert in the Forum looking for new councillors and decided to put his name forward.

Although this is Peter's first experience as a councillor, he is no stranger to local government, having worked as a lawyer for Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council for many years. "Although I'm new to Shipston, I'm keen to contribute to the town and my experience of working in local government means I'm able to offer up to date knowledge, particularly around legal matters."

Peter intends to get involved in the Planning Committee but is also keen to support the Heritage and Leisure Projects Working Group. Having previously been a trustee of a charitable museum, art gallery and library, Peter is keen to maintain his interest in local history projects and bring his experience to bear.

Peter enjoys spending time with his two – soon to be three – grandchildren and in his spare time, is a speed sports enthusiast and lover of music. Peter has also joined Shipston Rotary and is looking forward to supporting local charitable initiatives.



Allotment fees due next month

Annual fees for allotments will be due on 1st April. Fees for the year 1/4/2020 - 31/3/2021 are as follows:

New Street

Whole Plot £47.00

Half Plot £23.50

Shoulderway Lane

Whole Plot £38.00

Half Plot £19.00

Payment can be made in cash or cheque, payable to Shipston Town Council at New Clark House.

Payments can also be made electronically - please contact Diane Neath for details on 01608 662180 or assistant@shipstononline.org

Take part in the 'Save Our Swifts' survey

Following the successful 'Save Our Swifts' event held in October last year by the Stour Valley Wildlife Action Group (SVWAG), Shipston is to aim to become a 'swift centre' for the Stour Valley. This will include putting up nesting boxes to encourage the birds to flock to the town in greater numbers in the future.



For the best chance of success, it is important to establish where the swifts are currently nesting. This will help to decide where new nest boxes should go, as well as providing a baseline against which to compare the town's progress in increasing the swift population.

A local swift survey is planned for early summer (May-June) with a view to allocating willing volunteers a small patch of Shipston to monitor close to where they live. SVWAG is now calling on residents to come forward to join the survey.

SVWAG Chairman, Richard Gray, said: "It was great to see so much interest and enthusiasm for helping our local swifts at our event last year. We hope to see lots of residents taking part in our swift survey and supporting our aim to become a local swift centre".

To take part in the survey, contact Richard Gray on rjgray@hotmail.co.uk by 31st March 2020. Please include your postcode in your email.

Thomas' fundraising initiative

A local 1st Shipston Cub Scout has taken an entrepreneurial approach to helping the animals affected by the Australian bush fires.

Thomas has been working really hard to raise money after seeing the horrific images in the media about the impact of the fires on wildlife.

When an opportunity came up to have a stall at Long Compton Village Hall's monthly 'Social Saturday' Thomas jumped at the chance to sell homemade lemonade to the public to raise funds.



Thomas priced up the costs of the ingredients and worked out how much he would need to sell to make a profit. Like a true entrepreneur, he was up early making his lemonade, before setting up and running his stall for three hours. In total he sold £14.00 worth of lemonade and received donations of £34.30.

This is a great example of how we can all make a difference in our own way. Thomas is a credit to Shipston cub group and everyone is immensely impressed with what he has done. Well done Thomas!

Dust off your trainers – it's time to prepare for the Shipston Home Nursing 10k

Shipston Home Nursing's popular £10K Run/Walk is taking place at Walton Hall Hotel on Sunday 19th April and is now open for entries at www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk.

Participants may run or walk the 10K cross-country route, through some of Warwickshire's most beautiful countryside. This is a great family event which is suitable for all abilities of runner and walker alike. Why not bring the children? Dogs (on leads) are also welcome to join in.

Starting at the beautiful Walton Hall Hotel, a 16th century mansion set in 65 acres of glorious countryside overlooking a lake, the route takes competitors through nearby woods, the village of Walton and back to the tree lined finish in front of the Hall. For more route information please visit the Shipston Home Nursing website.

Registration is at 8.45am for a 10am start, with prizes for runners and medals for the first 250 finishers. Complimentary water and bananas are available for all participants. Sausage Baps supplied by Paddock Farm Butchery in Brailes can be purchased on the day.

Rebecca Mawle, Head of Fundraising for Shipston Home Nursing, said: "This 10K race is always popular. It has an excellent reputation and many loyal runners and walkers enter year after year. If anyone's looking for a new year challenge, this is a great event."

The route may be subject to change according to weather conditions and is not suitable for pushchairs.

The race is sponsored by Walton Hall, A Forsyth Farm Work, Tubbs End Farms, Hutsby Farms, G Hutsby & Sons and Paddock Farm Butchery. All proceeds will go to Shipston Home Nursing, who provide nursing care for patients with illnesses which do not respond to curative treatment and who wish to be nursed at home.



Making Mike Ashley's dream come true

When Shipston-on-Stour museum opens on 10 April 2020 in the Old Clark House, West Street, it will fulfil the long-held dream of well-known Shipstonian Mike Ashley who sadly died last August.

Some years ago the old Shipston museum closed down and it was due to Mike's foresight that he saved the artefacts there, making a temporary place for them in his own home museum. The Ashley tradition is carried on by his daughters: Rebecca Ashley and Justine Taylor. Rebecca explains: "Our father asked us both to keep the connection and we have kept that promise by becoming Museum Trustees".

Justine adds: "He was a true Shipstonian - he knew about the local families and their stories, with his special interest in photography he also had a large collection of old photographs".

Mike believed it is important to understand the town's history, preserve its traditions today with events like the Wool Fair and also to share those stories widely within the community. Mike especially wanted young people to be involved and to bring the past alive for all.

His daughters explain: "His idea was to have a museum for the local people – by the local people". In some ways it is the end of an era – we have lost Mike's irreplaceable personal knowledge of so much local history but he has left a wonderful legacy for us embodied in our new Museum. It is heartening to know that Mike knew of the plans and had been closely involved in the development of his vision of a reborn local museum.

Now it is your opportunity to be part of Shipston's local history. The Shipston and District Local History Society is inviting local businesses to become Patrons and local people to become Founder Members of the new Shipston Museum (£10 individual and £15 for couples). Also welcome will be volunteers to greet visitors at the museum or help with admin tasks such as cataloguing.

For more information about these opportunities and a chat, please contact us by e-mail at Shipstonhistory@gmail.com or phone 01608 685041.



Pictured Rebecca (left) and Justine are not just Trustees in name – here they are busy helping with the redecorating of Old Clark House ready for opening day.

Now we are nine – Shipston's litter pickers celebrate their birthday

Shipston's Proud of My Town litter picking team marks its ninth birthday this month!

The initiative was originally launched by Councillor Fay Ivens in 2011 in a bid to keep Shipston looking good for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. Since then, a regular band of litter pickers meet almost every month to give the town a once over and target litter hotspots.



Fay Ivens said: "When we first started the litter picks, we used to easily fill several bags. These days, thanks to Lawns2Mow, we find that there is less litter to collect in the town centre and so we focus on the out of the way areas."

As well as a core team of regulars, many residents – including some children – have joined in at various times to support the litter picks, which take place on the first Saturday of the month, weather permitting. "We're always keen to see new faces. All equipment is provided and we finish with coffee and biscuits. If you'd like to do your bit for the town, please consider coming along" Fay added.



Could you be a Solo foster carer?

Warwickshire County Council fostering team is looking for people to be specialist Solo foster carers.

Solo fostering helps young people return to living in a family environment following a stay in residential care. Solo fostering can also prevent young people from staying in residential care by finding Warwickshire foster carers so they are close to their family and friends.

Due to their background, the needs of these young people may be higher. That's why solo foster carers are asked to care for one young person at a time and have access to 24/7 support from a social worker or out of hours support through WCC's emergency duty team along with ongoing support from a psychologist.

Warwickshire County Council solo foster carers are paid an annual salary of over £2,000 per month, plus additional allowances and 2 weeks of paid annual leave, as well as access to specialist training and development.

If you or someone you know is looking for a career change, could you foster for Warwickshire? Find out more at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fostering or call 0800 408 1556.

Working towards a wonderful Wool Fair

Work is well underway to bring another successful Woolly Weekend to Shipston in May. The Wool Fair Committee has been busy plotting a packed agenda for the 23rd, 24th and 25th May so make sure you keep the weekend free.

The weekend is set to begin with a Totally Locally Craft Fair - the perfect excuse for some retail therapy. Sunday will see the return of the Rotary Songs of Praise at St Edmunds on Sunday to which everyone is welcome. All this activity is building up, of course, to the Wool Fair itself which takes place on Bank Holiday Monday.

The Wool Fair will feature lots of rare breeds of sheep and lambs, sheep shearing and demonstrations of how wool becomes yarn so that it can be used to make clothes and many other things. Other attractions include live entertainment and classic vintage tractors as well as lots of woolly-themed stalls. The Shipston Wool Fair is the best place to discover the myriad things that can be made of wool or lanolin!

And the best part? It's all free to attend - so why not spread the word and encourage your friends and family to flock to Shipston for the Wool Fair weekend.



Shipston resident celebrates her centenary

Local resident, Barbara Lane celebrated her 100th birthday at Low Furlong on 29th January.

Formerly living at Great Wolford, Barbara came to Low Furlong when it re-opened in the summer of 2017. Born in Enfield, Middlesex, Barbara went to school in Ashford, Kent and then went to Switzerland where she completed her schooling in the French language.

She joined the RAF when war broke out, and spent the war years mostly in Lincolnshire working alongside the Lancaster pilots. Barbara was Mentioned in Despatches for her war work. In 1945 she married, and subsequently lived in Hurley, near Maidenhead and then Wokingham in Berkshire, moving to Warwickshire in 1995.

As well as enjoying travelling, Barbara has had some of her best times gardening, where she has enjoyed all aspects including hard landscaping and growing flowers and vegetables from seed.

Now in her 101st year, Barbara likes to see flowers growing around her and loves nothing better than to be in the fresh air, hoping for summer and raspberries!



Deputy Mayor, Sheelagh Saunders, popped along to wish Barbara happy birthday.

Shipston Proms line up takes shape

The Shipston Proms Committee have yet to reveal the line-up for the Last Night of the Proms but have shared some of the exciting acts planned during the fortnight.

As mentioned last month, Uncle Funk and the Boogie Wonderland and Toppers Disco are booked for the Launch Night, so get ready for a night of non-stop boogying!

But the dancing doesn't end there. Back by popular demand, The Shipston Proms Dance Party will be returning to the Townsend Hall for the middle Friday of Proms fortnight and the committee are also hoping to put on a separate dance party for the younger residents of Shipston.

Building on the success of its involvement last year, Halford Village Hall will be providing an opportunity to indulge in some Abba classics with the screening of a film which needs no introduction - Mama Mia. This show is guaranteed to have people singing along to all the popular hits including Waterloo, SuperTrouper and Dancing Queen.

Throughout the fortnight the Proms will welcome back some of its most popular and longstanding contributions, including Helen's Chamberpot Pourri, Songs from the Shows, the Organ Recital, the Children's Concert at Barcheston, school performances and music from the Town Band.

While the Committee spends as much time as it can working on finding acts, they also have to focus on the 'nitty gritty' of running so many events in so many locations. At their most recent meeting, discussions ranged from updates on grants, programme distribution, and most importantly, the toilets on the Last Night!

There are plenty of opportunities for businesses to get involved by supporting the Proms - for details of sponsorship packages, please email shipstonproms@gmail.com

For full details of what's on, look out for the programme which will be posted through letterboxes and available in local shops in May. Alternatively, take a look at www.shipstonproms.org for all the latest information.



MONDAY

Citizens Advice: Mornings, New Clark House. To book call 01789 200136

Walking for Health - short walks at a gentle pace: 10-11am Bridge Car Park. All welcome. Contact Bob on 665995 or just turn up.

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 Contact: Bill King 01608 661186

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

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

Over 65's Drop in Clinic: 9am-12noon with Nurse Jan. Ellen Badger Hospital - Ellen Ward.

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, NEW VENUE: Shipston Sports and Social Club. 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 Lynda, Gerrards Rd, Shipston. 07934 203666

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: Every Thursday at Rainbow Fields. Contact Sue on 01608 664490

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

Shipston Archers: For the winter season: Indoors at Shipston High School, 6pm until 8pm. Beginners welcome. 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 Tony 01608 663407

Age Concern Lunch Club Alternate Fridays at Rainbow Fields. Contact Ann on 01608 664947

Sit and get Fit: 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: For the winter season: Brailes Village Hall Pavillion, 1pm- 3.30pm. Beginners welcome. Contact 07795 632718 or 01608 664646

March Diary

2 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group: Musical Afternoon with Faye W. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684

4 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: Our Native Wildlife by Nick Martin. 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519

7 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

9 Shipston Town Council Monthly Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact: Town Clerk 662180

Stour Valley Lions Monthly Business Meeting: 7.30pm, The White Bear (Sports Bar), Shipston. Visitors welcome. Contact Lion Paul Macpherson, 682102, Mobile: +44 7725 105677

10 Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN) Meeting: see ad on page 8

Shipston Flower Club: Abbey Digweed, Spring has Sprung. 7.30pm, Shipston Primary School. Visitors are most welcome at £5.00. Contact Elizabeth James 01789 450359 or Kathy Little 01608 664882 for more information

The Ellen Badger Big Bake in aid of the Brain Tumour Charity. See ad on page 16

11 Shipston and District Gardening Club: Guys Cliffe Walled Garden - Sarah Ridgeway. Indoor meetings are held in the Catholic Church Hall at 7.30pm. Contact Tony Mitchell (Secretary) on 01608 666933

12 Active Memory Group: St Edmund's Church 10am-12pm. For people with memory problems to have fun doing quizzes, crafts, singing and more, with lots of chat, tea and cake. Contact Alyson Spence on 07725 892087

Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch: Committee Meeting. 7.30pm, New Clark House, West Street. All members welcome. Contact Alex Black 01608 664743

13 Rural Cinema - Blinded by the Light: see ad on page 16

16 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group: Save our Swifts by Chris M. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684

18 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

20 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 Shipston Lodge, Tilemans Lane, Shipston CV36 4GX Refreshments provided.

Contact: Barbara Smith 01608 662433 or David Hollingworth 07970 125566.

Royal British Legion – Social: A social gathering of serving and ex-service members of HM Armed Forces at 1930 hrs in the White Bear. Open to all members, current and ex-service personnel and anyone interested in joining the RBL. Contact Alex Black 664743

Shipston Music Society: see ad on page 9

21 Shipston Cancer Support Group - Drop-In Centre: Scout Hut, New Street. 2pm-4pm

23 Planning Committee Meeting: Shipston Town Council. Monthly meeting of the Planning Committee: 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact Town Clerk 662180

25 Shipston and District Literary Society: AGM/Richard Vaughan-Davies - In the Shadow of Shakespeare. 7.30pm, The White Bear. Members £15pa, non-members £4. All welcome. Contact Helen Marshall, 01789 740773

26 Quaker Meeting for Worship: Quaker Meeting for Worship 2.30-3pm in St Edmund's Church, followed by a cuppa. Last Thursdays. Contact 01608 661372 or 01608 238298. All are welcome. You do not have to be a Quaker to attend

Annual Allotment Meeting to be held at 7.00 pm at New Clark House. All welcome to attend.

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

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SENIOR CITIZENS
ACTION NETWORK

SHIPSTON SCAN – next meeting

Tuesday 10th March 2020

Townsend Hall (Holden Room), Sheep Street,
Shipston on Stour

10.00am for free refreshments

10.30am start

Warwickshire Vision Support
find out how WVS help people with sight
loss maintain independence and to reduce
social isolation.

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

*Shipston SCAN is open to anyone 50+ who would like to socialise, find out about
sources of support and have a say on matters of concern*

For further information contact Marie Darwen on 01789 260 108
or email marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk



JOIN IN THE FUN

OPEN DAY AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

FRIDAY

3 APRIL 2020

TOWNSEND HALL

Sheep Street

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR

10.30 TO 2.30

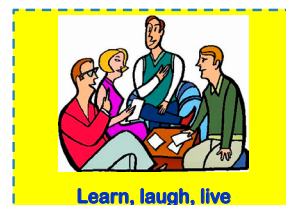
FREE REFRESHMENTS

See you there!

☺ FIND A NEW INTEREST!

☺ 40+ INTEREST GROUPS!

☺ 400+ MEMBERS & GROWING!



Two Day Introduction to Beekeeping Course

Run by Shipston Beekeepers - a branch of Warwickshire
Beekeeping Association.

Saturday 25/04/20

09.30 - 16.00 Brailes Village Hall OX15 5AS

Theory - How a honeybee colony works;
the beekeeping year; how to get started;
essential equipment; harvesting your honey and wax.

Sunday 26/04/20

10.30 - 14.30 club apiary OX15 5HZ

Practical - Siting an apiary; assembling hive parts;
apiary safety; inspecting a honeybee colony / handling bees
(weather permitting). Beesuits provided.

Light lunch and refreshments provided both days.
Gift Voucher available.

Enrolment: www.sbka.org.uk/training
Enquiries: secretary@sbka.org.uk



SHIPSTON WOMENS' INSTITUTE

**ARE HOLDING A COFFEE MORNING
AND CRAFT SALE**

SATURDAY 2nd MAY 2020

at

THE SCOUT HUT, NEW STREET

10am – 12 noon

RAFFLE, JARBOLA AND CAKE STALL

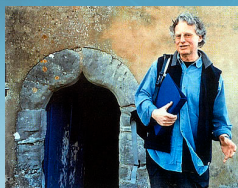
Tea - Coffee and Cake



OPEN TO ALL CRAFTS PEOPLE

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SELLING
YOUR CRAFT AND WOULD LIKE TO
BOOK A TABLE**

**Please make enquires with
JANE HANKS 01608 664519**



The Music of the Arts and Crafts Movement

Tim Porter

Historian and Lecturer

At the dawn of the twentieth century, disciples of William Morris had created a unique Arts and Crafts ethos in the creative world. Embracing traditional values yet forward-thinking, rural yet modern, this style also influenced the music of the time.

Friday 20th March 2020, 7.30pm

Methodist Church | New Street | Shipston on Stour

Tickets £8.00 | Students £3.00 | accompanied children free

New Members always welcome – please pay on the door



Printing supported by:



Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England) | Information: ph 01608 662514 | www.shipstonmusic.org.uk



Are you over 65?

Do you need advice and/or signposting for services?

Are you feeling isolated and want to know how to get involved with groups?

Possibly questions about care options?

Perhaps you would like a quick Blood Pressure check?

Nurse Jan who works as part of the Older Peoples team at Shipston Medical Centre has a new drop in clinic

Where: Ellen Badger Hospital, Ellen Ward

When: Every Wednesday morning between 9am and 12pm

No appointment necessary



Help to access

TENANCY, BENEFITS, MANAGING DEBT, HOUSING, SIGNPOSTING, SUPPORT, AND BUDGETING.

P3 GO MOBILE

P3 and MAVIS will be at Shipston-on-Stour Leisure Centre on Thursdays between 10:00am until 2:00pm.

If you'd like MAVIS to visit your organisation or area please let us know.

Contact Us

Warks.p3charity.org or

Call us: 0808 164 6220

Follow us on Twitter:

@P3Mavis



Do you require help to maintain your tenancy?

Need support to maximise your benefits?

Having problems with debt?

Check out P3 on Tour at:
www.p3charity.org

Mobile Advice Van Information Support



Calling all allotment holders

The annual meeting of
Shipston on Stour Allotment Holders
will be held at 7pm
on Thursday 26th March 2020
at New Clark House

All allotment holders welcome.



Any queries, please contact
Diane Neath, admin assistant at the
Town Council office on 01608 662180.

Shipston Primary School



Swimming gala success

Excited and cold, children from Years 3 to 6 went for glory in the cluster school's gala at the beginning of February, hoping to win the trophy we have held for several years once again.



We all walked up to the Leisure Centre, ready to begin racing at 9.30. Races began with Year 3 front crawl before rounds of races in backstroke, breast stroke and final canon relays. Overall we won 11 out of the 26 races, came 2nd in 4 and 3rd in 5. Ilmington and Brailes pushed us really hard but we were overjoyed to secure first place again to keep the trophy in our cabinet.

The whole team were wonderful but special well done's go to Phoebe in Year 4 who swam in (and won) a Year 5 race after someone was unwell on Thursday morning and to Toby in Year 6 for swimming an extra race at the last minute after a boy was poorly. Well done to our swimming captains, Ella and Toby, for organising the team to cheer each other on so loudly and encouraging everyone to swim so well. Thank you and well done to the Year 6 children who ran the scoring during the event as well.

By Eleanor, Lucy and Toby (Year 6)

Inside the Planetarium

Two astronomers from the Astrophysics Department at the University of Warwick recently visited Shipston Primary and set up a planetarium dome in our school hall. In case you



didn't know, a planetarium is a massive air-filled dome with a projector inside it, which makes it look like you are actually in space. When we stepped into the planetarium it didn't seem like anything cool was going to happen, but when Paul (one of the astronomers) turned on the projector, it felt like a whole new world. They showed us dozens of close up images of the Sun and various different planets, which increased our knowledge about space even more. Some pictures were quite terrifying, for example, whilst we were looking up at an image of the ISS space satellite it abruptly started falling down on us. Luckily it was just a projection image so nothing bad happened. Overall, the actual planetarium was absolutely amazing and we all were very grateful that the people from Warwick University gave up their time to come and teach us about space (plus they did a spectacular job in entertaining us all).

by Siobhan (Year 5)

A Gemologist visits

As part of Tremors topic, we had a World-renowned gemologist called Helen come and visit us. Excitedly, she showed us gems and rocks. Amazingly, she showed us a multi-coloured opal! She also had the rarest gem ever - a red ruby! One of her gems costs £14,000.

We also had another visitor, Dr. Anna Pike. She amazed us with all the rocks she brought in. She had the oldest rock from Britain, called Lewisian Gneiss (2.7 billion years old) which we all got to hold. She also had very old rock from The Grand Canyon (1.5 billion years old). The most amazing rock was from Greenland, which was 3.8 billion years old! We were able to hold all of these rocks and also some fossils. Surprisingly, one was fossilised dinosaur poo!

By Tom and Zachary (Year 3)

Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Shipston High School students have been enjoying a range of interesting activities and visits to the school.

In public speaking, Shipston High School won the prestigious Rotary Youth Speaks District competition. Our year 10 students performed very impressively, beating sixth form teams from the local area to take victory. They were truly magnificent, being engaging, articulate, and entertaining winning plaudits from around the venue. Congratulations to all involved.

Thanks to support from the Police Crime Commissioner, we were delighted to welcome into school Loudmouth Theatre in Education company. Loudmouth delivered a PSHE session "Working for Marcus" to our Year 11 students which focused on Child Exploitation, Sexual Exploitation, County Lines, Grooming and Knife crime. The aim of "Working for Marcus" is to make young people aware of the signs of grooming, develop empathy for its victims and be aware of the impact of child exploitation. Students learned how perpetrators can be any gender, ethnicity or age and set out to target a person's vulnerability and they also gained some knowledge of the laws surrounding coercive and controlling behaviour.

The session comprised a piece of theatre followed by a very lively question and answer session, picking up points raised in the play. Feedback from students after the event indicated that the session had been extremely well received and had

given them much food for thought arising from the issues addressed.

We are very grateful to the office of the Police Crime Commissioner for funding this very worthwhile event and also to the Stratford District Council for facilitating it. Thanks also to the Youth Justice Service for making one of their representatives available to join us.

In sport, Congratulations to our Year 10 girl swimmers who took part in the recent Midlands Schools Championships in Worcester. They reached the final for both events (4 x 50m medley and 4 x 50m freestyle) finishing 4th overall for the medley and 2nd for the freestyle. 4th and 2nd in the Midlands out of 30 schools is a superb achievement; they only missed out on 1st place by 0.3 of a second!

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.



Shipston Home Nursing

Three men in a boat row to London in aid of Shipston Home Nursing

Three men - David Williams, Jonathan Davies and William Dockar-Drysdale – are making plans to row from Oxford to London to raise money for Shipston Home Nursing – and they're on the look out for additional crew.

Inspired by Jerome K Jerome's 1889 comic novel, *Three Men In A Boat*, the trio will be sculling the 85 miles from Donnington Bridge in Oxford to Walton-on-Thames in London and will arrive dressed in full period boating wear on Saturday 23rd May.



Pictured, left to right: Jonathan Davies, William Dockar-Drysdale and David Williams

William Docker Drysdale, from Whichford, who is the Skipper of the team, said: "In early 2015 Shipston Home Nursing provided fantastic support for my father in his last days and for that I will always be grateful. It's great to have an opportunity to raise some money for this incredible organisation which totally relies on fundraising. The actual rowing bit, if I'm honest, is a long-held ambition inspired by reading Jerome K Jerome's classic book, *Three Men in A Boat*, when I was a boy at a school where I think I spent more time on the Thames than I did in a classroom. I hope to bring some skill to the mission - we'll see!"

The men will be taking an original Thames camping skiff and plan to camp on board. The boat has an easily erectable canvas cover which can be used for shelter from the sun and rain during the day. At night, it converts the craft into a floating tent. It will enable the three rowers to experience nature and river life up close and is featured in *Three Men in a Boat*.

Jonathan Davies said: "It will be worth every drop of sweat, every blister, every strained muscle to help our very own local hospice at home charity, who support so many people at the hardest time of their lives. I'm comforted by our skipper's meticulous planning - he's promised a suitable watering hole round every bend of the river!"

David Williams, who is a GP at Shipston Medical Centre, said: "As a local GP, I often have the privilege of witnessing the amazing work of Shipston Home Nursing and I see how they enable people to have as good a quality of life in their final months, weeks and days as possible. I'm looking forward to rowing downstream from Oxford to London to raise money for a fantastic charity."

Although the core crew is in place, the three-man crew are looking for any individuals who would be interested in joining the boat for part of the journey, in return for a £100 donation. If you are interested, please contact: William Dockar-Drysdale via Rebecca.mawle@shipstohomenursing.co.uk

Donations can be made, to support SHN on the Virgin Money giving page, which can be found at virginmoneygiving.com/fund/3meninaboat.

Shipston U3A



A fascinating account of the experiences of eight women from Worcester who were "Sent for Life to the Land Beyond the Seas" was shown by David Clark at the last meeting. This was during the 18th century when great numbers of convicts were sentenced to deportation.

When David Clark became Mayor of Worcester the Guildhall was closed and neglected. In his efforts to restore it he discovered the room where summary trials were held, cells where prisoners were kept and records detailing their crimes; hanging was often the sentence for trivial offences such as "stealing a cabbage". Conditions were so bad that sometimes prostitution or thieving were the only way to survive for those unable to find a job.

Chained in an unheated wagon for the 11-day journey to Chatham the convicts were taken to one of the off-shore hulks on the Thames where death, near-starvation, whipping and disease were rife, until a ship to take them to their new home was available.

One of the ships was the *Lady Penrhynn* and David Clark spotted the original diary kept by the Assistant Surgeon on this ship for sale on ebay. He bought the priceless book for a little over £1 and it gives a vivid account of the voyage and its hazards.

Life in that strange land where they were put ashore was hard and several of these 8 women died young but two lived to a good age, becoming respected citizens. Australians that are proven descendants of convicts who had survived so much hardship, are now proud of their ancestry.

Shipston Cycling Club

Shipston Cycling Club (SCC) has announced a new schedule for its weekly Sunday club rides.



The club is offering riders a choice of three rides, all setting off from Shipston Leisure Centre at 9.30am each Sunday.

The quickest riders make up the 'A' group, aiming for an average speed of 15 to 18 mph. Riders joining the steadier 'B' group average between 13 and 16 mph while the 'C' group offers members a shorter, more leisurely ride.

Club Chairman Andy Smith said "With three groups previously setting out at different times, many members didn't see each other week-to-week. We're a friendly bunch so we wanted to give everyone the chance to meet up before joining their chosen ride group".

The routes for each ride are published in advance via social media and the club's website.

Andy added "With all of our Sunday rides now setting out at 9.30am, people get the chance to choose which group they'd like to ride with, based on how they're feeling on the day and the fellow members they'd like to ride with. And, of course, each Sunday ride still factors in a much-needed café stop!"

Shipston Rotary

Youth Speaks

The first round of the new format Rotary Youth Speaks took place at the Croft School on 22nd January. Two teams from Shipston High School, five teams from King Edward VI School and two from Stratford Girls Grammar School took part.

The teams comprised chair, proposer and opposer. An eclectic range of topics was debated. 'This house believes that books give you more knowledge than TV', 'materialism is killing humanity', 'fantasy and fairytales are detrimental to child development,' for example. The standard, as always, was astonishingly high. Some managed to speak without reference to a single note. None of those in the intermediate level teams was over 13 years old.

The new format still included the dreaded question from the audience which could be directed to either speaker. All were answered with aplomb.

The intermediate level was won by KES, Pranav Rajasekar, chair, Abishek Elavarasan, proposer and Dev Prabhakar, opposer 'Drug policy in the UK should be changed.' Their speeches were well researched.

Senior level was won by Shipston High School: Sasha Turner, chair, Emelia Berry Proposer and Cameron Collie opposer: 'youth has never had it so good.'

All who attended found the evening both enlightening and fun. Well done to all the teams that took part.



Another year of fundraising

What do the following local charities, good causes and support groups have in common? You will certainly have heard of some of them. They were all invited to the recent Shipston Rotary Awards Evening to describe their work in the local community and to explain how the donation they received from immediate Past President Graham Thomas would help with their marvellous work. Of course, Rotary relies entirely on the money people donate and help to raise.

The causes were: Shipston Food Bank, Children's Air Ambulance, Shipston Youth Club, Shipston Parkinson's Support Group, Shipston Community Christmas, Shipston Rainbows, Shipston Town Band, Shipston Visually Impaired Group, Myton Hospice, Shipston in Bloom, Shipston Stroke Group, Shipston Home Nursing, Papyrus, Stratford Sea Cadets, Singing Down Memory Lane and The Time Out Group

Shipston Town Mayor Dan Scobie and Rotary Assistant District Governor Diane Miller were among many distinguished guests, including Amit Patel, Managing Director and founder of Pharmacy to My Door. All were warmly welcomed by President Susan Haywood. David Gill MC'd with aplomb.

The evening concluded with a short film about Rotary's history and fundraising events. Interested in helping Shipston Rotary's work in the community? Ring Graham Thomas on 01789 722426.



Shipston on Stour WI



Louise Pocock from Chipping Campden brought her love of hats and hat making to Shipston Women's Institute. Louise got into millinery (millinery for women, hatters make hats for men) almost by accident. She did an Arts Degree followed by a brief apprenticeship with a milliner and now teaches her craft, passing on her skills and knowledge.

Louise showed how she uses blocks to shape and mould the hat – she prefers to work in felt because it is so malleable, but also uses straw, fur and various fabrics. Some of the blocks she uses are quite old – her favourite dates from the 1940s. As there are only three block makers still working in the UK, this is a dying craft. Louise uses feathers, sequins, beads and artificial flowers for decoration depending on the style, there is a lot of hand sewing involved. The aim is that no stitches show – this is the magic of a handmade hat.

"The right hat at the right time will lift the spirits" is Louise's maxim. Interestingly, Louise makes quite a lot of men's hats. They appreciate the practicality and enhancement of a good hat.

Shipston WI will be 100 years old in 2022 so fund raising for a suitable celebration is beginning. A coffee morning and craft sale is planned for 2nd May, suggestions for other events are welcome.

The next meeting is on 4th March when Nick Martin will be talking about Wildlife. Visitors are always welcome and will hopefully enjoy the meetings enough to become members!

Australian Bushfires

After months of severe drought and record -breaking temperatures, a series of catastrophic bushfires have taken their toll on the life of many people, countless animals and mass destruction of property in parts of Australia.



Lions International have already stepped in with substantial grants and Lions Clubs in the British Isles are donating towards the purchase of much needed water tanks. Each water tank costs £1,600.

Stour Valley Lions are playing their part and have held a 'can shake' in the large Co-op in town and we thank the Co-op for allowing us to use their entrance. Shipston people are very generous, and Lions collected £665 over the Friday and Saturday which will go towards this disaster.

The bushfires are still raging in some areas and it is not too late to donate direct. Stour Valley Lions has opened an account at Lloyds Bank Sort Code 30 98 90 Account Number 16589960, to receive donations, or alternatively cash or cheques can be sent to our Treasurer at 29 Railway Crescent, Shipston on Stour CV36 4GD. Please reference any donations to Stour Valley Lions 'Bushfires'. Thank you.

Storm damage?

Don't get tricked by rogue traders



Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards is warning residents to beware of rogue traders taking advantage of damaged roofs, fences and fallen trees after the recent storms.

Rogue traders can appear both charming and extremely plausible on the doorstep, but their work is of a poor quality and sometimes they will take money for materials and simply disappear. They may quote low prices, but they will soon demand more money and very often the work they claim needs doing is completely unnecessary.

Trading Standards are also warning residents to beware of rogue roofers going door to door, falsely claiming to work for 'the council'. Residents have reported receiving knocks on their doors from rogue traders saying their chimneys were on the verge of collapsing if something was not done.

Top tips to avoid rogue traders

- Don't buy from unexpected doorstep callers
- Go on recommendation and use traders that family or friends have been happy with. If that's not possible, consider using a Trading Standards vetted and approved trader. Visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/approvedtraders
- If your home has experienced structural damage you need a qualified surveyor to tell you what the actual damage is, never rely on the word of a builder alone

- Ensure the business has a genuine address – find out how long they have been there for. If necessary 'Google' it. If you find lots of businesses at the same address, that can be a warning sign
- Ask to see examples of their work and verify it with the householder
- Get everything written down - don't rely on spoken agreements
- Be wary of any trader who can start work quickly or straight away. You can expect to wait several months for a good builder to start work

Don't buy from the first trader who comes to your door or be rushed in to making a quick decision - seek quotes from reputable traders

Report a rogue trader and more information

To report a rogue trader operating in your area or to make a complaint contact Warwickshire Trading Standards via their frontline consumer advice service, the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Approved traders

Looking for a Trading Standards vetted and approved trader? Visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/approvedtraders

For more information on rogue traders or to subscribe to our scams/rogue trader email alert system, visit: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/tradingstandards

Keep up to date on rogue trader warnings by following Warwickshire Trading Standards on twitter: [www.twitter.com/warkstss](https://twitter.com/warkstss)

P3 Charity - a mobile advice service for Shipston



P3 is a charity that aims to support and guide people who face housing or tenancy related issues. We also provide guidance on debt management, benefits, signposting to access other organisations/charities and other varied topics of concern.

P3 has a vehicle called MAVIS (Mobile Advice Vehicle Information Support) which regularly visits Shipston on Stour Leisure Centre during the week in order to provide free advice to the local community - something we are keen to continue to do into the foreseeable future.

The ultimate goal of the service is to enable people to feel empowered and become confident to manage and live more independently in the future. There have been many people using our mobile advice vehicle to discuss a wide range of issues, such as advice on dementia care and understanding aspects of the benefit system, including Universal Credit. P3 has been warmly welcomed by Shipston and we have been heartened by the kind words of those who have used our mobile service.

Please join us on Thursdays from 10am - 2pm at the Leisure Centre car park if you have any questions or would like support.

For more information you can also follow our outreach service on Twitter, @p3mavis, visit our website, www.p3charity.org or use our free phone number 0808 164 6220.

Finally, P3 would like to thank the Leisure Centre and the Council for their continuing support.

Readers Letters

Letter from David Kennet

Car drivers stop being selfish. The dropped kerbs on High Street outside Cedar Therapy and on the north side of Sheep Street at the east end adjacent to the White Horse are there for people in wheelchairs and mothers with prams and buggies to access the pavement. Most days I see cars left unattended where there should be free access to the pavement for those whose means of transport requires it.

I am not a wheelchair user but half a lifetime ago, I used to push one for a quarter of a century.

Letter from Nigel Willis

The recycling centre is getting more organised, the clue is in the name, then there are all the recycling boxes at St. Edmund's, the County Council is installing 70 car charging points around the county. Hopefully at least one in Shipston.

All good.

But on plastic, where does it all come from?

Walk into the Coop and look at the bread/baguette shelves, every loaf wrapped in plastic! Baguettes part plastic wrapped.

Come on Coop - time to take this seriously. Other supermarkets are.

District Council Update

As you know I have the honour of being in the Cabinet as the Portfolio holder for People. People, of course, are why I love being a Councillor so much. The thing which really gets me up in the morning though is being able to make a real difference in people's lives – particularly the vulnerable and forgotten.



Statistics can leave us cold, but one number this week has actually chilled me. In Shipston 17.5% of our children are living in poverty compared to a countywide figure of 11.5%. I'm sure many of you reading this will have personal experience of this.

I am actually pleased to have a statistic to use when colleagues in other parts of our District claim that their ward is the most needy. Stop right there. Shipston is hurting. So I shall not apologise for the need to support CAMHS, the Youth Club, Foodbank and myriad other services for the young or vulnerable. That is where my heart and my head are at.

I help out a bit with the Foodbank, but I know that the increasing needs we are seeing are not going to end soon, so if you want to volunteer – get in touch. There are lots of things that our town can do for itself and looking after each other comes top of my list.

The rollout of Universal Credit has slowed down again and will inevitably mean that people are without benefits as they change over. Please don't go hungry – give me a ring, any time – and let me and others help."

Jo Barker, District Councillor, Shipston South

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

County Council update

By the time you read this, I shall have sat through the budget setting process for WCC. This includes the final stage – a long Council meeting during half term (note to self – try and get the Council which sets term dates to remember parents who serve on the Council!) I'm sure Barker Jr will enjoy a day without me – the feeling is not mutual yet!

Local government is living through really tricky times. Our budget from Central Government has reduced, but we have to do more for less. I believe we can be more efficient in what we do – as someone who runs a business I am used to trying to pare things back and be more agile. I see signs of confidence in the economy and people starting to invest again, so I am optimistic that we should have the same confidence in our abilities at WCC!

You may have noticed path clearances going on locally – I'm glad the tarmac is still there. This project is ongoing and I will put some of my Highways pot in to help finish it. Dropped kerbs are on the shopping list too. Please do continue to let me know if you need a dropped kerb in your vicinity – we haven't reached 20 yet!

As ever I am continuing with surgeries – on Thursdays – but I am minded to do some Saturday mornings as well. Would anyone be interested? Keep letting me know how I can help, where there are grot spots, trouble and anything you want to share

Jo Barker, County Councillor

Shipston Medical Centre

Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845

Health Screening

The NHS offers screening for many different types of conditions, such as cervical cancer, aortic aneurysm, bowel cancer and breast cancer. With all of these conditions early detection always significantly increases the likelihood that less invasive treatment is required, and this is also likely to be more successful. Screening saves lives!

Why Bother?

If you are invited for screening do make every effort to attend. Screening targets those types of people most at risk of the disease area being screened for, and can really make a difference to the small minority who do develop these conditions.

Bowel Cancer Screening

This is aimed at people aged 60-74 who will be sent a letter and then a week later a screening kit through the post

every two years. Those over the age of 74 can request kits by calling 0800 707 6060. Sadly bowel cancer affects one in 20 people and is the third most common cancer. Whilst taking a stool sample and sending it back may not be a very pleasant thing to do, it really can make a difference – screening reduces the risk of dying from bowel cancer by 16%.

Aortic Aneurysm Screening

This is offered to gentlemen in their 65th year, although older gentlemen can refer themselves for screening by calling 01788 663428. There are around 6,000 deaths each year in England and Wales from ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, with about 4% of the male population aged 65-74 having an aneurysm.

Cervical Screening

Cervical screening can help prevent cancer. All women aged 25 to 64 will routinely be invited by letter. Currently

we are seeing a trend whereby fewer women aged 25-49 are attending for screening. We

understand it can be daunting, but it is worth it! If you are anxious about being screened ask to speak with one of our nurses and they will talk with you about the process.

Breast Screening

About 1 in 8 women in the UK are diagnosed with breast cancer during their lifetime. If it's detected early, treatment is more successful and there's a good chance of recovery. Breast screening is offered to women aged 50 to their 71st birthday. Whilst currently screening is not available in Shipston, eligible women will be offered appointments in Stratford or elsewhere. Please attend or rearrange to a different location or venue for a date that is more convenient.



Shipston Medical Centre

Your Town Councillors



Dan Scobie, Mayor

t: 07771 772511

e: dan.scobie@shipstontowncouncil.org



Sheelagh Saunders, Deputy Mayor

Heritage & Leisure Projects Group Co Chair

t: 01608 238489/07800 889947

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e: c/o clerk@shipstononline.org



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Planning Committee Chair

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John Dinnie

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Jo Barker

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General Purposes Group Chair

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Marianne Westwood

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Peter White

Communications Group Chair

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e: peter.white@shipstontowncouncil.org



Gerry Kelly

Planning Committee Vice Chair

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e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Peter Cowley

t: 01608 664241

e: peter.cowley@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 Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team:	01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
Churches of Shipston:	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01608 642256

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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



Alison Packer, 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 Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

t: 07969 167720

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



Something exciting to share?

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

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.

The Ellen Badger Big Bake

In aid of...



Calling all cake lovers and bakers! The Ellen Badger Team are raising funds for The Brain Tumour Charity to support their amazing work and research.

Venue: The Inpatient Day Room

Date and Time: 10th March, 1.30 onwards

- Lots of amazing yummy cake!
- Professional Cake donated by TASTE of the COUNTRY
 - Posh filter coffee, Yorkshire Tea and fruit tea!
 - Take home bags to treat your family and friends!
- Cake ordering service for staff who aren't on shift!
- Eclectic Raffle with awesome prizes!

Let's celebrate the dawning of spring with cake, smiles and laughter and by raising some money for an amazing charity. We look forward to seeing you there! 😊

STUNNING X-COUNTRY ROUTE

WALKERS WELCOME

MEDALS FOR COMPLETION

WALTON HALL 10K RUN

Sunday 19th April 2020

Registration from 8.45, 10am start
Walton Hall, Wellesbourne, CV35 9HU
£15 Adult or £16 on the day, £5 Child

More information & entry at www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

Many thanks to our event sponsors:
Hutsby Farms, G Hutsby & Sons

AEW FARMWORK
www.farmwork.co.uk

Paddock Farm
HAND REARED MEATS

TUBBS END FARMS

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING
HOSPICE CARE AT HOME

Registered Charity 1162586

Shipston Town Council Annual Town Meeting

All residents are invited to attend the

**Annual Town Meeting
on 28th April at 7pm**

at the 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

All community groups are invited to submit annual reports for inclusion in the meeting booklet. Please email submissions to clerk@shipstononline.org by 3rd April 2020



STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



In England in 1987, a teenager from an Asian family learns to live his life, understand his family and find his own voice through the music of American rock star Bruce Springsteen.

Certificate 12A – Comedy Drama

**SHIPSTON HIGH SCHOOL,
FRIDAY 13th March, 2020 at 7.00pm**

Advance Tickets £4.00 or £4.50 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.