



My journey (so far) to become an on-call Firefighter by Tony Hill

Well, who would have thought it? Of all the activities that I have taken part in throughout my life I think I may have saved the most fulfilling role till last as (hopefully) an On-call Firefighter!

A casual conversation with my hairdresser Claire in Shipston (who is the partner of "T", one of the crew members at Shipston Fire Station) made me aware how desperate the Fire & Rescue Service here in Shipston was for crew members. This certainly made me curious so that very Tuesday evening in October, which was drill night, I made my way to Shipston Fire Station. There I met Chris Townsend (Watch Commander), Sian (Crew Manager) together with the rest of the crew, Steve (who incredibly is also a Whole-time Firefighter in Kent!) Jack, Warren and of course "T" (Tristan).



How welcome they made me feel! It was immediately obvious to me that here was a very keen, professional, and enthusiastic squad that meets every Tuesday evening for 2-3 hours of theory and/or drill in the performance of certain simulated emergency scenarios. These have included, in the time that I have been going along on Tuesday evenings as an observer, search of a building and rescue of casualties reported (in which I played the role of the casualty in order to give it some authenticity) wearing Breathing Apparatus and blindfolded, rescue of a casualty from height using lines and ladders, accessing the third floor of the purpose-built drill tower by ladder with hose-line wearing breathing apparatus, swift water rescue simulation, setting up of a makeshift dam using a tarpaulin and a ladder framework to simulate an open source of water, where mains water is not available, and pumping from there to the fire appliance or firefighting branch (hose nozzle) via a hose-line using a light portable pump and setting up of a hazardous chemicals protective clothing and treatment station. Next week I shall be observing how the crew deal with a trapped driver in one of the donated car wrecks stored in the drill yard. This will involve use of the hydraulic "jaws of life" which cuts through steel like a knife through butter.

I have been asked to muck in on several occasions and, under supervision wearing PPE, I have run out hose-line and rolled up the hose after use and tried on a breathing apparatus set, to get a feel of what it would be like in the role.

My learning curve is vertical, but I am soaking up information about firefighting like a sponge and I have been encouraged to ask questions of the team who have been only too pleased to impart their knowledge and experiences. I am beginning to slowly grasp the Firefighters technical language and use of the many acronyms in the Service.

Of course, there are however certain tests to pass before one can become a Firefighter. These are both physical strength tests and written tests involving standard numeracy and demonstration of understanding information provided. For me these take place in March of this year. This is the challenge I face since I do not have age on my side! Regardless, it has really given me a goal to aim at and what better reason to get me back in the gym three times a week knowing that one day I could possibly be involved collaboratively in saving a life!

I am certainly working hard to give it my best shot to pass the tests and hopefully to proudly take my place alongside "T" and the crew at Shipston Fire Station, call sign FS34 Papa 1. So how about joining me on this journey? Your Fire Station needs you!

Warwickshire County Council has welcomed news, released by the government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months, making it cheaper for residents to travel by bus

The scheme means that bus passengers in Warwickshire will only pay a maximum of £2 for a single bus journey, regardless of the distance travelled. The Government has committed £75million of further investment to extend the scheme, previously running until the end of March, to continue until 30 June 2023. A further £80million has been confirmed to protect vital bus services people rely on for work, education, medical appointments and shopping.

In Warwickshire, the following operators are signed up to the scheme:

- Stagecoach
- Arriva
- National Express Coventry
- National Express West Midlands
- Pulhams
- A&M Group - Flexibus (Service 9 only)
- IndieGo PLUS Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)



Mayor's column

Hello Shipston,

I heard some good news this week. The food bank has become a community interest company (CIC). This puts it on a proper independent footing. I've not been for a while but when I did go, I was made to feel very welcome. I'm very glad that we have this resource in Shipston and am very grateful to all the volunteers who give up their time to make it happen.

I did get time to go to the warm hub at the scout hut last week. It was really good to meet all the fire fighters that came, with their engine. We were able to suggest some groups that might be interested in a visit to talk about fire safety so look out for them around and about in Shipston in the future.

I noticed this week that the days are getting longer again. I also saw the beautiful display of daffodils outside New Clark House and along the road by the car park. This is due to the hard work of the Shipston in bloom volunteers. When I see daffodils out in bloom I know spring is on the way. I'm very much looking forward to spring this year with warmer, longer days.

I hope to see many of you in church for the civic service on Sunday 12th March at 10.00am. We've had to postpone Shipston's Got Talent for a bit but are hoping to do it next year.

Cllr. Marianne Westwood
My pronouns are she/her

Mayor, Shipston Town Council



Shipston Town Council Notification of Tenders

The Town Council is inviting submissions for the following work:

1. Writing, editing and production of the Shipston Forum.
2. Grounds maintenance of the cemetery.
3. Grounds maintenance of the town.
4. Cleansing for the town.

Companies or individuals wishing to tender should submit their expressions of interest no later than 31st March 2023.

For further details please contact the Town Clerk.

Telephone: 01608 662180

Email: clerk@shipstononline.org

March Update on Cornmill Meadows



Following a meeting of volunteers who responded to the January Forum plea for help, a date was fixed to plant whips along the southern boundary of Cornmill Meadows under the direction of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Further volunteers came forward after the February appeal, and we are very grateful for all the offers of help we have received.

News from Shipston Town Council's February meeting

Coronation celebrations

St Edmund's church will be hosting a screening of the service on 6th May and the Town Council will apply for a road closure of the high street to allow for Big Lunch festivities on 7th May.

Civic Service

The Town Mayor's Civic Service will take place on Sunday 12th March.

Police Service update

PC Sid Hammond provided an update on resources and recent activity in the town and surrounding area. One of the two PCSO postings is vacant following the permanent redeployment of an officer to Stratford. Mental health issues are consuming a considerable amount of the team's time, especially with long response times for other services.

PCSO Robbie Williams, a Youth Engagement Officer for Warwickshire Police Service, recently visited the Youth Club to make young people aware of various issues, including county lines and knife crime. The session was very well received thanks to the interactive elements, including a VR experience.

Food Bank

Due to the increasing cost of living, there has been a rise in the number of people using the food bank, especially amongst people in work.

Heat loss initiative

Councillors discussed Brilles Parish Council's purchase of thermal cameras that have been loaned to village residents, allowing them to identify potential sources of heat loss from their properties. The Parish Council will be approached to seek advice on establishing a similar scheme for Shipston and whether they might permit their cameras to be used.

Roadworks and condition of pavements

A large number of recent roadwork projects have caused significant disruption in the town, especially due to traffic control measures. Contractors have not always restored roadways and pavements to satisfactory condition. Warwickshire County Council Highways has said they will investigate and seek remediation once the current tranche of planned works has been completed.

Warm Hubs

The warm hubs are being well used – some offer a basic warm environment, while others included facilitated activities.

Medical Centre

Stratford District Council has allocated £1.4m of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to support the construction of a new Medical Centre as part of the Health and Wellbeing Hub.

Ellen Badger Hospital

Councillors were disappointed that a visit from the Chair of the Integrated Care Board had been cancelled. The bed review has not yet concluded, with the suggestion that it has been delayed due to shifts in government policy.

Shipston Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Additional activity sessions are in the process of being set up. Once the Health and Wellbeing Hub has been constructed, it is hoped that it will host many of these sessions.

Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG)

The Environment Agency is being pursued regarding residual Community Infrastructure Levy funds held by them for the purpose of flood remediation in the River Stour catchment area. Councillors approved funding for the movement of timber and upgrades to the SAFAG website.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

A comprehensive response to the Issues and Options consultation is being prepared by Phil Sykes, who has been supporting the Planning Committee.

Cornmill Meadows

More than 25 people had responded to an advert calling for volunteers to assist with the planting of whips. Councillors have been invited to meet with geography students at the High School who have expressed an interest in supporting the project.

Tablets

Councillors approved the purchase of several Amazon Fire tablets for use on Council business.

Working group restructuring

Councillors approved the merger of the Environmental Working Group and Shipston Area Flood Action Working Groups, and the merger of the General Purposes Working Group and the Communications Working Group. The Staffing Working Group will consider whether lay persons could be recruited to serve on working groups to offer specific expertise and allow them to contribute to town life without committing to serving as a Town Councillor.



Locally nesting, this bird is a female green woodpecker. The green woodpecker is the largest of the 3 woodpeckers that breed in Britain. It is green on its upper body with a paler belly and red on the top of its head. They eat ants and use their strong beak to dig into ant colonies and eat the residents. Look out for them in your gardens or where the grass is shortish, where they will dig for ants.

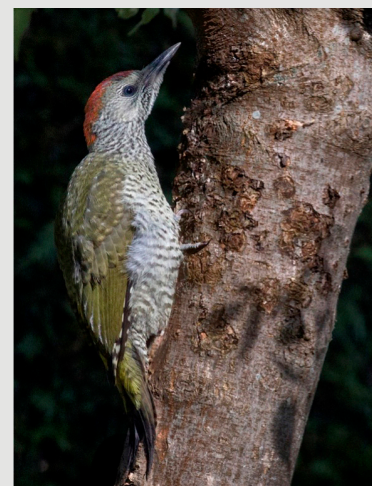


Photo courtesy of Ian Bailey

Regular Events

Monday

Seated Exercise Class:

10am Rainbow Fields and 11am Townsend Hall

IT Help!:

10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:

6:50pm for a 7pm start.

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

Tuesday

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

Wednesday

Seated Tai Chi:

9.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Standing Tai Chi:

10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Dementia Friendly Café:

10.30am-12.30pm, Shipston Lodge

Indoor Curling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

Thursday

Shipston Winter Warm Hub:

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

Story stomp: 10am, Shipston Library

Scrabble Club: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library

Stour Singers:

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

Friday

Pilates for Complete Beginners:

9.30am Townsend Hall

Walks with a friendly group:

10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616

Shipston Stitchers:

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

Board Games Social Afternoon:

Fortnightly 2pm Rainbow Fields

Saturday

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

What's On Calendar : March 2023

- 1 **Shipston Widows:** Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- Shipston on Stour WI:** Auction. Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary on 01608 664519
- 4 **Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided.
- 7 **Shipston Library Reading Group:** 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.
- 8 **Shipston and District Gardening Club** - Hardy Geraniums by Julie Ritchie. 7.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact Tony Mitchell 01608 666933
- 9 **The Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch:** Committee Meeting, location TBC. If you would like to know more, become a Committee member or a member of the Branch call or message the Branch Secretary Alex Black on 07789 968733 or email alblack32@hotmail.com
- 10 **Lions Cinema:** Mrs Harris goes to Paris - see ad on page 11
- 14 **Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN):** Ellen Badger update. Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, 10am for free refreshments, 10.30am start. SCAN is free to attend and all are welcome. Contact Marie Darwen 01789 260 108 or marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk
Shipston Flower Club presents The Flower Arranger - a demonstration by Jackie Page. Doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start at Shipston Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor entry £5.00. There will also be a raffle of demonstrated arrangements. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month
- 15 **Shipston Widows:** Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am - 12pm, The White Bear. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
Singing Down Memory Lane: 2pm-3.30pm, Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston. Refreshments provided. We may be able to help with transport. Contact Fay Ivens 01608 662133 see ad on page 16
- 16 **Tea & Tech:** Improve your digital skills - see ad on page 7
- 17 **Royal British Legion Social Evening - Shipston Branch:** Third Friday of each month We meet in the White Bear Inn from 7.30 pm onwards. Come and join us and share your stories with like-minded people. Contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com
Shipston Music Society: Arcus Trio - see ad on page 16
- 28 **Allotment Holders Meeting:** 7pm Council Chambers at New Clark House. Contact Diane Neath, Assistant to Town Clerk 01608 662180 or email assistant@shipstononline.org see ad on page 7
Shipston U3A: Open Day - see ad on page 7
- 29 **Shipston and District Literary Society:** Marie Corelli by Dr Bob Bearman. Meetings are held at the Halford Bridge Inn at Halford, 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5. Contact Helen Marshall 07582 903212
- 30 **Local Quaker Meeting for Worship:** St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat
Tea & Tech: Improve your digital skills - see ad on page 7
- 31 **Townsend Hall Concert:** Tom "Spats" Langham's Hot Fingers - see ad on page 11

Shipston-On-Stour Women's Institute

There was an excellent turnout for the February meeting of Shipston Women's Institute despite it being a cold, raw evening. The attendees were rewarded by a stimulating presentation given on behalf of The Friendship Project for Children.



The Friendship Project was established in the UK in 1986 with the primary aim of helping children in need of extra support. It describes itself as an 'early intervention service'. It was started in the USA and had proved very successful.

The aim of the Project is to provide children in the age range 6-16, 'Younger Friends', with an 'Older Friend', who will provide support and guidance to develop the child's confidence and self-esteem. The Project operates throughout Warwickshire and all children are referred through the Warwickshire County Council Children's services.

There are many reasons why a child needs special support – they can be carers, physical or mental disability in the family can mean a child is deprived of their parents' time, some have lost a parent and some children have no opportunity to go out and have fun. Providing an individual 'Older Friend' to take an interest in them alone and support them can ease many problems. The child is given the opportunity to do ordinary things like cooking, building dens, trips on the river, cinema trips, museums, which their often harassed parents cannot do however much they would like to. The ethic is one of being an extra aunt or uncle or grandparent. However, the decision to be an Older Friend is not one to be taken lightly – it is a huge undertaking which involves the well-being of a vulnerable child and potentially can last many years. But when listening to presentations by two OFs, one sensed how much they enjoyed friendship with their Younger Friend. As the saying goes "It is the giver who gains".

After the tea break the meeting continued. Suggestions were called for regarding how to spend excess funds. There had been a coffee morning in The George and another will be arranged soon. A Group Meeting (several WI branches getting together) is scheduled for 18th April in Shipston.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 1st March at 7pm in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. An auctioneer will be giving a talk and members are invited to bring along objects (small) for him to value.

Shipston Proms

First of all, a huge thank you to Dave Allsopp at Thirst Edition for raising £1000 towards the costs of the Proms through his regular Thursday Quiz Nights. We are very grateful for his generosity. [photo 2]



In January, we added four more members to our committee, Jane Morgan, Pauline Morley, Christine Russel and Sue Bains. A warm welcome to them all and we look forward to working together to produce our usual packed 2 week programme of music in June. Something to look forward to during these stone-cold winter months.

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys have been booked as the headliner for the Final Night but we are still finalising the other two bands. This year we are trying to keep it more local to keep the costs down. Like with everything, we have to keep an eye on finance. We are in the process of setting up a Go Fund Me page to help the Proms' finances this year and going forward. Last year's Shipston Proms fortnight cost just shy of £30,000, so it is no mean feat what we put on! We are so massively grateful to everyone that sponsors us, buys raffle tickets, or donates in our buckets during the fortnight, but last year was big year financially for us and it seemed a good idea to raise money before the Proms even starts.

Details will be on the Shipston Notice Board Facebook page soon, or on our own Shipston Proms Facebook page as well as in this Forum next month.

We will be looking for sponsors too, and this year we are introducing two new tiers of sponsorship, the Platinum and Diamond packages. If any businesses or individuals are interested, please get in touch, your support really makes a difference.



Finally, something new for 2023. We will be running a T-shirt competition and the winner will be offered free tickets to an event of their choice. We will be looking for the most interesting location or situation in which our Proms T-shirt has been worn. One entry so far comes all the way from Cuba, where Ricardo in Cienfuegos was delighted to model and accept one of our T-shirts. The fame of Shipston Proms is now global!! Please send photos to shipstonproms@gmail.com. The winner will be announced on Friday June 2nd. Our contact details, as always are www.shipston.org or find us on our Facebook page.



Some of the Shipston Proms committee receiving a cheque from David Allsopp at Thirst Edition for £1000 for the Shipston Proms - So we have - Haydn Ward, Susan Perry, Josie Kemp and David Allsopp handing over the cheque to Charlotte Caines the Shipston Proms Chair.

2023 Shipston Proms dates 17th -1st July

Clubs, Societies and Charities

Spiderman comes to Shipston Probus!



Paul Carpenter has kept spiders since the age of five and spent the last two decades seeking out spiders in tropical rainforest zones throughout the world, notably the famous tarantula species which most Probus members would go to great lengths to avoid!

The king baboon spider is rusty brown to orange in colour, indigenous to the shrublands and grasslands of east Africa, and often uses vegetation as a protective cover for its burrow. This spider doesn't build webs but creates a layer of silk at the entrance of its burrow to sense its prey's presence through the vibrations produced by the silk.

The tarantula's bite is generally not fatal to humans, but other dangers await the intrepid spider-seeking adventurer, not least flooded river crossings, elephant herds, and killer bees. Preparation for an expedition is vital: maps, anti-biotics, Imodium tablets, chlorine tablets, dental first aid kits, even a florescent bag for night work as roads do not have lighting. Local driving standards can be a worry; frequent vehicle accidents are left on the roadside as a warning to others. Humans unfortunately lack the spider's ability to regrow lost body parts! In Ghana, the webcasting spider specialises in throwing a web over its victim, but of more concern is the constant threat of motoring 'fines' from the local police!

Despite the difficulties, rewards are many. Paul has travelled the world experiencing some of its most famous natural attractions such as the Ngorongoro Crater and Victoria Falls together with rarely visited parts including the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe, home to the pancake slug, tree frogs and the world's largest weaver bird. On these islands Paul and his colleagues were able to update the classification of the spider population and had the great thrill of finding a species hitherto unknown to science.

Probus members thanked Paul for a lavishly illustrated and riveting talk before retiring to the reassuring safety of the arachnid free Sports and Social Club bar followed by a good lunch!

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

Down Memory Lane

(for people with memory loss and their carers)

If you enjoy singing the old favourites...then a warm welcome awaits you at Rainbow Fields on Wednesday 15th March at 2pm.

This month we will be joined by Andrew on guitar.

Come and enjoy a nice cup of tea or coffee with shortbread biscuits!

For further information please contact Fay Ivens on 01608 662133

From Fab Feb to Marvellous March

Lots of great things were on at the hall in February! Everyone that made the Treasure Island



pantomime staged by the Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society had a great time; Cotswold Events abboholics was a sell out; The Lions put on the wonderful film "Emily" on their film night; and, at the time of writing, we're doing a roaring trade in tickets for our Tenement Jazz Band booking.

In March, watch out for The Lions film night on the 10th, our Traditional Jazz event with Tom "Spats" Langham's Hot Fingers on the 31st, and squeaking into April, Cotswold Events with their 80's night. "Spats" was sell-out last time we had him and his band at the hall, so don't miss out on a fabulous night of music - tickets are £10, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, where you can bag your own table and seating, or from Clarke Electrical Services in town.

In other news, maintenance of the hall continues with the servery and the hallway getting a lovely painting spruce up, and hopefully you caught our "Did you know..." social media post about the hall - so many different kinds of events we can support with the spaces and facilities we have available. We would love to discuss your event aspirations with you, so please Contact Us: info@townsendhall.com, 07514704057, or fill in the booking enquiry form on our website: www.townsendhall.co.uk. You can also follow us on Facebook to be kept informed of upcoming offers, events and classes.

Take a look at our website for more and get ahead of the game by checking out what's happening in April. Teaser for you: we think you're really going to want to get tickets in the bag for the event we've got booked in for the 21st April!

Warm Hubs

Mondays: 10am-12pm Shipston Library

Tuesdays: 2-4pm, Methodist Church, New Street

Wednesdays: 11am-4pm, St Edmunds Church

Thursdays: 9am-1pm, Shipston Scout Hut

Fridays: 1.30pm-4pm, Rainbow Fields

Sundays: 11am-4pm, St Edmund's Church

Local businesses, faced with a skills shortage, are finding these gaps being filled through an innovative scheme that offers Ukrainian refugees the opportunity for employment

Warwickshire Skills Hub offers those from Ukraine now settling here the warmest of welcomes and, through the Warwickshire Ukrainian Employability Programme, access to opportunities to build a career and livelihood in the county.

The objective of the scheme is to provide direct access to jobs that local employers have shaped, in conjunction with the Skills Hub's Fair Chance Employment Programme. This has proven to be an effective way to build inclusive jobs locally and boost engagement between Ukrainian jobseekers and employers who are tackling significant skills shortages.

For more information about the scheme please visit: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/ukraine-2/information-ukrainians/6>

The war in Ukraine is ongoing, and Ukrainian families are still in need. If you are considering of becoming a sponsor, please contact our Homes for Ukraine support team by phone: 0800 408 1447 or by email: ukraine@warwickshire.gov.uk



Calling all allotment holders

The annual meeting of
Shipston-on-Stour Allotment Holders
will be held at 7.00pm
on Tuesday 28th March 2023

in the Council Chambers at New Clark House

All allotment holders welcome.



Any queries, please contact
Diane Neath, Assistant to Town Clerk
on 01608 662180 or
email: assistant@shipstononline.org

Tea & Tech

Want to improve
your digital skills?

Get support with
your queries and
boost your confidence
with technology in
a friendly and
informal setting.

Bring your own device
and connect with
others at our Tea &
Tech drop-in session!



Shipston Winter Warm Hub

The Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4EW

Thursday 16th March and Thursday 30th March

10:00 - 12:00





Rotary
Club of Shipston on Stour

Easter Event for Children

A FUN MORNING
WITH LOTS TO DO

Tea, coffee
and cake for
mums, dads
and grannies



EASTER COMPETITIONS

- Cuckoo in the Nest
- Easter Bonnet Parade
- Ice an Easter Biscuit

Judged by the Town Mayor

Easter Prizes
for the winners



**EASTER FUN AT THE
SCOUT HUT
SATURDAY 8TH
APRIL
10.00 - 12 noon**



MEET SHIPSTON AREA U3A!

(And find a new interest?)

**Interest Group Displays,
Meet Group leaders & members,
Join or renew membership**









TUESDAY 28 MARCH, 2023

TOWNSEND HALL, SHEEP STREET, SHIPSTON

10 AM TO 2 PM
FREE TEA AND COFFEE

Hope to see you there!

Shipston Rotary

This year's santa collections promised the "big return" after two difficult years. This time weather was the problem.

Despite the difficulties a big Thank You to all who donated so generously, more than £1017 was raised for Rotary charities and good causes.

And Thank You to Unity Izuzu, Crossroads Tredington, for the loan of Santa's sleigh and to Colin Haywood for constructing the sleigh.



Shipston Rotary Draw - 100 Club

Please see the results of the 19th 100 Club draw for January 2023. The draw was made at 'The Lazy Pug', January 25th and drawn by Robin.

First Prize £57.50 - Winner No.58 (again)

Second Prize £34.50 - Winner No.46

Third Prize £23.00 - Winner No.72

Young Carers Award

There are 48 young carers in Shipston, children who care for close relatives.

Tracy from Warwickshire Young Carers gave an excellent talk to Shipston Rotary recently about the work of the charity. She explained how important it was for young carers to have trips out and to attend social events. This brightens their lives and gives them something to look forward to.

Pictured is Rotary President John Gimblett presenting a cheque for £1,071 to Tracy.

The funds were raised through sponsoring a light on the Tree of Life in memory of a loved one. Also pictured is Rotarian Avryl Thompson, Tree of Life organiser.



"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! ..."

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! ..."

But NO, I'm not thinking about Christmas, now behind us. It's SPRING that has to be the most exciting season. New life is bursting out everywhere after the cold darkness of Winter (and yes, we did have a Winter!). Now the warming sun and lengthening days bring colour and hope for the future.

I've loved watching the snowdrops and crocuses popping up ~ always the first on the scene ~ and the birds putting on their smartest outfits



ready for the coming days of courtship and parenthood. Pond life is spawning and hedgehogs waking up hungry from their long sleep.

Were you able to take part in the RSPB's **Big Garden Birdwatch** at the end of January? If you did, you're probably still watching the birds

as they begin to pair up and seek out nesting sites. Do help them if you can by providing suitably located nest boxes. (By the way, don't forget to keep your bird feeders clean, to help prevent the spread of avian diseases.)

One of the most exciting aspects of Spring is, surely, the prospect of seeing our Summer visitors again and for me, of course, it's the return of the swifts to our colony. We're putting up more nest boxes for them this year, which will add to the excitement of my **'Swift Evening Walks'** during Swift Awareness Week at the beginning of July.

More good news about swifts is the creation of a logo (kindly designed by **Emily Cannon**) for our supporters' group – **Shipston Action for Swifts**.

And even more exciting ... Several SAS members have sponsored nest bricks to be retrofitted into the eastern wall of The Old Brewery on Stratford Road. This is a fabulous community project to help restore Shipston's beleaguered swift population and improve the biodiversity of the area. Many thanks to Sam Painting, owner of The Old Brewery and experts from Action for Swifts for their enthusiastic help with the project. Do get in touch if you'd like to know more about the project or how you could be involved.



Sam Painting owner of The Old Brewery receives 11 nest bricks from Henry Kenner of Action for Swifts

Jacey Jackson

01608 661288 jacey@2jays.co.uk





WRITTEN AND
ILLUSTRATED
BY NIKKI TURNER

Hello and a warm welcome to the March edition of the Little Shipstonians. It's that time of year when we start to see all the new life emerging in our gardens. With the weather warming up it feels like there's an exciting flurry of activity amongst the plants and the animals that surround us. You might see grown ups starting to dig their gardens or allotments, getting the soil ready for planting seeds or seedlings. They might plan to grow flowers or herbs, vegetables or fruits. There are lots of ways to grow plants, and one clever way is to use a wigwam, like the one pictured below. This is really good if you are growing things that like to climb, like sweet peas, green beans and garden peas, for example. To make one, you will need at least 6 garden canes (all the same size), some twine or string, a small garden trowel and a willing adult! Then just follow the instructions below and choose the plants you would like to sow or grow! On the other page is a cute allotment plan which you can use to draw in and colour some of the plants you would like to pretend to grow. Some examples are given to help you, or you can make up your own. We hope you enjoy these spring time activities!

build A GARDEN Wigwam

1. Take your 6 canes and push each one into the soil, roughly 30cm apart, in a circular shape.

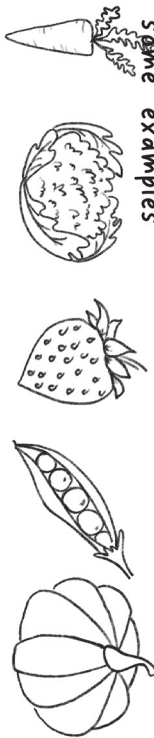
2. With help, tie together all 6 canes at the top. You should now have a shape similar to the picture opposite.

3. Now plant one seedling per cane. Be patient and watch them grow, carefully securing the stems as they start to get taller.

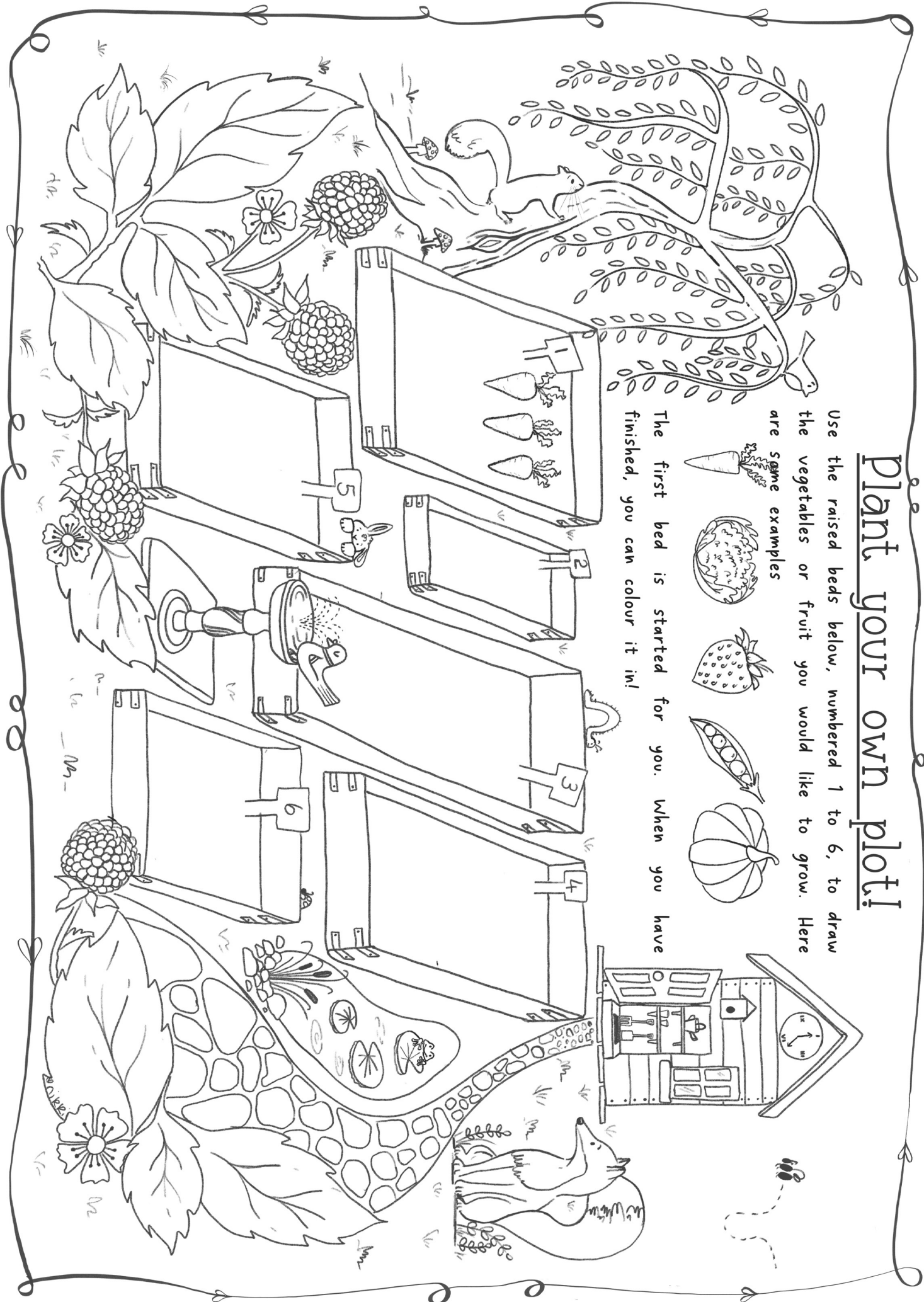


Plant your own plot!

Use the raised beds below, numbered 1 to 6, to draw the vegetables or fruit you would like to grow. Here are some examples



The first bed is started for you. When you have finished, you can colour it in!



FREE ACTIVITIES IN SHIPSTON ON STOUR



Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge

New health & wellbeing opportunities brought to you by the Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership in partnership with Sport England and L&Q

SEATED EXERCISE CLASS	Mondays	Rainbow Fields	10am
SEATED EXERCISE CLASS	Mondays	Townsend Hall	11am
STRICTLY FITSTEPS FAB	Tuesdays	Townsend Hall	10am
SEATED TAI CHI	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	9:30am
STANDING TAI CHI	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	10:30am
INDOOR CURLING	Wednesdays	Townsend Hall	2pm
PILATES FOR COMPLETE BEGINNERS	Fridays	Townsend Hall	9:30am

For more information or to book a place please contact Vanessa Compton on 01608 663320 or e-mail admin@shwp.org.uk



52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. CV36 4AE

Charity No. 522997

Tom "Spats" Langham's Hot Fingers



Spats Langham - Banjo & Guitar

Danny Blyth - Clarinet, Guitar, Harmonica

Malcom Sked - Sousaphone & Double Bass

Emily Campbell - Vocals

Friday 31st March 2023

Doors Open 19:00 for 20:00

Fully Licensed Bar

Tickets £10 from:

- Clarke Electrical Services, 01608-661394, or
- For online booking, visit ticketsource.co.uk or townsendhall.co.uk, or
- Email / Phone David: ds@pinnegards.com; 07511-694733

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



Set in 1950s London, a woman falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress and decides she must have one of her own.

TOWNSEND HALL

FRIDAY 10th March, 2023 at 7.30pm

Advance Tickets £5.00 or pay on the door.

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

Covid restrictions – please hand sanitise on arrival.

Drinks and raffle.

SHIPSTON WINTER WARM HUB

Every Thursday, 9am-1pm, starting 20th Oct
The Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston CV36 4EW



- Come along, keep warm & cosy & have a good chat
- Relax with free refreshments, board games, books & wifi
- Plus energy saving tips & advice



Everyone's welcome!

This event is jointly run in partnership by



Community project supported by

Cadent
Your Gas Network

Shipston Primary School

Shipston On Stour Primary School



YOUNG VOICES

At the end of January, 57 children from Shipston Primary School excitedly travelled to the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham to take part in Young Voices. This experience is not simply a children's choir concert; Young Voices is the largest children's choir concert in the world.

The Young Voices experience helps children's self-belief, self-motivation, confidence, and ability to communicate as part of a team - which is invaluable! Add to this the numerous health benefits of singing in rehearsals, including breathing exercises to focus the mind - it's no wonder that Shipston Primary participate in Young Voices year after year!

The children were extremely excited with their seats - right at the front behind the band - probably the best seats the school has ever had in over 12 years of participation. During the afternoon, Shipston pupils rehearsed with conductor David Lawrence, the band and special guests in preparation to perform alongside 6500 other children as a single choir to a capacity audience of family and friends. Special guest Anna Phoebe was an incredible violinist and the children loved singing 'Proud' with Heather Small, the voice of M People. 'Rockstar' seems to have been the favourite song of the setlist.

The concert is the culmination of a lot of hard work from our children and teachers. Many thanks to Mrs. Cartledge, Mrs. Slatter, Mrs. Molson and Mrs. Warbrick for running rehearsal clubs in school and to Miss. Brogan for organising the tickets, transport and children's T-shirts. We couldn't have attended without other staff support: in addition, Mrs. Proud, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Chadwick and Mrs. Collins accompanied the children. Thank you.

Young Voices raises money for Place2Be, a children's mental health charity. Young Voices are recording all concerts where children sing the backing vocals to 'Proud', which will be released as a single by Heather Small, and all proceeds will go to the charity.

Listen to the Young Voices music for 2023 on Spotify.

SCIENCE CIRCUITS

Alongside their Frozen Kingdoms geography topic, Year 6 children are learning about electrical circuits, their components and how they function. They are learning to recognise how the voltage of cells affects the output of a circuit and record circuits using standard

symbols. They will also be taught about programmable devices, sensors and monitoring. They combine their learning to design and make programmable home devices.

The recent science investigation in Year 6 involved measuring and recording the voltage in new and used batteries.



YEAR 2 FLOWER ART

The Year 2 Art companion project 'Flower Head' teaches children about the visual elements of flowers, including shape, texture, colour, pattern and form. They also explore various artistic methods, including drawing, printmaking and 3-D forms, using paper and clay.

Children in Kingfishers and Woodpeckers classes have recently designed a wax paper flower using food colouring to dye which they carefully printed onto filter paper. Then they folded them into a flower shape. Miss Burrows and Mrs. Slatter put all of them together to create beautiful bouquets of flowers.



ONLINE SAFETY WEEK

Our digital leaders led an assembly based on the Google form they sent out to the school. Below is their report:

On Tuesday 7th February, it was Safer Internet Day in the UK. Inspired by this, we created a survey to investigate our school's use of online facilities, especially online gaming, and figure out some advice for all of the children to stay safe online. We asked everybody from Year 1 to Year 6 to complete our survey and we received 242 responses altogether, so thank you very much to everyone who replied.

The first question we asked was "Do you play games online?" We found out that 75.6% of students, that's about three quarters, said that they did play online games, so we thought it was important to share a little about how to pick an appropriate game to play.

Out of everyone that said they do play games online, 72% of students said they play games at least three or four times a week. More than half of the children asked said that they would only play games online for an hour or less at a time. This is good, as playing video games for too long can be dangerous to your health and sometimes lead to addiction. However, it was quite concerning to see that almost 20% of you are playing online games for over 2 hours at a time. Over two-thirds of the children that completed our survey said that they take regular breaks when playing games online. This is reassuring as it is recommended that when playing online, you take a 15-20 minute break every half an hour, where you move away from your screen, move your body and do something different. This is to help prevent eye and muscle strain, to prevent your brain from becoming too



tired and to minimise frustration. Taking regular breaks can also improve your game performance!

When we asked the children whether they knew what a PEGI rating was we were enormously surprised to find out that only half of them said that they knew. Because of this, we thought it was important to tell them all so that they could be aware of the games that are appropriate for them.

PEGI ratings were introduced in 2003 and quickly became the main system of age ratings for video games across Europe. They sort games into 5 different age levels to show who the game is appropriate for and these are printed prominently on the box so that the buyer can easily see if the game is what they are looking for. These age ratings are 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18. It is important to note that these ratings have nothing to do with how difficult the game is, it is just about what age it is appropriate for.

Age 3 games are suitable for everyone and have no violence or frightening scenes. For example FIFA and the Mario party games. Age 7 games may have some frightening and some very mild violence. Games in this range include Minecraft and Roblox. Age 12 games have a higher level of violence to fantasy style characters, may have some mildly inappropriate scenes and may contain some mild bad language. For example, Fortnite and the Five Nights at Freddy's games. Age 16 games have violence that is much more realistic, a higher level of bad language and inappropriate scenes including drinking alcohol and drugs. These include games like Halo and the Spider-man games. Age 18 games are only for adults and have a high level of violence, bad language and other inappropriate elements. Games in this level include Grand Theft Auto and most of the Call of Duty games.

PEGI also put the eight content descriptors on the games to show the type of content that is included. We asked what age rated games the children had played in the past and were happy

to see that most of the games were either 3s or 7s. However, there were 65 children who had played 12s, 17 who had played 16s and 8 who had been playing 18s. The games that the children said they played most were Roblox and Minecraft (both PEGI 7), FIFA (PEGI 3) and Fortnite (PEGI 12). We are slightly concerned that Fortnite came out as one of the most popular games. This game has a PEGI rating of 12 and no one in this school is old enough to play this game.

We are pleased to see that over half of the children feel safe online all of the time. However, we would like to help ensure that even more children feel safe online all of the time. These are some of the things that children can do to help them feel safe online:

- Select games with a PEGI rating that matches their age.
- Only chat to people they know when playing games online.
- Never share their personal information when playing games online.
- If they are ever playing online and begin to feel unsafe, make sure they speak to a trusted adult.

THE STOUR FEDERATION MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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

Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher

Shipston High School

Shipston High School has been very busy through the start of 2023. Year 11 students are focussed on their forthcoming examinations; students are studying hard in lessons, as well as attending extra-curricular sessions to boost their knowledge and skills. The atmosphere in the year group is ambitious and determined, and we all wish them well at this time.

The school have also enjoyed recent charity activity in support of Heart Heroes. Heart Heroes is a fantastic charity that provide emotional and physical support to children living with heart conditions. They rely solely on donations from supporters and grant providers. We became aware of Heart Heroes through a school family who know and value the charity, and we were delighted to see so many children wearing red clothing in support of the charity and to help raise funds; it certainly brought some colour to a February day. Interested readers can find out more at www.heartheroes.com.uk.

Student attendance at Shipston High School is impressive and shows the commitment of students and families to the importance of being in school. In celebration of good attendance, many students recently enjoyed an energetic musical performance by rising star Jason Allen. It was great to see so many students joining in and enjoying the concert as reward for their hard work and school attendance. Live music is a real joy, and I look forward to more in the future, both from guests and from Shipston High School student performers.

This time of year sees many students completing creative coursework projects for their GCSEs, and it is truly impressive to view the quality of imagination and work displayed by our young people. Art, music, drama, textiles, food, and product design are all highly creative subjects that enable our students to express their ideas and skills. We really value creative subjects at the school, and all students should be very proud of the work they produce.

During March families will be informed of their school place allocation by Warwickshire admission service, and we look forward to meeting and welcoming our new intake later in the year, usually in the summer before arriving as new students in September.

Shipston High School is once again significantly over-subscribed, with more families seeking a year 7 place than places available. The school are very aware of our desire and responsibility to provide good school places to local families, and so we have approached the local authority school admissions team to extend our offer this year. We have negotiated to offer places to families within our priority area who otherwise may have missed out due to the overwhelming popularity of the school. Place numbers necessarily must have limits due to the physical size of the site, but we are delighted to extend the places available for this year.

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher



District Council update

The most fantastic news! SDC has agreed to use more than half the annual CIL budget for health services in Shipston.

£1.4m! £900k for the Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub and £500k towards the Health Centre.

We Shipstonites sometimes complain about being forgotten – not this year! I am so glad to see that our health infrastructure is being invested in. Local healthcare provided as close to (or even at) home gives us all better outcomes. Really importantly, the Shipston Health and Wellbeing Partnership and all its health and wellbeing work will have a home too. So from this hub to the various village halls around Shipston we will be able to work to keep us in good health for longer! Professionals will come to us at the hub and much more treatment will be available than ever before.

As many of you will have noticed, groundwork, ducting and rebuilding of walls has already started at the Ellen Badger. I have asked SWFT for a walkabout on the site (politician in high vis and hard hat alert!) and I am sure we will have lots of piccies of what is going on.

There will also be work going on outside the hospital – a bit of road alteration. Take this as a heads up that there may be more traffic lights.....

I know there are a lot of works at the moment – Severn Trent and broadband – unfortunately there will be a bit of disruption (If you, your home or your business are being adversely affected by current works – please get in touch). Many people are monitoring the pavements and roads at the moment...really dangerous ones are being repaired but the overall repairs will be looked at as a whole and fixed. I won't let it rest!

Jo Barker, District Councillor, Shipston South

07748 968712 | jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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



County Council update

I've just had a look back at all the highways stuff that has gone on this year!

I've done dropped kerbs (not personally – but sometimes it might be quicker) – more to come, filled a lot of potholes, done a few junctions – though not all are working (never fear we are sorting!), yellow lines (where necessary), traffic lightssome are even permanent.

There are new bus stops going in on the London Road (from s106 funding) – with living rooves funded from my highways budget. Hopefully they will be a stopping off point for the bees coming out of Cornmill Meadow.

I have requested another crossing on Darlingscote Road. Hopefully this will make crossing from the Campden Road estates towards the primary school easier and safer. I am also waiting to see if we can find a route for a footpath through as well – any suggestions gratefully received!

Then, of course I will be monitoring pavement mending. Send me your photos please!

After so much response about the circulation in the High Street I will be putting some highways budget into that and hopefully creating a few more parking spaces. That's next financial year though! Council tax has increased – but - I want to make sure that Shipston gets more of what it wants and more bang for our hard earned buck.

Thursday mornings – back on at the George. Come and have a cuppa!

Jo Barker, she/her

County Councillor, Shipston

07748 968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk



Shipston Medical Centre

Medical Centre t: 01608 661845

The practice is pleased to welcome Caitlin LaHive to the team. Caitlin is an experienced Physician's Associate, who has previously been working in practices in Birmingham. Physician Associates (PAs) are relatively new roles in healthcare and are medically trained at degree level. They are generalist healthcare professionals, who work alongside doctors and provide medical care as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team. Physician Associates are practitioners working with a dedicated medical supervisor, but are able to work autonomously with appropriate support. Amongst other things, PAs can take histories, undertake examinations, make differential diagnoses, formulate management plans, request, and interpret tests.

Roles such as Physician Associates and Advanced Care Practitioners are extremely valuable in helping us care for our patients. Nationally there is a shortage of GPs, and our practice has been affected by this, as we have yet been unable to recruit a replacement GP when Dr Morgan retired in November and also have not been able to recruit maternity cover for Dr Shipley. In order to continue to provide the best service we can we have supplemented our service with locums, and continue to do so, but we cannot always source locums for the days that we would wish to have them.

The British Medical Association recommend that a safe level of consulting for a GP is 25 patients each day. We routinely offer a significantly higher level than this. However, sadly, demand often outstrips capacity and in order to ensure we can offer a safe service we do need to put a cap on the level of consultations each day. It is important that our clinicians can make appropriate and considered decisions for each patient they see.

Increasingly we are finding that the demand for our services each day is higher than our capacity. Using additional roles such as Physician Associates and Advanced Care Practitioners helps increase the capacity we have to care for patients, and we appreciate the support our patients give us and that these roles have been embraced by many. We appreciate it is frustrating not to be able to speak to a GP as quickly as one might wish, and we share the frustration. Sadly the level of NHS funding received by general practice is around 8% compared to 2005/06 when it was closer to 10%. In that time, we are seeing more patients and our aging population often have more complex issues.



Shipston Medical Centre

Your Town Councillors


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Tony Booth

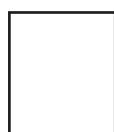
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Hilary Kelly

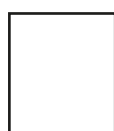
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Sarah Beckett

e: sarah.beckett@shipstontowncouncil.org


Vacancy

Vacancy

To find out more about becoming a councillor, contact the Town Clerk


Vacancy

Useful Contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
- Out of hours	111
Shipston Forum	01295 788655
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood 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	01295 257193

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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

Town Clerk

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Something exciting to share?

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

To request posts on the council's Facebook and Twitter feeds, contact Peter Cox.

Forum copy deadline:
Second Monday of the month

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

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council.

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

Singing DOWN MEMORY LANE

2023

Singing for people with memory problems
and their carers



2.00 – 3.30pm

The Lounge, Rainbow Fields, Shipston CV36 4BU

Refreshments provided

(Transport may be available, contact VASA 01789 262889 option 1 (or transport@vasa.org.uk) at least 3 working days in advance to book)

Contact: Fay Ivens 01608 662133 or Pat Hutton 01608 664648

Wednesday 18 th January	Wednesday 15 th February	Wednesday 15 th March	Wednesday 19 th April
Wednesday 17 th May	Wednesday 21 st June	Wednesday 19 th July	Wednesday 16 th August
Wednesday 20 th September	Wednesday 18 th October	Wednesday 15 th November	Wednesday 20 th December

Facebook page : <https://www.facebook.com/downmemorylanesinging>

Shipston On Stour – a Dementia Friendly Community



SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LOCAL PLAN ISSUES AND OPTIONS CONSULTATION

Have your say on the future of South Warwickshire



Who?	Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are working jointly to create a new Local Plan for South Warwickshire.
What?	A Local Plan sets out the planning policies that the councils will use to assess applications for development as well as identifying (allocating) sites to meet our future development needs for housing and job growth
Where?	Online at www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/issuesandoptions or in libraries and both Council offices.
When?	Until Monday 6 March 2023.
Why?	We want to hear your views on how South Warwickshire develops up to 2050. The new Local Plan will affect the way we live, work, visit and play in the area, and it's important to have your say!

SOME OF THE TOPICS WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON

Meeting South Warwickshire's Sustainable Development Needs 	Delivering South Warwickshire's Economic Needs 	Delivering Homes that meet the needs of all our communities 	A Climate Resilient and Net Zero Carbon South Warwickshire
A Well Designed and Beautiful South Warwickshire 	A Healthy, Safe and Inclusive South Warwickshire 	A Well Connected South Warwickshire 	A Biodiverse and Environmentally Resilient South Warwickshire



Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)
www.shipstonmusic.org.uk

Supported By



Friday 17th March, 7.30pm
Famington Farm
Willington CV36 5AX

By kind permission of Mr David Hodges

Tickets £12.50

Available from Clarkes, Shipston

Free entry to Shipston Music
Society members

Information: ph 01608 662514

New members welcome



The Arcus Trio – cello, violin, piano

Programme

Schubert: Piano Trio No.1 in B-flat Major, D.898

J. Brahms: Piano Trio No.1 in B Major, Op. 8