



## 'Our Shining Light' in tribute to the frontline

After hearing everyone participating in 'Clap for Carers', the team at Clearsound Productions began to wonder if they could do something similar with light. Could they shine beacons over Shipston in a shimmering display, demonstrating their support for people working on the frontline? A test at their unit on Friday 27th March, with checks to ensure visibility from across the town, sparked a wave of support on social media, encouraging them to do a 40 minute light show that Sunday called 'Our Shining Light'.

The following weekend, never keen to do the same show twice, the team

positioned a couple of lights at five staff members' houses, taking the time to programme the lights and set cues so that they would work in sequence. Again the show was well received and the town couldn't wait to see what Clearsound Productions would do next weekend but unfortunately the moon conspired to make a show impractical, giving the team time to formulate their most ambitious plan yet.

It was now becoming apparent that this was likely to be the last show due to the spring nights getting lighter, so the team resolved to put on the biggest show they could. Clearsound Productions recruited fifty production companies up and down the UK to co-ordinate a light show synchronised with music from a live streamed guest DJ on Facebook. In



Image courtesy of Ann Donaldson

Shipston they deployed moving head lights and extra flood lights to create a dazzling array of 85 lights to shine into the night sky, creating an illuminated extravaganza that could be seen for miles around and received rave reviews on social media.

Please be aware that social distancing was observed at all stages of the project.



Image courtesy of Charlie Hands

## Uncovering the story of Shipston's WW1 heroes

A group of Shipston residents are keeping busy during the coronavirus pandemic by researching the men listed on the Shipston WW1 Roll of Honour in St Edmunds Church. The researchers, led by Richard Willis, are now collating information about the 267 men listed on the Roll of Honour, following Richard's appeal for support on the Shipston Noticeboard Facebook page.

They also plan on exploring the story of the women who worked at the Voluntary Aid Detachment in Shipston which was led by Dr and Mrs Stein of Park House on Church Street.

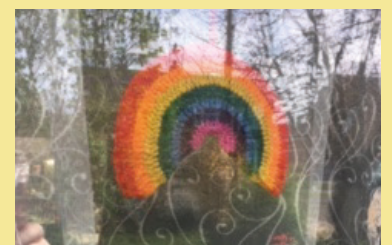
Once the research has been compiled the team will share this trove of information with the new Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society.

Mike Wells, a member of the Shipston branch of the Royal British Legion, has already conducted extensive research into Shipston's fallen soldiers but the group hope to fill a gap in the details about those that returned. Their efforts so far have identified both born and bred Shipston residents, as well as those that had only began to call the town their home shortly before the war. Many of the men who returned from the battlefield went on to live long and happy lives in Shipston with their families and still have descendants here today.

They are currently focusing on sourcing military records for the 267 men and identifying where they lived in Shipston and the surrounding villages. The group would be pleased to hear if you have any information about family who fought in WW1 that they could include in their research, or if you'd like to volunteer to help the project. Richard can be contacted by email: [r.m.willis@btinternet.com](mailto:r.m.willis@btinternet.com)

## Rainbows appear across Shipston

Dozens of rainbows have sprung up in windows across Shipston, making it impossible to stroll through the town without encountering one of these beautiful homemade beacons of hope. These bright and inspiring images crafted by local children cannot help but put a smile on your face during these challenging times.



## Mayor's column



The council have been keen to ensure that we're able to continue delivering important services through this crisis period and acted early to ensure that this was the case. We met as a council, briefly, and observing social distancing, to put in place an authority to the Town Clerk to act without in-person voting by councillors. This means that the council could continue to operate without the need for face-to-face meetings. The council is following current guidelines and where necessary are meeting virtually to provide clear guidance to the Clerk. We're continuing to deliver everything we can and would like to thank the residents of Shipston for continuing to observe the guidelines so well.

We're working in harmony with other towns, the District Council, and the County Council, as well as Warwickshire Association of Local Councils to navigate the multitude of challenges raised by this virus, and to ensure we can continue as best we can whilst diligently following government advice. We are working on details of how the Town Council tackles other issues, not least the election of a new Town Mayor in May, and it's our intention to continue with this process – albeit in a very different manner to usual.

I want to thank all of the people in Shipston who are working in frontline roles to help not just our healthcare system, but also the vital services we need to survive. The volunteers helping our vulnerable, our shop workers, bin collectors, emergency electricians and plumbers; Those working in the care sector, and perhaps most importantly our Nurses, Doctors, and those supporting them. Thank you from the bottom of my heart – we'd be lost without you.

On the 2nd April I launched a Shipston in Need Appeal to raise funds for the most vulnerable in Shipston. This has already raised over £2000 and this will soon be distributing funds, firstly to the Shipston Food Bank to support their vital work. Anyone who would like to make a donation to this can do so via <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Shipston-in-need/>

The best thing that we all can do to protect each other, and our vital health services, is to stay at home. As time goes on it will become harder to achieve, but as the spread of the virus continues it will only become more critical to do so.

I look forward to the conclusion of this period and hope to see Shipston re-emerge as a community stronger than ever.

**Dan Scobie**

## Support for businesses impacted by coronavirus

Stratford District Council and Warwickshire County Council have launched web portals with links to the latest information about support programmes across the county, including those being administered by Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP) Growth Hub and business rate schemes.

<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/health-care/support-for-business.cfm>

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirusbusinesssupport>

The latest information on central government support programmes for businesses and the self-employed can be found on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

## Where to go for advice and updates about coronavirus

To stay up to date, visit trusted websites and social media channels operated by Central Government, Public Health England and the NHS. Beware of false information being spread about the virus on social media.

### Government Guidance

The government regularly updates guidance on what to do to keep you and others safe. These guides also include details of support programmes for personal finance, education, housing and other areas.

[www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

### NHS Information

The NHS website offers advice on how to stop the spread of coronavirus and important information about how to look after your mental wellbeing.

[www.NHS.uk/coronavirus](http://www.NHS.uk/coronavirus)

## STAY HOME, PROTECT THE NHS, SAVE LIVES

## Local businesses continue to trade despite tough conditions

The current restrictions have forced many cherished local businesses to close their doors, however many of them are seizing the opportunity to continue serving customers in different ways. Across the town we've seen numerous pubs

convert to takeaway outlets and many other businesses are now offering delivery services for a wide range of products.

In recent years Totally Locally have done a great job of highlighting the incredible array of businesses in Shipston and how by frequenting them we can create jobs and prosperity for the wider community. These enterprises, run by our friends and neighbours, are now facing an unprecedented challenge and need our support more than ever. Visit the Totally Locally Facebook page for updates about how local shops are serving customers and how you can make purchases: <https://www.facebook.com/totallylocallyshipston/>





Hospice at home  
in Shipston, Wellesbourne  
and Kineton

Dear Patients, Families, Supporters and Shipston Home Nursing staff

Stay safe and stay distant – that's the advice for now and the foreseeable future.

I know this is a very worrying time for patients, staff and carers but please be assured the service to our patients will continue for as long as we have the staff able to provide it.

Currently, we have nursing staff working from home on coordination duty, contacting patients by phone, we're still accepting new patient referrals and visiting and treating patients who need care at home. We are having to prioritise our face to face care as the safety of patients and our staff is paramount.

We have also temporarily vacated our office premises and all support staff are working from home; home working is a scenario we had planned for but never thought we would need to action especially not for a pandemic.

Fundraising events have obviously been cancelled or postponed and it is highly likely the Circus Ball in June will be postponed. We will formally announce the details of any postponement, when we have consulted with our supplier partners and our insurers.

When this crisis resolves, the Charity will rebuild and continue to develop its services, but to do that we will need to return to regular fundraising with renewed enthusiasm to replenish the loss of income we are suffering at this time.

Our focus for the immediate future is maintaining the service to our patients, enabling them to stay at home if that is their wish, and supporting staff to deliver essential care in very unusual and stressful circumstances.

Please reserve telephone calls for urgent clinical or patient related queries however queries regarding the service can be directed by email to [andrew.revell@shipstohomenursing.co.uk](mailto:andrew.revell@shipstohomenursing.co.uk)

We will obviously update you if there are any significant changes to our service.

Very Best Wishes



## Library fines suspended for lockdown and virtual services expanded

Libraries across Warwickshire have been closed to the public and mobile library services suspended since 23rd March. The library service has announced that anyone who has books on loan should keep these at home for the duration of the current lockdown period and no fines will be imposed at any point during lockdown.

The virtual library service remains accessible 24/7, including information resources, reading-related activities and e-books and audio book loans. In addition to books and publications users can also discover a curated collection of materials to assist with home learning for all ages.

Additional online resources added for the duration of the closure include free access to the Naxos Music Library which is a repository of classical music, a collection of articles, podcasts and videos from BBC History Extra, and the uLibrary audio book collection that supplements those already on offer through BorrowBox.

Anyone interested in using these services needs a Warwickshire library ticket and new members can register for free online for quick and easy access. Visit <https://library.warwickshire.gov.uk/> to find out how to access all these digital services.

**'It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome.'**

*William James*

**'Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud'**

*Maya Angelou*

**'If I cannot do great things,  
I can do small things in a great way.'**

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

**'Keep smiling through, just like you always do,  
till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away.'**

*Vera Lynn*

## Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

### Spare a thought for exam year students

May and June are normally months of examinations for students in Year 11. This year has of course been affected by the coronavirus, and Year 11 will not be taking their exams as planned. This is a situation shared by all GCSE and A-Level students nationally and presents a challenge for them all.

When the cancellation of exams was announced in March, many students felt frustrated at not being able to show their knowledge in the exams they had worked so hard towards. Grades will be awarded via an alternative system but do spare a thought for these pupils in this most unusual year.

### Resilience and adaptability

I have been very impressed by all the High School students and their response to an extended school closure. Teachers have set work online, and students adapted well to this system. However, being together in school is the most effective and enjoyable route to learning, and I am sure that we will all value such apparently ordinary activities that little bit more after recent events.

### Record breaking applications for school

Looking ahead, Shipston High School is celebrating another record-breaking year of applications to join the school in September. We are delighted that our new Year 7 students have received their offers for the Autumn, and we look forward to meeting them soon to help them prepare to join the Shipston High School community.

2020 will be the fifth year in succession where the number of students attending our school has grown. This growth creates a vibrant energy in the school, and it is gratifying to enable increasing numbers of families to benefit from the good quality

education on offer here.

Shipston High School is increasingly popular, with enquiries to join us from some distance outside the priority area. I am delighted that the perception of the school is so positive and thank every member of the school community for contributing to this strong reputation.

### Open evening and 2021 applications

Families with children currently in Year 5 will already be thinking about applications for secondary school in the Autumn. Shipston High School plans to host an Open

Evening on Thursday 1st October from 6.00-8.00 pm and all interested parents and students are welcome to attend.

We are also planning to hold an Open Morning on Wednesday 1st July from 9.00-10.30 a.m. for parents to see the school in action. As this is a school day with students engaged in study, we do have to manage the day appropriately. Anyone wishing to book a place should telephone the school 01608 661833 or e-mail [apunt@shipstonhigh.co.uk](mailto:apunt@shipstonhigh.co.uk).

Obviously, we may have to make changes to these events due to government guidance on movement and social distancing, but we will keep prospective parents informed of any such changes through the school website [www.shipstonhigh.co.uk](http://www.shipstonhigh.co.uk).



# Shipston Community Food Bank



Don't forget



The Food Bank is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays, 10-12 at St Edmunds Church, Church Street, Shipston on Stour.



Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated to the Food Bank. At present we are in need of Tea, coffee, sugar and UHT milk. Food items can be left inside the porch at St Edmunds Church anytime during the day.

## Stargazing opportunities in the clear night sky

By Peter A Cox

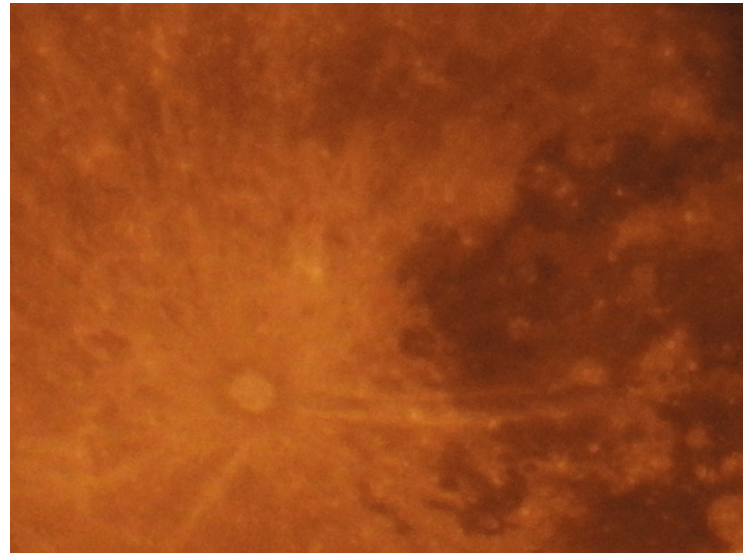
Something that all astrologers, professional and amateur, always hope for is clear skies. This desire is most widely shared when the national media highlight significant events, such as the Supermoon that we had at the beginning of April (8th), with the actual peak being at 3.55am. You must be a professional or very dedicated amateur astrologer to view it at its peak, always hoping for clear skies. But if like myself you are happy to view it at any time, it's just as wonderful on the nights leading up to it, or the nights after. I managed to capture a few photographs on the nights preceding the peak and then struck lucky with a break in the thin clouds on the night allowing me to capture some further images.



I would class myself as a somewhat lazy stargazer and only turn my head to the night sky when something of note is supposed to be happening. We have been blessed with some clear nights of late and the milder weather has allowed us to stay outside

later and turn our heads towards the night sky. Unfortunately, increasing urbanisation has created light pollution posing a challenge for serious astronomers and other night sky viewers.

In addition to the celestial bodies, quite a few man-made sights track over Shipston's night skies. So, it's worth looking upward



if you can find a "Dark Sky" area to view from. These are usually in the countryside, where you can't trigger your own or your next door neighbours security lights, totally negating your view of the night sky! Escaping to the countryside is difficult under the present coronavirus restrictions of course.

We can look forward to another full moon (Flower Moon) on 7th May and will have Venus and all the other celestial bodies to gaze at. The ISS makes a return towards the end of May and the more recent Starlink chain of satellites can often be spotted going across the night sky, from west to east. While looking up, you may also see many other man-made satellites crossing the star-studded night sky and perhaps even a comet (Atlas C/2019Y4). Happy viewing!

## Shipston Local Hero: Cecil Sandford, Double World Motorcycle Champion

Shipston is proud to count amongst its residents one of Britain's greatest motorcycle racers. Between 1952 and 1957, Cecil Sandford won two World Championships and two Isle of Man TT Races.

Cecil was born in Blockley in 1928 and early in his life he worked as a carpenter. After showing great ability in motorcycle scrambling and grasstrack racing he moved on to road racing, using a MV Velocette supplied to him by his future father-in-law, Shipston motorcycle dealer Arthur Taylor.

In 1950, Cecil rode for the factory AJS Team before joining the Italian MV Agusta Team in 1952, where he immediately won the Isle of Man TT and the World Championship for 125 cc motorcycles. This was the first ever World Championship to be won by MV Agusta, which went on to become the most successful manufacturer in Motorcycle Grand Prix racing.

Cecil repeated his TT and World Championship double in 1957 on a 250cc Mondial, retiring from the sport at the end of that year.

Following his retirement, Cecil joined Arthur Taylor's motorcycle business, marrying his daughter Pat. He also returned to his original craft of carpentry, making beautiful furniture.

Pat and Cecil continue to live in Shipston.



*Cecil riding a 350 cc DKW motorcycle at Imola, Italy in 1956*



Who can grow the

# Tallest

Sunflower?

Judging in August

Shipston on Stour Rotary  
Club

To enter contact Fay Ivens  
01608 662133



## Incredible outpouring of support for Shipston SOS initiative

At the time of writing (9th April) it has been just 3 weeks since Nicky created the Facebook group and a fortnight after the first flyers were delivered. Despite our group being less than a month old it has been very busy!

Since the launch of Shipston SOS we have received over 200 phone calls and we have 90 people registered to receive support; 80 of whom we are actively helping with shopping, dog walking or just the occasional friendly phone call. Approximately 115 people in Shipston have already registered to provide help and every day people are getting in touch to offer their time.

We are always needing more help, so please register your support if you can get out and about and do a bit of extra shopping. From the outset we hoped some lovely relationships would be forged from this, and it is great to see this happening already, with people meeting people on their street for the first time and helping each other out.

The group has been in contact with Orbit, the Shipston Food Bank, Guide Dogs UK and Age UK about Shipston residents and their wellbeing. In addition, we are closely working with Shipston Care on a couple of cases, helping with shopping so they can use their valuable time to care rather than shop!

The store manager and pharmacists from Boots have been so helpful in letting us collect prescriptions, and we now have a wonderful system in place with them. One of their staff is playing a vital role and is one of our volunteers too.

Alison Packer has created a system where we can get cash to people who have run out and unable to go out to get any more on their own. This system means we are still able to continue to shop for and help them.

Nicky and I would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to all those who have volunteered and helped so far. We would also like to thank Catherine Martin, Alison Packer & Dan Scobie for helping to set up the initial logistics and Alison for her continuing involvement. Also, thank you to the Shipston Rotary Club for funding the printing of our flyers.

Stay safe everyone!

Charlotte & Nicky

**If you require help or would like to volunteer to help others, please contact Shipston SOS**

01608 495010

shipstonsos@gmail.com

## Cyber Cycling

Like so many other groups and organisations in the town, Shipston Cycling Club has been forced to cancel its real-life gatherings amid the Coronavirus pandemic. However, that hasn't stopped some members from riding in their garages, sheds or spare rooms! Using a bike mounted on a turbo trainer and a virtual cycling app, people can ride in fantasy worlds or on routes based on real-world landscapes (for example London and Yorkshire).

There are a range of different apps available including Zwift, Trainer

Road and Bkool that can facilitate virtual group rides and training sessions to build fitness. A review of all the available options has been posted on the club's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ShipstonCycling/> with advice on setting up a turbo trainer to follow soon.

The club would love to hear from anyone interested in joining us for a virtual ride.

## Lions pledge support to Shipston Food Bank

The Stour Valley Lions Club has received a share of a £100,000 coronavirus crisis fund, launched by the Lions Clubs Foundation of the British Isles. Lions Clubs across the British Isles are able to deploy this money to support local communities during the COVID-19 crisis, and Stour Valley Lions will initially use their grant support, the Shipston Food Bank at this critical time.

This demonstrates how when a humanitarian crisis strikes, the Lions Clubs Foundation of the British Isles works with Lions members, who are ordinary people actively working at the heart of their communities, to provide invaluable support.

David Squires, President of the Stour Valley Lions Club, said: "This is a significant sum of money that we are putting to good use straightaway. This Coronavirus pandemic is hurting lots of local people in lots of different ways - just because we are all social distancing doesn't stop us from caring - we are doing what we can, and this cash injection will help us do more."

## U3A still functioning in self-isolation mode

While waiting to learn when it's safe for us to resume life out of doors again, the Shipston Area U3A is still functioning, albeit on a restricted basis!



The Mindfulness and Current Affairs interest groups are still conducting weekly meetings using Zoom, and French Conversation and Art Appreciation are maintaining contact via email.

If any Forum reader can think of an interest which could be shared with others using online channels during this trying time, do please leave a message for the Interest Groups Coordinator on <https://u3asites.org.uk/shipston-on-stour/> contact and we'll see what we can do.

Our 7th "birthday party" and AGM, which was scheduled for June, will take place later in the year, once the need to maintain social distancing is removed. We've provisionally booked the Townsend Hall for Tuesday 13th October. Fingers crossed!



Paul Spalding hits "the road" in his garage





## The show must go on... next year!

Following the disappointing news of the cancellation of this year's Proms, we are delighted to announce that the bands booked for 2020 have agreed to perform at the 2021 Proms. The top spot at the Last Night of the Proms will still be The RPJ Band, an engaging energetic foot stomping festival rock group. The band is founded and fronted by Rick Parfitt Junior, the Rock 'n' Roll son of the late Rick Parfitt of the legendary Status Quo.



The RPJ Band will be supported on the Final Night by the exciting and versatile Peterborough based Dawn Till Dusk who perform solid classic rock covers from AC/DC to ZZ Top.

A less rocky, but another must-see band on the night are The Shapes. With a rousing three-piece brass sound with politically perceptive lyrics, this Oxford based band inspired the city's popular Nightshift magazine to wonder 'if perhaps The Shapes ran the world it would be a far better place.'

The main aim of all these bands is to have everyone up and dancing so they all fit perfectly into the final night.

The Launch Night also remains unchanged with Uncle Funk and the Boogie Wonderband playing all the greatest 70's disco hits wall to wall, while local DJ Toppers Disco, will be providing all the dance hits from the 80's. Fancy dress is being encouraged and there will be a prize for the flashiest disco themed outfit of the night.

Building on the dance theme, on the middle Friday of the Proms fortnight the DJ's at The Shipston Proms Dance Party in Townsend Hall will bring Ibiza sound and a laser light show to Shipston.

So, 2021 may be one of the most organised Proms in the history of the festival, with all planning done by the summer of 2020!

We are hopeful that we may be able to organise a 'One Night of the Shipston Proms' later on this year, so keep following us on Facebook or in The Shipston Forum for more details.

The Shipston Proms committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who had pledged sponsorship this year and to everyone who has supported the Proms over the last 21 years. We hope to see you next year.

## Shipston Rotarian raises funds for homeless

At the end of February Shipston Rotarian Nigel Willis spent a night in a cardboard box in a Birmingham car park, as part of a group of nearly 100 people, sponsored to raise funds for the homeless and rough sleepers... it was the night of storm Jorge.



Nigel, said: "How does anyone manage to sleep rough in conditions like that, I certainly couldn't? It is now more important than ever that safe accommodation is found for rough sleepers."

This was the third year that Nigel has joined the Birmingham City Mission's sponsored Sleepout. As in previous years, the Mayor of Birmingham attended and made an excellent speech.

Nigel raised a total of £932 and sends his thanks to everyone who contributed.



*At the 2019 Sleepout, the Mayor placed their chains of office on Nigel*

## Stay at Home Street Party

It was inevitable that the much anticipated celebrations and commemorations planned by the Shipston Royal British Legion for the 75th anniversary of VE Day would be cancelled due to the coronavirus restrictions. However, 8th May remains a public holiday this year so the school children and many workers will still have a days holiday, and everyone will still have a day to fill with nowhere to go. To brighten our spirits the Legion are encouraging the whole of Shipston to hold 'Stay at Home Street Parties'.

Decorate your homes with red, white and blue! Fly the Union Flag! If you have a front garden, sit in it with a picnic! Perhaps place a wartime photo of a relative or a piece of WWII memorabilia in a window. You could dress up in 40's clothes and put your by now very long hair into a victory roll?

As we are creating a new tradition, celebrating our front line workers in this Coronavirus battle with the Thursday evening applause, let us also remember those who made their sacrifice and those who were the victorious survivors in our last great conflict 75 years ago. The Shipston Royal British Legion very much hope that the planned concert on 25th July and a combined VE and VJ day weekend on the 15th and 16th August will still be able to go ahead.

**We would of course ask everyone to respect social distancing advice, to stay on their own property and to be sensible with noise levels considering that there may be shift workers trying to get much needed sleep.**



## District Council Update

Tragically, some people have lost their jobs and for some their whole way of life. I am sure some of you are feeling lost and desperate. A lot of the normal services are much harder to access at the moment - but please remember I am here - I can signpost you to help and advice and be a virtual shoulder to cry on.



Many of you know that I am in the Stratford-upon-Avon District Council Cabinet and my People Portfolio includes responsibility for health, wellbeing, revenues and benefits. I find myself at the centre of a lot of change - as the council staff administer benefits and a lot more payments out in business rate grants, hardship funding, and every other new form of support introduced by the government. I am hugely proud of our officers and I can say that without the agile actions of local government people would not be as well supported as they are. It may not be perfect - but it is responsive.

On the point of Orbit rents - please do let them know if you are struggling. They have told me that they will help signpost you to further help. Or I can do the same!

The Shipston Food Bank stands ready to support anyone in need. We are open 10am - 12 noon every Tuesday and Saturday.

Obviously, I am not doing surgeries at the moment - but please do phone or email.

07748968712

jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

**Jo Barker, District Councillor, Shipston South**

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

## County Council update

I've sometimes written about a day in the life of a councillor - but I never expected to be writing under the current lockdown - where my days are even less typical.

A BIG THANK YOU SHIPSTON for doing what the Government asked us to do. Staying at home and following the instructions on social distancing is the most important thing we can do at the moment.

What an amazing outpouring of neighbourliness we've seen across our area! Shipston and the villages have stepped up to work together and help each other. Personally, I have volunteered to do shopping and stay in touch with some of those who are shielded. It's a real privilege to be able to help and become a small part of their lives. I didn't know many of these people before, but I hope we will remain firm friends!

The Shielding Hub is now set up - if you need help because you are isolating and vulnerable, then please ring the helpline on 0800 4081447. Please don't let pride or sensitivity stop you asking for help.

We will come out of lockdown and life will return to a new normal. We will be able to hug each other again, get back to work or start a new job and socialise. Having paused our lives for a while I hope we may emerge kinder, living at a slower pace and still making time for each other.

**Jo Barker, County Councillor**

## Shipston Medical Centre

**Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845**

### Thank you and keep up your efforts

All of us at Shipston Medical Centre would like to thank you for the social distancing measures and regular hand washing that you have adopted. This has reduced the levels of coronavirus infection in our area. At the time of writing we are seeing fewer cases than other parts of the West Midlands. We would also like to thank everyone for the support, kindness and appreciation shown to us whilst we continue to operate a service.



### We are still here to help

Whilst we have started to deliver care in a different way, in order to keep our patients and team as safe as possible, we would like to encourage you to seek our help when needed. We are seeing fewer cases of potential symptoms of cancer, heart problems, stroke, blood in stool and other potentially serious problems. We are worried that people who should be seeking help are not. Please get in touch if you have any of the symptoms listed above or anything else medical that is worrying you.

### We've changed how we deliver care

In order to keep you safe we have moved to consulting by telephone and video as much as possible. If you need to be seen face to face we will see you in a different building to that where patients with coronavirus symptoms are being seen. People who have been advised to shield by the government will be visited at home.

## Pandemic Poetry

**by Jean Jones**

Corona, corona, corona, corona,  
I want to complain but "don't be a moaner"  
And if you need a lot of good friends  
Until this.....pandemic ends,  
Then more and more it seems to me  
That Shipston is the place to be.



## Your Town Councillors


**Dan Scobie, Mayor**

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e: dan.scobie@shipstontowncouncil.org


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

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e: sheelagh.saunders@shipstontowncouncil.org


**Ronnie Murphy**

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e: c/o clerk@shipstononline.org


**Paul Tesh**
*Planning Committee Chair*

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e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org


**John Dinnie**

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**Jo Barker**

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e: jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk (for town and district matters)


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e: c/o clerk@shipstononline.org


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**Ian Cooper**
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**Peter Cowley**

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

**Shipston-on-Stour Town Council**

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


**Alison Packer, Town Clerk**

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 new editor (from May), Chris Rowland on 01295 788655 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

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

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council. It is currently not being delivered to households due to the suspension of the Midweek newspaper. Copies are available for collection from both Co-Ops and Turners.

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

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations

# STAY AT HOME STREET PARTY!

Friday 8th May 2020

DECORATE YOUR HOUSE RED, WHITE  
AND BLUE AND ENJOY A PICNIC  
IN YOUR FRONT GARDEN

*Commemorate the end of WW2 by celebrating with your family,  
friends and neighbours!*

