

# Shipston Forum

May 2023

**Coronation of King Charles III - 6th May 2023** 

# SHIPSTON ON STOUR





# CELEBRATES THE KING'S CORONATION



FREE face painting for children with 'Sixth Moon Art' A right royal 'knees up' with Shipston Town Band (1-2pm) & a popular Shipston DJ

Glorious food from 'Little Vins', 'Nice Bites' & 'Glen's Ice Cream Van'

Celebrate this special day with family, friends & our local community.
We hope to see you there!





# Rubbish people - May litter pick

As our usual litter pick (1st Saturday of the month) falls on Coronation Day, we decided not to litter pick that day, but to



do a longer session on the following Monday, designated as the Big Help Out, or Volunteering Day, when we will meet at New Clark House as usual, but at 2pm and do 2 hours (or a bit more if you want) then come back for a lovely cup of tea or coffee.

If you have black sacks I suggest you take them as I think small bags will fill up too quickly. We have the option to go a bit further afield to the edge of town rather than the centre. Everyone welcome.

# **Plot to Plate**

It's not too late to get your tickets for 'Plot to Plate'on Friday 19th May Townsend Hall 6-30 to 8-30

Be there at the Food Fair

Join us for a celebration of local food producers with demonstrations to raise funds for the Shipston Food Bank. Loyd Grosman will be introducing the producers and their products. It's all in memory of Val Owen who loved and supported everything Shipston.

### Tickets £10

You can buy tickets from Clarkes in Shipston or phone/email-Cath 07971 182729 | cath.armstrong@yahoo.co.uk or Gill 07778 848431 | gillyr@buzzinternet.co.uk

All proceeds will go to Shipston Food Bank





### Mayor's column



Hello Shipston.

The annual Town meeting last week was a very positive and pleasant meeting. We had reports from all the working groups as usual but we also had reports from lots of other groups in the town too. We heard from the historical society with news that the museum will be opening on Saturdays and Sundays in the very near future. I spent some time volunteering in the museum pre covid. It was fascinating to see some of the exhibits that Mike Ashley and David Burge had collected over the years. I had some very interesting conversations with people who had lived and worked here for many more years than I have. It was also good to connect people who have recently moved to Shipston with some of its past.

We are fast approaching May and what will be probably the last event I will do as Mayor other than hand over to the new Mayor and deputy. I saw my mayoral year in with the Jubilee and I'll see it out with the coronation of King Charles III. I look forward to seeing many of you at the coronation lunch on Sunday 7th May.

It has been a real honour to serve Shipston both as a Town Councillor and as Mayor. I'm looking forward to contributing to the community in new and different ways in the future.

Cllr. Marianne Westwood My pronouns are she/her

Mayor, Shipston Town Council

### **Re-elected Councillors**

The current sitting Councillors who have been re-elected unopposed are: Sarah Beckett, John Dinnie, Tony Booth, Ian Cooper, Jo Barker, Paul Tesh, Zoltan Kovari, Gerry Kelly and Hilary Kelly.

Christopher Howarth and Brian Cooper have been newly elected to council unopposed.

### Shipston Rotary Stuart McLean – marathon man

Rotarian Stuart Mclean, age 76, was among about 7500 runners who completed the Brighton Marathon recently. Finishing in a time of 5hrs 9mins it was his first marathon. It was a good day for running and the hilly route provided plenty of sea views especially at the windmill on top of the white cliffs. He exceeded his fund raising target for Shipston Rotary charity account by raising over £600 in aid of local, national and international causes. Stuart is very grateful to all who supported and contributed to his efforts.

If you think Stuart has earned your support please go to

https://www.justgiving.com/ crowdfunding/stuart-mclean-the-runningrotarian



# Update on developing Ellen Badger Hospital by South Warwickshire UFT

South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust has been committed to developing the Ellen Badger Hospital site since 2018.

To kick start the development the League of Friends transferred a donation they received of £635,000 to enable the Trust to buy the land next to the hospital site. The purchase of this land has facilitated the development plans. The construction work is being funded by Trust capital money and £2.3million of national funding, which we obtained following a successful bid and a decision by the Trust to invest this in Shipston.

Since the proposals were initially discussed there have been several external factors that have contributed to changes in the design, plans and timescales. These include responding to and learning from Covid, funding within the wider health economy and increasing costs in the construction market.

Despite these challenges, the Trust is progressing with the plans and when complete there will be a range of services available on the site, with enhanced clinical spaces for hospital and community services.

The new hospital will offer a range of services, including:

- · Car park with space for mobile diagnostics
- · Health and Well-being Hub
- Shared spaces for Community Nursing and Health Visiting teams. There will be outpatients and treatment rooms for physiotherapy, specialist nurses and other health professionals

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

### **Young Homelessness**

Councillors discussed how awareness of 16-17-year-old homeless people is increasing due to recent cases in the town, and the challenges posed by the lack of government support for this age group. In addition to 'sofa surfers', there have been instances where people have slept in the church due to the lack of any other provision.

### **Emergency Responders**

The ambulance was severely damaged during a recent service and is out of action for the foreseeable future. Meeting attendees also congratulated Cllr Tony Booth on his ten years of service with the group.

### Stour Health and Well-being Partnership

Finance has been secured to allow for the warm hub to continue operating as a weekly community hub on Thursday mornings, offering a range of activities. The partnership is seeking funding from Sport England to allow for the continuation of activities launched under the banner of 'The Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge'.

### **Thermal Imaging Cameras**

Councillors approved the purchase of a pair of cameras identical to those acquired by Brailles Parish Council. These will be loaned to residents to allow them to identify heat loss from their properties, once the Environment Working Group has compiled policies and procedures for administering the scheme.

#### **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

The Council is awaiting the launch of the 'Preferred Options' consultation which is expected in Q3 2023.

### **Economic Development Strategy Consultation**

The Planning Committee has submitted a response to the Economic Development Strategy Consultation being conducted by Stratford-upon-Avon District Council.



### **Riverside Project**

Councillors are expecting a progress update from solicitors.

#### **Shipston Museum**

Shipston on Stour and District Local History Society will be submitting an operating and marketing plan for the museum for consideration by the Finance Working Group.

### **Shipston Enterprise Centre**

Councillors resolved to instruct Lodders to conduct a review of the master lease and accompanying sub-leases.

### **Standing Orders**

Councillors approved proposed changes to Standing Orders, which will come into effect at the next meeting. Revisions reflected changes made to the model Standing Orders to remove references to EU legislation that was no longer applicable and insert references to comparable UK law.

### **Risk Register**

The Finance Working Group has compiled a risk register for the Council. This 'living and breathing' document will be reviewed regularly and it is hoped that it will assist with audit processes.

### **Play Park Maintenance**

Repair work to Shipston's play park areas has recently been undertaken and completed within the Town Council's rolling maintenance programme.

 Existing building will initially provide the day hospital, outpatient clinics and physiotherapy services, with flexibility for other services to be included in the future

Clinical and operational teams at SWFT are currently looking at which medical specialties will run clinics from Ellen Badger Hospital. As an organisation, we will also use health data to identify the most needed services for the local community.

Demolition of the old hospital building is now complete and work with the main contractor will begin in May 2023, with completion anticipated in Summer 2024.

We recognise the rich history of the Ellen Badger Hospital, unfortunately though it was not viable to restore the original building due to its age, condition

and infrastructure meaning it would not meet future compliance regulations. We are retaining as much as possible and have done a detailed evaluation of all the historical artefacts which we will sensitively incorporate into the new build.

As part of this development, we are placing significant focus on sustainability. Therefore, where possible, we will be reusing and recycling materials and ensuring the building meets industry approved sustainability standards. This includes following BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) Excellent guidance. This is a recognised industry standard. We will also work towards reaching carbon net zero.



SWFT continues to work closely with Shipston Medical Centre and Coventry and Warwickshire's Integrated Care Board to progress the ambition of an integrated healthcare facility for the communities of Shipston and surrounding villages.

All parties are keen to explore all options to progress this and the construction work is being completed in such a way that integration with the Medical Centre in the future is possible.

For all up-to-date accurate information about the Ellen Badger Hospital development please visit: https://www.swft.nhs.uk/our-hospitals/ellen-badger-hospital-development-plans.

What's On Page 4

### **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 Community Warm Hub:**

Every Thursday 10am-12pm, The Scout Hut, New Street.

**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: May 2023

- Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.
- **3 Shipston Widows:** Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
  - Shipston on Stour WI: Laura Eaton Myton Hospice. Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary on 01608 664519
- 4 Wellbeing Walk in Nature: see ad on page 16
- 7 Coronation Big Lunch: see ad on page 1
- 8 Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 2pm. Equipment and refreshments provided.
- 9 Town Council Meeting
  - Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN): Public Transport with Warwickshire County Council Transport Operations & Stagecoach representatives. 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 A Journey With Flowers a small demonstration by Debbie Smith followed by the AGM. Tea and coffee served. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, Shipston Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor entry £5.00. There will be a raffle of demonstrated arrangements. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month.
- 10 Shipston and District Gardening Club: Toxic Trees, Poisonous Perennials and Wicked Weeds by Alison Foster. 7.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact Tony Mitchell 01608 666933
- 11 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
- 12 Lions Cinema: Matilda see ad on page 11
- **13 Stour Singers:** Handel's Messiah. 7.30pm, at St Edmund's Church Shipston see ad on page 7
- 15 Holiday at Home: see ad on page 11
- **17 Shipston Widows:** Join us for a friendly and informal get-together. 10.30am 12pm, The White Bear. For further information, contact Barbara Bean on 663230
  - **Singing Down Memory Lane:** 2pm-3.30pm, Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston. Refreshments provided. We may be able to help with transport. Contact Fay Ivens on 01608 662133 see ad on page 11
- 19 From Plot to Plate: Food Fair, 6.30pm 8.30pm. See ad on page 16 Shipston Music Society: Jazz59 Quintet see ad on page 7 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
- 21 Shipston Angling Club: Duck Race see ad on page 6
- 23 Shipston U3A: see ad on page 7
- **25** Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat
- 26 Townsend Hall: Tad Newton's Jazz Friends see ad on page 11

# My journey to become an on-call Firefighter by Tony Hill

On 8 March I sat the Written Tests at Henley-in-Arden Fire Station. There were two papers. Paper 1 was a test of numeracy skills based on several role-related scenarios and Paper 2 was based on understanding information. I am very pleased to report that my journey continues! The format of Paper 1 did however take me by surprise somewhat as it was not quite the format that was indicated in the recommended books on Firefighter Tests that I purchased. Feeding this fact back to Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service may result in examples of past test papers being

made available to future candidates prior to sitting of the tests. This would provide a beneficial insight into the type and format of the questions and also enable candidates to practise answering questions in a relatively speedy fashion since there is only 45 minutes to answer 30 multiplechoice questions divided equally between 5 role-related scenarios.

Passing the Written Tests enabled me to proceed in the process and take the role-related physical tests on 18 March at Kenilworth Fire Station. Having previously attended the Awareness Day there, I was well



prepared for what lay in store. Whilst I was quietly confident having put in the time at the gym, there was an aire of nervousness between the 12 candidates who had made it through so far. To progress in the process it is necessary to pass all six physical tests.

Of the six role-related tests, which I described in my previous article, the one that I thought could prove to be my nemesis was the confined space crawl in full fire-kit wearing a blackened out breathing apparatus mask. The rat-run is laid out in an old storage container and is on two levels and must be negotiated on hands and knees. Previously on Awareness Day I had some difficulty passing down through the hole in the floor to the lower level. I somehow exited the run feet first having dropped down the hole head first! However, on this occasion I managed to curl up in a tighter ball over the hole then push my legs down followed by my shoulders then helmet. To my relief I was facing the right way and crawled out in the correct fashion to be congratulated by the instructor, Matt. I was elated!

The equipment carry followed shortly after and I think because of the adrenaline rush I managed to knock 42 seconds off my previous time, achieved four weeks earlier. I gave it my all and I was spurred on over the course by fellow recruits and firefighter staff alike which helped.

When we had completed all the tests we were called into the office in our respective groups to learn of our results. The words, "I am pleased to say that you have all passed" filled me with pride as well as relief.

Passing the physical tests meant that I could progress to the informal "Interview" stage at Shipston Fire Station on 28 March. This was more of a discussion about my personal qualities and attributes together with relevant life experiences and how they relate to those attributes of a Firefighter. I felt the interview went well and so my next hurdle in this process will be a medical assessment and fitness test by the WF&RS doctor at the end of April. The fitness test is based on the Chester Treadmill Test. In the gym I usually start my workout with this so I should be ok on the day.

Meanwhile at Shipston Fire Station there is a concerted effort to attract new recruits and I am pleased to report that I have recently been joined on my journey to become an on-call Firefighter, by Hailey who has been warmly welcomed by the crew.

### **Townsend Hall on a Roll**

CHARITY No 522997

It's been two sell-outs back-to-



back for our Traditional Jazz events: Tenement Jazz Band, followed by Tom "Spats" Langham's Hot Fingers. It looks like the message is getting out there on just how good these events are! At the time of writing, tickets are going well for King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys in April, so maybe we'll achieve a hattrick!

All proceeds from our Traditional Jazz events go towards the long list of maintenance and improvements of the hall, so thank you for your support. Likewise, we love to see the hall being booked – our booking fees are very reasonable and they also go 100% back into the charity under which the hall operates (trustees of the hall give their time for free). Since last month we've had work completed to extend our storage facilities, we're progressing the replacement of an ageing gas heater for the main hall, and we're finalising an agreement for the purchase of a stage lift to provide 'access for all' to the stage. If you find yourself in Tesco's and get one of those discs for charity, think of us – every little counts.

We have a flexible facility for any occasion: Our main hall is 57FT by 46FT (excluding a large stage, also available), where 300 people can be accommodated in a theatre style layout and 200 people in a cabaret style layout, and our capacity is 400 people overall, useful for more standing style attendance for those dance-a-long music events - there'll be at least one of those from what we see of the Proms bookings this year, but more of that elsewhere! There's also a smaller hall 30FT by 26FT and a Servery area - all these can be booked together, or individually. There's a fully equipped kitchen, wifi, disabled access, and licensing to run a bar too! Many possibilities, e.g., weddings, recitals, plays, parties, concerts, pantomimes, meetings, bands, film nights (we have a screen, projector, and sound equipment), team building, clubs, exercise classes, etc. If that's sparked a booking idea, contact us: info@ townsendhall.com, 07514-704057.

On the Trad Jazz front, next up is Tad Newton's Jazz Friends performing 'Basin Street Blues to Harlem' on Friday May 26th. It's going to be another good one! I had to look this up, but maybe we can achieve a 'haul' of sell-outs? Apparently 2 = brace, 3 = hattrick, 4 = haul. Tickets are £10, available from www.ticketsource. co.uk/townsend-hall, where you can bag your own table and seating, or for general availability seating from Clarke Electrical Services in town.

There's loads more going on: take a look at our website: www.townsendhall.co.uk, and follow us on FaceBook and Twitter for more.

### **Shipston on Stour Women's Institute**

Ken Ingamells returned to Shipston to talk about The National Parks of Western USA and a fascinating talk it was. The National Parks of the West are nothing like the national parks of Great Britain. They are extremes of hot and cold, arid and inhospitable, vast and very beautiful. Their beauty is the result of aeons of time and weather eroding the rocks into incredible formations and exposing the varied colours of the rocks. It is this natural beauty which has drawn Ken back many times. Some of the National Parks were familiar because they have been used countless times in films - Ken's audience had mental visions of stagecoaches being chased by galloping horsemen. We were reminded several times that these wildernesses had, at one time, been home to Indian tribes. Monument Valley belongs to the Navejo nation, but unemployment and segregation has degraded the original inhabitants. Ken once employed an Indian guide who charged \$1 for 4-hours.

Ken pointed out that most Americans do not own a passport – their country is so vast that they tend to travel within it and see no need to visit the rest of the world. The National Parks are an obvious holiday destination. However, in some admission is strictly controlled because their condition is considered delicate – a limit of 12 persons only per day is not unusual. Although

arid, mighty rivers run through the parks. Their source is meltwater from the high peaks, some of which are permanently covered with snow. These rivers have cut through the rock creating INSPIRING WOMEN vast canyons of which the Grand Canyon is the most well known example. The majority of Ken's photographs were taken at dawn when the light is best and the skies clear – by 9am the blue cannot be seen as it is obscured by vapour trails from

aircraft criss-crossing the skies.

Bridget, the President, continued the meeting after tea-break. A Group Meeting (a meeting of several local WIs) is set for 18th April. An auctioneer will talk on silver and jewellery. Members are invited to bring items to be valued. A coffee morning is arranged in The George at 10am on 26th April. Pam Harrison told members about the show she is organising in St.Edmunds Church entitled Fashion Through the Ages from 17th-23rd April. A coach outing has been suggested for members using the remaining monies from the Centenary Celebration. Details to be announced later.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 3rd May, at 7pm in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, when Laura Eaton will be talking about the Myton Hospice. Visitors are always welcome.

### **Shipston Angling Club**

Shipston on Stour and District Angling Club is celebrating 70 years of Angling in and around the Shipston area. The history of the club goes back to 1953 when a group of local residents who were fishermen decided to form the Shipston on Stour and District Angling club and they met at Burley's Cafe in New Street, the president was W B Lea from Stratford, the Chairmen was Les Brain from Shipston, the treasurer was Gerald Hemmings from Shipston and Geoffrey Crump from Shipston was the secretary, on the Committee was Horace Box and Walter



Steel from Willington along with Jack Burley, Douglas Carpenter and Reginald Woodward.

Many local anglers have been involved and supported the club over the years and local farmers and landowners have supported the club from the start and we are grateful for the continued support and access across their land so that we can fish the river stour, We have had support over the years from The Angling Trust, the Environment Agency, Shipston town Council, Sheldon Bosley, Shipston Sports club, Shipston Lions and many more.

The club has around 200 members and has sections of the river Stour stretching from Willington to Halford Hill , it also has two stretches of the river Avon at Stratford upon Avon (Seven Meadows) and Charlecote as well as the very popular three pools at Aston Magna, so the club caters for every type of angler whether its fly fishing for wild brown trout on the Upper reaches of the river Stour, or its dace and chub on the stick float at the Sports club and the big chub and barbel along the whole of the river Avon and of course the mixed fishery at Aston that holds many carp, bream, roach, rudd, perch, chub, dace, gudgeon and even sticklebacks. Something for every angler all set in picturesque idyllic settings many places where you can be totally at one with nature.

The club has always been part of the local community and encourages new and young anglers into the sport, club membership starts in June and the club now has four licensed coaches that regularly run coaching sessions and events for all.

With the usual similarities to how the club was formed, FISH'n'FROLICS was dreamed up in the Coach and Horses over a pint to celebrate the club being 60 years old and whilst most said it would never happen, well here we are ten years later still doing it for the community.



What's On Page 7

# BOARD GAMES SOCIAL AFTERNOON

## **FREE ADMISSION**

Fridays at 1:30pm to 4pm
21 April, 5 May, 19 May, 2 June, 16 June and 30 June
RAINBOW FIELDS, SHIPSTON ON STOUR



A social, fun get together with playing cards and board games, Fridays fortnightly.

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

This is one of the range of FREE activities in the Dr Sue Pritchard Memorial Challenge delivered by the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership in conjunction with Sport England and L&Q. For more information on other activities please visit: www.shwp.org.uk









**SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA** 



TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023, 2 PM TOWNSEND HALL

"THE HISTORY OF JOHNSON'S COACHES"

A talk by Wendy Moore



The talk features the 114-year history of Johnsons Coaches, surviving two world wars, recessions, twin towers, covid to name but a few. The business is still family owned and possibly operates one of the most successful coach companies in the UK.

Visitors welcome: entrance including refreshments £2

# STOUR SINGERS

conducted by Richard Emms
present

# Handel's Messiah

with

Natalie Montakhab soprano James Neville countertenor Matthew Minter tenor William Burn bass baritone

and

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra

Natalie Montakhab and Matthew Minter appear by arrangement with Ann Ferrier Artists - Concert Directory International

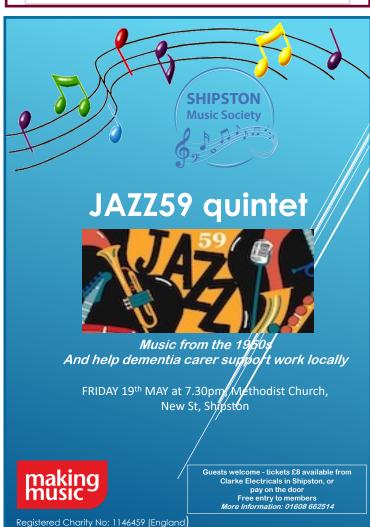
Saturday, 13 May 2023 at 7.30pm St. Edmund's Church, Shipston on Stour

Tickets £16 (accompanied children free) Available online from Eventbrite or on the door

Please scan the QR code for the Eventbrite link:







### **Shipston Proms**

Ska, reggae, opera, acapella, swing, rock n roll, dance, jazz, blues and more. That's what's on offer at this year's Shipston Proms next month.



As a tribute to the late Terry Hall of The Specials two ska influenced bands Papa Nui and Hope & Glory will launch our Opening Night at Townsend Hall. Oxford based Papa Nui will bring their own original ska music to the stage whilst West Midlands Hope & Glory pay tribute to the 1980's ska and two tone scene with music from Madness, the Beat and of course The Specials. Grab your pork pie hats and get ready for a Night of Fun!

A tribute Tina Turner with her entourage of dancers is coming to Shipston so fans of this global music icon can enjoy her trademark raunchy set at Townsend Hall. They will showcase her greatest hits which saw the original Tina selling over 100 million records during her long career. Quite Simply the Best.

As mentioned last month, there is a not to be missed operatic performance by Anna Patalong and Benedict Nelson at the Townsend Hall. This genre of music is a first for Shipston Proms so we are delighted to be able to fit this in.

Tickets for all shows will be through Eventbrite or Clarks Electrical on the High Street. Make sure you don't miss out by booking early.

Also, something else to put in your diaries......if you fancied a spot of ferocious drumming after watching Teresa Brooks last year, then there will be an opportunity to learn Taiko drumming in Newbold. Teresa will hold a workshop in the morning and all participants will put on a concert in the afternoon in front of a paying audience. More information on this at a later date.

Still in the throes of planning are an Ibizan Dance Night where we are hoping to have a set by Nick the Kid, UK DJ, producer and promoter.

Grateful thanks to all our sponsors who have been very generous in pledging their support during this difficult year. Thank you to Daniel Quinn, mortgage advisors, who secured the diamond package and also a big shout out to Wixeys Transport who provide the trailer for the musicians to play on during the Final Night for free.

For further updates, please go to www. shipstonproms.org or go to our Facebook page. There is still time to enter our Shipston Introducing event so please get in touch. 'The Weekend Warriors' who were one of the winners last year see a return to the main stage as a support act on this year's Final Night.

Our little Proms booklet giving details of all artists performing over the fortnight should be posted through your doors towards the end of May or pick them up from venues around the town.

Finally, thank you to Emma and Kim who posted a picture of Ella in one of our T-shirts. She is our first canine fan. We are definitely lagging behind Sheldons!



### **STEVE BOYER**

We would just like to pay tribute to Leamington based Steve Boyer from the Hanksters who sadly passed away recently after a long illness. A regular for years on the Warwick Folk scene, he was an exceptional musician. He played at Stour Court last year and we hoped he would return to the Proms in 2023. His rich voice and warmth of personality will be very much missed by all.



First of all a big thank you to all of the 37 Town Centre shops, who took part in the "Cuckoo in the Nest Competition" during the first week of the Easter holidays.

feedback The from parents was that it was great to have something keep the children occupied and the children enjoyed going from shop to shop - taking a great interest what every shop sold, whilst looking for the



"cuckoo". Shopkeepers said, it was quite delightul to observe the little family groups going around the town looking in all of the windows with their forms.

The completed forms were taken to the Easter Event at the Scout Hut on Easter Saturday morning, when every child received a Cadbury Creme egg and the first two forms drawn out by the Town Mayor,Cllr. Marianne Westwood, received a large Easter Egg.

During the morning there were some amazing decorated biscuits and Easter cards produced

by the children. The Aquabox lots drew attention, when the children were fascinated to see how dirty water is filtered through to make into clean drinking water. Sunflower seed planting was popular( very

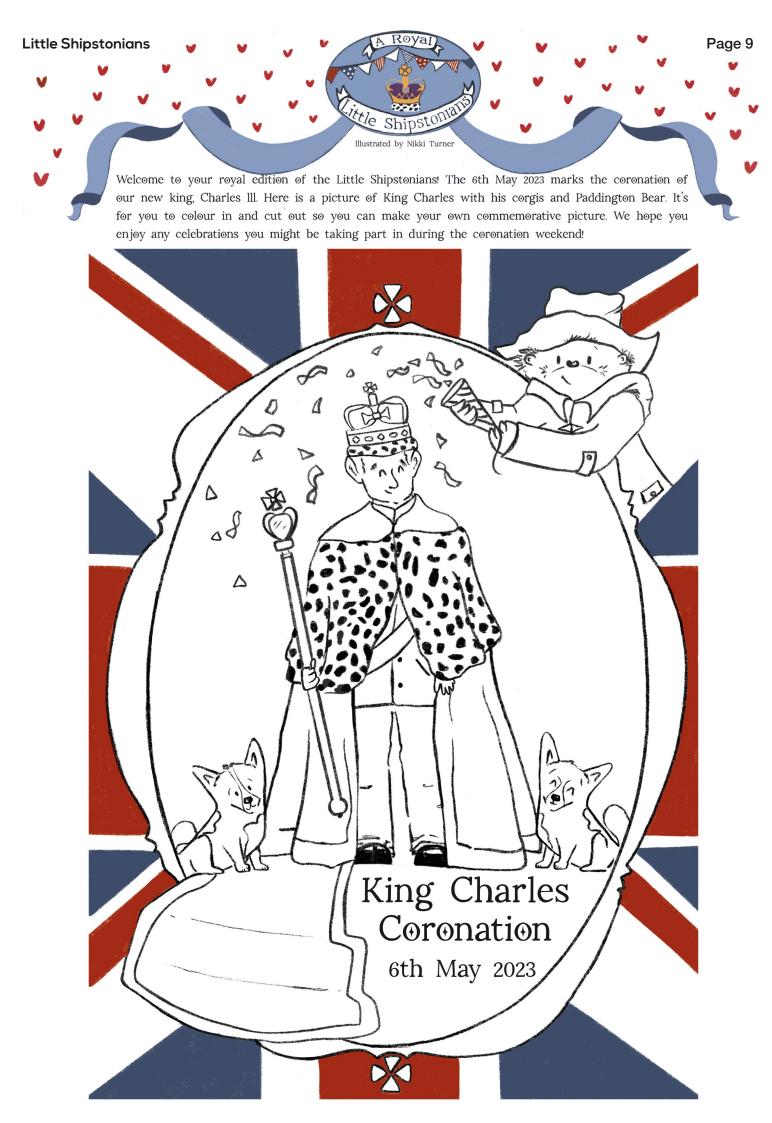


in readiness for the Rotary Tallest Sunflower Competition In August) and there were plenty of yummy cakes and chocolate eggs consumed.

The Mayor judged the Easter Bonnet Competition, when the two winners received an Easter egg and an umbrella donated by Niche.

The Mayor drew the Easter Egg Raffle, when one lucky winner won a large hamper of eggs and there were also three runner up smaller hampers. We would like to thank Paris, the Manager at the Shipston Mid Counties Co-op, for donating the Easter eggs.

It proved a great start to the Easter weekend.



### **Town Council Awards**

The town council Team Award was accepted on behalf of the Shipston Food Bank by Ed Jackson. Trevor Russel was presented with the Shipston Award for his work with SCAN & SHWP.





# **Rotary Tour d'Ilmington**

Cyclists Fighting Cancer, the Alderminster based charity, and partners of Shipston Rotary in this year's Tour d'Ilmington, has kindly donated a framed Tour de France yellow jersey.

The jersey has been signed by Sir Bradley Wiggins himself.

The jersey will be raffled. The draw will take place at the Tour d'Ilmington's HQ on the day of the event-Sunday 2nd July - proceeds of the raffle will go to Cyclists Fighting Cancer and Rotary charities and other good causes.

In 2012 Sir Bradley was the first British rider to win the Tour de France the same year he won a gold medal at the London Olympics.

Raffle tickets will be on sale soon.

This is a chance to win a piece of cycling history.



### **Museum - Coronation memories**

Searching among the hundreds of postcards and photographs in the archives, Martin Russell of the Shipston Museum



**Ouseum** 

unearthed s o m e pictures of Shipston celebrations in the past. Here, back in 1937, for the King George 6 coronation, a group of Shipston folk enjoying a festive meal:



Martin took on cataloguing the vast collection and says: "A great number of photos from all periods of photography cover many aspects of the Town's history." So far, the oldest he has found is from the very early days of photography. "This is looking up the High Street as members of the Royal Horse Artillery water their horses, (and riders!) whilst on exercise from Coventry to Gloucester."

But he hasn't as yet found any pictures of the 1953 coronation. Here's where you may be able to help – if you have any photos of Shipston and local villages celebrating the crowning of our late Queen, the Museum would love to have them.

And with living history in mind, if you are taking any pictures of King Charles' coronation these could be added to the collection for posterity. In this special year the Museum will be displaying some of your best pictures taken at the local celebrations. Please send them in to us at: shipstonmuseum@outlook.com. We look forward to hearing from you!



What's On Page 11

# Holiday at Home

is celebrating

the Coronation of

**King Charles III** 



May 15th

in the Townsend Hall 10am—3pm

£10 to include 2 course meal, refreshments, crafts and entertainment

**Booking essential with** 

Rosemary 01608 662584

An activity organised by Christians Together in Shipston



# **Down Memory Lane**

Come along and join in with the singing for people with memory issues and their carers



2.00 - 3.30pm

Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston on Stour CV36 4BU

Refreshments provided (We may be able to help with transport, please ask)

Contact: Fay Ivens 01608 662133 Alternative Contact: Pat Hutton 01608 664648

Wednesday,	Wednesday,	Wednesday,
18 January	15 February	15 March
Wednesday,	Wednesday,	Wednesday,
19 April	17 May	21 June
Wednesday,	Wednesday,	Wednesday,
19 July	16 August	20 September



SHIPSTON ON STOUR - A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

# Townsend Hall

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



Gary Wood - Trumpet / Vocals Tad Newton - Trombone / Vocals Mike Wills - Clarinet / Sax Tomas Pedersen - Bass Alan Haughton - Piano Ronnie Fenn - Drums

Friday 26th May 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: <a href="mailto:ds@pinnegards.com">ds@pinnegards.com</a>; 07511-694733

# STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



Matilda tells the story of an extraordinary girl who armed with a sharp mind and a vivid imagination, dares to take a stand to change her story with miraculous results.

<u>Certificate PG - Comedy, Family, Musical</u>

### TOWNSEND HALL

### FRIDAY 12th May, 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.

School News Page 12

# **Shipston Primary School**

### **WORLD BOOK DAY**

This year, to celebrate World Book Day, the children had the opportunity to dress up as their favourite character from a book. We saw some fantastic costumes across the classes to help us to discuss a range of genres of books and celebrate reading in our classes. Thank you to parents who were able to come into class to read with our children, share their own favourite stories and take part in our celebrations.

A special mention and thank you to Jaffé & Neale bookshop in Chipping Norton, who helped us to ensure every child at Acorns Primary, Brailes C of E Primary and Shipston Primary had their very own free book in exchange for a World Book Day voucher. Many thanks to Trust Reading Leader Mrs. Warbrick for organising.

### **TAOTIE ART**

As part of their Dynamic Dynasties history topic, the children have been learning about ancient China, focusing primarily on the Shang Dynasty, and exploring the lasting legacy of the first five Chinese dynasties. This comparison art project is called Taotie, which teaches children about the significance and art of the taotie motif, including ancient and contemporary casting methods. Year 5 held an art gallery to share their work with parents.

Over the last two weeks, Year 5 have been designing and making Taotie motifs (a gluttonous mythical Chinese creature, who is always hungry).

On the first day, we practised pressing objects into air drying clay to make a Taotie. The second day consisted of drawing and designing our Taotie. We then pressed our designs into clay to create our final piece. After that, we poured plaster of Paris into our moulds. In the afternoon we peeled away the clay from the set plaster to reveal our excellent Taotie motifs. A day later, we painted them to resemble a patina (which is the coating of the bronze once it becomes oxidised).

Everyone wrote a museum curation explaining the history of their 'archaeologically important bronze Taotie', this included where they were found and which object, they were originally part of.

On Wednesday 8th March, Year 5 presented an extremely successful art gallery! Numerous VIP guests (parents and carers) came to view the artefacts and complemented our tremendous Taoties.

In conclusion, we had a wonderful week of creativity and learning.

By Fraser and Isabelle

### **POWERFUL AND MEMORABLE MOMENTS**

Jackie from the RNLI visited Year 2 classes as part of their Coastline topic. She taught the children about different types of water, the work of the RNLI and how important their charity is for keeping people safe around the British coastline.

Year 4 had a fantastic visit to The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford as part of their topic Ancient Civilisations. Following the trip, the children were taught about the features of a newspaper report and followed our writing process (nationally accredited area of excellence) to craft fantastic newspaper reports of their own.



#### **PUPIL LEADERSHIP AT EASTER**

Well done to the Year 6 children in Pelicans class for leading the Easter Services with Mr. Roberts and Revd. Sarah at St. Edmund's Church at the end of term. It was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers to our two services, and see the church full to celebrate Easter. Thank you to all the parents and family members who helped the children walk to and from the church.



The School Council Easter Egg Tombola raised £394. School Council counted and bagged all the money ready to take to the bank. They also donated some eggs to the Shipston Food Bank at St. Edmund's Church.

### THE STOUR FEDERATION MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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



**Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher** 

School News Page 13

### **Shipston High School**

The summer term is underway and students are working well. As I mentioned last month, we are delighted that our new Year 7 students have received their offers for the Autumn, and we look forward to meeting them at Induction events in the summer.

This year the school joins with the whole nation in celebrating the Coronation of Charles III. A coronation is a unique event,

and certainly a new experience for the children and most of the staff following the exceptional reign of the late Elizabeth II. Students are enhancing their learning about the topic by getting involved in enjoyable creative activities. Each form will decorate their classroom door in honour of the occasion. and students have been invited to take part in a celebratory baking contest. We look forward to sharing the students' creations with you in the future.

We are delighted that, after the limitations of Covid, we are now able to organise extra curricular events and staff

are busy arranging a number of visits for the Summer Term. Alongside our participation in a number of inter-school sporting tournaments including hockey, athletics and basketball, a number of additional visits are planned to a variety of venues. Currently these include the Natural History Museum and Keble College, Oxford, a Geography Fieldtrip to Borrowdale, a trip to The Guilgud Theatre London to see The Crucible and visits to the Birmingham Think Tank, Cotswold Wildlife Park and – looking ahead – a hockey tour to Holland next year.

Extra curricular activities are a really valuable opportunity, and all of these events play a special part in students' experience of school and we are very much enjoying putting these in place again.

that they will all do their very best.



The attached image shows the Year 9 students who took part in a new competition "Fits-a-Knockout" organised by Southern

Warwickshire School Games where the boys finished third and the girls second.



Students in Year 11 undertake their final examinations for GCSE qualifications during May and June. This is the culmination of five years hard work at Shipston High School, and I am sure that everyone will wish all young people taking examinations well. The exams continue to the end of June, and students will be working hard throughout this time.

Staff and students are working closely to ensure that results continue to impress. The crucial thing is that our students get the grades they need for their next steps in education, employment or training; I have no doubt

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher



# Shipston Girl Guiding take on a new challenge at the biding of the King!

### Come on Shipston join us in the Big Help Out!

On **Bank Holiday Monday 8 May** Shipston on Stour Rainbow, Brownie & Guide groups, like hundreds of other community groups around the country, will be holding a special event as part of the celebrations of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III & Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

The King, wishing to encourage as many people as possible to start volunteering within their communities, has launched **The Big Help Out** and Girl Guiding groups around the UK are on board. To show everyone what our various Shipston Girl Guiding groups get up to they will be holding a **Free Fun Afternoon between 1 & 4pm on 8 May at Shipston Scout Hut on the London Rd in Shipston.** 

Admission is free and the afternoon will include an exciting 'Mad Science' show between 2.30 & 3.30, theres also an unique opportunity to experience a caving adventure in a special 30ft long mobile caving environment. Plus local Girl Guiding volunteers & members of the various Shipston groups will be on hand to offer several craft activities children can get involved in also a Teddy & Toy Tombola, refreshments and they also hope for a visit from the Shipston Fire Engine too (emergency callouts permitting)!

So come on Shipston why don't you roll up your sleeves and get involved in the Big Help Out fun? Could you volunteer for just an hour a week to help at the Monday evening meetings of the Rainbows (for girls aged 4 – 7 years old) or Brownies (ages7-10) or Guides (ages 10-14)? To find out whats involved pop into the Fun Afternoon on May 8th & meet other Girl Guiding volunteers & girls. For further info contact Diane Wildish 07875684799



some of the members of 1st Shipston Rainbows displaying their recent artwork

# WINGS OVER WARWICKSHIRE. A Talk to Shipston Probus by John Berkeley

John is a member of Warwick Probus, and gave Shipston Probus members an insight into a relatively little known aspect of Warwickshire history. The very first aviation-related event, a successful flight by a balloon filled with hydrogen gas occurred in Warwick in the 1830s. After several subsequent experiments, the first successful flight by an aeroplane was made by Alfred Pericles Maxfield, a motor engineer, who flew at Castle Bromwich Golf Links on 24th September, 1909. The industry began to take shape in the region with Humber Motors who had licenses to produce a Bleriot-type monoplane, and then biplanes. Another company involved at an early stage was the Coventry Ordnance Works. During the First World War many companies turned their production over to aeroplanes, including the Standard Motor Company, who built a production line on the skating rink in Leamington Spa, and Austin at Longbridge, who built a star-shaped flying ground, enabling test flights whatever the wind direction.

After the war, the focus was on private flying, with very small aeroplanes designed for the man in the street to own, although none of these went into production, mainly because war-surplus aircraft were available for as little as half-a-crown! The advent of Alan Cobham, with his National Air Days, gave many people their first experience of flight. Cobham urged local councils, such as Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon, to create new aerodromes, and advised them on where to site them. By the 1920s there were no less than 49 private flying grounds in the Warwick area alone.

In 1932 there were two women receiving flying instructions by the Midland Aero Club at Castle Bromwich. The second of

these, Joan Mary Parsons, qualified and then joined the Leamington & Warwick District Flying Club at Bishops Tachbrook. After initially having a Spartan Three-Seater, she bought herself a fine Miles Sparrowhawk, and, without telling anyone, attempted a record-breaking solo flight



SFORD-UPO

to Cape Town. She failed by only about 350 miles, having to force-land, but fortunately was unhurt.

The popularity of flying in the 1930s is shown by the 'Flying Flea', an ultra-light little aeroplane designed by a Frenchman Henri Mignet. It was designed to be built by private individuals; powered by a variety of different engines, including one with a bulky Ford car engine complete with the radiator. More of these aeroplanes were built in Warwickshire than anywhere else in the country, including one built by Sidney Howard, a Nuneaton bus driver. Unfortunately this little aeroplane had a fatal design flaw, and many examples crashed, one such "landing upside down" in a tree!

The most famous aircraft company in the region was perhaps Armstrong Whitworth who built Avro Lincolns at Baginton from 1945 to 1951. In the 1950s they built many Gloster Meteor, Hawker Seahawk, Hawker Hunter and Gloster Javelin jet fighters at Baginton for the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

Members thanked John for a fascinating glimpse of a local industry now largely an historic memory.

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

# **Astronomical Society News**

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a Club Night, in May that will be on 2nd May and the speaker on the third Tuesday, which is on 16th May is due to be Dr Julie Wardlow from the University of Lancaster, with a talk called 'The hidden side of the universe – distant starbursts'. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

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

#### The Sun

With the shortening nights, astronomers often take the opportunity to observe the closest star, the Sun.

Firstly, do not observe the Sun directly, without proper protection. (Sunglasses are not sufficient). Solar Filters are available for Binoculars and Telescopes. Another way to view the sun, is to project it through a single binocular or telescope on to a white screen. Please note that any telescopes that are pointed towards the sun for any length of time can result in damage to the lens.

What you may see (on the projection) would be Sunspots (dark patches on the solar disk), and solar flares (matter being

thrown off the solar disk). These are both prevalent at the moment, because the sun is reaching Solar Maximum.

The Sun has (roughly) an 11 year cycle, which range from no sunspots or solar flares at Solar minimum, to multiple sunspots and flares at Solar Maximum. These are really interesting and well worth the effort to observe them.

It should be emphasised that you should not look directly at the Sun with the naked eye, without proper eye filters that conform to the ISO 12312-2:2015 standard (sunglasses are not enough), or with an optic (unless you have the proper solar filter), otherwise permanent and irreversible eye damage may result. For more information and advice, perhaps it might be worth joining an astronomical society.

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

Useful Contacts Page 15

### **Your Town Councillors**



Marianne Westwood, Mayor

t: 01608 662223

e: marianne.westwood@shipstontowncouncil.org



Gerry Kelly, Deputy Mayor

Planning Committee Vice Chair

t: 07471 687720

e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Ian Cooper

Finance Working Group Chair

t: 01608 663785

e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Paul Tesh** 

Planning Committee Chair

t: 07711 433566

e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



**John Dinnie** Heritage, Amenities and Leisure Projects Working Group Chair

t: 01608 664590

e: john.dinnie@shipstontowncouncil.org



Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712

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



Peter Cox General Purposes and

Communications Group Chair

t: 07973 442552

e: peter.cox@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Tony Booth** 

e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Hilary Kelly,** Co-chair Environmental Working Group

e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Sarah Beckett

e: sarah.beckett@shipstontowncouncil.org



#### Zoltan Kovari

e: zoltan.kovari@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vacancy To find out more about

becoming a councillor, contact the Town Clerk



### Vacancy

### **Useful Contacts**

Transport	01789 264491 0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	
Highways customer services	
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	
Shipston Leisure Centre	
Shipston Medical Centre	
- Out of hours	
Shipston Forum	
Shipston Link (local transport)	
Shipston Recycling Centre	
Stratford District Council	
Townsend Hall	
Warwickshire County Council	
UCHW Hospital	
Warwick Hospital	
Local police (non emergency)	
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood	
shipston.snt@warwio	ckshire.police.uk
	e ner services ergency Line: er Transport Scheme Centre Centre cal transport) ng Centre Council unty Council

### **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**

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

### **County Council Contact:**

### **Councillor Jo Barker**

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

### **District Council Contacts:**

**Councillor Jo Barker (Shipston South)** 

t: 07748 968712

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

**Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)** 

t: 07969 167720

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



# Something exciting to share?

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

What's On Page 16







Do you enjoy walking in nature and fancy some company? Do you enjoy having a natter while you walk? Want to find new ways to explore the nature on your doorstep?

Where:

cuppa!

Warm Hub at

Shipston on Stour, CV36 4EW

the Scout Hut, back by 11:30 for a

Email: rosie.charter@wkwt.org.uk

For more info contact:

Call: 07796 380 771

**Rosie Charter** 

Scout Hut,

Come and join Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Health and Wellbeing project officer, Rosie, for a walk in nature.

The walk will be approximately an hour When: Thursday 6th April Thursday 4th May Thursday 1st June and a half, at a steady pace with plenty of stops on the way as we spot anything curious or interesting - I'm holding out for some red kites!! Meet at 10am at the Warm Hub in

I will also have a pocket full of macrolenses... join us to find out more about how you can use them to get even closer to nature and to have a good natter as we plod along!

Accessible toilets at start and end, plenty of chat and free hot drinks





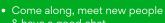


Funded by National Lottery Community Fund Warwickshire Wildlife Trust: Protecting wildlife for the future. Registered charity number 209200.

# SHIPSTON COMMUNITY **WARM HUB**

Every Thursday, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon The Scout Hut, New Street, Shipston CV36 4EW





- Relax with free refreshments, board games, books & wifi







### **Everyone's welcome!**

This free community event is run by Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership



















Weekly activities for all ages

Plus energy saving tips & advice