

Shipston Forum



May 2024

Shipston shopping in the news

Shipston made the news when local media covered the launch of Love Shipston, an initiative by local businesses to promote the town. A marketing campaign and new website is encouraging visitors and families to spend more time exploring our small businesses and restaurants.

The project is supported by the Town Council and ties in with a wider Warwickshire County Council campaign encouraging people to Buy and Eat Local.

Retail expert Kim Hulse told the Banbury Guardian: "It's been brilliant to see so many people pulling in the same direction to shout about Shipston. Most businesses are run by local people with products curated by them which means the shopping experience feels incredibly personalised. The strong community spirit between business owners is helping to build on a recent influx of visitors who are realising what a great array of places to visit there are here."

Town Councillor Ian Cooper said: "Shipston offers a warm community spirit and thriving centre to those who live here and those that move here, and with the arrival of new businesses, we look forward to seeing the town supported by residents and visitors."

The Love Shipston website brings together a directory of the town's shops and places to eat, drink and spend some time. www.loveshipston.co.uk

Marathon efforts for good causes

Local runners taking part in the London Marathon included Shipston Rotary's Stuart McLean (left), who at the age of 77 completed it in the remarkable time of five hours 41 minutes. Stuart says he enjoyed the fantastic cheering from the crowds along the way and raised £1,600 for the Autistic Society. Christian Norris (right) took 29 minutes off his personal best, running in two hours 59 minutes and raising over £2,500 for Kidney Care UK, a cause close to his heart as his brother Josh received two kidney transplants.





Spring is in the air

Around 50 children enjoyed parading Easter bonnets, producing cards and biscuits, and planting sunflower seeds ready for the Rotary Tallest Sunflower Competition at Shipston Rotary's Easter event. Some also watched in awe to see Aquabox, a device sent all over the world when



disasters strike, transform dirty water into clean, safe drinking water. The sale of raffle tickets and cakes raised £127 for local Rotary charities





Phil Wragg

Many residents will have been saddened to hear of the death of Phil Wragg, who did so much to prevent flooding in the town. We pay tribute to his tireless efforts and lasting legacy on page 3.



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Mayor's column



Hello Shipston,

Well, my final column for the Forum has arrived. Time has flown and my time as Mayor is at an end. I hope you have enjoyed/read/endured (delete as appropriate) my discourse throughout the year.

This month I attended the High Sheriff Awards Ceremony in Warwick. Some very worthy recipients were presented with awards for their work during the year. This included Vanessa Compton for work with our local Stour Health and Wellbeing partnership. Nice to see so many people being recognised for their work within our communities.

I appeared on Midlands Today on Saturday 6th April to discuss the new Love Shipston website which has been developed to be informative about our local businesses, our attractions, history and our leisure establishments. It is designed to attract trade and visitors to the town. For those who didn't see the programme, I ranted on about the number of potential visitors that pass by the town either through the town on the A 3400 or by the town on the Fosse Way (A 429). If only some of them stopped more often and visited the town, our businesses would prosper.

On a sad note, I attended the funeral of Phil Wragg at St Edmund's Church. For those of you who didn't know Phil, he was a founder member of the Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) and his work has saved many of our homes and businesses from being flooded over the last few years. Peace be with you, Phil.

Finally, my last civic dinner was with the Mayor and Mayoress of Royal Leamington Spa in the Glasshouse, Jephson Gardens, Leamington. The setting was excellent and well worth a visit when you are in Leamington.

In the coming year I will be continuing to work as a councillor and look forward to welcoming our new mayor for the next year.

See you all soon,

Cllr. Gerry Kelly,

Mayor, Shipston Town Council

River and environment

Cllr Dinnie will refer reports of river debris building up at the bridge to the Environment Agency. Benches at Riverside are to be securely fixed, following some vandalism to the young trees. SAFAG reports that their work to try to maintain a flow of funds continues, and that a constructive meeting had been held with the Environment Agency. Cllr H Kelly has hired a turf cutter to get a section of churchyard ready for wildflowers. She was also happy to report that another new family has joined the litter pick.

Council agreed to formally recognise the immense contribution of the late Phill Wragg for his work on flood prevention.

Blue Light

First Responders reacted to 31 calls in March, with one defibrillator activated. One of the new recruits began their training in April. With the replacement car in place by the end of the month, there will be two cars in action, one for Shipston and the other for surrounding villages. Cllr Booth reiterated that the town's support for the group, now a registered charity, has been fantastic.

Ellen Badger

Cllr Dinnie has received an offer of support from the mayor of Bishop's Castle, a town in Shropshire which has succeeded in reinstating its 16-bed inpatient hospital.

Planning

After a full discussion of the planning application by Sainburys for the building of a new food store on Tilemans Lane Industrial Estate, and considering comments from the public, Council voted to support the application whilst making it clear that access for delivery vehicles must be via the safest possible routes.

General Purposes Working Group

Sixty-plus outstanding tasks have now been whittled down to just five, with the main one being the twin chapels, where planning consultation is underway for a restoration project.

Shipston Business Group

Stuart Walsh from Shipston Business Group explained that the group has been formed to help local businesses in Shipston work better as a community, and that it is keen to have good communications channels with the Town Council. Council agreed to make this an agenda item for future Council meetings. The Love Shipston website will lead to the update of the Town Council website, using shared processes.

Phil Wragg, 1947-2024

When the River Stour rose to its highest ever recorded level on 20th July 2007, it flooded more than 80 homes and businesses in Shipston, including the house that Phil Wragg and his wife Liz had moved into only two months earlier. From that day onwards, Phil campaigned tirelessly to find ways of reducing the risk of flooding in the town.

Initially, this meant ensuring that all planning applications for new housing contained measures to prevent run-off flooding as concrete replaced fields. In many cases, he was able to get the developers to commit to 'betterment' with designs which improved on the status quo.



When the Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) was formed in 2014 to address the ongoing risk of flooding caused by the river level rising, Phil became its Chairman. As little progress had been made since 2007, he immediately set about challenging the various agencies and authorities to come up with the solutions and funding needed. He and the SAFAG team also embraced the concept of Natural Flood Management (NFM), which relies on water being held back in the headwaters of the Stour through a range of measures such as ponds, bunds and leaky wooden dams to slow the flow and reduce the peak river level.

When the funding eventually started arriving in 2017, Phil systematically went about gaining the support of more than 60 landowners and farmers across the 180sqkm Stour catchment, enabling the SAFAG team to install over 860 NFM interventions between 2017 and 2022 - more than 20% of the total UK figure. This was a remarkable achievement for the only community led catchment-scale project in the country, and in 2021 SAFAG received the Environment Agency's Community Group of the Year award.

Phil leaves a lasting legacy, and his great efforts have undoubtedly helped reduce the risk of flooding in Shipston and some nearby communities. He was an inspirational leader who will be greatly missed.

Geoff Smith and Mike McCarthy, SAFAG

RNLI

John Dinnie has received a thank-you from the RNLI for his mention of their valuable work in the April Forum. The charity will be holding a street collection on 13 July, which is also the date of the Beer Festival.

First Responder training

Shipston's First Responders have been actively providing first aid training for community groups including the Tennis Club, the Rugby Club and the Town Band, as well as holding a paediatric first aid session which was fully booked and will be repeated. The training is available for free for any other community groups, on request. Sessions last about 1-1.5 hours.

D-Day Beacon

A beacon to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day will be lit on the evening of Thursday 6th June at Whaddon Farm. Details to follow in the next edition.

Medical Centre News Patient Participation Meeting



You are invited to our annual patient meeting on Wednesday 21st May at the Townsend Hall, starting at 7.15pm. We very much welcome feedback and input from our patients so please come and tell us what you think. We will be sharing information on recent developments in the practice and seeking views on those appointments offered outside our core opening times of 8.00-18.30, Monday to Friday.

Keep updated

Did you know the practice produces a regular newsletter? It is designed to keep our patients updated about what is happening in the practice, and to share things we feel that it might be helpful to know. The newsletter is developed in partnership with our patient participation group. Current and past newsletters are in the timeline of the 'news' section of our website at https://shipstonmc. warwickshire.nhs.uk/patientnews

SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR EDUCATION CHARITY GRANTS FOR 2024/25 ARE YOU A SHIPSTON RESIDENT UNDER 25 YEARS OLD?

You can now apply for an **Educational Grant** to support you if you are due to undertake an Apprenticeship, Professional or Trade qualification or follow a Further or Higher Education course. If so, you can apply for a **Grant** for the 2024/25 year.

Application forms are now available from the **Shipston Library**.

Or write to The Clerk to the Trustees, Mr D Squires, Pinnegar House, 49 **Telegraph Street, Shipston CV36 4DA** enclosing a stamped addressed envelope or email ds@pinnegards.com for an Application form.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRI 23 AUGUST 2024



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





Wednesday 1st May 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Shipston Lodge, Tileman's Lane Shipston on Stour, CV36 4QG

Accompanied by Nick Nickerson on guitar

Refreshments provided Contact Fay Ivens 01608 662133 Alternative Contact Pat Hutton 01608 664648







MEET THE PARTNERS

Patient Meeting 2024

Tuesday 21st May at 7.15pm Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston



We welcome your feedback on current services Help us to shape future services

> Any questions can also be submitted in advance Carole Nossiter, PPG CHAIR shipstonppg@gmail.com

SHIPSTON SPORTS CLUB LTD

21 London Road, Shipston on Stour, Warks CV36 4EP

The Directors of Shipston Sports Club Ltd hereby give notice of the 2024

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday May 9th 2024 Venue: Shipston Sports Club, London

Rd

Time: 7.00 pm

IT IS YOUR CLUB - PLEASE DO YOUR VERY BEST TO ATTEND THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO LET THE DIRECTORS KNOW YOUR OPINION ON HOW THE CLUB IS BEING RUN

We would also welcome any applications to become a Director of the Club - the only qualification you need is that you care about the future of YOUR Sports Club.

All nominations for Directors and any applications for business to be included in A.O.B. should be forwarded to Lynda Sheehan, 8 Keetley Close, Shipston or <u>lyndasheehan57@gmail.com</u> by Monday 29th April

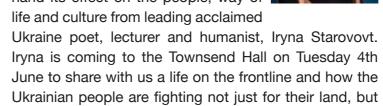
PLEASE RESPECT ALL SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES IN PLACE

General news

At the Ukrainian frontline: special event

We see and read about the invasion of Ukraine at a distance. Now here is a unique opportunity to hear at first hand its effect on the people, way of

also for their society and traditions.



Born in Lviv, Iryna has represented Ukraine at many high-profile events and speaks passionately about the country's resilience in the face of invasion and fight for freedom, as captured in her poetry:

You see, our wars don't happen in three days

And people don't have two lives

We don't need the legislation of amnesia

On the contrary, we remember with tenacity

Especially for the future

Currently dividing her time between Ukraine and as visiting Professor at Oxford University, she has accepted Shipston Literary Society's invitation to talk about the experience of war and how great grief has brought a flowering of poetry to express the country's heartache.

In line with Ukraine's hope and optimism, our evening is also a celebration with music and cash bar so we can join with Ukrainian friends in understanding and support. There will also be a raffle to fund books for Ukrainian children, to ensure they don't lose their heritage. Event: Townsend Hall, 7.30 Tuesday 4th June (doors open 6.45). Shipston Literary Society tickets are £8. People are also invited to 'buy' another ticket on behalf of a Ukrainian person. Tickets are available from A. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston.

Brass concert

Stour Concert Brass will be performing its first concert under the baton of recently-appointed Nigel Hall at Great Wolford Church on Friday 17th May at 7.30 pm, in a mixed programme of popular music arranged for brass bands, including film music from The Sound of Music, Crimson Tide and Local Hero (Going Home) as well as a duet arrangement for flugel and tenor horn of the Lennon/ McCartney hit, In My Life. Trombonist Rufus Gallagher will be making his debut as a soloist by performing The Acrobat, a fun piece by J.A. Greenwood, and solo cornet player Kieran Bown will be performing Belvedere by Jan

de Haan. Entry is free with discretionary donations split between the Church and Shipston Town Band.

Tour d'Ilmington

The tour is coming home...to Ilmington! Get out your wheels to take part in the Rotary Tour d'Ilmington on 30th June. It offers three routes, 10-mile, 30 mile and 100km. The routes are similar to previous years but this year they will start and finish at Ilmington playing



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fields, Mickleton Road, CV36 4JQ. 'More safe space means more activities for children,' says Nigel Willis. 'It's a fun day out for all the family with the usual delicious refreshments.'

Lions Den benefits local organisations

Ten organisations from Shipston and the Stour Valley have been able to celebrate their successful application for support from the Lion's Den, sharing a total donation of £5,000 by Stour Valley Lions. All met the requirement to provide public benefit to the local area, representing a range of age groups from pre-school to older residents.

Organisations benefiting from this round of donations include Brailes Playground Fund, Brailes Primary School, Carers4Carers, Kineton, Holiday At Home, Ilmington Church of England School, Newbold Sea Scouts, Riding for the Disabled, Shipston Angling Juniors, Shipston Excelsior Pan Disability Football and the Stour Health and Wellbeing Toy Library. Seven of the organisations were represented at a recent presentation, each summarising their intended use for the money and the impact it will

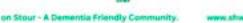
Duncan Cashmore, president of the Stour Valley Lions, said: 'We've had an incredibly successful year and wanted to share the results of the generosity shown by the people of our area. We feel the chosen organisations are worthy beneficiaries of our endeavours.'

The Stour Valley Lions are a leading group in the current effort to replace the Shipston First Responders' ageing car, and also support many other local causes. With a Duck Race in May, a Beer Festival in July and the Food Festival returning in September, the Lions are looking forward to another record-breaking year's income. To find out more, go to https://www.stourvalleylionsevents.club/home. To donate to Shipston First Responders, please go to www. justgiving.com/campaign/shipstonfirstresponders









What's On Page 6 **Adverts** Page 7

Regular Events

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

Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group: 7-9pm, Low Furlong

<u>Tuesday</u>

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12:30pm

Community Hub: Shipston Methodist Church, 2-4pm

Lego Club: Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

Age Concern Lunch Club: Stour Court 12pm. Contact Jill Case 01608 662226

Wednesday

Seated Tai Chi:

9.30am. Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Standing Tai Chi:

10.30am, Townsend Hall. Free Admission

Indoor Kurling: 2pm, Townsend Hall

U3A weekly scrabble: 2-4pm at the George Townhouse.
Free for all U3A members

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

Age Concern Lunch Club: Rainbow Fields 12pm. Contact Christine Grant 07939 595600

Community Social Prescriber drop in: 10am-12pm, Scout Hut, New Street

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

Age Concern Lunch Club: Fortnightly, Rainbow Fields, 12pm. Contact Amanda Holden 01608 686268

Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group - Friday afternoons in Mrs. Browns from 2-4.30pm

Club Night at Shipston Sports Club: 6pm-9pm, London

Lego Club: Shipston Library. From 10am.

Shipston Food Bank:

10:30am-12pm, St Edmund's Church, Shipston. No referral or voucher needed

What's On Calendar: May 2024

- 1st. Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 6632304
- 1st. Singing Down Memory Lane: 2.30pm-3.30pm, Shipston Lodge. See ad
- 1st. Shipston-on-Stour WI: The Magic in those Fingers by Lynne Deakin. See
- 4th. Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided.
- 7th. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.
- 9th. The Royal British Legion Shipston branch: Committee Meeting of the Shipston Branch of the RBL, St Edmund's Church. 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
- **10th. Stour Valley Lions Cinema:** The Holdovers See ad on page 7
- 13th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House
- 14th. Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN): Ellen Badger Hospital Update with SW Foundation Trust. See ad on page 10
- 14th. Shipston Flower Club: From seed to vase, growing flowers for cutting and arranging – short demonstration by Debbie Smith from Bumblebee Flowers, followed by the AGM. 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at Shipston on Stour Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor Entry £6., with a raffle of demonstrated flower arrangements. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month.
- **15th. 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.
- 16th. Royal British Legion Social Evening: The Shipston on Stour Branch of the Royal British Legion meet on the third Friday of each month for a social gathering at the White Bear from 7.30 pm onwards. Do please come and join us and share your stories with like-minded people. For further information contact Alex Black 07789 968733 or alblack32@hotmail.com.
- 17th. Shipston Music Society: Blockley Blokes Choir. See ad on page 16
- **18th. Stour Singers Spring Concert.** See ad on page 10
- 19th. The Great Duck Race See ad on page 16
- 21st. Patient Meeting 2024 Meet the Partners. See ad on page 4
- 24th. The Midland Youth Jazz Orchestra: Townsend Hall. See ad on page
- 25th. Plant Sale. St David's Church Newbold on Stour, 10am-12.30pm Plant donations greatly appreciated Please contact Gilly Marsden 01789 459168 or deliver to Church on Friday 24th May 3-7pm.
- 28th. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). Asocial group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm-9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, CV36 4DR. Meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month. All ladies welcome. Entry £2
- **28th. Shipston U3A:** See ad on page 7
- 30th. Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat.
- 1st June Cotswold Choir with Vintage Afternoon Tea See ad on page 16

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



A cranky history teacher at a Prep School in America is forced to remain on ampus over the holidays with a grieving cook and a troubled student who has n

Comedy/Drama Certificate 15

TOWNSEND HALL

FRIDAY 10th May, 2024 at 7.30pm

Advance Tickets £5.00 or pay on the door.

From: A. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour. Drinks, chocolate and raffle.



SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA



TUESDAY 28 MAY 2024. 2 pm TOWNSEND HALL

A TALK BY ABBY WATSON-WADE

THE DOG'S TRUST



We are the UK's largest dog charity, caring for over 15,000 dogs every year at our nationwide network of rehoming centres. And we never put down a healthy dog, but do our best to find loving, permanent homes for all our residents. The talk covers an overview of the work we do at Dogs Trust - including our history, a look into the Evesham Rehoming Centre and the current campaigns that we are running (There is so much more to us than rehoming lovely doggies!) After the presentation there will also be time for any questions.

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



Local reports

Lions/Ekica fundraising

Ekica Fundraising were delighted to receive a donation of £1,416 as profit from the Stour Valley Lions after the resounding success of The Shipston Gold Cup Race Night. The event was enjoyed by all those who attended, judging from all the positive comments received verbally and on social media. There was much fun to be had, some good-natured jostling amongst the jockeys and some serious auctioneering of the 'horses.'

The beneficiary, Ekica Fundraising, is a Shipston-based charity run by Tadge Sabatowski (a Lion) and his wife, Sue, who said: 'The funds will be used to buy everyday foods for Ekica school, which is in Tanzania. Grains such as maize, rice, beans and wheat flour can be stored, and as the price is cheaper at the moment after the harvest, it is prudent to bulk buy at this time and store it. The school provides a daily hot meal to 200 children who are otherwise at risk of starvation, such is the poverty in their families and community. Food banks or welfare do not exist in Tanzania, so what the school provides is essential.'

The event was extremely well-organised by the Lions and appreciation goes to the race sponsors: The Flower House, The Howard Arms, Pink Connect, Shipston Spokes and the Thirst Edition. Many thanks to Shipston Lodge who provided the delicious fish 'n' chip supper and to everyone who bought tickets and helped raise this fantastic amount for charity. An additional £255 was given

Ekica Fundraising extends thanks on behalf of Ekica school to Stour Valley Lions, to all those who attended for their generosity, and to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success. To find out more about the charity, go to: www.ekciafundraising.org

to the charity from well-wishers.



Shipston Proms

As the Proms fortnight comes ever closer, we can announce some more acts.



Alongside the mighty Dropouts playing on Launch Night at Townsend Hall on 21st June, we have the amazing multi-instrumentalist Thom Kirkpatrick supporting. With a loop pedal, keyboards, drum and guitar, he really is a oneman band. His music covers range from Sweet Dreams by the Eurythmics to Uptown Funk by Bruno Mars and is guaranteed to get you up on the dance floor. Tickets are available from Eventbrite or Clarkes Electrical on the High Street.

Page 8 Another recent booking is the Stratford

Vocals, a brilliant female choir from just up the A34. They sing songs from all eras including the 2019 power ballad Castles by Freya Ridings and the soul classic from the 1970s Sign, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours) by Stevie Wonder. They will be appearing at The Lion in Tredington on 30th June from 6pm.



We are delighted that Tom Hall will be hosting the Open Night Mic in the garden at the Black Horse on 2nd July. Tom usually performs with the four-piece function band Major/Minor, singing vocals and playing guitar, but has kindly agreed to host our eclectic evening. If you want to see Major/Minor in action, they will be playing a variety of covers from Ricky Martin to Stereophonics on Sunday 30th June, also at the Black Horse.

We are building up entries for the Shipston Introducing slot on Sunday 23rd June. This will be held in the Scout Hut and we look forward to listening to some very talented people.

It is open to anyone who would like the opportunity to perform their music to a wider audience and the winners will appear on the legendary stage at the Last Night of the Proms on 6th July, as well as receiving a cash prize. On how to enter, please see contact details below.

If you can give us a hand with the recycling of our festival waste on the Last Night, particularly the picking up of cans, we would love to hear from you.

Very many thanks to all our sponsors who again have been very supportive in their pledges this year. Grateful thanks to PRJ Flooring in Shipston who secured the diamond package.

Our informative Proms booklet giving details of all artists performing over the fortnight should be posted through your doors towards the end of May. Alternatively, it can be picked up from venues around the town. There is no escape! For all things Proms, please go to our Facebook page or to www.shipstonproms.org

The Shipston Proms 24 runs from 21st June to 6th July.



Local reports

Great Big Green Week





Watch out for:

The Town Trail Saturday 8th June 10:00am-3:00pm

Free event, but donations welcome. Goody bag rewards for the first 100 children to complete the trail. Make discoveries at six bases around town about how we can all help to save our Planet Earth.

Blackdowns - A Farm for the Future Sunday 9th June 11:00am-12.30pm or 2:00-3.30pm

Free event, but max 20 on each visit. Tickets from Eventbrite. Learn how farmers are working with nature to both restore the planet and feed people.

Our Wonderful Weeds Walk Tuesday 11th June 10.30-11.30am

Free event, but donations welcome. Find out about foraging and the value of wild plants from Katie - our town's very own herbalist.

Our Wonderful Weeds Walk Thursday 13th June 4.30-5.30pm

Free event, but donations welcome. Another chance to find out about foraging and the value of wild plants from Katie - our town's very own herbalist.

Come to Cornmill Meadows Saturday 15th June 3:00-5:00pm

Free event, but donations welcome. Visit Shipston's own designated wildlife site with a guided walk around the community orchard, fields and riverside.

Swifts are Making a Comeback Saturday 15th June 7.30-9.30pm

Free event, but donations welcome. Tickets from TicketSource. An illustrated talk at Whichford Pottery. Learn how local conservation efforts are helping to restore the numbers of our wonderful but endangered urban birds.

For details of all these events go to https://tinyurl.com/ ShipstonGBGW

or contact Verity Richardson verityrichardson@googlemail. com or Jacey Jackson jacey@2jays.co.uk

Find more Great Big Green Week events, being organised by Net Zero Stratford, at https://netzerostratford.org.uk/

Reliving memories at our Museum

Shipston Museum's opening at Easter was a great start to the season, welcoming nearly 60 visitors over the first weekend. Some were locals for whom the displays brought back memories, while for others it was an introduction to

attention from those who had worked there or been patients - the latter relieved that their experience did not include some of

the old items on display like the leech bowl, complete with leeches, and other long-gone treatments.

The exhibition of former town shops also brought reminiscences of past local stores, and gratitude that we still have a range of wonderful local shops for the community.

There were no personal memories of our third display - but no surprise there as this lively show took us back to ancient times featuring the Britons vs the Romans. Being close to the ancient Fosseway Roman road, this is particularly relevant to Shipston. The display included found Roman coins, with one fine example from Brailes.

Our continued opening always depends on volunteers and we are inviting more to help. It varies from research and admin in your own time to welcoming visitors to the Museum, weekly or occasionally for a couple of hours per session. Do think about joining us. Find out about what is involved by contacting shipstonmuseum@outlook.com.

Shipston Museum looks forward to seeing you at Old Clark House West Street beside the Town Council offices. Open 12-4pm on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holiday Mondays.

Shipston SCAN

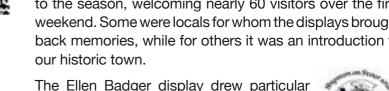
At the January meeting we heard a very informative talk by Spencer Colquitt of South Warwickshire Citizens Advice, who ably demonstrated their mantra 'whoever you are, whatever the problem, we can help.' The only exceptions are financial and immigration advice.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 14th May, when representatives of SWFT will provide an update on the Ellen Badger situation. Their visit last year led to a very lively meeting and this will no doubt be the case this year too. As always, the meeting will be in the Townsend Hall, starting with tea, coffee and biscuits at 10am with the talk beginning

SCAN welcomes all those aged 50 upwards living in Shipston and local villages. There is absolutely no charge to attend. We hope to see many new faces.

If you would like any more information, please contact me on 01608 662998. I guarantee that, if you leave a message including your phone number, I will return your call.

Laurie Grove (Chairman)





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SHIPSTON ON STOUR and surrounding communities

Tuesday 14th May 2024

Townsend Hall, 52 Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4AE

10.00am for free refreshments / 10.30am start

Ellen Badger Hospital update South Warwickshire Foundation Trust

Please advise us if you no longer wish to receive the SCAN notice by calling John Wilde on 01789 260933 or email john.wilde@stratford-dc.gov.uk

If you require transport to attend the SCAN meeting, VASA **may** be able to help with a door to door volunteer car. Mileage costs payable. Tel: 01789 262889 or Email: transport@vasa.org.uk

STOUR SINGERS

SPRING CONCERT

featuring

Haydn: Nelson Mass Mozart: Dixit & Laudate Dominum Purcell: Te Deum & Jubilate

Louise Wayman soprano
Judith Le Breuilly mezzo soprano
Matthew Pochin tenor
James Birchall, bass-baritone

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra

Saturday, 18 May 2024 at 7.30pm St. Edmund's Church, Shipston on Stour

Tickets £16 (accompanied children free)
available from ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers
or on the door







www.stoursingers.org.uk

Solo artists appear by arrangement with Ann Ferrier Artists - Concert Directory International





Schools news Shipston High School

It is an important time of year for all our students. There was a fabulous turnout at our Options evenings for students and parents as Year 9 chose what to study for their GCSE exams in two years' time. Some of our Year 10 girls spent the afternoon visiting Stratford Girls Grammar, and we also saw students visiting Alcester Grammar School to have their sixth form interviews. The main GCSE exam period starts on 7th May. We wish all our students the best of luck and will continue to support them with additional revision classes.

Hockey tour

Outside the classroom, our extra-curricular calendar remains full. Just before Easter, 28 students spent four days in Rotterdam, Holland, on a hockey tour. They had the opportunity to be coached by a professional hockey coach and watch a professional game live. They also played against local teams, with the boys coming out with a win! Alongside the hockey, the students – and staff – also enjoyed a trip to a theme park, a river cruise, bingo and candy floss, and lots of fun and games. Everyone involved had a fantastic time.



Book Awards

We took some of our Year 8 students to the Warwickshire Book Awards at Warwick School. The students had the opportunity to see some of the shortlisted authors and hear them give a short presentation. They also had the chance to vote for the novel they most enjoyed and saw the award ceremony for the winning author.

Temple visit

Some of our Year 11 REP students went to visit the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir temple in London. They engaged in a variety of activities, taking part in a Hindu religious ritual of worship called Arti and seeing the different features of the Mandir, including the intricate carvings of the deities and murtis.



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Sport

We have now switched to our summer term curriculum to include cricket, rounders and athletics. Fixtures have been arranged for all sports and we encourage students to come along and join in one of these new after-school clubs.



If you are able and willing to support any of our Year 9 and 10 children in their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering or work experience, please do contact the school office on 01608 661833. Finally, we thank everyone who donated to our Comic Relief fundraiser.

Shipston Primary School



It has taken a very long time and a lot of hard work from many people, but finally the building work to refurbish our Year 6 toilets commenced before the Easter holidays. Children from Year 6 have helped to design the new spaces, choosing some colours and fittings. The old toilets have been there for a very long time, so we are all delighted with new, brighter ones.

Building work

Our planned work to convert the Music Room into a SEND Specialist Resourced Provision started when the Penguin Room was soundproofed to create our new Music Room. This will ensure that we continue to provide a wide range of exciting music opportunities without disrupting the surrounding classrooms. We expect the major building works for the conversion of the old Music Room will be completed by May half term.

Adventure time

Year 5 children spent a fantastic few days at Mount Cook Adventure Residential Centre in Derbyshire, alongside Year 5 children from Acorns Primary School. After nearly 20 years of going to Manor Adventure in Wales it was time for a change. The children collaborated to



complete tasks, challenging themselves to enjoy new experiences

such as rock climbing, archery tag, zip wire from the top of the centre, sleeping away from home and packing their own suitcases. They were also able to enjoy getting very muddy! We are already beginning to organise our visit there next year.

Some children from Year 6 enjoyed learning the sport of indoor kurling at Townsend Hall before competing against children from Brailes, Acorns and Ettington schools.

It's about the book, not the look!

World Book Day was greatly enjoyed on Thursday 7th March. Like many other schools across the country, we did not dress up. Instead, we focused on sharing stories and books with each other. We'd much rather families spent £15 on books than a supermarket costume. Furthermore, an emphasis on dressing up can mean parents become more involved than the pupils! The purpose of World Book Day is 'to explore the pleasures of books and reading by providing children with the opportunity to have a book of their own.' Children in Year 4 showed made and sold bookmarks and Friends of Shipston Primary

School (FOSP) held a very successful Charlie and the Chocolate Factory 'Wonka Bar' sale where finders of a golden ticket won a new book and 100 house points.

Thanks to all the members of FOSP for their hard work this term. The Easter Bake Off was another great success, raising just over £200.



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Shipston-on-Stour Music Society

At the March recital our guest performer was Samantha Oxborough, a very talented young mezzo soprano from Birmingham. She has already won numerous awards since graduating from the Birmingham Conservatoire and sang

the National Anthem at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, viewed by over a billion people worldwide.

Samantha began her programme with three songs by English composers, followed by two folk songs and arias by American composer Samuel Barber and Mozart. During the interval the refreshment room was buzzing with excitement. A varied programme in the second half included music by Schubert, Schumann and songs from the musicals, all beautifully executed with great attention to the necessary style that each required.

It was a fantastic performance, with superb accompaniment from Charles Matthews, a very busy man who is an organ tutor at the Conservatoire, an accompanist for many of the students there and also for many other performers in the Birmingham/Cotswolds area. Charles is the Patron of our Music Society and we were delighted to see him in action here.

Shipston Rotary

Fay Ivens recently took over as President of Shipston Rotary Club from Sue Haywood.

Fay, who is well-known in the town and was previously President in 2017/18, thanked Sue for her hard work and commitment during her time in tenure. On the same evening David Gill took over from Fay as First Vice President.



David Gill and Fay Ivens

Shipston Bellringers

Together with our fellow ringers from Long Compton, Shipston, Brailes and Tredington, we were able to visit Coventry Cathedral recently to ring the bells there, a rare treat indeed. The Cathedral has 12 bells, the heaviest weighing nearly four times as much as our heaviest bell! It is quite different to ringing on the six bells we are used to in our home towers. Each ringer must ring considerably slower whilst ringing much closer to the other bells. Once we grasped this concept, we enjoyed some quite respectable ringing.

Our new training bell allows experienced ringers to hone their technique and is invaluable for learners to get to grips with basic rope handling. It can be rung like a tower bell but because the bell is replaced by a weight, it enables ringers to practise silently. We are also hoping

to install a video camera in the bell tower so that images of what the bell is actually doing when the rope is pulled can be played on a screen in the ringing chamber itself.

Both these innovations will make it easier for new ringers to progress steadily. If you are interested in learning the unique way that church bells are rung or maybe joining our team, please do get in touch on 07972 705539. We would love to hear from you!

Probus recalls the Ronnies



Phil Collins thoroughly entertained Probus members and their guests with his account of two very famous comedians.

Ronnie Corbett was known for being on the short side, a characteristic that enabled him to play the role of a young child well into his adult years. During his national service with the Royal Air Force, he was the shortest commissioned officer in the British Forces.

Ronnie Barker was brought up in Oxford. After national service and brief spells training to be an architect and working in a bank, he took up acting, making a success of his early career in theatres around the country. In 1957 he married, apparently at such short notice that only eleven people attended, and they spent their honeymoon in Shipston – quite possibly at the Old Mill!

The two Ronnies first met in 1963 when Corbett was working in a bar near the Haymarket theatre and Barker was acting in a play which required him to eat a plate of liver. The stage manager took pity on Ronnie and substituted chocolate mousse for the liver. Only later did he admit he also detested chocolate mousse!

The two worked together on the *Frost Report* which featured one of their most famous sketches: 'I look down on him and he looks up to me...' a satirical view of the British class system. Barker began writing sketches under the pseudonym 'Gerald Wiley', producing numerous sketches including perhaps the most famous, 'four candles.'

During the 1971 Bafta Awards there was a technical hitch. The two Ronnies were pushed together onto the stage to entertain the audience and they stole the show. They were signed up for their own television series with a 13-week contract which extended to 20 years of wonderful entertainment.

Ronnie Barker went on to feature in numerous comedy shows including Porridge, Going Straight, and Open all Hours. He retired in 1987 and ran an antique shop in Chipping Norton until his death in 2005. Ronnie Corbett continued to entertain via the sitcom Sorry, game shows and numerous celebrity appearances. He died in 2016.

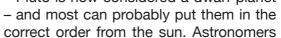
Probus meets fortnightly at Shipston Sports and Social Club. Guests and new members are most welcome. Please contact Tony Joint on 01608 663407 or email tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Astronomical Society News

Most people can name the eight planets

– Pluto is now considered a dwarf planet

– and most can probably put them in the



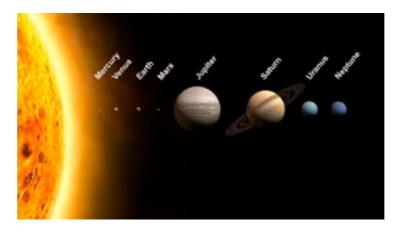
split them into inferior and superior. The inferior planets are Mercury and Venus, not because they are less important, but because they orbit inside earth's orbit. They are fast-moving compared to their background stars. They appear close to the sun, either in the morning or the evening sky. When looking at the planets they show crescent shapes just before or after inferior conjunction when they are at their brightest. (Inferior conjunction is when the planet is between the sun and Earth, whilst superior conjunction is when the planet, appears to be behind the sun). Care needs to be taken, as observing the sun can cause permanent sight damage.

Venus can be very bright! Mercury can be difficult to observe as it appears close to the sun.

Mars is bright and visibly pinky-red. Jupiter is even brighter, orangey-yellow in colour. With binoculars, the four Galileans moons are visible. A small telescope will reveal the bands and the famous red spot.

Saturn is prominent, but not as much as the previous two, and is browny-yellow in colour. Through binoculars it looks misshapen, but with a small telescope, the rings are visible, as is its largest moon, Titan. Uranus is visible with binoculars, a bluey-green dot, but you need to know where to look. It is close to the Pleiades star cluster at the moment. I've never knowingly observed Neptune, but it is visible with a reasonable sized telescope. Pluto needs a big telescope and plenty of patience.

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meets 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 7th May and the speaker on 21st May 2024 is lan Muirhead from the University of Manchester, with a talk entitled 'Megaconstellations: Starlink, Space Junk and the night Sky'. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.



WI: give bees a chance

Alan Deeley came to talk to the Women's Institute about beekeeping, a practice that goes back to antiquity. Honey,



still edible, from Ancient Egypt, has been found in the pyramids. Whether the ancients actually kept hives or gathered wild honey isn't known, but honey has long been valued as a foodstuff and for medicinal uses. Beekeepers have always been important people in the community. Honey was the only source of sweetness until sugarcane was discovered. Bees were included in local happenings; when Queen Elizabeth died, the Royal Beekeepers draped the royal hives with black ribbons and told the bees they had lost their Queen but now had a King in her place. If bees are not told the news, they may take umbrage and decamp.

Until modern hives were introduced in the mid-1800s, woven straw beeskips were used in which the bees created their own combs and extracting honey meant the destruction of the hive. Modern hives allow easy access. Bees can build cells, each one a perfect hexagon, on manufactured combs which are easy to remove and harvest. Bees need 40lb of honey to feed themselves through the winter but they over-produce – and we benefit.

Alan has 30 hives scattered over four sites thus producing varied flavours, eg heather honey from the moors around Chatsworth. The native British bees are the only species to survive through the year as a colony ready for the next year. But they are susceptible to disease and attack from aggressive species.

Alan told the WI about the lives of the queen who will live for five years, laying 2,000+ eggs each day in the hive which is kept at a steady temperature by the female worker bees who work until they drop dead. They nurse the larvae with nectar, remove dead bees and debris, quard the entrance to the hive, clean and groom the Queen, scout sources of nectar and tell other workers where to forage. After six weeks they die. When foraging, they pollinate plants. Without bees and other pollinators, plant life would cease. Each bee produces half a teaspoon of honey, and each pound of honey equates to 50,000 miles of flight. A drone, on the other hand, has a life of ease, emerging after 28 days, hoping a virgin queen will pass by. If he's lucky he will mate but then die. Otherwise, they pass the time waiting to be fed and watered!

Bees face many hazards in their short lives. Their worst enemy is insecticides, along with foreign aggressive species such as Asian hornets that can wipe out a hive in 30 minutes. Food sources are another problem. With 90% of wildflower meadows gone, domestic gardens are invaluable as are arable crops, especially oilseed rape.

There will be a produce and plant sale on 18th May in the Scout Hut and this year Shipston WI will have a stall at Brailes Show in August. At the next meeting, Wednesday 1st May at 7pm, Lynne Deakin will be talking about massage techniques. The meeting will be in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Shipston. Visitors are always welcome.

County Council

If anyone has read my out of office, you'll know I have been taking a little time off to recharge! But I'm back - although I had a virus while I was off, typical – and back in the saddle.

Part of my reflection recently has been prompted by a historic event...50 years since ABBA won Eurovision. The beginning of my own cultural awareness, and possibly an influence forever on my dress sense! It's great to remember a more innocent time and think about what was going on around me as a kid, leading to who I am now. Bear with me, I'm going to segue into the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme...probably being a gold holder is my proudest achievement and certainly a huge part of what makes me, me - mostly the tenacity part! I am asking you to think about how you can help our young people locally with volunteering opportunities. This is a huge part of the personal development of award participants. Please be brave and offer volunteering if you have it!

Back to WCC. Multiple potholes filled using the extra government cash; Severn Trent: seven leaks fixed, new pipes and continuing upgrades. I have asked for a crossing on Darlingscote Road to help get to the Primary School, helped five families with complex school issues, and as a mental health first aider I have been able to help many people who often just need to share (the privilege of being a councillor who people trust). WCC has provided funding and support for some of the businesses in Shipston. I am really keen that others benefit from the help. Please get in touch so Martin Watson and I can do exactly that!

Shipston is a unique town with over 50 independent businesses. They attract people in from the surrounding villages (and much further afield - I have spotted a Chinese tour bus) and are at the heart of our community. The town centre consultation has recommended very little change - it's wonderful to know how much the community values what it already has.

I am still awaiting a reply from the ICB as Chair of the AHSC OSC about the EBH - I will make another request.

After 2nd May (PCC election day) I shall resume surgeries on Thursday mornings and these will include touring the villages as well (I am minded to be around for an hour before PC meetings for a chat). I am keen to hear if there is a more convenient time for people - do let me know!

Good luck to all who are taking exams - do your best and be proud of yourselves.

Councillor Jo Barker (she/her) Shipston Division

Chairman of Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny

07748968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

@imvbarker

District Council

I took the difficult decision to oppose the Sainsbury's application. From the comments on the application, and from those that have contacted me, it has been pretty even in opinions for and against. What swayed it for me were the town centre businesses whose existence are



threatened if the footfall drops any further. It is less than a month since the launch of the Love Shipston campaign. How tragically ironic if in the same month an application was approved for a food store that would jeopardise the work that Love Shipston is trying to achieve. I don't believe the arguments for the store are strong - this Sainsburys would not bring more affordable food to Shipston, and the promise of more jobs must be put in balance with those jobs that will be lost if it went ahead. The application will now be referred to the District Council Planning Committee for further consideration. Together with the Shipston Business Group we are planning our presentation.

At the last District Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Dave heard Police Chief Inspector Faz Chishty and Inspector Ben Hembry of Warwickshire Police give an overview of the current policing for South Warwickshire. They outlined how they were addressing their recent 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' ratings from their last inspection. This included 17 new recruits starting next month. They also spoke about 'Operation Talkative', which encourages residents to report concerns regarding knife crime. If you want to report something anonymously contact Crimestoppers 0800 555111 or report online www. warwickshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about.

I attended the Citizens Advice presentation to SCAN in March. They had some key messages that should be spread far and wide.

- Citizens Advice offer free and confidential advice to anyone on a wide range of problems.
- Make sure you're claiming your pension credit this is the biggest unclaimed benefit. It is a means-tested benefit which tops up incomes to a minimum level throughout
- If you live with someone with dementia, both people are treated as living on their own which opens the door to many other benefits.

To get in touch with Citizens Advice, you can call 0808 250 5715 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm; drop in at Elizabeth House in Stratford Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm; visit their website casouthwarwickshre.org.uk; or they are now running drop-in sessions at the Shipston Warm Hub (the scout hut) on Thursdays 10am to midday.

Olivia Hatch, District Councillor, Shipston North 07752652114 | olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

Useful contacts

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	0300 5558171
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Severn Trent Emergency Line:	0800 7834444
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
Out of hours	111
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood	01789 444670

shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk Team: **Churches of Shipston:**

Stour Valley Baptist 01608 664876 Our Lady & St Michael 01608 685259 01608 661210 St Edmund's

Methodist Church 01295 257193

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

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Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Laura Parker, on 07989 530069 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact admin@shipstononline.org

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.

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