

Shipston Forum



November 2022

Shipston prepares for the period of Remembrance

This year's Remembrance Sunday is 13th November. The Royal British Legion (RBL) has been working closely with the Town Council, Police, Lions, St Edmund's and the Town Band and plans are being finalised for the Remembrance Sunday parade and service at St Edmund's.

Parade participants and spectators are invited to assemble in the High Street from 10am in preparation for the parade, led by the Town Band, moving off promptly at 10.45am.

Following the positive feedback received about last year's arrangements we will again be laying the wreaths, reading the names of the Fallen and undertaking the Two Minute Silence in Church Street in front of the War Memorial.

The members of the parade and those members of the public comfortable to be indoors with other people will then enter St Edmund's for the remainder of the Service. For those who are unable to attend in person we will be streaming the Service online and will share details in advance.

At the end of the Church service the parade will reform and, led by the Town Band, return to High Street, which is closed for the duration. Following fall out, all are welcome to join the RBL in The George.



Please watch out for more details both on Facebook (Shipston Notice Board), the Town Council and our own websites and on our Notice Board in The Bury. Please do also share this information with friends who are not on social media.

Armistice Day will be observed on Friday 11th November with 2 minutes silence in the High Street outside The George at 11.00am

For more details about Remembrance fortnight or to find out about joining the RBL as a member, contact Mike Wells on 01608 664026 or wellsms4@aol.com.

Poppy Appeal

The Poppy Appeal will be upon us before we know it and so we would ask you to consider assisting with this year's collection please. Those who gave their lives in any conflict are remembered through the Poppy Appeal and the Period of Remembrance. The Poppy Appeal also raises funds to enable The Royal British Legion to help veterans and their families throughout life. This year saw the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict when on the 2nd April 1982, Argentine forces invaded the British overseas territory of the Falkland Islands, sparking one of the largest major conflicts since WW2 and which utilised all elements of the Armed Forces. During the conflict 7 ships we're lost to enemy action, 9 aircraft were shot down and 255 British personnel lost their lives defending the Falklands. In Shipston there were special events and displays, including a service of Remembrance at the Gyratory Garden, to commemorate those lost and injured in this conflict. These held special relevance to some members of our Shipston Branch of the Royal British Legion.

We completely rely on the support and help of volunteer collectors. Many loyal and long serving collectors have kindly agreed to take part again but as the town grows, people move on, or personal circumstances change, we would like to welcome new volunteers.

This year's appeal runs from 29th October to the 13th November. Please do consider volunteering. It is very enjoyable and a great way to get to know more people in your local community. You could assist by collecting in the Town Square during the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday or by volunteering to carry out a house-to-house collection round. You can do as much as you have time for, even simply covering one street would help enormously.

Shipston on Stour is one of the very few places in the country to have house to house, street, and static collections - only possible because of the fantastic level of support that the Royal British Legion enjoys in the town. I hope that we can count on you again during The Poppy Appeal 2022.

If you'd like to volunteer or find out more, please c ontact Sharon Harcourt, Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser at poppyappealsosrbl@gmail.com



RNLI Street Collection Saturday 8th October 2022

Thank you very much to the manager and staff of Tesco Express who allowed us to use some of their forecourt



for our collecting base on the 8th October.

Thank you also for the kind volunteers who collected donations and manned the stall but especially the people of Shipston and surrounding areas who helped us raise almost $\mathfrak{L}500$.

Thank you everyone.

John and Jenny Plenderleith



Mayor's column

Hello Shipston.

I dropped in yesterday to the warm hub that the SHWP have organised for Thursday mornings at the Scout hut. It was good to see so many interesting things offered there. Local newspapers, board games, hot drinks and cake were all available. There were also people available to offer advice on energy bills. It felt really warm and welcoming and I'd recommend it to anyone who fancied a bit of company on a cold Thursday morning. They are running every Thursday until the end of December. I know that St. Edmunds church is looking at getting another warm hub organised too. We'll let you know as soon as that gets up and running. If you are interested in finding out about warm hubs in our area then you can contact Jackie Holcroft at wrccrural.org.uk/wrcc-warm-hubs.

As the weather is getting colder and the cost-of-living crisis bites even harder the opportunity to do things that don't cost anything seem even more precious to me.

Winter is often a time that people suffer with isolation and depression. We are very lucky in Shipston that we have so many groups offering social connections.

Stratford district Time Bank is another organisation that doesn't cost anything to join and offers free socials. There are enough members in Shipston now that a Shipston hub has been formed. The face-toface social is on the third Thursday of the month and starts at 1pm in the Scout Hut. Anyone is welcome. You can contact Sarah Coxall, the time broker, and she will give you all the details of what Time Bank offers. Her phone number is 07419373680 and her email address is timebroker@outlook.com. I have been to the theatre, cinema, had lifts and gardening done all through time bank. I know Sarah is happy to come and talk to anyone.

Stay warm and safe!

Cllr. Marianne Westwood My pronouns are she/her

Mayor, Shipston Town Council

Avian Influenza Statement

Warwickshire County Council is issuing advice to residents on what they should do if they find a dead wild bird.

The UK is currently experiencing a very large avian influenza (bird flu) outbreak and some wild birds may be infected.

The public is encouraged to report dead wild birds to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) helpline, telephone 03459 33 55 77

You should call the Defra helpline if you find:

- · one or more dead bird of prey or owl
- · 3 or more dead gulls or wild waterfowl (swans, geese and ducks)
- 5 or more dead birds of any species

Do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find.

Further advice on all aspects of bird flu is available on GOV.UK, visit: https://www.gov.uk/quidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu



SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Come and join us for an exciting long weekend in May 2023 French style!

The Shipston-on-Stour Twinning Association are planning a visit to Torigny-les-Villes in Normandy at the end of May next year, from Friday 26th May to Monday 29th May (Spring Bank Holiday) inclusive. We are a friendly and sociable group and welcome new members of any age, single, couples or families.

If past experiences are anything to go by, you can be assured of a really warm welcome and enjoyable time, with opportunities to sample the food, customs and culture of France and visit some fascinating places.

Please don't be put off if you can't speak French as many of our French hosts speak excellent English. Lasting friendships have been made over the years.

The journey is usually made by coach and ferry and a full and varied programme will be arranged. All you have to do is enjoy yourself and host your French friends in the UK the following year for a few days.

If you are interested in joining us, please email Diane at: secretary@shipstontwin.co.uk or phone 01608 663 789.

Alternatively, for more information and photos of previous visits, take a look at our website: www.shipston-torigni-twinning-association.co.uk

News from Shipston Town Council's October meeting

Warm Hubs

Several organisations across the town are seeking to establish warm hubs to provide communal heated spaces for residents over the winter. They are coordinating their plans together to avoid duplication of effort.

Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)

The external auditor identified a discrepancy in how some figures were recorded in the AGAR. This issue was resolved following discussions between the internal and external auditors and the council.

Polling Station Review

The location of polling stations is under review following the confirmation of changes to Stratford-upon-Avon District Council ward boundaries that will come into effect at the 2023 elections. The current proposals will see Shipston North ward continue to use the Scout Hut as a polling station, however, options for Shipston South ward are still being explored.

First Responders

Cllr Booth reported that there are now ten First Responders providing coverage for Shipston and the surrounding areas answering approximately 60 calls each month.

Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG)

Two new schemes will soon commence construction in Hook Norton and Sutton-under-Brailles. The focus throughout 2023 will be on maintaining existing defences - SAFAG believes that its existing resources will cover 6-7 years of maintenance activity. Councillors approved funding for the renewal of a software licence.

Ridgeway Land Transfer

Negotiations over the precise terms of the land transfer are ongoing.

Cornmill Meadows

Quotes for different forms of hardstanding are being sought for a vehicular area at the entrance to the site – this area will principally help prevent mud from being carried onto the highway.

Gateway Signs

Different funding mechanisms, including existing s106 agreements, will be checked to ensure that the project is delivered in the most financially prudent way.

Town Maps

Councillors approved funding to replace the maps located in car parks around the town with more up-to-date versions.

Riverside Project

The land transfer from Stratford-upon-Avon District Council is still pending. Councillors agreed on a maximum budget for tree works once the transfer is complete.

Town Museum Building

Councillors agreed to a maximum budget for works to repair the roof and back wall of the building.

Councillor Code of Conduct

Councillors endorsed the contents of the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020.

Youth Working Group

Work is continuing on the terms of reference for the group and members are eager to organise a meeting with the high school as soon as possible.

Sports Club

Councillors agreed in principle to the installation of a temporary stair lift at the Sports and Social Club.

Rotary Tree of Life



Each December the *Tree of Life* stands proudly in the centre of Shipston, its white lights glowing symbols of love and hope in memory of loved ones who will not be with us to celebrate this special time of the year.

If you wish a friend or relative to be remembered in this way you are invited to sponsor a light by returning the form and making a donation knowing that every name will be entered into the Book of Remembrance

Every contribution will be donated to Rotary charities and good causes.

The illumination of the *Rotary Tree of Life* will take place at the opening of the Rotary Victorian Evening on Friday 2nd December

Rotary Club of Shipston-on-Stour Tree of Life

Please find enclosed donation £..... (minimum £5) cheques payable to Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour

In Memory of: (Name).....

From: (Name).....

Your address.....

Please return to:
Rotarian Avryl Thompson
Willow Bank
Pillerton Priors
Warwickshire CV35 0PS
Tel 01789 740 047

Forms are also available in local shops, banks, library, post office and other locations or contact Avryl

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

<u>Tuesday</u>

Rhyme Time:

10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café:

Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm

Lego Club:

Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Wednesday

Dementia Friendly Café:

10.30am-12.30pm, Shipston Lodge

New Age Kurling:

2pm, Townsend Hall

Thursday

Story stomp:

10am, 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 - Nov 2022

November

- Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.
- 2 Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230 Shipston on Stour WI: Annual Meeting Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks, Secretary on 01608 664519
- 4 Stour Valley Lions Cinema: The Railway Children. See ad on page 8
 Bonfire and Fireworks: Shipston Sports Club. See ad on page 11
- 5 Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided.
- 8 Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN): Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, 10am for hot drinks and mince pies, 10.30am start. AGM followed by music from jazz group 'The Pavilionaires'. 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 Sparkles & Spruce a demonstration by Elaine Millward. 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Shipston on Stour Primary School, Station Road, CV36 4BT. Visitor entry £5.00. Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month.
- 9 Shipston and District Gardening Club 'Aliens in the Garden' by Roger Umpleby. 7.30pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road
- **10 Royal British Legion Shipston Branch:** AGM. All members welcome. Contact Alex Black 01608 664743
- 10-11 Shipston Home Nursing: Designer Clothes Sale. See ad on page 16
- **11 Armistice Day:** 2 minutes silence at 11am, outside The George, High Street. See article on page 1
- 13 Remembrance Sunday Parade. See article on page 1.
- 15-16 Shipston Home Nursing: Christmas Gift Fair. See ad on page 8.
- 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 Barbara Smith 01608 662433. See ad on page 16
- 18 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
 - Townsend Hall: Washington Whirligig. See ad on page 16
- 22 Shipston U3A: see ad on page 11
- **24** Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat
- 30 Shipston and District Literary Society: Thomas Hardy, Stratford & Shakespeare by Roger Pringle. Meetings are held at the Halford Bridge Inn, Halford at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5. Contact Helen Marshall 01789 740773

December

- 2 Victorian Evening: 6pm-8pm
- 4 Shipston Town Band: Christmas Concert: see ad on page 8
- 5 Holiday at Home: see ad on page 8

Food Bank

Demand for food parcels at the food bank is increasing.



Past President of Shipston Rotary David Gill presents a cheque for £800 to Ed Jackson County and Councillor Jo Barker, both of whom work hard for the food bank.



Shipston Proms

Without more new members, it looks like the future of the Proms is in jeopardy. Next year's Proms may sadly be the last one. At the AGM in September our dwindling



committee struggled to fill its officer roles.

Amongst help needed, we are on the lookout for a' Friends and Social Secretary' who can promote our festival through membership as we have just lost our highly efficient secretary Jeanne Robinson who was also an amazing seller of Raffle tickets. We will miss Jeanne very much and hopefully it will only be temporary. We also need someone who can step into the assistant chair role to help Charlotte out. Haydn has done a brilliant job in the past but does have his hands full with the Treasury role.

The election of officers for Proms 2022/2023 are:

Chair Charlotte Haines
Treasurer/Asst Chair Haydn Ward
Secretary Michelle Clark
Publicity & Media Susan Perry

Social Media Sec Charlotte Haines

Our committee do love putting on the Festival and we try to do as much as possible within our small team but our resources are now being overstretched. Please do get in touch if you are able to help. We meet once a month at the White Bear at 7.30pm where there are opportunities for members to really make a difference in what the town and outlying villages get to hear.

Please contact us either through Facebook or by email – shipstonproms@gmail.com

Or by having a chat with one of us. We look forward to hearing from you.

The 2023 Proms will run from 16th/17th June until July 1st.

Shipston Celebrates The Great Big Green Week

Residents of Shipston and local villages were excited and proud to take part in 'The Great Big Green Week', Britain's biggest ever community action to tackle climate change and protect nature, during the week September 24th to October 1st.

Organised by local group Stourvale Action for the Environment (SAFE), there was a wide range of activities to suit all tastes. Perhaps most popular was the chance to have a sneak preview of Shipston's newest public open space and designated



SAFE members from L to R: John Dinnie, Jacey Jackson, Verity Richardson, Amanda Holden, Dave Passingham.

Local Wildlife Site – Corn Mill Meadows. Visitors were given a conducted tour and were impressed by its potential to enhance both wildlife and leisure for people of the area; our thanks to those who made valuable suggestions for its future development. The site is not yet officially open to the public, but watch this space!

For those wondering what they can do to encourage nature in their own gardens, a visit to a superb garden in the heart of the Town, including 46 different wildlife friendly types of trees, provided a wealth of encouragement and ideas.

A big problem facing us all is the ever-increasing deluge of domestic rubbish. A talk by two waste project officers from Warwickshire CC gave an appreciative audience an insight into how our rubbish is disposed of and, most importantly, encouraged us all to greater efforts to recycle. Recycling is also a theme in a free booklet produced by Amanda Holden which puts together a convenient and impressive list of local businesses providing environmentally friendly produce. To reinforce this in a practical way the small group who regularly litter pick around the Town were joined by new volunteers, including two keen youngsters. They helped clear up the ugly and polluting rubbish from our Town's streets. Thank You! Shipston is now a cleaner place!

A 'Great Big Green Bike Ride' was enjoyed by a group of 8 cyclists, both men and women, on a beautiful sunny Autumn morning. The ride took in some of our loveliest local villages in a 10-mile circuit and the excellent refreshment stop was kindly hosted by the Cherington Arms in a lovely riverside garden.

Two sessions illustrated the good work being done to assist local wildlife, in particular– Swifts and Bees. All seats were taken for a talk entitled 'Swifts are Making a Comeback' informing on both the threat to these remarkable birds (now in danger of extinction) and what is being done in Shipston to encourage them to thrive. A group called 'Shipston Action for Swifts' has now been launched.

Similarly, Shipston Beekeepers enlarged our understanding of the amazing life of bees, including a viewing of our very own hive, newly located in St Edmund's Churchyard.

A big Thank You to all who took part, to the organisers SAFE and the White Bear as meeting venue. Next Great Big Green Week is June 10th-18th 2023. Save the date!

New members of SAFE are always welcome. For further information on SAFE or comments on The Great Big Green Week please contact Amanda Holden email: amandajholden1@gmail.com or Verity Richardson Email: verityrichardson@googlemail.com

Shipston on Stour Women's Institute

Shipston WI met on a chilly, dark evening to hear Analiza Jones talk about the bags she imports from



the sunny Philippines. The bags are unique in that they are made from fibre from a form of plantain – the Abaca plant. The fibre is produced from the stems which go through several processes to produce fibre of varying thicknesses which in the past has been used mainly for rope making. Abaca fibre is very strong and resistant to saltwater so is much used in shipping. It is also used to produce matting and fabric of varying degrees of fineness.

The process of stripping the stems and producing the resultant thread to be spun and woven is mainly manual and can involve whole families. Some mechanisation is being introduced which speeds the process, but it is hard physical work. Once the desired thread is produced, it can then be spun, dyed, woven on hand looms, or plaited into rugs and mats. The fine mats are used in handbag making.

Analiza showed the meeting the bags made from Abaca fibre, and each was unique and stylish. Some had intricate woven patterns and some mono-coloured with a lovely sheen. She was keen to stress the sustainability of the fibre. When a plant is harvested, it will regrow and produce more strong stems.

The recent pandemic has badly affected the trade and young people are not following their parents. However, the Philippine government has introduced training into prisons which gives inmates an occupation and a trade when they are released.

The President, Carole Turner, had attended the Civic Service in honour of the late Queen. A place has finally been agreed for the bench to commemorate the Centenary of Shipston WI. The Branch will be having a stall at the Victorian Evening on 2nd December.

The next meeting is the Annual General Meeting on 2nd November – Wendy Nursall will talk about being a life coach.

New members needed!

Rotary 100 Club Draw

The draw was made at the Shipston Sports and Social Club, September 27th, and drawn by Barbara Gimblett.

First Prize - £58.75 winner No.32

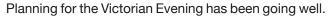
Second Prize - £35.25 winner No.67

Third Prize - £23.50 winner No.94

Congratulations to the winners.

Victorian Evening

Yes, it's back and this year Shipston Rotary is determined to make it happen!



All your favourites and a few new ones.

Primary School Choir, Town Band, Father Christmas, hog roast, stilt walker, face painter, Town Crier, Christmas lights switch on and Christmas Tree of Life, among other things.

Friday 2nd December 17:45 to 20:00

Not to be missed, put it in your diary.



Countdown to Christmas

So much going on in the countdown to Christmas! Get your tickets and the dates in your diary!



- Friday 18th November, we have booked Washington Whirligig the clue is in the name, Whirligig by name and by nature! New Orleans through to driving mainstream jazz, swing and blues.
- Saturday 3rd December, back by popular demand, Cotswold Events have booked the hall for The Birmingham Blues Brother's.
- Sunday 4th December, our very own Shipston Town Band have booked the hall for their Christmas special.
- Friday 17th December, we have booked the Carl Sinclair Quartet for our own Christmas special - get in quick when we release tickets for this one! Carl is right up there as a professional pianist, vocalist and entertainer with songs for everyone that'll get you dancing and singing along!

As previously noted, all the proceeds from bookings and events at the hall, go towards the charity under which it operates. For events the charity's trustees' book, proceeds are targeted at specific projects, not least an investment in a stage lift to provide access to the stage for all – and, thanks to our event attendees, we're getting close!

As a charity, we welcome all the support we can get - please take a look at https://localgiving.org/charity/infoattownsendhallcom/ and if you can spare a little something, it would be very welcome to help keep us going.

Take a look at www.townsendhall.co.uk for more. From here you can see everything else going on at the hall including clubs and sports. For events the trustees put on, you can also bag your own table and seat from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, or for general admission from Clarke's in town.



Stour Valley Lions boost three charities following bumper donation from Shipston Lodge Fete

Following a very successful fete on 3rd September 2022, Taylor and Taylor - the owners of Shipston Lodge - agreed to generously double the Lions' fundraising effort on the day and presented the Club with a cheque for £5000. A big part of the Lions' ethos is that most of the money raised in the community stays in the community. And so it was that Stour Valley Lions, were able to make three fantastic donations from their efforts.

The first beneficiary was the Shipston Food Bank, which is doing an amazing job in the Stour Valley - and is a service that is about to get even more crucial, as domestic fuel costs continue to spiral ever upwards. Stour Valley Lions President Duncan Cashmore and Treasurer Graham Williamson presented Ed Jackson, Treasurer of Shipston Food Bank, with pre-paid cards to the value of £2000 for the Food Bank to use in Shipston Co-op. Ed said that he was extremely grateful to Stour Valley Lions and to the community who so generously supported the Shipston Lodge Fete, which made this donation possible.

The second beneficiary was the local Air Ambulance. This is a service we all hope we will never need but saves hundreds of lives every year. Our Treasurer Graham Williamson presented the Manager of the Shipston fundraising store, Sue Thorn, with a cheque for £1000. Sue asked that we pass on the thanks of the whole Air Ambulance team to Stour Valley Lions. She said that this was a real community service and expressed her gratitude to everyone who had supported the Lions.

The final beneficiary was Redwings Horse sanctuary at Oxhill, and we presented the Manager Zoe Knight with a cheque for £500. Zoe said "Thank you so much. It was my absolute pleasure to walk you around and tell you about the work of the sanctuary. I'm sorry I couldn't get the rain to hang off for just a few more moments. We are really grateful for your support and choosing to donate to us."

Watch out for news of further donations shortly.

It has been a busy summer for the Lions, but plans are already well underway for more fundraising activities including an Advent Fair and Book Sale in the town on 19th November. Look out for the Lions Christmas Hamper raffles in December – and they will also be helping again at Shipston Lodge Christmas Fair on 10th December.

Please contact Lion Paul Macpherson for any further information:

paul@paulmacpherson.co.uk or 07725 105677



Cheque presentation from Shipston Lodge to Stour Valley Lions



Sue Thorn from the Air Ambulance with the Lions Treasurer Graham Williamson



Ed Jackson from Shipston Food Bank receiving the pre-paid cards from Lion President Duncan Cashmore



Lions members at Red Wings for the presentation to Manager Zoe Knight

Shipston & District Literary Society

Every explorer is also a riveting storyteller, so the saying goes.

So it was when Ettington's own author, photographer, documentary maker and internationally renowned polar explorer Mark Wood spoke to the Shipston and District Literary Society. His talk revolved around two of his books, the partly autobiographic Solo Explorer and Rock And Ice, a collection of some of his expedition photography, but quickly evolved to include subjects ranging from navigation when you're alone and there's nothing but sky and flat fields of ice in front of you, to frozen eyeballs.

Coventry-born Mark did not set out to be a collector of "firsts" (first man to walk solo to both the North and South Poles, first man to broadcast to tens of thousands of schoolchildren live from the slopes of Mount Everest...), he started because he wanted to see how far he could push himself. But weeks alone in -40C temperatures, howling winds and not another living thing within hundreds of miles made him re-evaluate his whole life.

He recognised that the icy "waste" lands that he has come to love and in which he now feels so much at home are in danger of destruction through human activity. It is now his mission to educate people, particularly young people, about the fragility of the environment and everybody's important role in protecting it. He does this through his books, his documentaries aired on TV, talks and through connecting thousands of children worldwide for live discussions. Often from remote and hostile locations.

The Literary Society has a time-honoured tradition of adjourning to the bar for a relaxed and informal continuation along the speaker's theme after the talk and Mark readily joined those who could stay on afterwards, even though he had to be up before six the following morning. He had to catch a plane to Nepal for his next trip...

Mark's talk was the first one of the Shipston and District Literary Society's new season. The Society now meets at the 16th Century Halford Bridge Inn, on the last Wednesday of the month. Meetings start at 7.30pm. Further details from the secretary, Helen Marshall, on 01789 740773.

What's On Page 8



TOWNSEND HALL

FRIDAY 4th November, 2022 at 7.30pm

Advance Tickets £5.00

From: A. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour. Covid restrictions – please hand sanitise on arrival Any enquiries please email: stourvalleylions@gmail.com





Christmas is coming

so meet up with friends at

Holiday at Home



December 5th in the

Townsend Hall 10am-3pm



Activities, games, quizzes and entertainment for the over 65s.



Little Shipstonians Page 9



WRITTEN AND
ILLUSTRATED
BY NIKKI TURNER

Hello Little Shipstonians! We hope you are adjusting to the colder, autumnal weather and wrapping up nice and warm. Did you know that hedgehogs start to hibernate in the Autumn? Hibernation means that the hedgehog will find a cosy, quiet spot to nestle down and sleep for the colder months. Hedgehog numbers are sadly in decline in the UK but there is still lots we can all do to help them. One way is to create a hedgehog friendly garden by providing them with a sheltered nesting spot for their hibernation. Below are the instructions to help you to create a perfect little hibernation home for local hedgehogs. Just be sure to keep it in a really quiet place. No one likes to be disturbed when they're in a deep sleep, and that's particularly the case for our prickly friends! And if you don't get any hedgehogs this year, don't worry, the house will still be loved by all sorts of bugs and insects, who will be glad of a snug little winter hideaway. On the other page is also a colour-in sheet with a hedgehog who has made his home out of a tree stump! We hope you enjoy the activities.

Things you will need to build a hedgehog hibernation house

- A waterproof container that an entrance hole measuring 15cm x 15cm can be cut
- Leaves and twigs
- · Straw (not essential)
- · A quiet, cosy place to put your house I Get an adult to cut the
- Water resistant, wildlife friendly paints if you want to decorate your



I Get an adult to cut the entrance hole where you want the front to be.

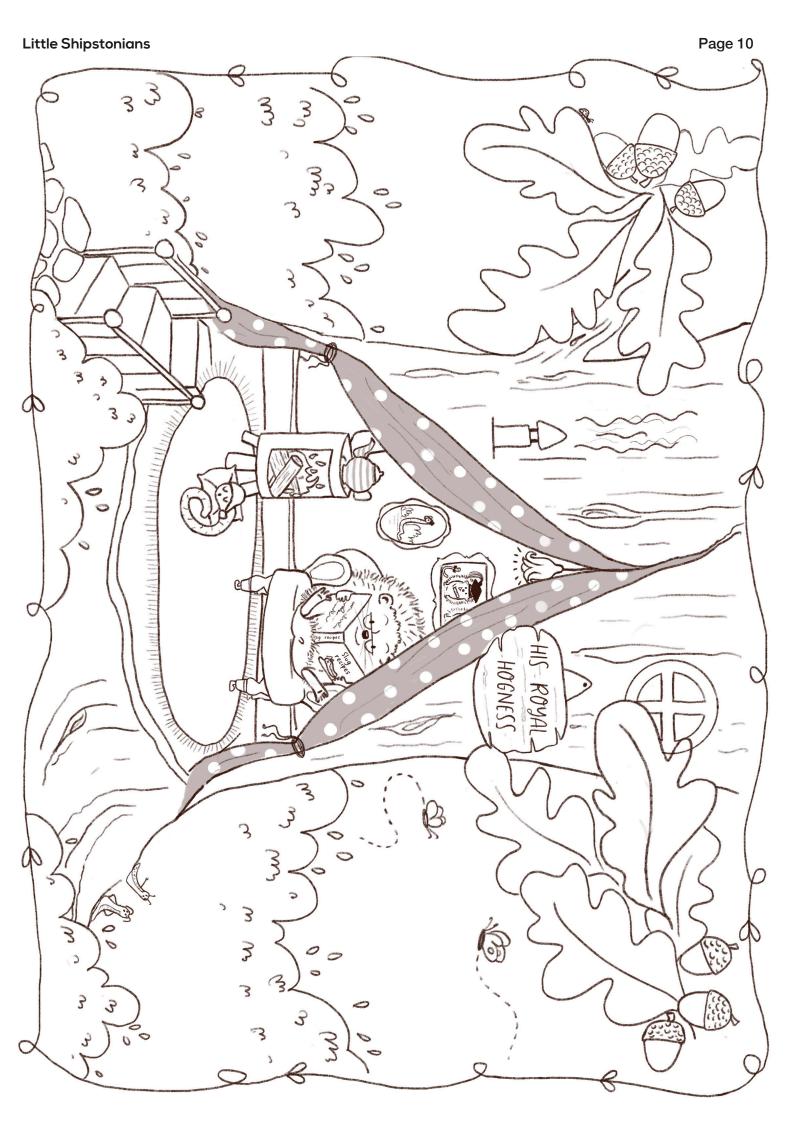


2 Put some leaves inside to make a cosy bed area. You can also top with straw to make it extra snug. Decorate it if you want to.

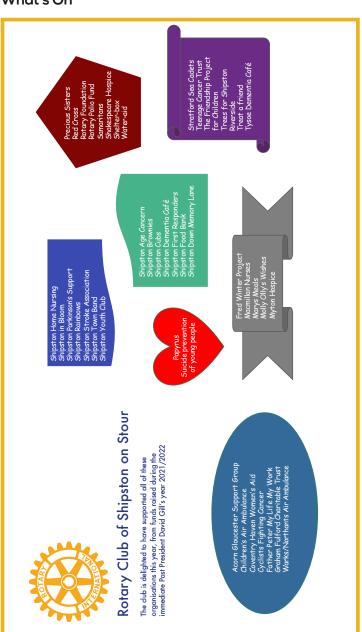


3 Find a quiet area at the back of your garden where the house can remain undisturbed for the winter.

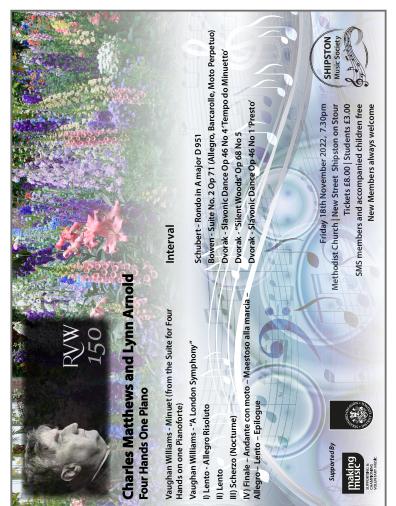




What's On Page 11







SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA



TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2022 2 PM TOWNSEND HALL

TALK BY ANDREW BAXTER 'THE EDGE HILL LIGHT RAILWAY'



One of the most remarkable stretches of railway in the country is just a few miles from Shipston. This was The Edge Hill Light Railway, built to take ironstone from the quarries on top of the escarpment to blast furnaces in the Black Country. An ingenious rope and pulley system enabled gravity to move wagons up and down the slope. Think of a railway built on Sun Rising Hill and you will get some idea of the engineering problems to be solved. It had but a short life: 1922-1925. Yet a century later it still attracts great interest from railways enthusiasts.

Visitors are welcome Entry including refreshments £2 School News Page 12

Shipston Primary School

THANK YOU FOR THE HARVEST

Staff, parents, carers, family members and children filled St. Edmund's Church pews and choir stalls for our annual Harvest Festival last Friday.

Due to the size of the school and the capacity of the church, we held two services. Mr. Roberts and Revd. Sarah welcomed the congregation with an opening prayer and, after a hymn, the majority of the service was led by our Year 6 Flamingos class who read poems, bible readings and prayers. Many thanks to all of our families for such generosity with the dried and tinned goods donated to our local Foodbank, a service that is being used more and more in our community. Revd. Sarah commented that the children's behaviour and attitudes are superb.

Many thanks to the family members who helped walk the children to and from the church. Our next service at St. Edmund's is the Year 3 and Year 4 Christmas services on Tuesday 13th

December. Pelicans class will lead our Easter services at the end of March.

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Well done to the Year 5 and Year 6 boys who took part in the cluster schools 7-a-side football tournament on Thursday 29th September. In the group stages the children played well without conceding a goal, securing a place in the quarter finals.

Shipston beat Brailes 2-0 in the quarter finals, then triumphed over Kineton 1-0 in the semi-finals and beat Ettington 1-0 in the final to win the competition.

WRAPAROUND CARE

SPLASH (Shipston Primary Learning After School Hours) wraparound care continues after school until 6pm every school day. There has been a fantastic uptake from children from all age ranges. Our Breakfast Club also continues from 8am.

Children at SPLASH have recently been creating artwork with an autumnal theme.

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Children can start school (Reception) in the September after their fourth birthday. Parents and carers of children who were born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 must apply for their Reception place by 5pm on 15th January 2023. Applications made after this date will be classified as late and not considered until the first allocation of school places has finished on 17th April 2023. We are likely to have filled all their available places by then.



Our open mornings at Shipston

Primary is from 31st October – 4th November, 9.30am. Please book your appointment for a tour of the school by telephoning or emailing. The application window opens on 1st November.

01608 661266 | primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk

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 new Trust website is www.thestourfederation.com

Christian Hilton, Executive Headteacher

Shipston-on-Stour Primary School

Open Mornings

Monday 31st October - Friday 4th November 2022 9.30am - 10.30am each morning

Please book an appointment with the school office

www.shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk

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









September 2023?

- Take a tour of the school to see teaching and learning in action.
- Meet pupils, staff and school leaders.
- Get advice on the Admissions procedure.
- Learn about our curriculum, facilities and wraparound care from 8am 6pm.

Email: primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk

'el: 01608 661266

Twitter: http://twitter.com/shipstonhead



Shipston High School

The autumn term is now well underway at Shipston High School. Pupils are busy in lessons and a host of extracurricular activities, including our recent open evening. The pupils were, as always, out in force during the evening, and filled the school with energy as they shared their pride in the school with prospective parents. The evening was exceptionally well attended, with visitors full of praise for the atmosphere of the school, the mature demeanour of our pupils, and our reputation for excellence.

Similarly our Open Morning on 5th October was very successful and parents expressed their thanks for being able to see Shipston High School in action during a normal school day. A great many parents remarked on the calm and focused learning environment in the classrooms and the contemporary feel of the newer school buildings. The imminent £10.5 million building project also created a buzz of excitement.

The school was shocked and saddened at the death of Her

Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Thoughtful conversations have taken place in history lessons over the last few weeks around what the Queen meant to us, what she did for the Country, the British monarchy and line succession. These discussions have culminated in a joint project between history and art departments create a timeline of



her life and a display board of student observations. The display is now complete and has pride of place in the Humanities/Art corridor and attracted a lot of attention at our recent Open Evening.



The image that accompanies this article is by Year 11 student Imagen and demonstrates both artistic talent and respect for the Queen.

Shipston High School was a keen participant in the recent European Day of Languages 2022. We celebrated this with various activities across the week. Years 7 and 8 had the opportunity to enter a poster competition, designing a poster about a European country they would like to visit. Posters included thoughtful details such as what languages are spoken, traditional food eaten, popular music and famous landmarks.

We also invited Year 6 in Acorns, Brailes and Shipston Primary schools to enter and we have received some fantastic entries.

The winners are:

Acorns Primary – Y6 Macy (France)
Shipston Primary – Y6 Sophie (Sweden)
Shipston High School – Y7 Isobel (France)

Y8 Lola (Netherlands)

Students were also invited to interview staff about their own language skills, discovering lots of information such as which staff members speak another language at home or have needed language skills at work.

Shipston High School is back to enjoying extracurricular activities. Year 10 and 11 students recently went to see 'The Woman in Black' at the Fortune Theatre in Covent Garden.

Drama students study the play for their written exam where they are tasked to write a review of live theatre. Experiencing 'The Woman in Black' is a key moment for any Drama student and the show never fails to entertain.

Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Shipston Medical Centre

Full online access to your health record from 1st November 2022

From 1st November 2022 the NHS is automatically enabling patients to view their medical record online. This means that all entries into the record held by the GP on or after 1st November will be visible to you via the NHS App, Patient Access and other apps designed for this purpose.

We encourage patients to take an active part in maintaining their health and wellbeing and as such many patients will wish to be aware of the content of their records. The access will enable patients to check their test results and see any correspondence from hospitals. Research tells us that patients often recall only about 40% of the content of a medical appointment, so being able to access the record after a consultation may help in the recall of what was said.

The releasing of prospective records, and not retrospective ones, is deliberate but as previously, patients are able to request access to their full medical record if they wish. However, the practice still has a legal responsibility to ensure data is managed correctly, so anyone wishing to view their retrospective record necessitates the practice looking at all entries to check if

Medical Centre t: 01608 661845

there is any third-party data that should not be released. Typically, such data may include a note about a relative calling to raise concerns, or a fellow health professional's contact details. We also have a duty of care to ensure that making information in the health record available to patients will not exceed available to patients.

lack of technology at that time.

or a fellow health professional's contact details. We also have a duty of care to ensure that making information in the health record available to patients will not cause undue distress; for example, notes recording a traumatic life event can have a triggering effect. Going forward these aspects will be managed proactively, whereas in the past this was not possible due to the

We ask you to think carefully about requesting retrospective records as the work to review each record before release is significant and takes staff time away from patient care. Of course, if access is needed, please do ask and if possible, be specific about the information needed and the dates this covers. Requests will take up to a month for the information to be provided.

More details about the NHS App are available https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/. The app can be downloaded for smartphones in the Google Play and Apple stores.

District Council update

The Ellen Badger. As the Health and Wellbeing Cabinet member at SDC I am fortunate to serve as a SWFT governor. I have been involved in board discussions about the EB for several years and I'm excited to see the new development



starting. And it is starting – the bats have been relocated into a bat roost, the asbestos is being removed and parts have already been demolished. Building should commence next month – let's hope the winter is not too hard. There is an issue for our GP surgery relocating – due to the 50% increases we are seeing across the board in building. The space allocated for the medical centre is being reserved for them. Amongst other meetings I am seeing what I can do to help find a solution – it's sensitive because the GP practice is autonomous – so it's all about a lot of interlocking partnerships and acronyms!

One of my council colleagues laughed at the speed of response I got to an issue where he had been banging his head against the wall. I'm glad the my uber-networking is paying off for the community. Making and sustaining relationships has been hard during covid – but I have been lucky that so many of mine are in health.

Please continue to ask me about the EB – as many of you do. I will keep the updates coming.

Now – poo, pee and paper. I am playing phone tag with the CEO of Severn Trent. If I have a result before publication of the Forum – there will be a whole column devoted to the plans for our foul water, storm water and water supply! Suffice to say that she is a very pro-active CEO and I was impressed at the grasp of the issues. I am hopeful that we are really going to get some action.

So much going on – I am thinking of moving my surgery to a Thursday early evening – would that work? Let me know.

Jo Barker, District Councillor, Shipston South 07748 968712 | jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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

County Council update

I am very torn about how to write about our superfast broadband. We've wanted good rural connectivity for a long time. On one hand we really need it and have been the first main rural centre to be done so thoroughly....and there's the



rub. I had to drive over some rather bouncy slats covering a trench for several days – it felt a bit Top Gear. I can say that I have had enough of jack hammers for a while too. Some of you have had far worse I know. I have been in touch with the suppliers – particularly for you poor folks who were cut off completely. I believe they have done the repairs – but if not – please ring me. Please take pictures of egregious reinstatement attempts and poorly installed junction boxes etc. I have asked our localities officer to come and have a look – WCC does not inspect works as a routine these days – but will come when requested.

Also, where damage has been done to your private property we need to make sure that is sorted out as well. When we get the paths sorted and it all works – we can breathe a sigh of relief and carry on working or playing from home – a lot faster!

I've been given a new committee to chair at WCC. It's the Children's and Young People's Partnership. I chaired the first one a bit timidly, as I looked round the table at so many well qualified professionals. My remit is to do something I have long wanted and promised to do – cut through the bureaucracy. So we will reduce the number of talking shops we have and treat this as a meeting to fix things. The idea is we bring those issues which seem to have got stuck and sort them! All those of you with kids will already be sending me emails – I hope. One of the trickiest things is reorganisations and making sure that every operation is reassigned – sometimes tings get dropped inadvertently – picking them up again can be really hard!

I am working with SHWP, the church and others to open some warm hubs locally. So, if you need to keep warm we will have spaces available – as well as advice and chat!

Jo Barker, she/her County Councillor, Shipston

07748 968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

Working together to banish sewer blockages

For several months Shipston Town Council has been leading efforts to identify a solution to the sewage and drainage issues which have caused flooding across the town, with some residents finding human waste spread across their garden.

A working group comprised of Town Councillors and representatives from Severn Trent Water, the Environment

Agency and Warwickshire County Council has been working on an action plan to tackle blockages.

Severn Trent Water is now installing additional monitoring measures so that blockages can hopefully be identified before causing a flood and exploring redesigning portions of the system with wider capacity pipes. A tanker with suction will be used to remove these blockages so that contaminated water is not washed into highway drains and into local waterways.

Importantly, every household can help reduce the frequency of blockages by thinking about what they

flush down the toilet and pour down the drain. The blockages are caused when fat and other debris combine into 'fatbergs' which fill the pipes and prevent wastewater from flowing through the sewer network, causing raw sewage to flood parts of the town.

With these simple actions we can all help protect our drains and keep the sewers flowing for everyone - together we can banish the blockages!



Only ever flush pee, poo and toilet paper



Bag sanitary towels and tampons then bin them



Bin wipes to avoid blocked drains



d Use a bin for nappies, razors, cotton buds and dental floss



Scrape pots, pans and plates before washing up



Use a strainer in your kitchen sink



Use kitchen roll to wipe down grease from pans and plates



Collect used oil in a container and throw it in the bin

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 Working Group Chair

t: 07973 442552

e: peter.cox@shipstontowncouncil.org



Tony Booth

e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



Hilary Kelly

e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vacancy

Vacancy



Vacancy



Vacancy

Useful Contacts

s Transport	01789 264491
':	0300 5558171
ne	01926 499273
mer services	01926 412515
ergency Line:	0800 7834444
eer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
e Centre .	01608 662354
al Centre	01608 661845
	111
	01295 788655
ocal transport)	01386 593446
ing Centre	01926 412593
: Council	01789 267575
	07514 704057
ounty Council	01926 410410
·	024 7696 4000
al	01926 495321
on emergency)	101
Safer Neighbourhood	01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwi	ckshire.police.uk
	me mer services pergency Line: per Transport Scheme de Centre per

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

Singing

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: Barbara Smith 01608 662433 Alternative Contact: Pat Hutton 01608 664648

Wednesday,	Wednesday,	Wednesday,
18 May	15 June	20 July
Wednesday,	Wednesday,	Wednesday,
17 August	21 September	19 October
Wednesday,	Wednesday,	Wednesday,
16 November	21 December	18 January

SHIPSTON ON STOUR - A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

DESIGN CLOTH Moda Rosa



Thursday 10th November 5.30pm - 8.30 pm Friday 11th November 9am - 4pm

AMAZING PRICES **UP TO 80% OFF!**

Armani, Temperley, Paul Smith, DVF, Hayley Menzies, Luisa Cerano, Cefinn & more including cashmere knitwear & accessories



Donation £5 Entry 10% Shipston Home Nursing Darlingscott Farm, Darlingscott, Shipston-on-Stour Warwickshire, CV36 4PN with special thanks to John and Maggie Sargent





Friday 18th November 2022 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: <u>ds@pinnegards.com</u>; 07511-694733

