



We will remember them

This year's Remembrance Sunday is 12th November. It will be marked by a parade, led by the Town Band, and a service at St Edmunds. Participants and spectators are invited to assemble in the High Street from 10am, and the parade will be moving off promptly at 10.45am. Armistice Day will be observed on Saturday 11th November with a two-minute silence in the High Street outside The George at 11.00am

More information on page 5



Cornmill Meadows official opening

The Meadows, donated by a local family to the Town Council for the enjoyment of Shipstonians and visitors, are officially open.

Find out more about the plans for this Local Wildlife Site set to improve the biodiversity of this area, and how you can get involved, on page 5.



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Meet the dog who can empty the washing machine, open doors and take your gloves off! Page 12

'Twas the month before Christmas...

Yes, it's only November, but it's time to start planning for the festive season, with lots of events in town and the surrounding villages.

The Rotary Victorian Evening kicks off the town's Christmas celebrations on Friday 1st December 6-8pm. Father Christmas will be taking time out from all his seasonal preparations to visit Shipston and process with his elves to his grotto. There will be carols from the Primary School choir, music from the Town Band, the big Christmas lights switch-on, food stalls and the Tree of Life – plus a few surprises, according to Shipston Rotary.

Shipston Home Nursing has a number of exciting fundraising occasions, including a Christmas gift fair, a Strictly Come Carolling Service and a Christmas craft fair on 14-15th November, 2nd December and 8th December respectively. Shipston Proms has two festive fundraising concerts on 2nd and 3rd December.

And Stour Singers have their Christmas Concert on 9th December. More details on all events inside.



Mayor’s column



Hello Shipston,

‘Ne’er cast a clout till May be out’. Well, I would say it is probably the time to start wearing your ‘clout’ as the weather is on the turn.

On 29th September, the mayoress and I went to the Civic Dinner at Alcester Memorial Town Hall. It was well attended by multiple mayors, all wearing their chains. When people give me a menu choice, I always forget what I had chosen by the day of the event and this was no different. I enjoyed what I had anyway!

On 3rd October we attended the High Sheriff of Warwickshire’s Legal Service. This was a very well-run event and well worth going to. It was a multi-faith service including Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Protestant readings, all in English. A gospel choir and bagpipes (not at the same time) performed and in all it was a fascinating event.

October also saw the official opening of our newly-acquired land for public use called Cornmill Meadows. It was nice to see the event so well supported with many people there.

Finally, I have just attended the Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa’s Civic Service at The Parish Church of All Saints. I didn’t know that this church was used instead of Coventry Cathedral when the cathedral was bombed out during the Second World War. The church itself was plenty big enough to substitute as a cathedral however it needs a massive amount of additional funding due to ‘the wrong sandstone being used’ in its construction. Sounds familiar!

My diary is looking busy. I am looking forward to seeing many of you during the forthcoming Remembrance Day commemorations.

Cllr. Gerry Kelly,
Mayor, Shipston Town Council

News from Shipston Town Council’s October meeting

Allotments

Council approved the installation of a new perimeter fence and gate at New Street allotments.

General works

Council to create list of approved contractors for small works.

Dog waste and paths

Laminated signs are now up on Hanson Track and vegetation trimmed back to make the bin more visible. The hedge at Hanson Avenue has been trimmed to make the path more usable.

Cornmill Meadows

Hilary Kelly and volunteers carried out a litter pick in advance of the official opening on 14 October, collecting four bags of rubbish in less than an hour.

Highways

Leaks on Darlingscote Road have been reported to Highways.

Policies and website

A working group will carry out a review to ensure all the latest versions of policy documents are available, and that all information on the Council website is up to date.

Energy efficiency

A recommendation to obtain energy certificates for the Hub and Social Club will be passed to the Finance Working Group.

Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC Mark Lucas will be replacing Sid Hammond in the community team. A Speedwatch will be set up for London Road and Stratford Road.

Ellen Badger Hospital

Councillor Dinnie is waiting for a reply to questions he posed to the Integrated Care Board in July.

Educational grants

Richard Taylor reported that there had been 17 successful applicants for grants from Shipston Educational Charity available to help students aged 16-25 with further and higher education, together totalling £1,420.

Angelas Meadow

The planning committee and the GPWG are to discuss the play equipment and its placement within the existing play area offered by Orbit Housing under the S106 agreement from the Chapel View development.

Rivers

Council agreed to buying three testing kits to test water quality in the Stour for a minimum period of a year, maximum five years. Data will be fed back to a group monitoring the wider area. The river level at Stour Bridge will also be measured.

Bandstand

Councillors have been exploring the possibility of having a bandstand in the town square with Shipston Town Band, if active travel plans allow space following consultations.

Trees on Hawthorn Way

The environment working group will make recommendations about a proposal to allow the felling of an ash tree with the planting of smaller trees.

High School extension

The planning committee is to review a proposed extension at the High School.

Riverside

Council approved a scheme of improvements at Riverside, involving lifting crowns and felling dead trees– leaving the roots in place to secure the bank – along with the planting of a new hedge and grassing of picnic area, and the creation of a low level hedge around the car park.

Visit Local website

Council agreed to host a new Visit Local website.

Shipston in Bloom

This will be the penultimate season for the current volunteers who help to make our town blossom throughout the spring and summer. The hard-working team plants bulbs and plants supplied by the Council. Please get in touch with the town clerk at the Town Council if you would be interested in continuing this bloomin’ brilliant tradition. clerk@shipstononline.org

Looking for Cost of Living help?

Cornmill Meadows
Official Opening

On a beautiful sunny, autumn morning, a group of supporters and friends gathered at the entrance to Cornmill Meadows with Ian Jelley, a director of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, to declare the official opening of the Meadows. The Meadows were donated by a local family to the Town Council, for the enjoyment of Shipstonians and visitors.

The area has been declared a Local Wildlife Site, and, over time, we hope to develop a wildflower meadow, a community orchard, a bug hotel and a new area of woodland, amongst other activities which will increase the biodiversity of the area.

Afterwards, people gathered in New Clark House for refreshments and an opportunity to see a display of photographs showing some of the activities that have been taking place at Cornmill Meadows.

Many thanks to all our supporters who are helping care for the Meadows. In order to progress our plans, lots of help will be needed. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact John Dinnie or Hilary Kelly at Shipston Town Council.

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 at this special time of the year.

If you would like a friend or relative to be remembered, you can sponsor a light by making a donation (£5 min), knowing that every name will be entered into the Book of Remembrance.

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

The Tree of Life will be illuminated at the Rotary Victorian Evening on 1st December.

Sponsor forms are available in local shops, banks, library, and post office or from Avryl Thompson Tel 01789 740047.

Keep knitting!

Ronnie Murphy would like to say thank you to everyone who responded to the appeal to knit squares to be made into shawls for young mothers with babies in Ethiopia for the charity Hamlin Fistula UK. The shawls



help protect them from freezing cold nights and become a treasured possession for patients when they are able to take one home having been discharged from hospital.

The latest batch is being collected soon, but more are still needed. Keep knitting, Ronnie says: it's a great way to pass the time and take your mind off the news on winter evenings.

Remembrance Parade 2023

This year's Remembrance Sunday is 12th November. The Royal British Legion (RBL) has been working closely with the Town Council, Police, Lions, St Edmund's and the Town Band and Bellringers and plans are being finalised for the Remembrance Sunday parade and service at St Edmunds.

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 continued positive feedback about the recent changes in format, 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 wishing to, will enter St Edmunds for the remainder of the Service. For those who are unable to attend in person we will be streaming the indoor 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 Church 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 on social media from ourselves, St Edmunds and the Town Council and also on our Noticeboard in The Bury. Please do also share this information with friends who are not on social media.

Armistice Day will be observed on Saturday 11th November with a two-minute 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 2023

By Sharon Harcourt, Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser

By the time you read this the Poppy Appeal will have been running for a few days so if you've already purchased your poppy then thank you for your support.

Collectors have been at the crux of the Poppy Appeal since 1921 and this year they will again be in our community to collect donations that help RBL continue its vital work. In Shipston we enjoy great support from our volunteers, from shops and businesses hosting static collections, from local community groups and from those who contribute. I really hope that this will continue during this year's appeal.

The Shipston Branch of the RBL appreciate our loyal collectors and certainly don't take their support for granted. In addition to street and static collections, Shipston is one of very few towns left where a house-to-house collection takes place. I am really so grateful to all of our collectors, whatever they do and however they contribute, as without their continued involvement, our community collection would quite simply not take place.

If your collector hasn't been yet, then please do look out for them and give them a warm welcome when they call.

New for 2023

Available from this year is a new poppy made from a blend of renewable fibres from responsible sources which can be recycled in ordinary paper recycling collections.

Hundreds of possibilities were explored during the design process. Paper was chosen over complicated bio-based plastics to create a single-material solution that can be easily recycled. Fifty percent of the raw material used has been recovered from waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will initially be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy to avoid waste of poppies already produced. It can be fastened with a pin or inserted into a buttonhole.

Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury's stores for recycling after the Poppy Appeal.

We also are now able to offer a smaller size of wreath should you prefer.

I will personally look forward to seeing many of you during this year's appeal and thank you in advance for your support.

A Story of Cornmill Meadows

By A.F.E. Line

During a recent stroll down Meadows Way, the access path to Cornmill Meadows, I spotted in the distance a small dark figure in the middle of the path. As I got nearer it became clear it was a young cat, just sitting and watching me approach. Drawing level, I was treated to an affectionate rub along my legs; I responded with an appropriate tickle behind the ear, and we parted good friends.

Continuing my walk, I reflected that nearby houses were probably home to many such pets who would quite naturally roam the meadows, especially at night. The problem is Cornmill Meadows is a designated wildlife site and in season there are likely to be ground nesting birds, field mice, voles amongst others, all of which fall prey to cats.

The Mammal Society estimate that cats in the UK kill around 92 million prey items during spring and summer, of which around 27 million are birds. I appreciate it is in the nature of cats to hunt, and they will roam over wide areas. Here I must congratulate the owner of my newfound feline friend – this cat was wearing a collar with a small bell around its neck! The RSPA recommends that the collar should be correctly fitted and should have a quick release mechanism to allow the cat to free itself, should it become snagged. There are also commercially available sonic collars which are designed to alert the potential prey of the cat's presence.

So, a plea to all cat owners, and in particular those residing in Angelas Meadow, Brewers Hill and Haddons Field Please give a thought to your wildlife neighbours in Cornmill Meadows and in all open spaces around the town, give them a sporting chance to escape a sudden disastrous end from your cat's claws – fit that bell!

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

Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group - Monday evenings
7-9pm in the Townsend Hall.

Tuesday

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm

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

Board Games Social Afternoon:
Fortnightly 1:30pm-4pm Rainbow Fields

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

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

Saturday

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 : November 2023

1st. Shipston Widows: Local lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean
6632304

1st. Shipston on Stour WI: Social evening. Visitors most welcome.
Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. Contact Jane Hanks,
Secretary on 01608 664519

3rd. Sports Club Fireworks: see ad on page 9

4th. Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick: All welcome. Meet at
New Clarke House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments
provided.

4th. Stour Valley Lions Craft and Book Fair: 10am-2pm Townsend Hall.
See ad on page 16

6th. Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each
month.

8th. Shipston and District Gardening Club: A Vintage Christmas -
Christine Ramsey. 7.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall. Contact Tony
Mitchell 01608 666933 or email a.mitchell434@btinternet.com

9th. Free Cost of Living Workshop:10am-12pm Scout Hut, New Street.
See ad on page 3

9th. The Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch: Committee Meeting,
location TBC. If you would like to know more, become a Committee
member or a member of the Branch call or message the Branch
Secretary Alex Black on 07789 968733 or email alblack32@hotmail.com

10th. Lions Cinema: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry. See ad on
page 10

13th. Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

14th. Shipston Flower Club presents Made for Christmas – a
demonstration by Lee Berrill. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm
start at Shipston on Stour Primary School, Station Road, CV36
4BT. Visitor entry £6. There will also be refreshments, a raffle (of
demonstrated flower arrangements) and a 'win a prize every time'
tombola.

14th. Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN)

14th-15th. Shipston Home Nursing Christmas Gift Fair: Ettington
Community Centre. Tue 14th 4pm–7.30pm, Weds 15th 9.30am – 3pm.
Something for everyone from stylish clothes and homeware to jewellery
and Christmas cakes. Food hall with soup on the Wed lunchtime. For
details visit www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

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

15th. Singing Down Memory Lane: 2pm Rainbow Fields, The Driftway.
See ad on page 7

16th. Drop-In Clinic

17th. 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. We meet in the White Bear Inn 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: see ad on page 16

17th. Townsend Hall: Swing from Paris.

22nd. Shipston and District Literary Society: Freedom and The
Creative Spirit. A Debate. Meetings are held at The Halford Bridge Inn,
Halford, at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5 ea. For further information ring
Vice Chairman Alison Hook 01608 686376

28th. GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). A
social 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 (except December). All
ladies welcome. Entry £2.00 See ad on page 7

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

30th. Warm Hub: British Motor Museum will be bringing in items to look
at from their collection that inspire conversations and people to share
experiences. We will be offering refreshments and a warm welcome so
please come along. 10 – 12pm, Scout Hut, New Street

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA

u3a


Registered Charity No 1170969

TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

2 pm TOWNSEND HALL

SHAKESPEARE’S WOMEN

A light-hearted talk by actress
JENNIFER RIGBY



A look at the women in Shakespeare’s life both
on and off stage with performance extracts

Members free. Visitors welcome Entry including refreshments £2

TH

Townsend Hall

Charity No. 522997

52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. CV36 4AE
www.townsendhall.co.uk

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents



SWING from PARIS

An evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and Gypsy Swing

Often described as 'the finest gypsy jazz in the Cotswolds', *Swing from Paris* are a UK quartet of violin, guitars and double bass.
Inspired by the great swing bands of the 1930s and '40s, they present their own versions of music by Gershwin, Piazzolla, John Lewis, Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli and the Hot Club of France.
Expect stylish jazz and vintage swing.

'their arrangements are consistently intelligent, interesting and inventive'
★★★★
THE JAZZ MANN
'Clever interpretations and adaptations'
NUB NEWS

Fenner Curtis - Violin
Andy Bowen - Guitar
Sam Hughes - Guitar
Tomasz Williams - Double Bass

Friday 17th November 2023
Doors Open 19:00 for 20:00
Fully Licensed Bar

Tickets £12.50 from:
o Clarke Electrical Services, 01608-661394, or
o For online booking, visit ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall

SHIPSTON FLOWER CLUB

PRESENTS

Made for Christmas

a demonstration by

Lee Berrill



on

Tuesday, 14th November 2023,

7.00 for 7.30 pm

at

Shipston on Stour Primary School,
Station Road, CV36 4BT

Visitor Entry £6

There will also be refreshments, a raffle (of demonstrated
flower arrangements) and a 'win a prize every time' tombola



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

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

Wednesday, 18 October	Wednesday, 15 November	Wednesday, 20 December
Wednesday, 17 January	Wednesday, 21 February	Wednesday, 20 March
Wednesday, 17 April	Wednesday, 15 May	Wednesday, 19 June

SHIPSTON ON STOUR - A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP) Trustee wins award

At this year’s annual WCAVA (Warwickshire Community & Voluntary Action) Volunteer Awards evening, Vanessa Compton, SHWP Trustee and Chair of its Executive Committee, received the Highly Commended Award in the Health and Wellbeing section. These awards are an opportunity to recognise the enormous impact that volunteers have on lives in South Warwickshire.

Bob Armstrong, Chair of SHWP Trustees commented: “Vanessa has played a key role in the development of the charity which is now is providing ever-increasing health and wellbeing support to people throughout the Stour community. For the work which she has done she richly deserves this award.”

Vanessa was surprised and delighted to receive her award. “What an absolute honour it was to receive the Individual Health and Wellbeing Highly Commended award at the recent WCAVA South Warwickshire Volunteer Awards for my contribution to the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SHWP)”.

Vanessa thanked her fellow Trustees and all the members of the Partnership who have supported her over the last two years. The Partnership looks forward to expanding its activities in Shipston and the surrounding villages in 2024.

Shipston Proms

We now meet in a new venue, in the large room behind the bar in The George, writes Susan Perry. We were sorry to leave the White Bear where Emma has looked after us so well, but the space in The George, as there are now so many of us, works just that bit better.

This year for the first time we will be holding two festive fundraising concerts to go towards costs for the 2024 Proms. Mrs Porter’s Christmas Chamberpot Pourri featuring the Brailes Singers (and many more to announce) will be performing at St. Edmunds Church at 7pm on Saturday 2nd December. The second Christmas concert will be held by Shipston’s acapella choir Cantamus at Townsend Hall on 3rd December at 3pm. This will feature a ‘Big Sing’ of carols that we can all join in. Both events will be a great way to celebrate the start of the Christmas season.

It was good to see Richard Taylor, one of the founder members of the Proms, at the meeting, joining us as



a committee member once again. His input in 1999 helped create this great Shipston institution. As well as Richard, we also welcomed former member Jill Davies back to the committee. A completely new member is John Fedorowycz, recently arrived in Shipston and impressed by how much music is going on in the town. Elected officers for Proms 2023/24 are Chair: Charlotte Haines; Treasurer, Haydn Ward; Secretary, Michelle Clark; Publicity & PR Susan Perry; Social Media Charlotte Haines.

As we’ll be talking over what could be in the programme over the next coming months, we’d love to hear your ideas. Please get in touch through our website shipstonproms.org or Facebook. Our next meeting will be at The George at the new time of 7pm on Wednesday 15th November.

Shipston Home Nursing events

Christmas gift fair

Our annual gift fair is back, at Ettington Community Centre, on Tuesday 14th (4pm-7.30pm) and Wednesday 15th November (9.30am-3pm). We have a fabulous range of stalls this year with stall holders including Rebecca Tracey, Cotton and Gems, The Cotswold Shed, Spirit of Ilmington, Paddox Flowers and many more. There’s something for everyone, from stylish clothes and homeware to jewellery and Christmas cakes. We’ll also have a food hall, and be serving soup on the Wednesday lunchtime. For further information, visit www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk



Strictly Come Carolling

We’re delighted to be hosting a charity carol concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 2nd December, at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford upon Avon, with all proceeds raised coming to Shipston Home Nursing and The Royal Orthopaedic Charity. Join us for a night of fun, joyful cheer and audience participation with musical director Julian Harris at the helm. We will be joined by actor Anton Lesser, soprano Mollie Smith and organist Adrian Moore as we welcome the festive season with well-loved carols and readings. For further information and to book tickets, visit www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

Christmas Craft Fair

A new event for Shipston Home Nursing, our Christmas Craft Fair on Friday 8th December (10.30am-5pm) at Brailes Village Hall showcases the talents of local artisan businesses. We’ll have a wide range of stalls selling wonderful gifts for Christmas, alongside mulled wine, tea, coffee, mince pies and cake throughout the day! For further information, visit www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

ARTMIX exhibition 2023

Shipston landscape and abstract artist Heather Bailey is one of nine local artists really excited to be showcasing their amazing work and ready to extend a warm welcome to their regular visitors and to those visiting for the first time.

The Exhibition returns to the Upper Town Hall, High Street, Chipping Campden on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November. It is open 10am till 4.30pm. All work is for sale and admission is free.

On show will be paintings, ceramics, hand carved wood, mixed media, textiles and jewellery.

This pre-Christmas arts and crafts exhibiton is an ideal opportunity to launch the festive season and for the public to view the work of ARTMIX and meet the artists too www.heatherbaileyart.co.uk

Shipston SCAN

Shipston SCAN (Senior Citizens Action Network) is looking for a treasurer and committee members as it commits to campaigning vigorously on local and national issues affecting older people.

Says chair Trevor Russel: “We’ve surveyed our members and overwhelmingly they want us to be more vigorous in challenging local authorities, NHS bodies and our MP on matters such as transport, health facilities, environmental concerns, social care and the state of our footpaths. We will make sure that older people are heard.

“It’s an exciting time for SCAN but we do need to strengthen our team with a treasurer and more committee members.”

SCAN meets every two months with speakers on a range of topics. The AGM is on14th November. Anyone interested in becoming treasurer or joining the committee, please contact Trevor on 07771855214 or t.w.russel@hotmail.com.

Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society

Shipston on Stour Drama Group is still looking for a sound technician. If you have a flair for cutting, editing and operating sound and music, come and join a creative and enthusiastic team!

Please contact via the Shipston on Stour Drama Group Facebook page.

Warm Hub event

The British Motor Museum is coming to town to do a session at the Warm Hub Thursday 30th November from 10-12pm. They will be bringing in items to look at from their collection that inspire conversations and people to share experiences. The Warm Hub will be offering refreshments and a warm welcome so please come along.

GATES OPEN
AT 5PM
FIREWORKS
AT 7PM

NO SPARKLERS!

FIREWORKS
SHIPSTON SPORTS
CLUB



TICKETS ON
SALE NOW!

FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2023

21 London Road CV36 4EP

No parking available at Sports Club
Event numbers will be capped

Is it nearly Christmas?

Not yet but it's coming soon so book your place at

Holiday at Home

on

Monday December 4th

in the Townsend Hall

from 10am ~ 3pm

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

Booking essential

£10 to include Christmas dinner and all crafts

To reserve your place contact Rosemary 01608 662584

An event organised by Christians Together in Shipston

SHIPSTON PROMS

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING CONCERTS

Saturday 2nd December

Mrs Porters Christmas Chamberpot Pourri

Featuring The Brailes Singers & many more to announce!

St Edmunds Church, Shipston, 7pm - £10 on the door

Sunday 3rd December

CANTAMUS

Featuring a 'Big Sing' of Christmas carols for us all to join in with!

Townsend Hall, Shipston, 3pm - £10 on the door

For more information follow us on Facebook or check out our website shipstonproms.org

Shipston Rotary

2023

Victorian Evening

December 1st from 6pm to 8pm

and The Tree of Life

Music, Stalls, Food, Father Christmas & Tree of Life

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA

BASED ON THE BESTSELLING NOVEL BY RACHEL JOYCE

by BROADBENT Penelope WILTON

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

HOPE IS A JOURNEY

Harold is an ordinary man who has passed through life, living on the side lines, until he goes to post a letter one day and just keeps walking.

Certificate 12

TOWNSEND HALL

FRIDAY 10th November, 2023 at 7.30pm

Advance Tickets £5.00 or pay on the door.

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

Covid restrictions – please hand sanitise on arrival.

Drinks and raffle.

Shipston Primary School

Harvest Festival

In early October, we enjoyed our two Harvest Festivals at St. Edmund's Church. Both services were led by children from Flamingos class who read beautifully. Many thanks to all the parents who were able to attend and help us to walk to church and back.

There is a thank you to the school for their Harvest donations on the Foodbank Facebook page.

Key Stage 1 Judaism Day

Year 1 and Year 2 classes found out about the Jewish religion as Rabbi Zvi came to talk about Jewish stories. He told the children a story about a boy called Isaac and his dad Abraham. The second story was about Isaac when he was older. He had a wife called Rebekah and babies called Esau and Jacob. Pupils had some challah bread and Rabbi Zvi sang some of the Torah Scroll. He told the classes about Shabbat.

Pupil leadership eco-assembly

Sustainability and developing an awareness of what we can all do to help preserve the planet is a key priority in school. Beatrix, Mae, Eva and Megan from Year 4 planned and led a superb assembly, explaining to the rest of the school why we need to recycle and reduce waste. They also gave pupils and staff some sensible, easy tips to become more aware of how to do this, giving out suggestions such as turning off lights when you leave a room; taking a shower rather than a bath; turning off the tap when you brush your teeth and

Shipston High School

We are more than halfway through our first term and school is buzzing with activity. Our after-school programme has been extremely well attended and it is wonderful to see lots of our students taking part in dancing, cooking, singing, craft and music activities and, thanks to the very mild and dry weather, plenty of outdoor sports.

Sport

The inter school sports fixtures have taken off and we have participated in hockey, football and netball fixtures, across all year groups, against our neighbouring schools. These provide great opportunities for our students to experience competition, whilst playing the sport they love. Results have been mixed, but students have shown great resilience and maturity at each and every game.

Open events

Our open events for our 2024 intake took place on Thursday 28th September and Thursday 5th October. We welcomed parents and students into the school for an open morning, and evening, to see the school

Shipston-on-Stour Primary School

Open Mornings

Monday 8th November - Friday 10th November 2023

10.00am - 10.30am each morning

Please book an appointment with the school office

www.shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk

Part of the Stour Catchment Hub Academy. Trust with primary, secondary, special and sixth form schools.

remembering to throw your litter in the bin. The girls have also met with School Council and Ms Young as our Sustainability Champions to advise them and to help complete our school sustainability action plan.

Open mornings

We are looking forward to welcoming lots of families to our open sessions in November to show them round our wonderful school, whether it is for new starters for Reception in September 2024 or mid-year moves.

Our open mornings at Shipston Primary are on Monday 6th to Friday 10th November, 10am-11am.

Please book your appointment for a tour of the school by telephoning 01608 661266 or emailing primary@shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk. The closing date for Reception 2024 applications is 15th January 2024. Our admissions criteria is on the school website and we are able to take children from neighbouring counties such as Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, in addition to Warwickshire.

If you can't make the open mornings, we will certainly accommodate you at a different time.

in operation, and also wander around freely engaging with our own students and visiting classrooms to take part in subject activities. Both events were busy and we have received positive feedback on our feedback forms and via email. Thank you to all the students who helped at the evening event, you behaved impeccably, were polite and helpful and a credit to the school.

Food bank drive

As part of our community links programme, we are busy collecting food for our food bank drive in support of Shipston Food Bank. We have tasked our students and staff with the challenge of trying to fill our school minibus with donations to our help our local people. Students have been very generous during this first week of collections and we have received a huge variety of much needed items. Thank you to everyone who has donated, it is very much appreciated.

Shipston-on-Stour Women’s Institute



Instead of the usual Women’s Institute meeting of listening to a visiting speaker, the meeting on 6th October was a social affair. Members sat in groups, sipping a welcome drink, and just chatting. It was a lovely way to spend the evening as meetings often leave no time for chat and gossip.

There was business to conduct, however, and the President reported that the coffee morning visit to Shipston’s newly opened Museum was greatly enjoyed by those who attended. Members learned a lot about Shipston’s history. The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting when Officers and Committee Members will be elected. Members were asked to put their names forward if they would be willing to serve on the Committee.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4th November in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm. The speaker will be a representative from Shipston First Responders who play an important role in the community.

Shipston and District Literary Society

Wednesday 22nd November 2023. Freedom and The Creative Spirit – a debate, at The Halford Bridge Inn, Halford, at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome £5 each. For further information ring Vice Chairman Alison Hook 01608 686376. Please note this is a change from the last Wednesday of the month for this session only.

Shipston Stitchers

Shipston Stitchers recently held a ‘Show and Tell’ for members when we had the opportunity to look at each other’s work and ask questions. We always share our knowledge and experience with each other which we find encouraging and helpful. We are a quietly friendly group and have different talents and mixed experience. We welcome new members. We meet alternate Fridays at The Catholic Church Room, Darlingscote Rd 10am-3pm. Do come and say hello if you are interested. Meetings 10th and 27th November. For more information tel Anita on 01993 832665.



Cotswold Choir

Cotswold Choir meets each Wednesday in Shipston Methodist Church. Members come from Bourton on the Water, Moreton in Marsh, Shipston and the villages in between. Many of our members do not read music but come to have fun learning to sing together in parts under the excellent leadership of Amy Walter. We perform at various venues in our area including the Shipston Proms, the Bell at Moreton and fetes and celebrations. Our repertoire tends to be modern, pop, film or musical-related with some classical pieces thrown into the mix. We often use professional backing tracks which provide energy and dynamism.

We are currently working on our Christmas repertoire which will include Christmas carols but also modern classics such as the ‘Fairytale of New York’, originally sung by Kirsty McColl and The Pogues.

It’s at 7.30pm on 9th December at Shipston Methodist Church. Come and join us for an enjoyable evening with refreshments. Look out for our posters on noticeboards.

Bird migration



Why do birds undertake journeys of sometimes thousands of miles each year. How do they survive and arrive accurately at their destination? Dr Tim Sellar, a retired zoologist now living in Ilmington, treated Shipston Probus members to the latest research into the extraordinary world of bird migration

Most of us probably think of long-distance journeys such as the the one made by willow warbler, a tiny bird weighing just a few grams, that flies 4,300 miles one way to sub-Saharan Africa. In contrast, the dipper, named after its habit of bobbing movement, lives off insects and larvae found in upland streams, but streams can freeze in winter hence the dipper migrates to lower levels, maybe just a few hundred away metres, to find its food.

How do we know birds migrate? The first record of a bird ringed in England and picked up in Natal, South Africa, was on 27th December 1911. It was believed to have flown 6,000 miles in eighteen months, and is now known to have travelled 18,000 miles! In addition to ringing, scientists now use tiny transmitters which record the exact routes and timing. It is estimated that 5,000 million birds migrate from Europe to Africa each year, with different species taking different routes. Even within species, groups may follow distinctive patterns of movement. Not all travel from north to south: starlings fly east to west, from Russia and Scandinavia to the UK in winter. Some birds, for example the cuckoo, take different routes each year. Why this should be is a matter for further research.

We may be familiar with those special birds that stay with us all year, notably the robin, but all may not be as it seems! It is now known that some robins fly off to Ireland for the winter and may be replaced by continental cousins, so the winter robin in your garden could be from France!

What are the reasons for migration? It is chiefly availability of food as the seasons change. In Africa there is around 12 hours of dark and 12 of light. By travelling north in the spring birds take advantage of not only the bloom of food supplies but the extended hours in which to feed. Finding suitable nesting sites to bring up the next generation is important.

Young gannets may travel further than the adults to grab the most advantageous positions. The great shearwater breeds on isolated islands in the South Atlantic and is one of the few birds to migrate from south to north in search of its food; squid and fish.

How do these animals manage to navigate huge distances, often returning to the exact same nesting site each year? It is believed they make use of landmarks such as lakes and mountains and adjust their flight to the changing position of the sun. But all birds fly at least partly at night, and experiments have shown the pole star is their guide. Some may use a magnetic sense of direction and other subtle environmental factors – the smell and sounds of land or sea. Changes in atmospheric pressure indicate weather change and can delay migration. Many adult birds fly off leaving their young to follow, presumably aided by inherited genetic information, but it is not fully known how they manage.

Probus meets fortnightly on Fridays 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.

Dogs for Good

Ann Prosser and Marilyn Chalmers from Dogs for Good, a local charity based in Banbury, gave a presentation to Shipston Probus together with star of the show Ash, a yellow labrador who displayed all the patience and calm performance skills of a veteran actor.

We may be very familiar with dogs who accompany those with visual impairment or rescue dogs of various types. Less familiar may be the numerous ‘assistance dogs’ that provide essential help for those with disability. One in five of us have a disability of some kind, not always apparent to the casual observer; many live alone and isolated. Approximately 11% of children in the UK have some level of disability most commonly learning, emotional and sensory/speech issues.

An assistance dog is trained to aid anyone with a disability be it physical or mental; they can perform specific tasks related to their owner’s disability, helping them gain confidence and independence. Dropping your specs or phone while in a wheelchair can be a problem. An assistance dog can retrieve them, similarly they may open doors, especially the ‘press button’ type out of reach to the wheelchair-bound. Having difficulty getting your socks, jacket, trousers or gloves off? No problem, amply demonstrated by Ash who deftly pulled off Marilyn’s gloves without touching her fingers! He was also reputedly capable of retrieving clothes from the washing machine! Other dogs are trained to raise a medical alert or simply remind when it is time to take medication; yet others can act as a calming influence on children with emotional difficulties or adults with dementia.

The breeds most suited for these roles are the labrador, retriever and cockapoo. At least two years of training is needed from the puppy stage, always based on ‘fun’ for the dog, and always involving a reward for appropriate behaviour. Ash was rewarded with a ‘treat’ after each demonstration – so much so members queried the quantity of food consumed but were assured this is taken into account at mealtimes. Despite intense interest in a treat, Ash was so well trained that he would not touch a biscuit placed on his paw until given permission and would never ‘steal’ food.

The demand for these wonderful helpers is great but of course all this comes at a cost: initial purchase and extensive training adds up to thousands of pounds. Interested in helping or learning more? Go to Dogs for Good | For making life possible | Assistance dogs & more .

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

Astronomical Society News



The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society 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 November that will be on 7th November and the speaker on 21st November is due to be Ian Muirhead from the University of Manchester, with a talk called ‘Megaconstellations, Starlink, space junk and the night sky.’ Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8pm.

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

Satellites

Firstly, the biggest, oldest, and the only natural satellite of the Earth, is the moon, which we have mentioned in previous notes.

People are surprised when they are told you can see man-made satellites with just your own eyes, but you can. They will look like ‘stars’ moving across the sky at a constant speed. They can fade, as they move into the Earth’s shadow. Most travel in a west to east direction, but some will appear to go south to north.

The brightest by far is the International Space Station (ISS). Its passes are easy to predict on apps like Heavens Above. Occasionally, you will see a second satellite preceding or following it. These are Dragon Capsules, service modules taking or removing equipment or crew from the ISS.

Another thing you can occasionally see are the skytrains of the Starlink – lines of satellites following one another. There can be dozens of these in a row.

The best time to see them is an hour or two after sunset. You might be surprised how many you can see.

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

Observation notes written by Adrian Wakeham and Dave Benton.

County Council

The King spoke at Mansion House about tolerance and understanding in incredibly difficult times. I had already promised a resident that I would write something similar on kindness. Nice to be in sync with His Majesty!

So here goes. When we moved to Shipston nearly 15 years ago, it was known for its kindness and independence. Fortunately it still is - largely. I am not so sure that older people having a go at younger less able people counts as kind. I hate raising this as it sounds so outlandish. But something has changed. I genuinely think that post-covid something has happened that means we only put ourselves first. A few examples: hilarious parking in town used to be just that! Now it's open season to snipe. Taking a moment to park doesn't need the help of revved engines or horns! Not pausing before having a go at the medical centre receptionist? Imagine for a moment how difficult their job is, seeing 50 patients a day then doing paperwork. Considering members of our community who've lived here a long time and seen much change, let's try to help by thinking before we boulder in (note to self here...)

Anyway, enough venting!

I went to the Conservative Party Conference, had a bit of fun, made some useful contacts and was encouraged by a lot of common sense from the PM. I spend a lot of my time banging my head against a brick wall (or pothole) and get as frustrated as you about roads and paths! I hope that we're getting the water/sewage situation sorted as ST is investing hugely in infrastructure as well as coming out swiftly to fix our leaks/fountains/geysers!

My conclusion on the above is that it's relationships which count. And so I come full circle back understanding and tolerance.

A few factual bits and bobs. If you are on a pre-paid meter, you can get a referral for grants. Foodbank can do this or ask SHWP.

The second phase of WCC Councillor grants is open. On 25 October 10-12noon at the George there is a help session for applications which close on 26 November at 5pm. Please book! There are also opportunities to apply to the Mental Health Inequality fund to CWPT, become a food ambassador in the community, or if you are under 18 (25 for SEND) attend Warwickshire Youth Conference on 2 November at Warwick Uni. Please get in touch with me for more details.

As ever, if you need help, advice or a rant - give me a call.

And finally... as Chair of AHSCOSC – health, basically - I asked the ICB for a further consultation on the Ellen Badger - so far nothing!

Councillor Jo Barker (she/her)

Shipston Division

Chairman of Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny
07748968712

jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

@jmvbarker

District Council

Stratford District Council is “giving homes a hug”. Fully funded energy efficiency improvements and clean heating systems are now available to low income and low energy efficient households. You may be eligible for this Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUG2) IF:

- Your household income is under £31,000 (gross)
- Your property does not have gas central heating
- You own or privately rent your home

Act on Energy is supporting Stratford on Avon District Council for the HUG2 programme, providing the main point of contact for enquiries and processing applications. If you would like to apply for the scheme or find out more about eligibility criteria, please visit the Act on Energy website www.actonenergy.org.uk/lads-eegs/stratford-on-avon-district-council/

Or you can contact Act on Energy directly: 0800 988 2881 / advice@actonenergy.org.uk

Some properties on Watery Lane and in Compton Court have already been identified as fulfilling all these criteria. If you're in rented accommodation your landlord must pay up to a third of the cost.

If you're in social housing then your landlord should already be in the process of making your home more efficient by increasing its EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) to C or above. You can check on www.epcregister.com to see if your property has one.

If you're struggling with your energy bills type in ‘energy support’ into the SDC website stratford.gov.uk to see other ways they can help. Energy Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Ellen Badger inpatients latest: on Monday 16th October Stratford District Council passed a unanimous vote supporting the public consultation, after which they would revisit the potential of approaching WCC to request a referral to the Secretary of State.

Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North

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Richard Walters

e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org



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 Team:	01789 444670
shipston.snt@warwickshire.police.uk	
Churches of Shipston:	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01608 661210
Methodist Church	01295 257193

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

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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.

Sat. 4th November Craft and Book Fair

10am to 2pm



Townsend Hall Shipston On Stour

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HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
STRATFORD UPON AVON
7.30PM

Soprano Mollie Smith
Conductor Julian Harris
Reader Anton Lesser
Organist Adrian Moore

ADULTS £20 | UNDER 16's £5 | CHOIR £10
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www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk
If you are unable to book online please contact
fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk
who will be able to assist you.

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Heliconia Duo

Catriona Bourne and Julia Seibert

Programme

Giuliani Grand Duo
Romanian Dances by Bartok
Libertango by Piazzolla
Oblivion by Piazzolla
Musique populaires bresilliennes by Machado
Ashokan Farewell by Ungar

Friday 17th November, 7.30pm

Methodist Church, 52 New St,
Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4EN

Tickets £8 on the door or from
Clarke Electricals, Shipston
Information: ph 01608 662514

Free entry to Shipston Music
Society members
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STOUR SINGERS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

featuring music by

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and

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plus well-known carols for all

with

Thomas Humphreys *bass baritone*

and

The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra

Saturday, 9 December 2023 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



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Ann Ferrier Artists - Concert Directory International