

# Shipston Forum

September 2020

# Hanson track tidy-up

Last year, Marilyn Chalmers started a campaign to clear the Hanson track, unfortunately, a lack of community response meant progress was slow. However, she contacted the County Council's Paths and Highways department, who assessed the track and agreed to fund its clearance. Work commenced on Wednesday 12th August and took approximately a week.

Marilyn Chalmers, said: "We need volunteers to assist in keeping the track tidy in the future. We have the tools and are covered by insurance with full permission from the Paths and Highways

department to do this work.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to ask that people who persist in not clearing up after their dogs, or leave bags around or thrown into the hedgerow to be more considerate. There is going to be a bin provided at the gate entrance to the track and it is not very fair when adults and

children, with or without dogs, want to use the track and have to keep avoiding the mess left behind by inconsiderate people."



If you would like to volunteer to help keep the Hanson track in top condition please contact Marilyn Chalmers (07957 624862 or chalmers81fhr@gmail.com)

# Young musicians perform in a virtual national band concert

Eighteen-year-old cornet player Luke Barker and 13-year-old percussionist Alec Banner performed in a virtual concert featuring the National Youth Brass Band and National Children's Brass Band on Friday 7th August which was broadcast live on Facebook and YouTube.

Luke was the assistant Principal Cornet of the National Youth Brass Band. Their concert included the March The Cossack, Madrigali a new composition by Musical Director Bramwell Tovey, and 3 solos accompanying Euphonium Virtuoso David Childs before concluding with the hymn tune St Clements. Luke Barker was





the recipient of a scholarship awarded by the Worshipful Company Of Musicians for promising and talented young musicians.

The National Children's Brass Band included Sousa's march Liberty Bell which gave all the percussion section a chance to use various kitchen implements to replace the Liberty Bell and saw Alec Banner, Shipston's talented young percussionist, hitting a large suspended bread bin.

They concluded their contribution with a new composition by Peter Graham, Strange New Worlds, with its influences including the Science Fiction writing of HG Wells.

Luke who began his playing career with Shipston Town Band is now a member of the famous Flowers Band from Gloucester, and Alec has been a member of Shipston Town Band since he was 6 years old.

Normally they would have enjoyed participating in summer courses before a grand concert, however, Covid 19 meant these could not take place. Not wishing to be defeated, the band organisers arranged a virtual course for the youngsters, where they shared performances over the internet.

# **Great response to Shipston Rotary Tallest Sunflower Competition**

Everyone who entered expressed how much they had enjoyed growing their sunflowers. Four children grew sunflowers over 8ft high, with the youngest just three years old - what an amazing achievement!

For the first time entries were invited from those over 17 years old, which proved very popular with older residents, with many saying that it gave them an interest during the lockdown, especially for those living alone. Young adults with learning disabilities from Stour Bank also entered their sunflowers, which were planted in a semi-circle of raised beds, making it easier for them to water.

The winner of the Under 11 years Class was, Robyn Pelwenkhan (8), whose sunflower measured

an incredible 8ft 10ins. Robyn planted her sunflower in April and has enjoyed watering it and watching

it grow and grow during the lockdown. She is putting her winning voucher towards the purchase of a Sunflower Clock

The winner of the 17 years and over Class was Graham Lawrence, who has been growing sunflowers for many years, but never competitively. Graham very kindly donated his prize money to Shipston Rotary Charities.





# Mayor's column

It was a pleasure to attend, along with several other councillors, the Royal British



Legion's ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of VJ day. This was a simple outdoor affair; a sermon by the Legion's chaplain, no music other than the poignant Last Post and Reveille played on a bugle. The Town crier was present, resplendent in her uniform but under the present restrictions unable to cry! She was, however, able to ring her handbell with gusto. There was a smattering of Burma Star medals proudly sported by relatives of those who had served in the Far East. Sadly, Low Furlong resident Harold Pleasance who was a survivor of the Burma Death Railway is no longer with us.

In the past few weeks, after the balmy days of Lockdown, we seem to have experienced extreme heat, torrential rainfall and prolonged drought. As I write storm Ellen is building up to blast us. This year certainly seems to be slinging it all at us one way or another, or has the pandemic given us some kind of heightened awareness?

Our preoccupations in the days before Coronavirus seem a world away from what worries us today. Then we were agonising over single-use plastics overwhelming the oceans and the ice flows disappearing due to global warming. Now the infamous "R" number, facemasks and sanitizer are our top priorities. We worry about the challenges of the new school and university terms and fret whether we will have to face a second winter lockdown. Those issues of pollution and sustainability haven't disappeared though. Just how much plastic PPE are we getting through and how is it being disposed of for example? As always our little community shines out with its positive attitude. The WAR ON WASTE and WANTED WEDNESDAY Facebook groups encourage us to recycle unwanted goods around the locality. A new group THE GREENER GODDESS is encouraging us to find more environmentally friendly ways of dealing with everyday life. It's these small initiatives that create a groundswell of change. Please do let us know of other local groups and schemes.

#### **Sheelagh Saunders**

#### Commemorations to mark the 75th anniversary of VJ Day

Civic leaders, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Shipston, gathered with members of The Royal British Legion for a Service of Remembrance on Saturday 15th August to mark the 75th anniversary of VJ Day and the end of the Second World War.



### Play areas re-open across Shipston

Four of the play areas managed by Shipston Town Council have now re-opened - Angela's Meadow, Hawthorn Way, Mayo Road and Railway Crescent. This follows extensive work to put the necessary safety measures in place, including a deep clean and application of an anti-bacterial treatment. Signage has been installed and play area users must follow the instructions to help keep everyone safe.

The Sports Club will remain closed due to vandalism and the equipment at Queens Avenue has been deemed permanently unsafe. The Skate Park is awaiting repair. These play areas remain closed and should not be used by the public.

# **USE OF THIS PLAY AREA DURING COVID-19**



The Town Council cannot make this play area Covid-19 secure - please take all safety precautions to keep yourself safe



# SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR TOWN COUNCIL

In the event of any queries, contact the Town Clerk on 01608 662180

#### **New bus service**

From 1st September, a new bus service operated by Pulhams Coaches will operate between Stratford-on-Avon and Moreton in Marsh, timed to link with key train services between Moreton in Marsh and London. Buses will call in Shipston at Pettipher's Garage and Campden Rd. A full timetable can be found online: https://www.pulhamscoaches.com/pulhams-bus-timetables/

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

**Flood resilience programme:** Cllr John Dinnie reported that the Flood Resilience Plan was being reviewed and would come to Council for approval at either the September or October meeting.

**Brenda Broughton:** Councillors expressed sorrow at the news that Brenda Broughton, a former Mayor of Shipston and long-standing member of the Town Council had passed away.

Cotswold Area of Natural Beauty (AONB): Cllr Jo Barker said that she is investigating the process for expanding an AONB and that consideration should be given to Shipston becoming part of the Cotswold AONB. This would potentially offer additional protection against unwanted developments.

**Devolution White Paper:** There is a lack of consensus about local government reorganisation. Warwickshire County Council is supportive of a single whole-county unitary authority, meanwhile, the District Councils believe this would be too big. Cllr Jo Barker informed the meeting that local MPs are believed to favour a multiple unitary model.

**Planning:** Three planning matters were discussed during the meeting;

- Clark House Councillors unanimously agreed to send a representation of support for the application to install signage for the museum.
- Lunnons Farm, Barcheston The Councils previous objection will be reiterated, with a request that if planning permission granted it is subject to a planning condition requiring mitigation for traffic issues on Shipston Bridge.

 Land at Campden Road – Councillors resolved to repeat their previous objection to the development.

Play Area Inspection Report: The report has identified several necessary repairs to play areas. According to the inspection report, some of the Queens Avenue play equipment does not meet the required safety standards and will need to be replaced

**Tramway:** Councillors unanimously approved a £100 grant to the Old Tramway Revived CIC to cover the cost of land searches. Potential further grants for the project will be discussed later in the year.

**Alley signage:** Consideration will be given to installing signage for the alleyways across Shipston to aid navigation and highlight heritage.

**Town Council Website:** Work is taking place to ensure compliance with accessibility guidelines.

Annual Accountability and Governance Return (AGAR): Following the internal audit process, Shipston Town Council's AGAR has been prepared for submission, albeit slightly later than in previous years. COVID legislation has provided for new date deadlines and as such records are available to view by arrangement with the Clerk from 24th August. During discussion of the accounts, it was noted that the Town Council have mistakenly reclaimed VAT on behalf of SAFAG and the Wool Fair and councillors resolved to return the overclaim to HMRC with a view to recovering the money from those organisations.

# **Collecting Covid Project**

Heritage & Culture Warwickshire are planning a project to capture the experiences of people living in Warwickshire during the Covid-19 pandemic. It will commence when it is safe for people to gather and for the Market Hall Museum, in Warwick to accept donations, however, in the meantime, they would like to hear thoughts from the community to inform their plans.

They are asking for ideas of what to collect, examples of particular stories, groups or people who been important, have whether people have an item that encapsulates their experience Warwickshire during pandemic. Anyone who would like to contribute ideas should email museum@warwickshire.gov.uk and put Collecting Covid in the subject line.



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Clubs and Medical Centre Page 4



New women-only rides prove a huge success

The club is operating within British Cycling's (BC) latest post-lockdown guidelines, and has so far organised three rides for potential new, or existing, female members.

Across the three rides, fifty people have turned up to enjoy a fun and friendly

early evening ride into the local countryside, with dedicated ride leaders making sure everyone kept safe and had a good time.

Ride Leader Jan Spalding said "We're delighted with the response to these rides. Clearly, lots of women have been getting back on their bikes during lockdown, and many ladies have told me they enjoyed both riding with other people and the guidance on offer".

Many women have gone on to join the club since enjoying a free tryout, meaning Shipston Cycling Club has smashed



through its initial target of 33% female membership only a few months after setting it. The club now has female members ranging in age from 16 to 60 and is now looking to achieve gender parity within its membership.

Andy Smith, Chairman said "The club is going from strength to strength and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new members. We're an inclusive club that's open to all, and so these women-only rides have given us the chance to share our love of cycling with many who've not tried riding in a group before".

## **Shipston Medical Centre**

The current Coronavirus pandemic continues to present huge challenges. Coronavirus remains a very real threat to everyone and the practice and our patients need to adapt and work together to keep patients and staff safe.

#### Self-help

We want to help you when you need us. To make sure we can, we ask that you help yourself and seek advice from https://www.nhs.uk/ in the first instance.

#### **Accessing Services**

Shipston Medical Centre has provided services to patients throughout the pandemic and continues to do so. To keep those most vulnerable safe, and in line with national guidelines our clinicians need to wear PPE during each face to face patient interaction and cleaning after every patient also needs to occur. To see patients face to face, therefore, takes much longer than previously. We are therefore only offering face to face appointments where our clinicians feel there is a clinical need to do so, i.e. an examination needs to occur.

To access services we ask you to complete an e-consult form online. This helps provide the clinician with detailed information about your clinical need, and so we can offer you the right kind of appointment or intervention. Where patients do not have internet access or the e-consult system has identified the need to potentially be urgent, please call reception. To make the best use of limited clinician time reception staff are asking questions to aid the clinicians. Please help us by providing requested information at this point.

#### **Service Capacity**

Whilst we have the same level of clinician capacity as before coronavirus, the additional requirements to ensure safety have reduced our capacity in real terms. As with everyone else, our staff may be required to self-isolate at short notice and this will further impact on our capacity. The need to follow these important national guidelines may mean that patients consult with a different clinician to the one that had been planned.

Because of the impact on capacity, we need to work as effectively as possible and will be asking patients with internet access to do as much as possible online - consulting via e-consult, ordering medication via the NHS App or Patient Access and booking appointments online, where asked to do so by the practice.

#### **Restricting Access to the Building**

The ONLY reason for coming into the practice is to attend a booked

Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845

appointment. you need to pick something up from us where it cannot be Shipston Medical Centre



emailed or drop off a sample, prescription request, letters etc then please give these to the person manning the door. If vou want to have a consultation please use e-consult or call us. Dispensed medication should be collected from the front window.

When attending the practice for a booked face to face appointment please wear a mask or other face covering.

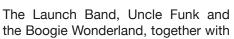
Please understand that if our practice team become unwell we will not be able to treat patients - we are asking our patients to help us so that we can continue to help you.

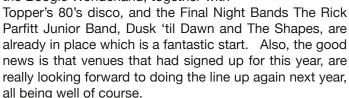
We know many patients are anxious about the months ahead, managing existing and new health conditions and flu vaccinations. We are working hard to find new ways of working to ensure the safety of our patients, their carers and our staff whilst ensuring you receive the care you need. A huge amount of work and planning is going on behind the scenes to restart services and to keep you safe please be patient with us.

Thank you for your understanding and your continuing kindness.

#### **Proms**

As we look towards 2021, the Shipston proms team have started to plan for the future and it's looking good!





Still, in the search for new talent, we hope to check out some new bands for 2022 so will be keeping an eye out live for events in future. the We



always thinking positively and would love to host a proms event later in the year but this remains an open question given current circumstances.

Social media has been a blessing and we have been able to show past performances online in lieu of the real thing. This has been a great reminder of what talent we have in our local area.



It was great to welcome Nick Watson to the committee just before everything was cancelled and we hope that the 2021 Proms planning will not be as short-lived for him as 2020 was.

If you are reading this and have a suggestion of any local bands, artists that you would like to hear, or any venues that would like to host, we would love to hear from you so please get in touch at www.shipston.org or using our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/ShipstonProms/).

# **Shipston Home Nursing**

We have been living in hugely different times which are likely to continue and possibly change for at least the immediate future as every attempt is made to manage and mitigate the spread of the current pandemic.



I count myself lucky and privileged as a key worker to have the chance to get out regularly to go to work in hospital, being allowed to continue to treat patients albeit in very altered circumstances.

The Charity has had to adapt to a new and evolving landscape with meetings carried out virtually through video links and for a period of time our support staff working from their own homes, and the nurses have the added challenge of coping with uncomfortable Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) when visiting patients.

It is a great credit to the nursing team led by Gemma Roberts that they have continued to deliver care at home during this crisis, well supported by our management team who have developed policies and sourced adequate PPE to ensure the safety of patients and our staff.

During recent months, the number of patients looked after and dying at home has increased compared to last year, and since April all patients in our care, have died in their own homes. It remains to be seen if this trend continues when normal services try to restore in hospitals and General Practice. Our aim, as always is to meet this continued demand with the high-quality support patients and carers deserve.

As a result of the social distanced lives we now lead, income from community events and associated local fundraising has all but ceased as events are either cancelled or postponed. This is most obviously demonstrated by the postponement of the Circus Ball which was due to take place in June. Not only is this a loss of much needed regular income but also missed opportunities to publicise and promote our services. We have been fortunate however to receive some financial support from Government via Hospice UK plus several very generous local bequests and donations for which we are profoundly grateful. Our investments have, as you might expect, suffered in the global economic downturn but there is some confidence from fund managers that these will recover in the medium term to pre-Covid levels

For the future, to maintain sustainable income and the current level of service we offer, we are exploring additional sources of funding including grants from trusts, legacies, increased regular giving and online donations through JustGiving, Virgin Money and several other sites all of which can be viewed at https://www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/donate/

Our website and the regular email communications we send out will keep you updated on our plans for reactivating local events.

Finally, June 2020 was a significant date in our calendar with the retirement from the Board of Trustees of one of its founder members, Charlie Wells. Charlie has been an ever-present source of inspiration and commitment to us and contributed to many roles, using her nursing and caring background for the benefit of the Charity and of course, the patients. We all owe Charlie a deep debt of gratitude and we will endeavour to continue to deliver her original ambition to give the best possible care to our patients.

Clive Irwin Chairman of Trustees

# **Victorian Evening to proceed**

At a recent 'virtual' planning meeting, Shipston Rotary decided the Victorian Evening must go ahead on Friday 4th December. However, the Chairman noted; "We have



to be realistic, Government Regulations are unlikely to allow perhaps 2,000 people to gather in the town centre in only a few months' time. We are, however, determined to ensure the Christmas 'Tree of Life' is in its usual place."

The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at the same time as the town's Christmas lights, so the whole town will be bathed in its customary festive atmosphere. Father Christmas will be travelling around the town in his sleigh as usual, but the Victorian Evening will mostly be a 'virtual' event on Facebook and online.



#### Virtual talks

Shipston Rotary enjoyed two excellent 'virtual' talks recently, including one about the timeless beauty of the remarkable island of Sark in the Channel Islands which has only tractors and horses on its few roads.



Credit: Phillip Capper / CC BY

Another talk was about the extraordinary Frank Whittle, inventor of the jet engine. A man of obvious genius, his ideas were ignored by the authorities for a long time, but unfortunately not by Nazi Germany, who built the world's first jet fighter using Sir Frank's published research. Sir Frank's invention did finally get the attention it deserved and the British Gloster Meteor was a very successful jet fighter. The rest, as they say, is history.

# **Peace Through Service**

Stour Valley Lions are hosting a Peace Poster Competition within the Stour Valley Area. For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring this very special art contest.



Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their vision of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity. The deadline to submit your entry to Stour Valley Lions is 31st October 2020 and should meet all the contest rules and conditions outlined below. The lucky winner will be announced on 15th November on our website and our Facebook page and will receive an Amazon voucher. The winner will then go on to further judging that could lead to them competing Internationally with Prizes at every stage.



Contest Rules and Conditions:

- The contest's theme is "Peace Through Service"
- The contest is open to students who will be 11, 12 or 13 years of age on Nov 15th 2020
- Artwork must be no smaller than 33cm x 50cm (13 inches x 20 inches) and no larger than 50cm x 60xm (20inches x 24inches). A2 size is suitable. Do not mat or frame artwork.
- Only 1 entry per student and the entry must be the work of only one student.
- All artwork must be the individual student's original creation. Duplications are not accepted.
- All media are accepted. Note: chalk, charcoal and pastel entries should be sealed with a fixative spray to prevent smearing. Do not laminate entries.
- Three-dimensional entries will not be accepted. Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to the artwork in any way.
- The use of lettering or numbering on the front of the poster, in any language, is not allowed. All artist signatures or initials should be written on the back of the poster.
- Artwork should be done on a flexible material so it can be rolled for shipping in a mailing tube. Do not fold poster.
- The submission will need to include the Students Name, School and contact details so that Stour Valley Lions can contact you should you be their winner.

Any submission not meeting the requirements of the above will be disqualified. The submission will be evaluated on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme, "Peace Through Service". If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Valley-Lions-Club-1443747429239833/) or via email (stourvalleylions@gmail.com). If you would like to get involved, but may not be able to get hold of the correct paper then we may be able to support with that, again please get in touch with your interest and we can see how we can help. Good Luck!

Little Shipstonites Page 7



# Hello Little Shipstonites!

We hope you loved the first edition. Did you manage to spot all the picture differences? This month we're exploring Shipston-on-Stour's Jurassic past! On the next page you will find a picture for you to colour in; it's what Shipston might have looked like nearly 200 MILLION years ago! You can also get really creative, making your own pretend fossils using the instructions detailed below.

How to make your own fossils

Step 1: First choose whether you are using clay or salt dough for your fossils. Next, select the items you wish to imprint. These could be dinosaur toys, feathers, shells or leaves, or get as creative as you want to.

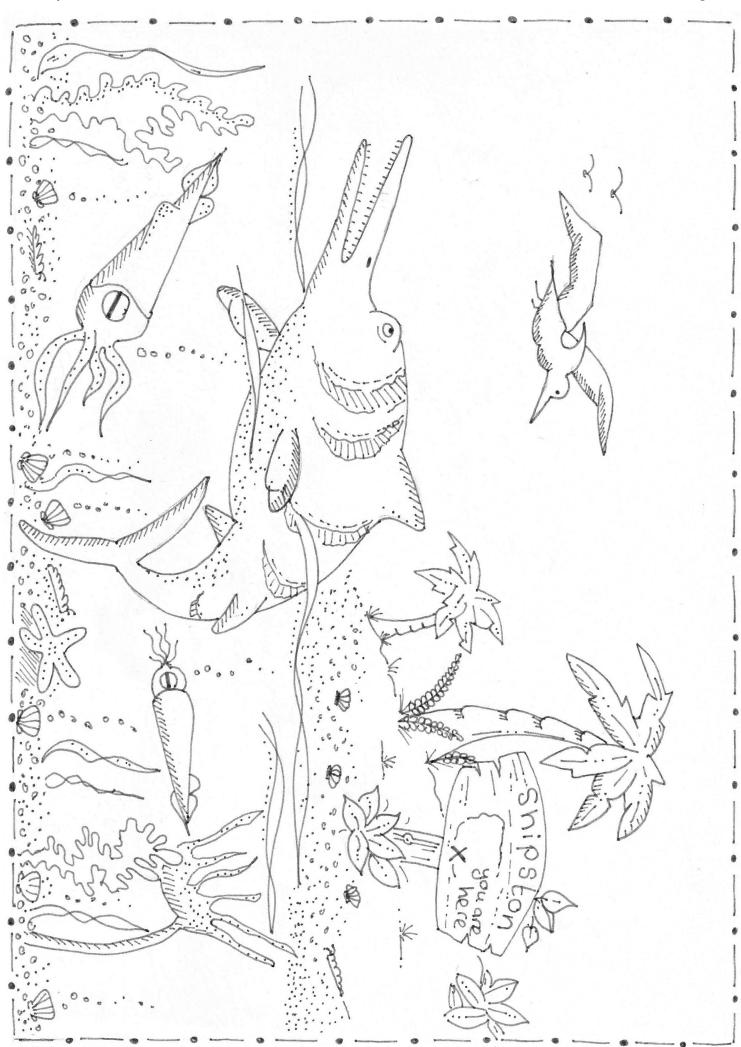
Step 2: Roll your clay into lots of balls and then flatten each one to about 2cm deep and about 5cm wide.

Step 3: Now for the really fun part! Taking your items press into each of the clay pieces, in any way you want to. Be careful when you remove your item, so you make sure to leave the indentation nice and defined.

Step 4: tadarrr! You now have beautiful pretend fossils! These can be painted if you want them to be and then displayed somewhere for all to see!

# Fascinating Fact!

200 million years ago, Shipston On Stour was actually under a shallow sea, where lots of sea creatures roamed. A brilliant example of a fossil find came in 1955, where a huge Ichthyosaur was found at a Shipston farm. It measured a whopping 3 and a half metres in length! Your colouring~in picture has an ichthyosaur peeping out of the water so you can see what they looked like. We hope you have fun colouring it in!



School News Page 9

#### Shipston High School By Gavin Saunders, Headteacher

Shipston High School is ready to start the new academic year with real optimism as students prepare to return to the classroom following the summer. 2020 has been an unprecedented year of remote learning due to coronavirus, and we are looking forward to having the whole school community reunited.

The school has established operating procedures to ensure compliance with the government guidance on safe movement about the school. This is largely based on each year group being separate from each other. This produces logistical challenges that require a highly ordered solution and, as was very evident during the lockdown period, we expect our staff and students to co-operate and take responsibility for their own and others' safety.

The safety procedures are important as they minimise the risk of infection, and crucially enable a return to the school's core business of teaching and delivering the curriculum. The school is growing, with more young people than ever before enjoying the school's calm and learning focussed atmosphere. We welcome back existing students, and especially welcome those joining us in year 7 who have had to patiently wait for their Induction day in September rather than July.

Parents of Year 6 students will already be considering their choice of secondary school for 2021. This is an important decision, and I understand that parents will give careful consideration to the right school for their child. A good number of applications for 2021 have already been made.

Autumn would normally see the school hosting an Open Evening for prospective students and families to visit the school and find out more about our provision and ethos. Like all events this year, a final decision on whether it can proceed will be based on guidance from the government and judgement on what is safe and appropriate for the community. Open Evenings involve visitors mixing together in the school, and we will only proceed with this on-site if it can be managed in a suitable manner. At the time of writing, we have identified the following time for a potential event on site: Thursday 1st

October 2020 from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

If it is not possible to welcome visitors to the site, the school will consider alternative ways to provide an insight into our work. Please keep an eye on the school website for confirmation of the event before attending the site.

During summer OUR latest Year 11 cohort received their examination results. The results reflect the hard work not just of Year 11, but all of the time students have



been in the school, working hard to improve their knowledge and skills. These results are the product of hard work and will launch young people into their next phase, whether further study, employment or training. Good luck to all of our former students.

The school traditionally runs a range of events out of school hours, and local groups also hire the premises for community activities. Unfortunately, coronavirus means that we cannot host external lettings at the moment.

Please be aware that the school site is only open to people involved with a structured activity arranged with the school, and the school fields and facilities are not open to the general public at any time. There is also no pedestrian route across the site. The school grounds are private property with the only entrance and exit point located at the main gate. It is especially important at this time that people do not come onto the school site without an appointment; thank you for your cooperation.

Mr G. Saunders, Headteacher



In addition to Shipston Area Flood Action Group's (SAFAG) continued new work programme around the wider catchment, the group held two community days in August to repair and strengthen approximately 30 dams installed on Pigbrook. Some of the dams were damaged last winter and as these water flows are so significant the dams take a beating in spate, necessitating the use of funds for significant maintenance. SAFAG will continue to maintain the works to ensure longevity, as without care they will fail over time.



Postcard depicting 'Cottage Hospital, Shipston-on-Stour', (the Ellen Badger Hospital) dated by hand May 1 1914

# **District Council Update**

I don't often start with a techy intro - but this is the link to the government consultation on potential big changes to the planning system: https://www.gov.uk/government/ consultations/planning-for-the-future

We have until 29th October 2020 to get our point over. Given that in Shipston we have seen a lot of development it would be great to have responses which reflect what we really want a future planning system to deliver.



The proposed changes include:

- 1. More onus on simple, local plans and area-specific needs designed and approved in 30 months rather than the average of 7 years at present!
- 2. Local design codes
- 3. Zones of Growth, Renewal and Protection
- 4. The concept of beauty and fast track development where local character and preferences are met!
- 5. CIL and s106 will be simplified (hurray) to deliver more cash for affordable housing and infrastructure (2nd hurray drains anyone?)
- 6. A focus on areas where affordability is under pressure, like round here where our kids cannot afford to stay local.

So for me, all in all, there are some great possibilities here particularly in making beautiful places!

Work continues on the development of the Ellen Badger hospital, changes (a merger) to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and possibly more linkages between primary care and social care. More next month!

In September I will restart my surgery on Zoom - I know this does not suit everyone - so I can make appointments too - but at least we will be back in proper communication!

# **Jo Barker, District Councillor, Shipston South** 07748968712 | jo.barker@stratford-dc.gov.uk

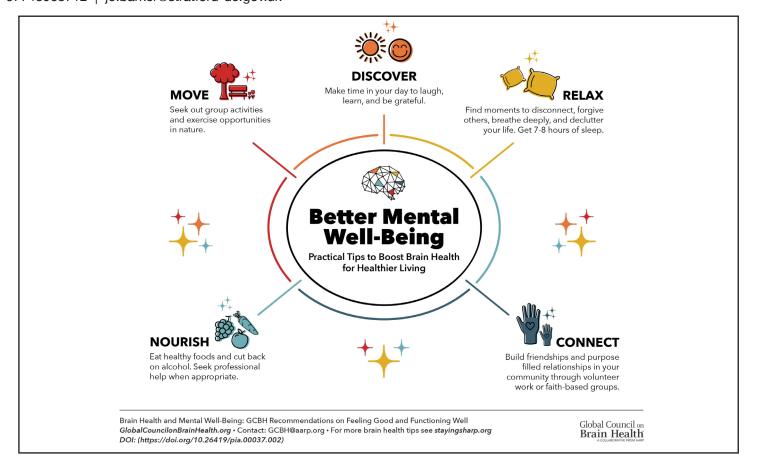
# **County Council update**

We have been really lucky as County Councillors that we could work remotely through the pandemic. I am looking forward to seeing people in the real world again - but 10 years ago we would not have been able to lockdown as we have and carry on having briefings, meetings and staying in touch. But, one of the main casualties has been people's mental health. The other being our children's education. Schools are going back and our children will be able to resume a more normal life with social interaction with their peers and face to face teaching once more. 6 months has been enough. I feel particularly for those who haven't been able to take exams - by the time you read this I hope that you will have received the grades you need. But if not -please keep at it (don't tell your parents but I failed my first set of A levels...).

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted nearly everyone's mental health. For some people, the difficulties that have been faced have led them to thoughts about taking their own life. For anyone struggling during the pandemic and beyond, help is always available. Dear Life is a new suicide prevention website which aims to reach people in Coventry and Warwickshire who are desperately seeking support or anyone worried about a loved one or someone they know. dearlife.org.uk, offers guidance if you just don't know where to turn for help with complicated and negative thoughts and feelings. Please do seek help.

#### Jo Barker, County Councillor

07748 968712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk



Useful Contacts Page 11

## **Your Town Councillors**



Sheelagh Saunders, Mayor Staffing Committee Chair

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e: sheelagh.saunders@shipstontowncouncil.org



Ian Cooper, Deputy Mayor

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**Ronnie Murphy** 

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Paul Tesh

Planning Committee Chair

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John Dinnie

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Jo Barker

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Fay Ivens

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**Peter Cox** 

General Purposes Group Chair

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**Peter White** 

Communications Group Chair

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**Gerry Kelly** 

Planning Committee Vice Chair

t: 07471 687720

e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Peter Cowley** 

Heritage & Leisure Projects Group Chair

t: 01608 664241

e: peter.cowley@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
<ul><li>Out of hours</li></ul>	111
Shipston Forum	01608 495955
Shipston Link (local transport)	01386 593446
Shipston Recycling Centre	01926 412593
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Townsend Hall	07514 704057
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
UCHW Hospital	024 7696 4000
Warwick Hospital	01926 495321
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood	01789 444670

Team: 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
 01608 642256

#### **Shipston-on-Stour Town Council**

New Clark House, West Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4HD (Currently closed to the public)



t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org



#### **County Council Contact:**

**Councillor Jo Barker** 

t: 07748968712 e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

#### **District Council Contacts:**

**Councillor Jo Barker (Shipston South)** 

t: 07748968712

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

Councillor Trevor Harvey (Shipston North)

t: 07969 167720

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



## Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the new editor (from May), Chris Rowland on 01295 788655 or email: forum@shipstononline.org

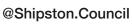
To request posts on the council's Facebook and Twitter feeds, contact Peter White (details above)

#### Forum copy deadline: First Wednesday of the month

- but the sooner you can notify the editor of a potential story the better.

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

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





Shipston Food Bank Page 12



Shipston Food Bank is open to anyone and you don't need a referral or a voucher.

Just come along on a Tuesday or Saturday morning between 10.00 and 12.00 to St Edmund's Church, Church Street, Shipston.

- During lockdown, we gave out just over 200 food parcels.
  - About 60 households were helped.
- Local shops are helping supply fresh food through a voucher system.

We are grateful for all the donations of food and cash that have made this possible. Food Bank will continue as long as it's needed.

Donations of food and basic items can be left in the church porch on Tuesday and Saturday mornings ONLY, between 10.00 and 12.00.

For information about our current needs please check on our Facebook page or our website:

www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk