



# Shipston Forum



December 2025

## New clinic opens



EBMU staff with patient Keith Douglas during his first visit to the pilot service.

Keith Douglas, pictured, was one of the first patients to experience the services at the Ellen Badger Medical Unit (EMBU) when it opened on 5th November. The new day-case medical care service at the Ellen Badger is starting as a six-month pilot scheme and will offer a range of treatments and procedures that up to now many people, like Keith, have had to travel to Warwick to receive. All patients need to be referred to the EMBU by their GP. South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust will be closely monitoring the pilot to assess its effectiveness.

Keith said: 'I was delighted to have my infusion here. I used to have to go to Warwick Hospital, which required setting aside a significant part of my day. Attending my appointment here has shortened my journey and allows me to feel much more relaxed while being cannulated, enabling me to get back to the rest of my day more quickly. I saw some familiar faces and some new ones, all providing a consistently high standard of care.'

There are more details about the services and opening hours on page 5.

## Award for dementia charity

Local community group talkdementia has been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.



Husband and wife team Paul and Heather Dowler founded the group in 2021, drawing on their own experience of caring for a loved one living with dementia, and building on the success of the Wellesbourne Dementia Café started by Heather in January 2016.

There are now six dementia friendly cafes including one in Shipston. With the help of 35 local volunteers, the team works alongside medical professionals, national charities and local organisations to provide practical advice and emotional support to those families and dementia carers living locally.

## Christmas starts here!

The annual Victorian Evening marks the official start of Christmas in Shipston. The bells ring out, the lights are officially switched on, and the centre of town is full of festive cheer and lively entertainment. This year's event on 5th December will be the 27th organised by Shipston Rotary, who



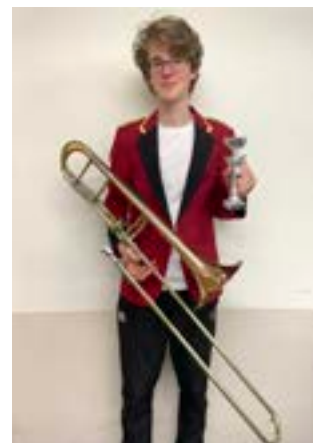
urge you to come along to the opening ceremony at 6pm to see Mayor Tony Booth switch on the Christmas lights and The Tree of Life receive a blessing by Avryl Thompson.

There will be Christmas music throughout, starting with carols from the Primary school accompanied by Shipston Town Band, followed by the Cotswold Choir. With shops open late and stalls offering Christmas goodies, it's a great chance to stock up. Raffles – with the chance to win a hamper or take part in a trolley dash – will be drawn at 8pm.

There's something for everyone: a stilt walker and balloon man, and mulled wine, mince pies, a hog roast and candy floss. MC for the evening is Tim Guest from the Caramba Theatre Company. And of course, there will be a special guest: Santa will be in his grotto at Sheldon Bosley Knight.

## Best soloist

Rawdon Donovan, 17, the principal trombonist of Shipston Town Band, was awarded best soloist at the Wychavon Festival of Brass, a national brass band contest.



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Mayor’s column

Hello Shipston and welcome back to my monthly column. There’s much to talk about this month, so let’s get started. My wife and I attended the civic service for the Mayor of Whitnash, bringing together community leaders, residents and dignitaries for a service celebrating the friendships and community spirit that bring us together.



I hosted my own civic charity event at the Townsend Hall. It was a dinner dance and celebration with The D-Day Darlings putting in a very memorable performance. (see the photos in the centre pages). Thank you to Shipston Sports Club for another spectacular firework display for the town, albeit a slightly wet evening. It is always a great opportunity for the community to come together.

Now for two more sombre notes. The doors have closed for the last time on Lloyds bank. The only replacement is a fortnightly community desk offered at the EBH for local banking advice. This is a big loss to the town, driven by the relentless need by corporations to move to online services, excluding many in our community including the aged and those with mobility concerns. I will attend one of these sessions to fully understand how we will be supported going forward.

November is also the penultimate month for Shipston fire station, established in 1931. Despite considerable opposition from the council and the town, the fire station has been downgraded to an unmanned ‘surge station’ which will take effect from 31<sup>st</sup> December. This is a bitter loss to the town. Our station and crew, led by watch commander Chris Townsend provided a central service to our community that not only attended fires but also multiple RTAs and other local incidents. Indeed, my firefighter son James would not have the career he does without having first attended the Young Firefighters that offered so many career opportunities to our young people before it was, itself, closed. Thank you to all Shipston firefighters past and present for the dedication and service that you have given to our town. We will be forever grateful.

Please join me and many others in the town for the annual Christmas lights and Victorian evening on 5<sup>th</sup> December. I wish everyone a very happy and enjoyable festive break whatever you may be doing, and I look forward to speaking with you again in the new year.

Tony Booth  
Mayor of Shipston



Shipston firefighters past and present. Left to right: Firefighter Warren Trueman, Watch commander Chris Townsend, and Cheshire watch manager James Booth.

News from Shipston Town Council’s November meeting

Environment and flood action

SAFAG reported that funding for flood prevention has been allocated via Severn Rivers Trust, and that this will help to secure the agreement of landowners for future maintenance and flood defence measures such as ponds and wet areas.

Cllr H Kelly reported that a pond and a butterfly bank have been created at Cornmill Meadows. She has also met with two landscapers to progress the improvement of the access path to the Meadows.

Planning

There were no objections to the applications which included internal alterations to the Manor House on Sheep Street, the proposed demolition of an annexe and outbuildings to the rear of the Old Red Lion in Church Street, and the cutting back of a sycamore tree by three metres on Watery Lane.

The Council authorised a budget allocation for the preparation of the next Neighbourhood Plan – a step needed to enable work to commence and any grant applications to be made. So far, four people have expressed interest in being involved as volunteers in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, (see over).

Cllrs Passingham, Hatch and others attended a meeting about the proposed development at Fell Mill to the east of the town. They have also met with the Stratford District Council planning officer, and with Severn Trent to express concerns about sewage and flooding.

General purposes

Guttering for the Twin Chapels – non-standard for this listed building – has now been ordered. Repair to the churchyard walls at St Edmund’s will start early in the new year.

Youth Club

The new building is in place, and a working group is being put together led by the Youth Club involving the Lions, Rotary, and Town Council, to complete the building work.

Bank

Cllr Williams reported on the Lloyds Bank closure. He is still concerned about the lack of independence of the assessor for the case and is pursuing this through the FCA. Banking services will be offered at the Ellen Badger on a Tuesday afternoon. Cllr Williams has been told that the Lloyd’s cash counting machines could not be made available to the community.

Roads and footpaths

Funding for improvements to the Campden Road/Darlingscote Road junction are under discussion between the district and county councils. Cllr Barker reported that a new head of highways at the County Council is being positive and responsive, although funding continues to be an issue.

Recycling insight

Do you ever wonder what happens to all the mixed recycled material that goes in your blue bin?

Recently, a group of residents had the opportunity to visit Sherbourne Recycling Centre, arranged by Cllr Dave Passingham. A joint partnership of eight West Midland local authorities, including Stratford District Council and Sherbourne Recycling Ltd, this amazing Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) is the most advanced MRF in the UK and uses AI technology to process the dry recycled material from your bin.

Sorting 47.5 tonnes of mixed recyclate with only five human sorters is pretty amazing, but so are the robot sorters – picking out the metals, blowing different plastics three different ways and having a 99% accuracy rate for selling the sorted materials onward, plus all the electric used is from renewable sources makes this plant very sustainable. All materials are recycled in the UK, nothing is sent overseas. It also means that SDC get money back from the high purity recyclate that is sold on.

To keep this high level, please rinse out your cans, bottles and plastic packaging and don’t include saucepans and baking trays, shoes or clothes. We did see that someone had included a used nappy!

The Association of Public Service Excellence have awarded Sherbourne Recycling the *Best Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship Initiative 2025*.

See <https://sherbournerecycling.co.uk/> for further information.

Hilary Kelly

Blue light report


The police are investigating a spate of burglaries that occurred with the arrival of the darker evenings.

Our Neighbourhood Plan

Are you interested in helping shape the future of Shipston? Then let Cllr Paul Tesh, the Chair of the Town Council’s planning committee know. He is looking for volunteers to help in the creation of a new Neighbourhood Plan. These plans have to be renewed every few years to reflect the needs of communities. Shipston’s current plan is valid until 2031 and work needs to start on the next one. Neighbourhood Plans are specific to individual towns and communities, and prospective developers have to take them into account when submitting their applications to Stratford District Council for housing development. Planning is going through a multitude of changes at the moment and having a robust Neighbourhood Plan is important. Please contact Paul on 07711 433566 or [paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org) if you would like to be involved.







### Rotary Tree of Life

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

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

Every contribution will be donated by Rotary, this year, to Shipston Home Nursing.

The illumination of the Rotary Tree of Life will take place at the opening of the **Rotary Victorian Evening**

On Friday December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

.....

**Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour Tree of Life**

Please find enclosed my donation of £..... (minimum £5.00) Cheques payable to Rotary Club of Shipston on Stour  
Or by bank transfer to Rotary bank account – Lloyds Bank 30-98-26 /53350268 - Ref TOL2025

In Memory of.....

From (name).....

Your Address.....

Please return to :-  
Rotarian Avryl Thompson  
Willow Bank  
Pillerton Priors, CV35 0PS – Tel 01789740047 – avryl.thompson@hotmail.co.uk

Forms are also available in St Edmunds Church,  
Low Furlong, post office or contact Avryl.

# Town Carol Service



Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December | 6pm | St Edmund’s Church  
With the Town Band and our Christmas Tree Festival  
Organised by the Churches Together in Shipston

Ellen Badger Medical Unit opens

South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT) has launched a new six-month pilot service designed to bring day-case medical care closer to people’s homes. The Ellen Badger Medical Unit (EBMU) will be closely monitored using patient feedback and clinical data to assess its effectiveness and inform future service provision.

Operating Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm (closed on bank holidays), EBMU builds on the success of the Medical Day Case Unit (MDCU) at Warwick Hospital. It offers a range of treatments and procedures to provide patient-centred care closer to home. Patients, who will be referred by their GP, have access to many of the same services offered at Warwick’s MDCU, including:

- Iron infusions, Zoledronic acid infusions, Furosemide infusions, Magnesium infusions

- Blood testing
  - Frailty Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) reviews
  - Comprehensive Geriatric Assessments (CGA)
  - Biologic infusions
  - Intramuscular & subcutaneous injections
  - And more, excluding higher-risk procedures requiring access to acute-site escalation.
- SWFT commented: ‘The launch of the EBMU pilot reflects the Trust’s commitment to exploring new ways to provide care locally, guided by patient feedback and evidence, in line with the Trust’s objectives and the national NHS 10-Year Plan.’

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership

The Bereavement Cafe, held on the first Tuesday of each month, has been well attended. It is an opportunity to sit with like-minded people and be able to share your thoughts and fears. Open to all.

We have been privileged to work with girls throughout the community to offer self defence classes. At present these are being rolled out at the youth club, but we are looking to include the local schools. We are also working with the Carers Trust to understand and better support young carers within the community. There are plans in place for an event in December – if you would like to know more, please speak to your Carers Trust representative who can give you more details.

And lastly, thanks to the continuing support of Thomas Franks Catering, and Shipston Home Nursing, we are able to host another lunch, this time at the Ellen Badger on 11<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like to come along, please pop into the Warm Hub (Ellen Badger Hospital) on either Monday 10-12 noon, or Thursday 10-12 noon and ask to be put on the list.

## Bereavement Café

A support group for people at any stage of bereavement



First Tuesday of every month  
11am - 1pm  
Starting 4<sup>th</sup> November  
Community Wellbeing Hub  
Ellen Badger Hospital

For further information, email rowena@shwp.org.uk



Medical Centre

Shipston Medical Centre would like to wish their patients and families a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year. Please note the Practice will be open usual hours Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve and closed Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Year’s Day.

We would like to remind patients that we are only closed for the bank holidays, therefore no need to order additional medication but we do ask that patients order their medication in plenty of time.



### Shipston Medical Centre



Regular Events

Monday

**IT Help!:** 10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)  
**Warm Hub:** 10am-noon, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub  
**Seated Exercise Class:** 10:30am or 11:30am, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub  
**Pickleball:** 1:30pm – 3:30pm, Townsend Hall.  
**Toy Library:** 2-3pm at St Edmunds church  
**Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:** 6:50pm for 7pm start. The Church Room, Darlingscote Road, Contact Matthew Hunter - 01608 684499  
**Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group:** 7-9pm, Low Furlong

Tuesday

**Strictly Fitsteps Fab:** 10am, Townsend Hall  
**Rhyme Time:** 10.30am, Shipston Library  
**Dementia Café:** Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm  
**Age Concern Lunch Club:** Stour Court 12pm. Contact Jill Case 01608 662226  
**Community Warm Welcome:** 2pm-4pm, Shipston Methodist Church, New Street (Sep-Mar) free refreshments, a chat, games and jigsaws  
**Lego Club:** Shipston Library, 3.30pm

Wednesday

**Seated Tai Chi:** 9.30am, Scout Hut  
**Stour Valley Stitchers:** 10am-1pm, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG  
**Standing Tai Chi:** 10.30am, Scout Hut  
**GLOSS Coffee Morning:** 11am,  
**Indoor Curling:** 2pm, Townsend Hall  
**U3A weekly scrabble:** 2-4pm at the George Townhouse. Free for all U3A members.  
**Shipston Training Band:** 6pm-7pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4QR  
**Shipston Town Band:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4QR

Thursday

**Story Stamp:** 10am, Shipston Library  
**Shipston Community Warm Hub:** Every Thursday 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing hub  
**Community Social Prescriber drop in:** 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub  
**The Stour Toy Library** click and collect 11:00am - 12noon, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub. <https://borrow.shwp.org.uk/>  
**Age Concern Lunch Club:** Rainbow Fields 12pm. Contact Christine Grant 07939 595600  
**Scrabble Club:** 2pm-4pm, Shipston Library  
**Stour Singers:** We rehearse on Thursdays from 7.30-9.30pm at Shipston Primary School. Contact Gayle Burch on 07791 769102

Friday

**Pilates for Complete Beginners:** 9.30am Townsend Hall  
**Walks with a friendly group:** 10am Mill car park. Call Marleen 01608 663616  
**Age Concern Lunch Club:** Fortnightly, Rainbow Fields, 12pm. Contact Maryann Dobbin 07779 730774  
**Shipston Stitchers:** Every fortnight at The Church Room, Darlingscote Road. Contact Anita Spencer on 01993 832665  
**Shipston Knitting and Crochet Group** - Friday afternoons in Mrs. Browns from 2-4.30pm  
**Alcoholics Anonymous:** 7.30-9pm, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub, 28 Stratford Rd, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4AU, 01865 242373, 0800 9177 650  
**Stour Concert Brass:** 7.45pm – 9.15pm at the Band Hall, New Street CV36 4QR

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: December 2025

**2nd Grief Group:** Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub, 11am-1pm, first Tuesday of the month.  
**2nd Shipston Library Reading Group:** 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month.  
**2nd & 16th ‘Dance for Joy’** Monthly Circle Dance Group in Stretton on Fosse 2.30 – 4pm. First and third Tuesday of each month. Dances from around the world – all taught from scratch. Please contact Geri Hunting geraldinehunting@icloud.com or 07968 338848  
**3rd Shipston on Stour WI:** Christmas Party. Meetings held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7.00 pm. For more information contact: Gill Smith – Telephone 07759 232899  
**3rd & 17th Stour Valley Stitchers:** 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays  
**5th-7th Arts in the Cotswolds:** Christmas Fair. Townsend Hall See ad on page 7  
**5th-7th Christmas Tree Festival:** St Edmund’s Church - see ad on page 16  
**5th Shipston Rotary Victorian Evening:** See ad on page 10  
**6th Shipston Lodge:** Christmas Fete. See ad on page 7  
**6th Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Children’s equipment available  
**7th Lego Church:** 10.30am, first Sunday of the month during morning service at St Edmund’s. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact rector@shipstonchurch.org.  
**7th Town Carol Service:** St Edmund’s Church: See ad on page 4  
**8th Shipston Library:** A chat with the author - see article on page 8  
**8th Town Council Meeting:** 7pm, New Clark House  
**9th Stour Valley Lions Meeting:** 6:30pm – 9:30pm; The Lion in Tredington  
**13th Stour Valley Lions Bumper Book Sale:** See ad on page 10  
**13th Cotswold Choir:** Christmas concert - see ad on page 10  
**13th Stour Singers:** Christmas concert - see ad on page 16  
**14th Shipston Town Band:** Christmas concert - see ad on page 16  
**18th Drop-In Clinic:** For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. Every third Thursday  
**19th Royal British Legion Social Evening:** The Shipston on Stour Branch gathers for a social event on the third Friday of each month at The Horseshoe, starting at 7:30pm. Additionally, every other month, the Branch Committee meets on the third Friday at St Edmund’s Church from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, before joining the social gathering. If you are interested in Branch events or enquiring to join the Branch, please contact the Branch Secretary, Ali at ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community  
**20th Stour Valley Lions Prize Bingo:** See ad on page 10  
**25th Shipston Community Christmas Party:** See ad on page 16

ARTS  
IN THE  
COTSWOLDS

Christmas Fair

TOWNSEND HALL  
SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR  
CV36 4AE

5TH DEC 5PM-8PM  
6TH DEC 10AM-4PM  
7TH DEC 10AM-4PM

COME AND ENJOY  
FABULOUS AND UNIQUE  
IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS  
FROM OVER 20  
ARTISTS AND ARTISANS

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Stour Valley Lions  
are delighted to  
advise

Donations of  
good quality  
used books  
(all genres) are now  
being accepted  
until  
Sat 6th December

Please phone  
07511 694733  
to arrange

Shipston Museum Winter Talks  
Programme 2025/26

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Witchcraft in  
The Cotswolds

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> WWII Love Letters from  
Behind the Wire

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> Tramway: 200yrs

March 7<sup>th</sup> Roman Era in  
The Stour Valley

2.30pm The Townsend Hall.  
Tickets £5 at Richard Harvey,  
Church Street, from Eventbrite  
& on the Door.

Museum

SHIPSTON LODGE

Christmas  
FETE

MUSIC, FOOD & GIFTS  
MINIATURE DONKEYS AND  
SANTA'S GROTTO

SATURDAY  
6TH DECEMBER 2025  
FROM 12.30 PM TO 4.00 PM

TILEMANS LANE, SHIPSTON ON STOUR  
CV36 4QG

FREE ENTRY

EVENT SUPPORTED BY STOUR VALLEY LIONS



Our acts of Remembrance



Remembrance Sunday Parade was, as always, marked by an incredible turnout from the people of Shipston-on-Stour. Your presence and support make this occasion truly special and ensure that the memory of those who served lives on. Thank you for standing with us in remembrance. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Poppy Appeal collectors, who braved the elements throughout the collection period, to the Town Council and the Lions, for their vital support and marshalling and to Eazylay Concrete and RS Concrete Pumping Ltd, for generously providing vehicles to secure the roads. Without your dedication and generosity, we could not hold this parade or continue raising funds to support our veterans. Thank you for helping us to keep remembrance alive.

Alistair Watkins  
SRBL Secretary



Focus on Shipston Business...Blue Bean

Blue Bean Coffee Shop, located in Sheep Street, celebrates 20 years of serving the community this year having survived such challenging times as the banking crisis and covid.

The coffee shop, formerly a bakery, is a family business run by Sharon and Karl Peacock. Sharon’s mum Sandra who once owned and ran the bakery business with her husband Robin in the 1970s makes their legendary almond tarts and dozens of mince pies in the run-up to Christmas. Karl’s love of music and film can be seen in the cafe’s gallery of pictures and together they provide a very warm and cosy environment to enjoy a coffee and homemade food and cake.

Since opening in 2005, Sharon & Karl have seen a shift away from standard coffees to more demanding flavours and styles. Post covid times – and the town’s recent expansion attracting a younger demographic and more people working from home – has



Mayor’s D-Day themed dinner

Shipston’s Mayor Tony Booth welcomed mayors and dignitaries from across Warwickshire and adjoining counties to Townsend Hall for a spectacular 1940s-themed charity dinner and dance evening. The civic event on 7<sup>th</sup> November was held in support of the Mayor’s charities, the Royal British Legion and Shipston Youth Club and the theme was chosen in remembrance of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW2.



Singing group The D-Day Darlings performed many favourite wartime songs to a packed hall that sang and danced along to such tunes as We’ll Meet Again and It’s a Long Way to Tipperary.



‘The atmosphere, the great food, the nostalgic music performance all helped to make the evening so special that it will be remembered for a long time to come,’ says Tony. ‘Special thanks and recognition should be given to Deputy Clerks Emily and Debbie who planned and executed the event in detail and made it a huge success.

‘The event raised almost £600 for each of the charities, and I’m grateful for the support of all of the many local businesses who offered prizes to the charity raffle and who helped to achieve such a great result for our community.’

seen its younger customer base demand a more sophisticated drinks offering, so a shift away from a more traditional bakery toward the feel of a more modern coffee shop was needed.

The Blue Bean is a very community-based business focusing on traditional customer service which is based on family values, great prices and a welcoming environment.

It owes its longevity to ensuring it stays relevant to the needs of the community and Sharon and Karl offer their thanks to all the regulars who continue to use The Blue Bean.

Meet the author

Come and meet local author Sara Fox at Shipston Library at 2pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Sara will be presenting her novel *A Legacy Forged*, the first novel in a sweeping trilogy set against the beating heart of Birmingham’s industrial revolution. A retired complementary health practitioner and Shipston resident, Sara’s writing career began with a promise to her late parents to write the story of their 200-year-old family business. [www.sarafoxaauthor.com](http://www.sarafoxaauthor.com)



Cornmill Meadows

Cornmill Meadows now has a noticeboard thanks to an award from Stratford District council. Check it out for information on bird walks and volunteer updates as well as plans for the meadows.



Severn Rivers Trust, working with the Environment Group, has created a pond at Cornmill Meadows. Connected to Pig Brook, the pond will fill in the winter and drain in the summer creating a wetland area that will encourage a wider range of plant life to the site. We look forward to it settling down and attracting different insects, invertebrates and bird life as it matures.

Sharing laughter and kindness at Christmas

Shipston Community Christmas began in 2017, when Tessa, Danni, and Hayley recognised that Christmas can be an incredibly difficult and lonely time for many people. They wanted to make sure that anyone in need of company or a place to celebrate had somewhere warm and welcoming to go. There were never any questions asked or judgements made, just a joyful event open to everyone, whatever their reason for joining.

Over the years, the celebration has offered comfort, connection, and companionship to those who need it most. For some, it’s been a welcome distraction during tough times; for others, it’s simply been a space to share laughter and kindness. From the very beginning, the goal was simple: if we could help just one person, it would all be worthwhile.

Through this event, we’ve learned that Christmas isn’t really about food or presents, it’s about people. It’s about belonging, community, and the warmth that comes from being together.

Since 2017, Shipston Community Christmas has supported more than 500 people in different ways. We’ve reached out to those missing loved ones, facing social isolation, struggling with family conflict or estrangement, or feeling the financial and emotional pressures that the festive season can bring. We are immensely proud of the difference this support has made.

In recent years, around 30 people have chosen to stay at home but still enjoy a Christmas meal lovingly prepared and delivered by our wonderful volunteers. It’s another way we keep the spirit of connection alive. No one should feel forgotten on Christmas Day.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported Shipston Community Christmas over the years—our volunteers, donors, and local community. Your kindness, generosity, and belief in what we do have made all the difference.

The spirit of Shipston Community Christmas should never be forgotten: to bring people together, to offer companionship and care, and to remind everyone that they are not alone. Christmas

is a time of togetherness, reflection, and kindness—a season to reach out, lift others up, and celebrate the power of community.

If you have no plans this Christmas, we would love you to join us. We are also looking for volunteers to help before and on the day.

To contact us please email [info@shipstoncommunitychristmas.org](mailto:info@shipstoncommunitychristmas.org) or call/WhatsApp on 07307 495 105.

We are also accepting donations through our GoFundMe page at [www.shipstoncommunitychristmas.org](http://www.shipstoncommunitychristmas.org).

Merry Christmas to you all.  
Diane Johnson



Look out for Santa!

Listen out for the music! Santa will be walking with his sleigh to collect donations for local Shipston Rotary Charities and good causes.

Monday 8th December 5.30-7-30pm

Station Road ● The Driftway ● Manor Lane ● Greenway Road  
Darlingsscot Road ● Brickhill Close ● Haymeadow  
Worcester Place ● Warwick Place ● Oxway Close  
Glenn Close ● Green Lane ● Gerrards Road ● West Street



Wednesday 10th December 5.30-7-30pm

Callaways Road ● Greenfields Close ● Parsons Close  
Simpson Road ● Hanson Ave ● The Hobbins ● The Maldens  
Costard Ave ● Marshall Ave ● Clark Close



Thursday 11th December 5.30-7-30pm

Haddon Fields ● Sutton End ● Carter Close ● Lomas Lane  
Angelas Meadow ● Holly Road ● Hawthorn Way  
Elm Road ● Ashgrove ● Furzehill Road ● Bosley Close



Saturday 13th December 4.30-7-30pm

Tilemans Lane ● Brickfield Lane ● Beecham Road  
The Sidings ● Railway Crescent ● Signal Road ● Mayo Road  
Donnington Road ● Badgers Crecent ● Hornsby Close  
Cauldlewel Drive ● Riverway ● Watery Lane



Monday 15th December 5.30-7.30pm

Norgren Crescent ● Carr Close ● Walkley Close  
Symons Way ● Bradley Drive ● Barrett Place ● Nichols Court  
Feldon Close ● Coe Ave ● Hands Place



Tuesday 16th December 5.30-7.30pm

Berry Ave ● Queens Ave ● Pittway Ave ● Sadlers Ave  
Oldbutt Road ● Bradley Road ● Burnell Close ● Rowett Drive  
Webb Road ● Clifford Place



Stour Valley Lions  
bring you an evening of

Prize Bingo

Saturday  
20th December

at the Townsend Hall, Shipston

Raffle

Bar

Tea, Coffee  
Mince Pies

Just come on down!

Doors open at 6.00pm  
Eyes Down at 7.30pm

Stour Valley Lions. Reg Charity: 1191826





Shipston Rotary

2025

Victorian Evening  
December 5th from 5.45pm to 8pm  
Lights on at 6pm



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

Stour Valley Lions  
presents a

"Bumper"

Book Sale

Saturday 13th December

9.30am to 1pm

at the Scout Hut




New St, Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4EW

Fresh stock at every event

We are sorry, but we cannot accept  
book donations on the day.  
Please phone 07511 694733 if you have any  
quality books you wish to donate

All proceeds go to Lions charities

Registered Charity No. 1191826



Christmas Concert

COTSWOLD  
Choir

SAT 13TH DEC

Join us for beautiful traditional  
and contemporary Christmas Music  
Christmassy Cakes and Bar

5.30PM DOORS, 6PM START

The Townsend Hall,  
Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AE

£10 FOR OVER 16'S £5 FOR UNDER 16'S



Shipston Primary School

Positive Noticing week

This year's anti-bullying week focused on the 'Power for Good', empowering children to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. During the course of the week, everyone was invited to wear odd socks to celebrate our individuality and what makes us all unique. In our 'notice me' week, each child was given a values ticket to award to someone who has been kind to them that day in class or throughout the school. This linked strongly to our school values and 3Be's (Be Kind, Be Brave and Be Responsible).



Marking Remembrance

This year to mark remembrance we welcomed Reverend Sarah Edmonds to the school to lead our assemblies. Our School Council representatives were busy selling poppies across the school and we held a two-minute silence to commemorate the day.

Christmas activities

As the Christmas season approaches, our school has been entering the full Christmas spirit, and we are thrilled to share the range of festive activities planned for our pupils and the

community. We look forward to enjoying a variety of Christmas performances from our youngest pupils in Reception up to Year 4.

In December, our older pupils will also be actively involved in community events including Shipston Victorian Evening where our children's choir will be joining this local event to sing Christmas carols, accompanied by the Shipston Town Band. Our Year 5 and 6 children will be visiting local nursing homes to spread Christmas cheer to residents.

Please also join us for the FOSP Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 6th December from 12 noon to 3pm. All members of our school community are warmly welcome to attend.



High School

The autumn term is always a busy time in schools. Year 11 pupils are preparing for mock examinations and planning their futures beyond Shipston High School, Year 10 are well underway with their GCSE studies, and the pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 are receiving detailed guidance on their progress via key assessments for the term. We have had whole school activities for Remembrance Day in November, charity events including Children in Need, and a wonderful key stage 4 awards evening. And then there is Christmas, and all the busy activity it brings. It is an active and enjoyable time for everyone.

It was really inspiring to see so many young people receive their exam certificates and wider awards for their work, attitude and academic progress at our awards event. The pressures on young people today are considerable, and so it is impressive to see so many of them excelling as a result of their mature and determined application at school and in their community activities. This independence and resilient attitude are at the centre of the values which we embrace and promote here at the school. I congratulate all of the pupils who have worked so hard and achieved so much at Shipston High School.

I am very grateful to the Shipston Royal British Legion for once again supporting our remembrance observance. Along with school representation at the Remembrance service at St. Edmund's Church on 9th November, all students attended a special assembly to hear an address from David Kernohan

and to observe a reflective and respectful silence. This is an important annual event for our young people, who conducted themselves superbly. Our sincere thanks to the local Royal British Legion team.

Shipston High School staff have held some enjoyable and productive meetings with colleagues from our local junior and infant schools in recent weeks. These have been really positive opportunities to talk about how we can work together to further enhance the experience young people have across their education.

Many families will have recently completed their applications for secondary school for students starting in September 2026. Applications for Shipston High School remain high and in line with previous years. Our new building offers more spaces for students than in the past, and this is in anticipation of future requirements linked to new house building in the area. For 2025 to 2026, Shipston High School continues as the first choice for the majority of year 7 aged children living in the area, reflecting the extremely positive feedback we received from visitors to our autumn open events. Thank you for coming to see us!

As we approach the Christmas season, I would like to thank everyone for the generous support Shipston High School receives from the community. I very much hope that your Christmas time is pleasant and restful. Please accept the good wishes of all of us at the school for a very happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Gavin Saunders, Head teacher.



At last – a home for the Youth Club

Shipston Youth Club has been without a home for too long, shunted from one place to another while the headcount of our youth has steadily increased, writes Tony Booth.

Shipston Town Council and the Youth Club have been working closely together to secure a more permanent solution, and I am delighted to say that a modular building has now been purchased and positioned at The Hub in readiness for extensive internal and external works to now take place.

I’m grateful to our local charities, the Lions and Rotary for their interest in supporting the project and also to SJ Plank Builders who are offering project support and advice. It is heartwarming to see the community come together in support of the young people of our town. Thanks go to Tony Joint, Daniel Pulham, Ian Cooper and Chris Howarth plus many others for their continued support to see this project through to the end, but special thanks also to David Ford, whose dedication and support for the project has been appreciated by all involved. Progress of the project can be followed on the Mayor of Shipston Facebook page.

Probus

John McCartney sought to enlighten us about a most serious topic, known as PID or PAD (Primary Immune Deficiency, or Primary Antibody Deficiency). Both mean the immune system is deficient or fails to protect our ability to fight infections. Patients suffer repeated debilitating infections which do not respond to antibiotics. Frequent absence from work and repeated visits for medical assessment are needed. The disease is rare, one in 10,000 suffer, with many variations. As a result, help is limited to a very few immunology consultants spread across the country.

Caused by a genetic deficiency, it can skip a generation; there is no cure. A full immunoglobulin test is required to diagnose it, as normal blood tests do not help. Treatment takes the form of regular infusions of expensive blood plasma which can manage the condition.

John’s wife suffered PID and for years struggled to find a clear diagnosis, information or support. She eventually gave up her job to set up a charity called UKPIPS to raise the profile of PIP/PAD, especially informing GPs, and offer practical help for sufferers. The charity was pivotal in ensuring blood plasma, formerly obtained from the USA, is now sourced in the UK and John showed us how he was able to help, using his experience in motor manufacturing and just-in-time stocking techniques, saving the NHS millions of pounds!

The work of UKPIPS continues, although John’s wife has now

retired. Her work was given well-deserved recognition by a meeting with the late Queen Elizabeth II.

If you feel Probus could appeal to you, then why not give us a try as our guest? Guests enjoy a free lunch and no initial commitment to join, entirely your choice! Please contact Tony Joint on 07711 310272 or email: tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Stour Valley Stitchers

Established in 2022, Stour Valley Stitchers originally started as a way for sewing enthusiasts of all abilities and interests to meet and talk about their hobby and to share the highs and lows of sewing. We now also try to tackle the scourge of waste/excess fabrics and to provide a place where sewists can enjoy their hobby with like-minded people. Our group includes quilters, bagmakers, dressmakers, embroiderers and makers of soft furnishings. Sewing abilities vary as much as what we sew, encouraging discussions around each project.

We have successfully used donated fabrics to make re-useable shopping bags, sent fabrics to a local college for students to use, hosted a fabric de-stash sale and cycled our own fabrics around the group. The local Food Bank will be the recipient of 70 shopping bags, reducing the use of plastic bags.

Saturday workshops have been introduced, promoting local craftspeople and makers. This boosts our knowledge and skills and provides another way to encourage people to socialise while practicing a new craft. We intend to hold more workshops in the new year, promoting both talent within the group and local artists and crafts people.

We welcome any sewing enthusiast, whether you’re just at the start of your journey into a stitching hobby or more experienced, to join us at one of our Wednesday morning sessions on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the Hall at Cherington, 10am-1pm, £3 per session. We provide tea and coffee and there’s plenty of parking.

Shipston Bellringers

It’s been a busy time for the Shipston Bellringers. As well as ringing most Sundays prior to the services in our local churches, we rang for the 80<sup>th</sup> World War II commemorations to mark VE day and VJ day. On 8<sup>th</sup> November we hosted the Four Shires Guild which gives local ringers from other towers the chance to try out different bells with other ringers. That was a busy few days as we also rang for Remembrance on both Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> with muffled bells to reflect the solemnity of the occasion. Our teams of bellringers will be busy around the local churches to celebrate Christmas, starting with the Victorian Evening on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Congratulations to Sarah Elliott and Len Morley who have been elected to be ringmasters of the North Cotswold branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association of Bellringers and the Four Shires Guild respectively. They will coordinate and lead the monthly practices for all towers in the branch and mentor aspiring ringers as part of their responsibilities.

Bellringing offers you a physical and mental workout, the chance to be part of a team, to make new friends and to give something back to the local community. It’s a secular activity and is suitable

for all ages, including young people over 10 years old. If that’s you or if you are looking to take up a new hobby in 2026, please do get in touch on shipstondistrictringers@gmail.com and we will arrange the first steps for you on your bellringing journey!

Stour Valley Lions

We’re launching a new fundraiser in support of the Mayor’s charity: Shipston Youth Club. Stour Valley Lions will now be raising funds to equip the inside of the building, transforming it into a welcoming and well-equipped venue for the town’s teenagers.

Our tree at the St Edmund’s Christmas Tree Festival, has details of the people and causes we’ve supported during 2025. And there’s plenty more going on in December:

We’ll be lending a hand at Shipston Lodge Christmas Festival – Saturday 6th December, 12.30–4pm. Donations of good-quality books are warmly welcomed for our Book Sale at the Scout Hut – Saturday 13th December, 9.30am–1pm. (No space for unplanned drop-offs, sorry: please call 07511 694 733 to arrange a handover.) Doors open at 6pm for a 7pm start in our Prize Bingo Night at Townsend Hall – Friday 20th December. Join us for a fun evening with great prizes, bar service, and a Christmas raffle. Please note there will be no community film in December, but we’re planning a film matinée with tea and cakes for Shipston’s senior residents on Sunday 25th January.

If you’d like to get involved – even in a small way, such as helping out at an event – we’d love to hear from you. Please speak to one of our members, call us on 0345 833 2835, or email enquiries@stourvalleylions.club.

Women’s Institute

In November we heard a very important talk from David Clarke of Age Concern UK about the importance of setting up a Lasting Power of Attorney. This becomes especially important as people become older and more frail, and handling one’s financial affairs becomes increasingly onerous. Setting up an LPA can give peace of mind and confidence that there is someone to turn to if health and financial affairs become overwhelming.

David urged those who have existing EPAs (Enduring Power of Attorney) to have them changed to an LPA because the earlier system of EPAs does not extend to health matters and gave more tips on appointing at least two trustworthy Attorneys who can be relied upon to carry out your wishes in case of incapacity.

Bridget Smith has stepped down as President after doing an excellent job for the past three years and has been warmly thanked for her work in running a very successful WI. Julie Hale was appointed the new President and all wished her well in the role. Gill Smith will continue as Secretary and Vickie Coleman is Treasurer.

Shipston WI will be decorating a tree in the church for Christmas and providing refreshments at the Arts in the Cotswolds event.

The next meeting which will be the Christmas Party will be on Wednesday, 3rd December. Members are asked to bring something nice to eat and possibly Christmas poems and readings. Meetings are always in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Shipston, at 7pm.

Shipston Music Society

We were delighted to welcome the Shipston Training Band. Conducted by Alec Banner, the group focuses on coaching and mentoring beginners as they progress. There is no charge for membership and the band offers instruments on free loan, with music and rehearsal facilities provided. Fantastic! What a wonderful opportunity.

The evening’s programme took us on a journey around the world from Italy to a lively fox-trot from Cuba, and folk songs from Canada, Spain and Haiti, finishing with a sea shanty to name just some. These were performed with obvious enjoyment by the members of the Band who all responded well to their conductor’s clear beat and were rewarded with enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Thank you for your support!

Shipston Vets would like to say a huge thank you for helping raise £750 for Breast Cancer Now by supporting their cake sale. In the run-up to Christmas, the vets will be supporting local pet charities by collecting donations of toys, food and pet equipment for Avon Cat Rescue and One Wish Dog Foundation.

Shipston sports club: a huge thank you to everyone who supported its Bonfire Night and fireworks, including Scobie and his team of incredible builders and those who donated wood. Every ticket sold helps keep the club going as a place for our community to share and enjoy. The club is open all year round for live sport and for you to come and enjoy a drink with friends. Members receive a discount, so please join and check what’s on each week on our Facebook page. And don’t forget the club is available for hire for events.

Shipston Lions’ bucket shake for the Jamaica hurricane on 8th November raised almost £300 in just a few hours. Lions Clubs International is always one of the first global organisations to respond to natural tragedies such as this, the floods in the Punjab and the typhoon that struck the Philippines. Stour Valley Lions pledged to make a single donation of £1,500 to assist the work of our Foundation in these areas of terrible devastation. Thank you for your fantastic support.

Shipston Museum has been overwhelmed by the community’s enthusiasm for local history, welcoming 670 visitors through our doors during the season. Over 200 people attended our local historical society talks and a further 200 joined our guided walks throughout the year. We’re particularly grateful for the generous donations many have made to support our work. Your encouragement and financial support enable us to continue preserving and sharing our town’s rich heritage. Special thanks to everyone who attended our recent Remembrance Guided Walk, which proved to be a moving and educational experience.





County Council

The latest storm Claudia, struck me as nominative determinism at its best (cloudier, eh?) and all I can say is, aren't we glad we dodged the flooding we were all half expecting? Despite c50mm rain, the leaky dams, the soil and the still-growing grass did their job. Not lost on any of us is the effect that huge developments round Shipston might have if they go ahead.

I set a hare running on Facebook by raising the issue of Post Offices. The government is consulting on the future of the 5,000 post offices. Obviously we need to defend our PO in Shipston – and we will – but we need to be ready as ever! Please use it as much as possible. You can do a lot of banking there and can withdraw cash.

WCC is consulting on home-to-school transport. Some people (Reform) seem to think that a five-mile walk might be acceptable! This even got the attention of the Secretary of State, but for all the wrong reasons! Suffice to say that I have always thought I needed to transport Barker junior - though these days he can drive (aargh!!) and some of you may remember his cycling days...

It's nearly Christmas, and all the usual community activities are happening. Lots of Carol services, the Christmas Tree festival and the Victorian Evening. Shipston Community Christmas will be hosting a get-together on Christmas Day, particularly for those on their own. The Bereavement Cafe is meeting monthly and the Warm Hub is now twice weekly. So please don't be lonely this Christmas.

Please get in touch - particularly if you are one of those in Pittway and Sadlers who has cracks in their homes. Olivia Hatch (District Councillor) and I are working together to get a sensible resolution for you.

**Jo Barker**  
County Councillor, Shipston Division  
077489 68712 | [jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

District Council

By the time this Forum is published Stratford District Council (SDC) will have voted on its preferred 'devolution' option to submit to the Government. Most Councillors have already declared support for a two-unitary solution, with Stratford combining with Warwick District Council to form a South Warwickshire unitary authority. Rugby, Nuneaton and North Warwickshire Districts would form North Warwickshire unitary authority. Warwickshire County Council has already voted to support a single unitary Warwickshire.

To get this far, the five District Councils commissioned two reports, one on 'Appraising the Options for the Future', from Deloitte and the other from Peopletoo Consultants on the effect of splitting services like Health & Social Care. In a survey, 73% of residents were in favour of Stratford joining a unitary South Warwickshire.

Olivia and I will be voting for two Unitaries. We see as the advantage that decisions will be made closer to our community and that more local services are likely to be more responsive to local need. The experience from other parts of the country which have already gone unitary is that the smaller authorities have been better run.

Olivia and I have been involved in meetings with SDC Sustainability & Recycling Officer Katie Walker and Shipston Health & Wellbeing Partnership to set up a Repair Cafe. The Ellen Badger has been offered as a venue. At first this was thought to be unsuitable because some repairs might cause dust and dirt. However, it was decided that cycle repair, and sharpening type repairs could be carried out under the covered area at the entrance. The sewing and electronics repair would be inside and of course the cafe open. The Repair Cafe is due to open in the New Year. If anyone has repair skills that they would like to offer, please get in touch.

I am a member of the Management of Public Open Spaces Task & Finish Committee at SDC. This was set up to try and sort out the anomalies that have arisen over the last 20 years when developers have been allowed to set up management companies to maintain the estates' open spaces, sewers and roads. Residents on these estates have been charged an extra service charge on top of their Council Tax. Residents claim that they are overcharged, and that the developers do not manage the spaces well. None of the open spaces on new estates in Shipston have had their open spaces approved by SDC. However, we now have a new Enforcement Officer and an Open Spaces Officer who are making the developers bring things up to standard as specified in the Planning Conditions. The aim of the Task and Finish Group is to explore what options are available to the District Council, in relation to privately managed public open spaces, that might secure better outcomes for residents who are affected by poor management of these open spaces. SDC is very keen to hear from residents. If you are affected, please fill in the survey: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/privatemanagementres> by Friday 5th December.

Olivia and I were proud to support residents and the Save Our Shipston Campaign to object to all the proposed housing developments around Shipston. We spoke (along with councillors from other parties) at the public meeting of around 250 people in the Townsend Hall. We now have more meetings with SDC Planners and Severn Trent Water to clarify what is happening and hone our objections.


**Dave Passingham**  
District Councillor, Shipston South  
07752 562114 | [dave.passingham@stratford-dc-gov.uk](mailto:dave.passingham@stratford-dc-gov.uk)




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**Richard Walters, Deputy Mayor**  
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**Vanessa Benjamin-Smith**  
*SAFAG Chair*  
e: [vanessa.benjamin-smith@shipstontownconcil.org](mailto:vanessa.benjamin-smith@shipstontownconcil.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 (VASA)	01789 262889
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
<b>Local police (non emergency)</b>	<b>101</b>

Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood:  
PC1508 Sid Hammond – 07967303185  
PCSO Katie Brooks – 07870978973  
**Churches of Shipston:**  
Stour Valley Baptist 01608 664876  
Our Lady & St Michael 01608 685259  
St Edmund's 01608 661210  
Methodist Church 01295 257193

**Shipston-on-Stour Town Council**  
New Clark House, West Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4HD  
**General Enquiries**  
t: 01608 662180 e: [enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org)  
**Town Clerk**  
e: [clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org)

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**Olivia Hatch (Shipston North)**  
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t: 07973 846605

Something exciting to share?

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Laura Parker, by email: [forum@shipstononline.org](mailto:forum@shipstononline.org) or, if you don't have email access, on 07989 530069

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact [enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.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.



**SHIPSTON REPAIR CAFE! VOLUNTEERS WANTED**



**WE'RE HOSTING A VOLUNTEERS MEETING!**  
8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 11AM AT THE ELLEN BADGER HOSPITAL



Whether you're handy with a needle, a screwdriver, or just have a passion for sustainability, there's a place for you at the Repair Cafe!



**We need:**

- Tinkerers & Fixers: electronics, bikes, furniture
- Sewers & Stitchers: clothing, textiles
- Greeters & Organizers: welcoming guests, managing flow
- Tea & Biscuit Champions: because every repair needs a cuppa!




For more details, contact [rowena@shwp.org.uk](mailto:rowena@shwp.org.uk)




**What do you need to know?**

- The cafe will be based at Ellen Badger Hospital, CV36 4AX
- You'll be needed every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month between 10am and 2pm.





**SHIPSTON  
TOWN BAND**



**CHRISTMAS  
CONCERT**

TOWNSEND HALL, SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR  
**SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER, 3 pm**  
ADMISSION: £10 (under 18s - free)  
[www.shipstonband.co.uk](http://www.shipstonband.co.uk)



**You're invited**  
to the



**Shipston Community  
Christmas Party**  
December 25th | 10AM  
The Scout Hut, Shipston-on-Stour



Everybody's welcome!  
We can provide transport  
Great company, drinks & a light festive lunch  
Run by volunteers, funded by donations

No plans this Christmas? Fancy joining us?  
Chat to Diane

✱ 07307 495105 ✱ [info@shipstoncommunitychristmas.org](mailto:info@shipstoncommunitychristmas.org)

**Christmas Tree  
Festival**

*5th - 7th December in St Edmund's Church*

**A church full of trees decorated by community groups.  
Vote for your favourite.  
Hot chocolate and mince pies & Christmas raffle**

Entrance to the festival £2 per adult, children free.

Victorian Evening 5th December	6-8.30pm
Saturday 6th December	2-5pm
Sunday 7th December	12.30 - 5pm

**Join us at 6pm on Sunday for Town Carols in the midst of the trees**



**Stour Singers** Est. 1975 **Christmas Concert**

**Haydn: Little Organ Mass  
Martines: Dixit Dominus  
Christmas Carols**

Conducted by our NEW Musical Director  
**Alex Silverman**  
Accompanied by  
Organist: Rachel Bird  
Musicians from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire



Lufuno Ndlovu,  
Mezzo Soprano



Alex Silverman,  
Musical Director



Robyn Pullen,  
Soprano

**SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2025, 7.30PM  
ST EDMUND'S CHURCH, SHIPSTON ON STOUR**

**TICKETS £20\***  
EARLY BIRD PRICE £18.50

Proud members of  




\*accompanied under 18s free  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers>