



Shipston Forum



January 2026

Could you help out in 2026?

If your New Year's resolution was to get more involved in the community, then there's no better time. In this issue we hear from several organisations in town that would be keen to hear from you and grateful for your help.



Food bank – heavy lifters required! This could be just the thing for young people looking to volunteer as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award participation, says Jo Barker on page 14.

Save our Shipston is looking to form a small working party to help people get their voices heard on planning matters with a focus on the proposed housing at Fell Mill (above). Read all about it on page 8.

Shipston's new **Repair Café**, which will start up this spring, is looking for people with handy repair skills or who are happy to help out with refreshments. Have a look at the information on pages 5 and 7. There will be a drop-in session on 22nd January from 5-7.30pm at the Ellen Badger for anyone interested in volunteering.

The Townsend Hall, the venue at the heart of town, is in need of volunteers and trustees to join its friendly committee.

Proms – help is always needed for Shipston's annual eclectic summer music festival at the end of June. There's a drop-in session if you would like to give your views to the new chair Howard Little at the Ellen Badger on Monday 19th January, 5.30-7.30pm.

Our volunteer-run **Museum** welcomes additional supporters. You can read more about its plans for 2026 on page 12.

Shipston First Responders will be recruiting in 2026. There's more information about their amazing service during 2025 on page 8.

One for accomplished musicians. **Cantamus** choir is looking to find a new musical director. The application deadline is 5th January. Musical notes on page 13.

Spirit of Shipston shines

Do we need to be reminded of the rain at the beginning of December? Yes, in a way, because during a very wet evening, the spirit of Shipston showed itself in the support for the Victorian Evening. The band played on, the Square was bustling and some of the stallholders reported their best-ever evening!



Organisers Shipston Rotary made the brave decision to go ahead despite the weather forecast, which lived up to its promise. The heavens opened mid-afternoon and the rain was relentless for the remainder of the evening. Yet the Mayor switched on the town lights and the Tree of Life radiated its blessing from the bulbs named in honour of lost loved ones. The Primary School Choir



sang their hearts out, accompanied valiantly by Shipston Town Band, and the singing concluded with the undaunted Cotswold Choir. As ever, the Town centre shops stayed open until late and there was a queue at Sheldon Bosley Knight to see Santa.

High note to end the year

The High School finished the year with a festive flourish: a charity Christmas Jumper day, the annual Santa Dash, carol-singing at local residential homes and a performance of a new, original and highly entertaining interpretation of *A Christmas Carol*.



In this issue

- How to deal with phone scams – page 3
- Medical Centre's New Year health tips – page 4
- SOS Save our Shipston – page 8
- Free digital skills workshops – page 9
- Could you enter the Lions' Den? – page 12
- Winter talks at the museum – page 12

Mayor's column

Happy New Year, Shipston!

I hope you all had a very relaxing and enjoyable festive period with your families and loved ones.

Wrapping up the news and events since November and into December, the Shipston lights switch-on proved to be a particularly wet affair! Thank you to all those who braved the weather to attend the Victorian market and see the Tree of Life and Christmas lights switched on. The Band played valiantly and the children's choir sang beautifully despite the horizontal wind, rain and disintegrating hymn sheets. Thank you to Shipston Rotary for their continued support for the town and for battling the elements to ensure the event went ahead.

Elsewhere, my wife and I had a very busy time attending a variety of Mayoral events around the county. Highlights included a cocktails masterclass by St Maur in Alcester and an evening in Warwick involving a ghost tour with a virtual tour of the Warwick tunnels. A beautiful evening was spent at St Mary's Guild Hall for the Lord Mayor of Coventry's Civic Dinner which was among several dinners that we were invited to attend. Closer to home we also attended the Shipston Christmas fetes held at Low Furlong and Shipston Lodge.

As Christmas approached, we had the pleasure of attending St Margaret's Church in Whitnash to see the Cubbington Silver Band play many festive favourites. This was closely followed by Shipston's own Joint Church Carol service at St Edmund's where there was a beautiful carol service involving candlelight, a prayer tree and our own Shipston Town Band. Reverends Sarah Edmunds, Dan Pulham and Phil Robinson joined forces to give a very uplifting and enjoyable service. The Christmas tree decoration competition was won by the Proms while Bookfest's brilliant arrangement of books was the quirkiest tree. Mince pies and mulled wine rounded the night off in very festive fashion.

On a more personal note, I was grateful to be invited to Shipston High School awards evening as guest speaker where they supported me in introducing the first Mayor's award. This award recognises the efforts of a student who selflessly provided a meaningful contribution into the wider community. It is an award I hope will continue to be presented annually and help to forge stronger ties within our town. This year the award went to Ella Steane for her selfless support of others in the school and our community. Please follow me on the Mayor of Shipston Facebook page where I post about current news and Mayoral events as they happen.

As we move into 2026, I hope to see the new Youth Club building take shape at its new home at The Hub. Thank you to the Lions and Rotary clubs who have offered their support to raise donations to help on this project. The range of medical services offered at the Ellen Badger Hospital continues to grow and I



hope the community starts to see a greater benefit there as the doctors' surgeries also move in and we become less reliant on having to go out of town for support. We are also ready to combat the myriad developers threatening the future stability of our town and its infrastructure. The protection of Shipston, the character of our town and our community will remain an overriding priority for the Council this coming year.

On behalf of Shipston Town Council I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and we look forward to continuing to support our town and our community throughout 2026.

TTFN

Tony Booth
Mayor of Shipston

Notes from Shipston Town Council's December meeting

Flood Action

A new version of the Emergency Advice booklet will be prepared for the website.

Planning

Repair to damage caused to The Horseshoe (a listed building) – no objection. Single storey rear extension to property in Hawthorn Way – no representation. Rebuilding of boundary wall in New Street – no objection. In terms of the many housing applications, Cllr Tesh reported that Warwickshire Highways will be assessing the collective impact of the proposals.

General purposes

The work to repair the guttering on the Twin Chapels is underway.

Finance working group

Council agreed to fund two panels at The Hub. Quotes are being sought for groundworks including power and water connection for the new Youth Club building. Grant applications have been assessed and recommendations made for a total of £12,500.

Local nature action plan

This will be presented to the Council for approval in January.

Councillors' reports

Councillors enjoyed the packed carol service at St Edmund's and the Victorian evening, despite the rain. The Mayor attended the Shipston Lodge and Low Furlong Christmas events.

Mayor's award

The Mayor has launched a new award for a young person who makes a significant contribution to the community.

District Council

Cllr Passingham reported that funds may be available through unused S106 money to improve a section of pavement along Campden Road, if developers can approve an amendment to the S106 contract.

Banking

Cllr Williams is pursuing his complaint to the Financial Conduct Authority about the lack of independence of the assessor appointed through Link to report on the banking situation in the face of the Lloyds Bank closure.

Website update

The new Shipston Town Council website is now online at <https://shipstontowncouncil.org>. Use your phone to scan the QR code and you can go straight there!



Banking hub

A fortnightly mobile banking service has begun at the Ellen Badger on alternate Tuesdays, 9.30am-3.30pm. In January, the dates will be 13th and 27th. A community banker will be able to help with account queries, both personal and business.

A reminder also from Cllr John Williams that if the cash machine is unavailable in town, it is possible to get up to £50 cashback at the Co-op – you need to purchase only a small item.

Achievement

Emily Booth, Deputy Responsible Finance Officer to the Town Council has completed an Essential Finance course in Local Council Administration (FILCA) – congratulations, Emily!



Emily with her FILCA certificate

A positive year for the museum

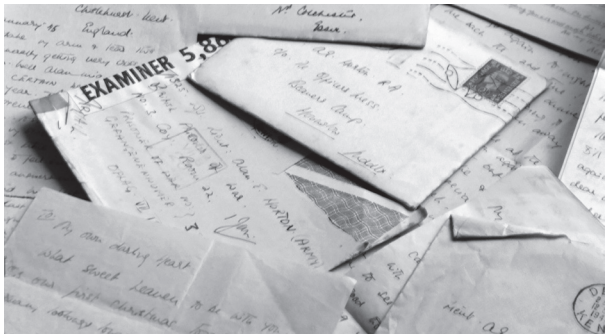


Last year was an exceptionally successful year for Shipston Museum. We were overwhelmed by the community’s enthusiasm for local history, welcoming 670 visitors through our doors during the season. Beyond the Museum walls, over 200 people attended local historical society talks and a further 200 joined our guided walks throughout the year.

The feedback from our visitors has been overwhelmingly positive, and 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 with future generations.

Whilst the Museum closes its doors for the winter months, our commitment to sharing historical knowledge continues unabated. We have an exciting series of talks scheduled over the coming months, offering the perfect opportunity to delve deeper into local history during the darker evenings.

Thank you for making 2025 so memorable. We look forward to 2026 with anticipation.



War-time letters will be the subject of a talk on 10th January. See page 12.

Worried about phone scams? Just dial 159

Scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated, often pretending to be from your bank or the police to panic you into transferring money. If you receive a suspicious call, or if you are ever unsure about who is on the other end of the line, remember the **159** service.

By dialling **159**, you are connected safely and directly to your bank’s fraud department. The service is supported by the majority of UK banks (Barclays, Co-operative, First Direct, Halifax, HSBC, Lloyds, Metro Bank, Nationwide, NatWest, Santander, Starling, TSB, and others) and major telephone providers. It is the safest way to verify a call.

How to use it:

- **STOP:** If a caller pressures you or asks for financial details, take a moment.
- **HANG UP:** Do not trust the number on your caller ID. End the call.
- **CALL 159:** Dial 159 to be put through to a secure system that will route you to your bank.

Tip: If possible, call 159 from a different phone (like a mobile) or wait a few minutes after hanging up to ensure the line is fully cleared.

New Year, New You!

Many people set health goals in their New Year resolutions in January and here at Shipston Medical Centre we want to support and help all patients making steps towards a healthy and happy new year!



This month we are focusing on **blood pressure**

High blood pressure (also called hypertension) can lead to serious problems like heart attacks or strokes. Lifestyle changes can help you stay healthy. It's important to know what your blood pressure is as many people don't have symptoms of high blood pressure.

You don't have to visit a doctor or nurse in order to check your blood pressure. You can take your readings in the comfort of your own home or visit the practice where we have a machine available in the waiting area at the practice. All patients are welcome to use this machine to monitor their blood pressure and weight and there is no need to book an appointment. If you have a machine at home, please ask the practice for a 7-day blood pressure form which can be printed or sent via text or email to you.

If you do have high blood pressure, focusing on lifestyle changes like reducing salt and alcohol intake, exercising regularly, and eating a healthy, balanced diet may help. If you are overweight, losing weight can be very effective.

Better Health

Smoke free

Stop smoking

Start saving

The average smoker could save £2,500 per year by quitting smoking.

NHS

£20

£20

£20

£20

Here are some top tips:

Resolution	Habits
Stop smoking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">24 Hours: Lungs begin clearing out smoke debris and mucus.48 Hours: Nicotine leaves the body; sense of taste and smell improve.1 Year: Risk of coronary heart disease is halved compared to a smoker's.5 Years: Risk of cancers (mouth, throat, oesophagus, bladder) and stroke significantly decreases.10 Years: Risk of death from lung cancer drops to about half that of a continuing smoker.15 Years: Risk of heart attack falls to the same level as someone who has never smoked.
Exercise more often	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Go on a 10-minute walk after mealsPick one day to attend a fitness class online or in-personPark farther away from entrances to stores
Eat healthier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eat the protein on your plate firstIncrease your fibre intake with vegetables and berriesCut back on high-sodium foods, like fast food and cured meats
Lose weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drink plenty of water throughout the dayPick one day a week to exercise, then add more days over timeReplace one meal out with a meal at home
Cut back on alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Replace one beverage with sparkling water or a low sugar, non-alcoholic drinkIdentify when you want to drink (like after work) and fill that time with another activity, like a new hobby or fitness class

Good luck! You can do this!
For more information visit <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health>

Shipston Home Nursing thanks

Andrew Revell from Shipston Home Nursing thanked supporters for their involvement in 2025, saying that donations, fundraising efforts, and acts of kindness helped them reach more families than ever before.

'Your generosity, compassion, and support have enabled us to continue providing expert care, comfort, and dignity to people in our community who wish to remain at home during some of life's most difficult moments.

'You have ensured that our nurses and care teams can be there, day and night, to provide reassurance, symptom management, and emotional support when it is needed most. For the families we care for, your support means peace of mind, precious time together, and the knowledge that they are not alone.'

'We are supported by an incredible team of volunteers who make every event possible. Whether you baked biscuits, ran a tombola, marshalled an event, sorted clothes & jewellery for our pop up shops... thank you so much for your invaluable support and enthusiasm.'

He also thanked outgoing Head of Nursing Services, Gemma Roberts for her dedication over the last six years. Her role will be filled by Anna Briggs in the short term while a permanent Head of Nursing Services is recruited.

Fundraising events for next year include the London Marathon on 26th April, plant and produce sales on 9th & 10th May, and the Feldon Valley Golf Day on 10th July. Look out on their website www.shipstohomenursing.co.uk for a full list of events.



Beds 4 Badger

We were pleased to see the announcement by South Warwickshire University Foundation Trust (SWFT) in last month's Shipston Forum. The news of the pilot project to use the Princess Diana 1992 building as the Ellen Badger Medical Case Day Unit providing medical services closer to people's homes is welcome indeed. We hope SWFT's list of treatments, published last month, will be expanded in the future. We also look forward to the meeting in January of the SWFT Chief Executive and the League of Friends of Shipston Hospitals to discuss the operation of the unit and its future development. We fervently hope that these discussions will succeed in getting greater cooperation between SWFT and the community.

The pilot will be successful if it demonstrates the demand for services and provides feedback of the needs for further services. It is essential therefore that wherever possible patients ask that their day-based treatments take place at the Ellen Badger Medical Unit in Shipston if they cannot be conducted in the patient's own home.

This is also true of other medical services provided in the Ellen Badger. For example, Physiotherapy Treatment is available and patients can refer themselves. The Warwick Hospital website says you can self-refer for physio: it advises that patients ask at the GP reception in the Medical Centre and they will tell you how to fill out a form.

You can make a difference. It is important that patients give feedback to SWFT about their treatment and their travel arrangements to wherever they are treated. We have too many people having to travel daily to Stratford, Warwick or Coventry when they could be treated more locally.

Please ask for treatment in Shipston and if this is not possible then ask why not? This information will help us to ask for more services in Shipston.

Thank you all for your continued support. We continue to campaign for extended and improved medical services in the Ellen Badger Hospital and continue to look for opportunities to bring inpatient services closer to our community. We continue to press for greater diagnostic capability especially as it will be required for this Medical Case Day Unit. We would also like to see the Ellen Badger return to its key role of reducing the number of admissions to Acute Hospitals from our community.

Keep following on the Facebook Page. Thanks for all the likes and shares.

Beds for Badger Organising Committee



Shipston's Repair Café to open in spring

A new repair Café is opening in Shipston this spring, led by a partnership of local organisations committed to supporting the community in a sustainable way, including Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Stratford District Council and SWFT.

Shipston Repair Café will be more than just a project – it's a space that fosters care, connection, and practical solutions. Its goal is to help people keep their goods in use for longer, reducing waste and saving resources. This initiative depends on volunteers like you. We'd love to hear your ideas and involve you in shaping a successful, welcoming café for everyone. Please contact Rowena Webb on rowenacawebb@gmail.com if you are interested.

But what is a Repair Café?

The idea began in the Netherlands in 2007 and there are now over 2,500 Repair Cafés worldwide. They are free meeting places, all about repairing things together, with tools and materials to help you make repairs you need, on clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances, toys, etc. You'll also find expert volunteers, with repair skills in all kinds of fields.

Bring in your broken items from home. Together with the specialists, you can start making your repairs in the Repair Café. If you have nothing to repair, you can lend a hand or enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

Why a Repair Café?

We throw away vast amounts of stuff, some of it with almost nothing wrong, which could get a new lease of life after a simple repair. We have forgotten that we can repair things. Finding our repair skills can help us move to a sustainable future in which materials can be reused again and again. Using things for longer reduces the volume of raw materials and energy needed to make new products.

A Repair Café gives people with repair skills the appreciation they deserve and the chance to pass on invaluable practical skills to others. You might see your possessions in a new light, and appreciate their value all over again. Repairing things can be fun and easier than you think!

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

Baby Time (under 12 months old): 12:30pm-2pm, Badger Valley Children's Centre, Tileman's Lane. Book via Eventbrite.

Let's Play for Toddlers: 1:15pm-2:45pm, Badger Valley Children's Centre, Tileman's Lane. Book via Eventbrite.

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, 1st & 3rd 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 Stomp: 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 - 12 noon, 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: January 2026

3rd 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

4th 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.

6th Grief Group: 11am-1pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub

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

6th & 20th '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

7th Shipston on Stour WI: Philip York – A Corruption and Finance Journalist. 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

7th & 21st Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

10th Shipston Museum: WWII Love Letters from Behind the Wire. 2.30pm, The Townsend Hall. Adults £5. (See ad on page 16)

12th Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

13th Stour Community Awareness Network (SCAN): Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership & SWFT activities and services at the Ellen Badger. (See ad on page 7)

13th Stour Valley Lions Meeting: 6.30pm–9.30pm; The Lion in Tredington, 2nd Tuesday of the month

15th Drop-In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. Every third Thursday

15th Mettle: The Hall, Cherington, Stourton & Sutton-under-Brailles. (See ad on page 16)

16th 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

25th Film matinee & cake: Free for senior residents. 2.30pm, The Townsend Hall. (See ad on page 16)

27th GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings). A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7:30pm-9:30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. The 4th Tuesday of every month (except December). All ladies welcome. Entry £2.

28th Shipston Literary Society: The Psychology of Crime Writing - plot twists, surprises, and red herrings. 7:30pm, Community Hall Tredington. Contact: Alison 07772 202915

29th Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2:30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society
present



A pantomime by Norman Robbins

Thursday 5th, Friday 6th
and Saturday 7th February 2026
7.30pm

Saturday matinee 2.30 pm
Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour

Adults £10, Children £5
Tickets available from John Lyne Home Hardware or
online at ticketsource.co.uk - not available on the door

Children in fancy dress at the matinee will receive a treat!

Licensed by Concord Theatricals Ltd



Tuesday 13th January 2026

Room B, Ellen Badger, Stratford Road, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AX

**Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership &
South Warwickshire University NHS
Foundation Trust - Activities & services at
Ellen Badger.**

10.00am for free refreshments / 10.30am start

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

Please note that January's meeting will be at the Ellen Badger to find out more about activities and services on offer to the community with future SCAN meetings returning to the Townsend Hall in March

If you normally attend SCAN meetings at the Townsend Hall but need transport to the Ellen Badger please contact either John john.wilde@stratford-dc.gov.uk 01789 260933 or Laurie dlaurie.grove@gmail.com 01608 662998 by Thursday 8th of January.



NHS
South Warwickshire
University
NHS Foundation Trust



SHIPSTON REPAIR CAFÉ! VOLUNTEERS WANTED

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
Café!

We need:

- Tinkerers & Fixers (electronics, bikes, furniture, etc.)
- Sewers & Stitchers (clothing, textiles)
- Greeters & Organisers (welcoming guests, managing flow)
- Tea & Biscuit Champions (because every repair needs a cuppa!)



What do you need to know?

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



For more details,
contact
rowena@shwp.org.uk

Shipston Repair Café Roles

Ellen Badger Hospital, CV36 4AX

These are the different roles that we need for our Repair Café!

Repairers of Electrical Items



Repairers of Textiles or
Sewers



Bicycle Repairers

Woodworkers



Greeters & Organisers

Refreshments Team

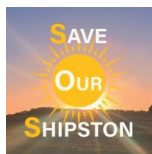


Administration Team



NHS
South Warwickshire
University
NHS Foundation Trust

Campaign to stop over-development



Campaign group **SOS Save Our Shipston** reports on its plans to fight the Fell Mill site development.

Multiple developers have put in, or are about to submit, planning applications in and around Shipston. In the event planning permission is granted, it would mean 1700+ extra houses. The largest site is at Fell Mill with 1,150 houses being proposed just outside the Shipston town boundary in the Barcheston and Honington parishes.

These developments mean many more cars on the road, traffic chaos on the bridge and the one-way circuit, more pressure on parking, schools and GP services and the permanent loss of our precious green spaces and town character.

We have established a campaign group **SOS Save Our Shipston** to fight the Fell Mill site development. It comprises passionate local volunteers and councillors from the town and district and we are calling on like-minded residents from Shipston and surrounding villages to add their support.

Our call to action:

Donate – we have engaged planning consultants, and we have signed up a KC ready to give legal advice as required. We need donations to fund this essential expertise.

To donate through **gofundme** Scan me with your phone camera!

Please go online and type in the link below:

gofund.me/tall.bear.form

To donate directly:

Bank Name: HSBC
Account Name: SaveOurShipston
Sort Code: 40-18-57
Account Number: 60770736

Look at our website – all the latest information about what is happening, dates for meetings and details about what people can do and when is posted here. www.saveourshipston.org

Join our mailing list – you can do this via our website. Sign up and get an update every 2-3 weeks. This is a vital source of information for those who don't do social media. Help friends and relatives who aren't online to get signed up so they can receive emails.

Follow us on social media – we are on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. We post relevant news and interviews with councillors and residents.



f Say No to additional 3000+ houses
globe www.saveourshipston.org
ig @SaveOurShipston
td @SaveOurShipston

Lend a hand - once the planning application for Fell Mill has been submitted we will be holding meetings and workshops to support people making sound objections using planning terms as guided by our experts. Would you like to help out? Let us know when the time comes and we will form a small working party to support people in getting their voices heard!

Send evidence – any videos or photos of flooding, or other information you have which may be useful evidence to show our town is not suitable for unsustainable development will be gratefully received! You can email us at saveourshipston@gmail.com. Thank you.

Busy year for First Responders

In 2025, Shipston Community First Responders responded to on average 40 emergency 999 calls per month on behalf of West Midlands Ambulance Service and continue to respond within a 10-mile radius of Shipston.

Our aim is to bridge the gap between the 999 call and the Ambulance Service attendance and arrive within the first few minutes of the emergency.



This year our Community Training Volunteers have trained nearly 250 members of the public in hands-only CPR and the use of a defibrillator.

We now operate 63 Community Public Access Defibrillator Cabinets (CPADs) and 45 of those have Major Bleed Kits inside. Our Community Defibrillator

Coordinators continue to complete regular monthly compliance checks and respond to any public activations to ensure the defibrillators are restocked and ready for the next emergency.

We have several CPADs in Shipston and nearly one in every nearby village.

We would like to thank the local community for the continued support and the kind donations we have received which will help us carry on saving lives in the Shipston area.

We will be recruiting new Community First Responders in the new year in conjunction with West Midlands Ambulance Service and welcome any enquiries regarding joining our scheme. Please contact info@shipstonfirstresponders.org

Stuart Eastbury



New skills and activities for 2026

Free digital skills workshops

Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership is working with an IT training charity to offer digital awareness workshops. All are at the Ellen Badger Hospital Community Hub.

Digital Foundations Monday 12th January, 11am-1pm

Getting familiar with your device – basics of navigating, common settings, and simple troubleshooting.

Essential Digital Skills Monday 19th January, 11am-1pm

Making everyday life easier – sending emails, downloading apps, using WhatsApp, understanding 4G/5G, and staying safer online.

Connect and Explore Monday 26th January, 11am-1pm

Using tech for personal interests and daily tasks – health, public services, shopping, social media, and entertainment.

If you would like to come along, either email rowena@shwp.org.uk or call 01608 691129 or pop into the Warm Hub on either a Monday or Thursday 10am-12 noon and you can secure a place.

There's lots going on – have a look at our calendar for January!

Get free support from AbilityNet

Our friendly team run free training sessions to boost your skills with mobile phones, laptops, computers and tablets.

About our trainers

- Trusted, security checked trainers
- Group or individual sessions
- Will work at your pace and tailor the session to your needs

Dates for the course in Shipston:

(All held at the Ellen Badger Hospital Community Hub)

12th January 11- 1

19th January 11- 1

26th January 11- 1

To secure a place, call 01608 691129
email: rowena@shwp.org.uk

Get training on topics including:

- An Introduction to the Internet
- Getting to know your mobile or Tablet
- Staying Safe Online
- Getting started with Email
- Using Social Media, e.g. Facebook
- Watching TV online
- How to access Public Services
- Downloading Apps
- How to make a video call
- How to manage your health online
- How to bank and shop online

AbilityNet is a registered Charity in England No. 1067673 & Scotland No. SC039866.

Places are limited to 15 so please secure your space by contacting Rowena today.

AbilityNet



JANUARY 2026



Contact details for activities in Shipston on Stour

Warm Hub, Toy Library and Bereavement Cafe 01608 691129
Strictly Fitsteps 07764 496947
Seated and Standing Tai Chi 07808 921899
Pilates for Beginners 07854 289446
Pilates on Mondays and yoga 01608 661410

rowena@shwp.org.uk
michellefitsteps@gmail.com
juliareeves211@gmail.com
suebotting@outlook.com
sophie.mobberley@swift.nhs.uk

Charity No. 1192238

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
1st Week	<div>Warm Hub 10 - 12</div> <div>Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30</div> <div>Toy Library 11- 12</div>	<div>Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30</div> <div>Pilates 6 - 7</div>	<div>Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45</div> <div>Bereavement Cafe 11 - 1</div>	<div>Seated Tai Chi 9:30</div> <div>Standing Tai Chi 10:30</div> <div>Booking required</div>	<div>Disordered Eating Drop in Session. 12 - 1</div> <div>Indoor Curling 2- 3</div>	<div>Warm Hub 10 - 12</div> <div>Cooking with Wendy. Booking required</div> <div>Toy Library 11- 12 Annual Membership £5</div>	<div>Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15</div>
2nd Week	<div>Warm Hub 10 - 12</div> <div>Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30</div> <div>Toy Library 11- 12</div>	<div>Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30</div> <div>Pilates 6 - 7</div>	<div>Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45</div>	<div>Seated Tai Chi 9:30</div> <div>Standing Tai Chi 10:30</div> <div>Booking required</div>	<div>Indoor Curling 2 - 3</div>	<div>Warm Hub 10 - 12</div> <div>Cooking with Wendy. Booking required</div> <div>Toy Library 11- 12 Annual Membership £5</div>	<div>Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15</div>
3rd Week	<div>Warm Hub 10 - 12</div> <div>Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30</div> <div>Toy Library 11- 12</div>	<div>Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30</div> <div>Pilates 6 - 7</div>	<div>Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45</div> <div>Yoga 11:30 - 12:30</div>	<div>Seated Tai Chi 9:30</div> <div>Standing Tai Chi 10:30</div> <div>Booking required</div>	<div>Indoor Curling 2- 3</div>	<div>Warm Hub 10 - 12</div> <div>Frailty Nurse Drop in Sessions</div> <div>Toy Library 11- 12 Annual Membership £5</div>	<div>Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15</div>
4th Week	<div>Warm Hub 10 - 12</div> <div>Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30</div> <div>Toy Library 11- 12</div>	<div>Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30</div> <div>Pilates 6 - 7</div>	<div>Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45</div>	<div>Seated Tai Chi 9:30</div> <div>Standing Tai Chi 10:30</div> <div>Booking required</div>	<div>Indoor Curling 2 - 3</div>	<div>Warm Hub 10 - 12</div> <div>Bereavement support from SHN</div> <div>Toy Library 11- 12 Annual Membership £5</div>	<div>Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15</div>

Venues

Community Wellbeing Hub @ the Ellen Badger Hospital CV36 4AX

Townsend Hall. CV36 4AE

Scout Hut. CV36 4EW

KEY

£

Free

Need to book.

Waiting list

Just announced: Free breastfeeding peer support group, 10th January, 9:30-11:30am. (To meet other parents on the same feeding journey and share stories, tips, and tea and coffee.)





Our toy library is a sustainable, inclusive space where families borrow toys instead of buying them - thereby saving money, reducing waste, and making play accessible to all.

Annual membership fee of £5.

**PLAY MORE.
WASTE LESS.**

<https://borrow.shwp.org.uk/>

Follow us on facebook or instagram.



Charity number:1192236



Shipston Primary School

Throughout December, our school has been a hub of activity and joyous celebration, truly spreading the Christmas cheer far and wide. The festive period kicked off with our traditional Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day, bringing warmth and laughter to the dining hall and classrooms.

This was quickly followed by the fantastic, heart-warming Nativity performances put on by our Reception, Year 1 and 2 classes, which beautifully captured the spirit of the season. Our older students also excelled, with Years 3 and 4 delivering a truly memorable and fabulous Christmas Carol Service at St. Edmund's Church.

We were particularly proud of our Years 5 and 6 students who extended this community spirit by visiting local care homes to sing their own carols, sharing their beautiful performance of Silent Night on the glockenspiels and spreading joy throughout the community.

We concluded this period of celebration with a wonderful Christmas Fayre, skilfully organised by the FOSP (Friends of our School Partnership), raising vital funds for outdoor storage and equipment to significantly enhance our OPAL project and Forest School provision.

Year 5's grand tour of the solar system

Year 5 students recently blasted off on an immersive science project exploring the solar system. They have spent time investigating how planets are classified and gaining a real-world understanding of the vast distances in space. To make the learning truly memorable, students physically represented the planets,



allowing them to visualize and experience the incredible differences in their relative sizes and the immense scale of the orbital paths. This hands-on activity brought the cosmos down to Earth and led to some fantastic scientific observations!

Linking hearts across continents

We are delighted to share an exciting new link our school is forming with The Meserani Project in Tanzania, championed by one of our own parents, Mr Brookes. The Meserani Project is a unique charity dedicated to unlocking educational opportunities - from primary all the way to higher education - for young people in East Africa who face significant barriers due to poverty and lack of provision.

In support of this vital work, our Key Stage 2 pupils thoughtfully created Christmas cards for the students at one of the Tanzanian schools Mr Brookes will be visiting.



During December, we were privileged to welcome Mr Brookes into school, where he shared the profound impact of his upcoming trip, personally introducing our children to the school and community he will be supporting.

High School

A very happy New Year to you all from Shipston High School. I hope that you have had a peaceful Christmas, and are feeling refreshed and ready for 2026. I am sure that students and staff are fully recharged, and ready to start the new term with renewed purpose.



December finished with a festive Christmas flourish reverberating around the school. Students across the school supported the charity Christmas Jumper day, wearing a variety of festive and imaginative jumpers. Students also wore festive accessories for the final few days of term, providing a celebratory and warm atmosphere in school, just what we all needed at this point of the winter. Christmas lunch was served to hundreds of students in the final week of term. This was thanks to the hard work and commitment of our catering team, who did a magnificent job. Well done to all involved. Sport also had a seasonal flavour, with the annual Santa Dash inter-house competition and a host of other Christmas themed events attracting keen participation and colourful costumes. Drama students presented a new, original and highly entertaining interpretation of A Christmas Carol adapted by our very own Mrs Evans. Finally for Christmas, it was lovely that

December finished with a festive Christmas flourish reverberating around the school. Students across the school supported the charity Christmas Jumper day, wearing a variety of festive and imaginative

students and staff involved with our choir were able to entertain the communities at local residential homes with some Christmas songs; a lovely, shared community activity at this time of year.

In 2026, we will see ongoing site improvement work and the completion of our new sports hall. This facility has been a long-term goal for the school, and we are delighted that we are now in the final stages of all of the work to bring it to realisation. The school's students will benefit enormously, as will the local community. Since the opening of our Astro turf area last term, it has been in constant use in our lessons and with local community hire; we expect the same high demand for the sports hall when it opens.

As we enter the new year, all students will be focused on their studies. There is a unique focus for our year 11 students who are embarking on their final full term in the school before GCSE examinations begin in May. Students will build on their mock exam results this month, which are a useful guide to the work ahead. The pressures on young people are genuine, as examinations become increasingly challenging. As always, I am impressed by how our older students manage this point in their schooling. They are hardworking and mature, and we look forward to a successful exam period later in the spring.

At Shipston High School we are looking forward to an exciting and busy year, and all of us here wish you the very best for a rewarding 2026.

Stour Valley Lions' Den



Stour Valley Lions have been serving the community of Shipston on Stour and the wider Stour Valley area for over 40 years. We have become well-known for our fundraising activities, but perhaps less is known about the many and varied causes we have helped over the years.

After a particularly successful year of fundraising campaigns, we are once again looking for more causes to support in this area. To achieve this, we are setting up a Lions' Den. Our Den is a little like the concept of the TV programme: you approach us and tell us what help you need and why. It is a great opportunity for people to promote their schemes or share their project with others.

We are looking to provide funds – and other support – for local good causes as well as people most in need. The Lions' Den initiative is open to local charities, groups and individuals. All we ask is that bids have a strong civic, youth or welfare element – there are no specific application criteria. Those wishing to bid for our support, please make an application before 27th March 2026.

A Lions' Den Support Application form is available online, or to download from <https://www.stourvalleylions.club/lionsdenapplication> or through the QR code in the advertisement in this edition of the Forum. Alternatively, please call us on 0345 833 2835 and we can send a form to you.

Once we receive your application, we will get back in touch to give you details of the next steps. Once processed and when any checks have been made, your request will be considered by our Welfare Committee.

Successful applicants will be invited to attend the Lions' Den at the end of April to receive their support grants.

The Townsend Hall needs YOU!

The Townsend Hall in Shipston is at the heart of our town, run as a charity and a vital space used every week for all types of community events, including children's dance classes, various exercise groups, meeting spaces, film nights and regular productions from Shipston Amateur Dramatic group.

To keep the Hall running for everyone we urgently need new volunteers and trustees to join our friendly committee. We meet once a month and organise a few events throughout the year where we often need extra pairs of hands. Your time would make a real difference to our community and contribute to the smooth running of the hall. We are particularly looking for someone to take over the role of Treasurer, and will provide all the necessary support to ensure a smooth handover for anyone interested in taking on this role. Please get in touch if supporting a vital & thriving community space & meeting new people appeals to you.

We'd love to hear from you, either email us at info@townsendhall.co.uk Or call our chair, Jenny on 07807838953.



TOWNSEND HALL

Museum talk



Shipston Museum continues its winter talks programme on Saturday, 10th January 2026, at Townsend Hall. Rev John Horton will present his compelling book *Behind the Wire: A Prisoner of War in Nazi Germany* and sign copies for attendees.

Rev Horton explains: 'The book is made up from the wartime correspondence of my late parents, Alan and Peggy Horton. They met in late 1939 and were married in November 1940 with spent cartridges from the Battle of Britain falling on the roof of the church.'

The story follows Alan Horton's remarkable wartime journey from Glasgow through the Atlantic, around the Cape of Good Hope to Egypt, and ultimately to Crete where he became one of 12,000 Allied prisoners after the Battle of Crete. He spent nearly four years in prison camps, maintaining correspondence with his wife Peggy throughout his captivity. The Imperial War Museum now holds these letters, which they described as one of the most complete husband-and-wife wartime correspondence collections they have encountered.

Tickets are £5 and available from Richard Harvey on Church Street, through Eventbrite, or at the door. Doors open at 2:15pm for a 2:30pm start.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Museum will feature exhibitions on Roman life in the Stour Valley and the history of Shipston Tramway, which was established 200 years ago. The Museum is also keen to gather personal stories highlighting local people's contributions to Shipston life.

It is open to the public from Saturday 4th April, and then throughout the summer until the end of September. Opening days are Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Volunteers and those wishing to contribute material to upcoming displays should contact enquiries@shipstonmuseum.co.uk

Probus



My Life and Times as a Film Extra by John Kinory

Ever thought you would love a 'walk-on' part in a famous film? John Kinory has done just that many times and shared his experiences with Probus members.

The film Paddington 2 in which Paddington gets involved in a robbery had 300 extras all kept in a holding tent from 6am. Costume dressing followed, then hairdressing and make-up. After breakfast, another long wait – read a book or just chat. By day two the group was down to about 200 and the absentees blackballed!

At last, the order comes: on set in 30 seconds! The scene is in the dining room of a prison. Paddington does not like prison food, so everyone must eat marmalade sandwiches (yes, real ones!). Things go wrong so it takes 2.5 days of eating marmalade sandwiches, new ones each time.

There may be two or three changes of costume. Make-up also can be laborious. For example, a film featuring John changing into a werewolf took over one and a half hours and had to be renewed each day of filming. In the TV series *Midsummer Murders* John was told to walk from A to B, a simple task you may think. But

he had to avoid staring at the camera, walk at exactly the correct pace, only start on cue and the timing must be precise. Above all, avoid messing up and necessitating an expensive retake!

Sometimes there is a chance to talk to the stars or even shake hands with Wonder Woman. During a five-minute break in a film starring Anthony Hopkins, Hopkins admitted, 'This is a terrible film, but I need the money'!

The life of a film 'extra' in reality clearly has little glamour or fame, but John gave us an entertaining inside view of a job most of us can still only dream about.

If you feel Probus could appeal to you, then why not give us a try as our guest? Enjoy a free lunch and no initial commitment to join, entirely your choice! Please contact Tony Joint on 07711310272 or email: tonyjoint73@hotmail.com for further details.

Shipston SCAN

Shipston SCAN's November meeting should have been the AGM followed by a talk on Crime Prevention. Unfortunately, the speaker's father was taken seriously ill a couple of days before the meeting. With less than 24 hours' notice Jo Barker and Olivia Hatch, two of our local councillors, agreed to talk about planning and housing matters. They were joined by Alice Free from Save our Shipston.

Between them they gave a detailed and clear explanation of why there were so many developers looking at building in Shipston, stressing that most still had to submit planning applications. They also explained the grounds for valid objections to planning applications: remember, **never** copy and paste a template but always rewrite it in your own words.

There was cautious optimism expressed by Jo Barker who has a good working relationship with the newly appointed head of Highways at WCC and the CEO of Severn Trent, both of whom are proactive and interested.

The AGM followed the talks. The existing committee was reappointed, and I am delighted that we were able to add a new member. The big news was that, when Stratford SCAN was dissolved in April 2024, the members voted to transfer their bank balance to us. We are now £5,000 better off. This money has now arrived in our bank account.

The topic of the next meeting, on Tuesday 13th January, will be a review of the positives of the Ellen Badger. This will be an upbeat meeting to be addressed by speakers from the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership and from SWFT. On this occasion only the meeting will be at the Ellen Badger. Transport from the Townsend Hall will be available for those unable to reach the Ellen Badger. If you would like to attend and need transport, please let me know: 01608 662998 or dlaurie.grfove@gmail.com.

Laurie Grove



Cantamus

Firstly, a report on Cantamus's Shades of Autumn concert in November. It was held at The Hall in Stourton, our first visit to this venue, and proved to be a great success. Two people in the audience liked it so much that they expressed an interest in joining the choir!



From Lauridsen's deeply spiritual *O nata lux* to Cole Porter's frivolous *Tale of the oyster*, this Sunday afternoon tea and cake concert programme was a carefully crafted selection of choral pieces based on an autumnal theme. The programme was devised by Musical Director Richard Emms and Anne Hume. Anne's readings between song sections were well chosen, some poignant, some humorous, and were warmly received.

The concert began with *What a wonderful world* and Brahms' *Im Herbst*, through pieces by Lennon and McCartney, Sting and Jerome Kern, Elgar and Bairstow. The first half closed appropriately with Youmans' *Tea for two* and Richard Emm's arrangement of *I'm a little teapot*.

Choir members/spouses had been very busy baking for the concert, and there were at least 12 varieties of cakes sliced up on offer at the interval. The occasion was an opportunity for the choir to mingle with the audience and recommend their own cakes. Many raffle tickets were bought for the wonderful prizes on offer.

The second half began with *Autumn Leaves*, followed by Rheinberger's *Abendlied* and pieces by McCartney and Daley.

In contrast with the rest of the choral programme, Cantamus's own men's quartet sang a piece in barbershop style. It was an arrangement of Gene Pitney's *Hello Mary Lou* and despite its irrelevance to the autumn theme it was sung with gusto, without sheet music and ended with a flourish.

The afternoon's entertainment concluded fittingly with Richard's lovely arrangement of *Drink to me only with thine eyes*.

It is with sadness that Richard Emms has decided to retire as musical director of Cantamus after 28 years of dedicated professional leadership. We are looking to find a new enthusiastic musical director to take us on the next stage of our journey. The application deadline is 5th January.

Further information on this vacancy, including contact details, can be found on our website at <https://www.cantamus.org.uk/musical-director/> or by using the QR code



Proms news

Shipston Proms will be going ahead in 2026, after key roles were filled. This year's committee is headed up by Chair, Howard Little, with Deputy Chair, Charlotte Haines, Secretary, Sophie Mobberley, Treasurer, Haydn Ward and Press Manager, Josie Kemp. You can meet Howard and let him know what you would like to see at the Proms in a Drop In session at the Ellen Badger on Monday 19th January 5.30-7.30pm. Look out for more news on www.shipstonproms.org. The proms will run 19th June – 4th July 2026.



New chair Howard Little, with the Proms' winning entry at the Christmas tree festival.



County Council

It's not yet Christmas but I think we have kicked things off even earlier this year! I like mince pies in October and am delighted to put our Christmas tree up at the beginning of December. My Mum always banned it til Christmas Eve, so the child in me feels very rebellious!

I am in reflective mood. It is six years since my Mum died, both ages ago and recently in the same thought. She begins to feel out of reach, even though I occasionally have to share a wry observation with her! It's all her fault really that I do what I do! She taught me to give back. From when I was little, we used to cook and deliver meals on wheels in the school holidays. I hope I have passed this on. Barker Jr is a Scout leader, so I guess I have.

Why am I musing thus? Well, it seems to me that there are some of us who get involved in the community, and then are asked to do more...and more...I am not involved in the Proms, but hearing the difficulty in getting people to take over, I was tempted (but I had a sharp word with myself) and so I am appealing here. If more of us join in – even though we could never reach the work rate of the previous team – then we can deliver for Shipston. If you are up for it but don't know where to start, there are plenty of us to stand with you, even though we have run out of spare time to actually do the full task. Sometimes, it feels lonely as you work hard to pull off the impossible, but again there are people around to share with! I know I have some in the community to turn to when I get overwhelmed. I am not going to name you – you know who you are and thank you. I also want to thank those who share a kind word or thought with me – it makes the tricky times easier.

And, we are in tricky times. At Foodbank I have seen new people come every week. Week on week. The cost of basic foods is rising continuously, and managing for many is no longer possible. The flipside of this is the people who once back on their feet, help out – thank you! And a thank you to Shipston Community Christmas for our collaboration. Just a quick plug - we could do with some strong people to help with the heavy lifting – literally – on a Saturday, as the lovely volunteers are often snowed under with the kindness of deliveries. We have space for DofE-ists to do their volunteering, hint hint!

Our Youth Club has got its new building ready to be fitted out by willing volunteers. Again, thank you to those who are giving up their time and skills to benefit our young people.

The schools in the Stour MAT do an amazing job with our kids - it's a privilege to chair this, and some of you may remember that I first got elected on the playground vote! Thank you!

Back to the tricky times...money is short, tempers may fray, our country doesn't look quite right and some of us are feeling that our way of life is being threatened. I am heartened at the way the newer bits of our community have knitted in.

I am hopeful that more development – if it comes – will also lead to the same result. I am unsure whether we will get big developments. I am thinking about the strategic issues – highways, culture, flooding, landscape, palaeontology, education and health – to frame what we need if we get more homes here. I would be glad for more certainty, because I think in the end it is the not knowing what comes next which worries us. Change can be good and frightening at the same time.

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

077489 68712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk



District Council

Stratford District Council mobile app

For anyone who hasn't already downloaded the SDC mobile phone app already, most people agree it is very useful. I find the notifications for when to put the bins out the best. It not only tells you when, but which bins to put out. You can also ask it what you can't put in the recycling bin. For instance, you can put crisp packets in but you must put them in loose, not inside another bag. However, coffee pouches or pet food pouches cannot be put in the recycling bin.

Other than recycling, you can also report: abandoned vehicles, dead animals, missed bin collections...or ask for litter bins to be emptied, fly-posting, fly-tipping and graffiti removal, grounds maintenance needed, street cleansing requests and subscribe to the Garden Waste Bin scheme. All things that, for most of us, would be hard to find out about.

The App also raises money for charity. Every time someone searches using the Recycling Info button a donation of 10p is made by Biffa Waste Services to charity. Biffa are the Council's waste and recycling collection contractor. To date over £1,000 has been donated.

To download the SDC App go to www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling

Tree Preservation Orders

When discussing a recent planning application, it became apparent that the development might affect a group of trees with Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) on them. Out of curiosity I asked the Tree Officer at SDC if there were more TPOs in Shipston. She came back with a list of 18 which quite surprised me. There are many fine old trees in Shipston. Mature trees are of value to all of us not just because of their appearance but because they are a fantastic haven for wildlife. TPOs protect trees that are of 'significant visual amenity value to their local environment'. Anyone can ask for a tree or a woodland to have a TPO put on it if you are worried that one might be removed by developers or for any other reasons. If you are in doubt about whether a tree would be eligible for a TPO contact me and I will speak to the Tree Officer.

Electric Vehicle Charge Points

At last, the District Council has approved plans for the installation of electric vehicle charging points in their council-owned carparks. Starting in January they are going out for quotes to do this. At the moment Shipston is scheduled to have four charge points. As an electric car owner I know how important it is when on holiday or visiting another town to have a convenient charging point. When at home it is easier and cheaper to charge at home. Having good charging points will surely help Shipston's tourist and visitor trade in a world where many more people are getting EVs.

Dave Passingham

District Councillor, Shipston South

07752 562114 | dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Your town councillors



Tony Booth, Mayor

General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair

e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



Richard Walters, Deputy Mayor

e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org



Gerry Kelly

Planning Committee Vice Chair

t: 07471 687720

e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Ian Cooper

Finance Working Group Chair

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Paul Tesh

Planning Committee Chair

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e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712

e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk (for town and county matters)



Hilary Kelly

Environmental Working Group Chair

e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Chris Howarth

e: chris.howarth@shipstontowncouncil.org



Michelle Kelly

e: michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



John Williams

e: john.williams@shipstontowncouncil.org



Steve Crockett

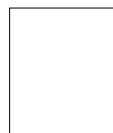
e: steve.crockett@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vanessa Benjamin-Smith

SAFAG Chair

e: vanessa.benjamin-smith@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 (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

Local police (non emergency)

101

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

Town Clerk

e: clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org

County Council Contact:

Councillor Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712 e: jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk

District Council Contacts:

Dave Passingham (Shipston South)

e: dave.passingham@stratford-dc.gov.uk

Olivia Hatch (Shipston North)

e: olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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 or, if you don't have email access, on 07989 530069

To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact 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.

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Lions Den 2026

DO YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION NEED HELP OR SUPPORT?

We are here for you!

We can support....

- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Clubs and Societies
- ✓ Charities
- ✓ Individuals in need and much more....

Why not take part in the Stour Valley 'Lions Den' initiative for the chance to get funding or support?

Closing date 27th March 2026



Scan the QR code or contact us now using the details below to obtain an assessment form

For more information contact us on:
0345 833 2835
<https://stourvalleylions.club>

 an initiative supported by Stour Valley Lions Club



Talk | WWII Love Letters from Behind the Wire

Saturday, 10th January
2:30pm
The Townsend Hall
CV36 4AE Adults £5

Tickets





NICHOLAS COLLETT | GAVIN ROBERTSON

SC107

The Hall
Cheriton, Stourton, Sutton-under-Brailes

Continuing professional live theatre at The Hall:

"A deeply personal play based on Gordon Collett's life, 'METTLE' is a powerful exploration, and celebration, of a young man's wartime service on HMS Vanessa and one of the most infamous Atlantic convoys of World War Two, as well as some relative calm and father-son perspective."



Written & performed by Nicholas Collett | Directed by Gavin Robertson

THE HALL, CHERINGTON STOURTON AND SUTTON-UNDER-BRAILES (CV36 5HG)
Thursday 15 January, 7:30pm

£15.00 (Standard) / £10.00 (Member in advance)
BOOK NOW: 7775 765572 or info@thehallevents.org.uk or the Chairman of the Feldon Valley Military & Naval History Society. For online tickets visit liveandlocal.org.uk or scan the QR code

Post Show Q&A included. Bar & refreshments open at 6:30pm & during interval.



LIVE & LOCAL

Join us to watch a film with hot drinks and cakes to follow

FREE for Senior Residents of Shipston on Stour!

Sunday
25th January 2026
2.30pm at the Townsend Hall Shipston on Stour




Get your free ticket from The Flower House, Shipston on Stour or email activities@stourvalleylions.club

A New Year treat to beat those January blues - FREE!

 Bought to you by the Stour Valley Lions Reg Charity 1191826