



Shipston Forum



May 2026

Huge response to SOS



Photo credit: James Kerr

Over 150 people, including local MP Manuela Perteghella and district and town councillors turned out at short notice to support SOS Save Our Shipston and show their concern over the number of planning applications the town faces. The protest at Shoulderway Lane was at the site where developer Gladman has submitted an application to build 120 homes on farmland. SOS concerns include inappropriate development, encroachment on the countryside and increasing the risk of flooding, with houses built for profit rather than to meet local needs, and without thought for infrastructure. SOS member Abi Coombes, told the *Stratford Herald* that the way people responded to stand together was 'incredibly powerful and genuinely moving'. 'It speaks volumes about how deeply this matters to our community', she said. 'It shows the real strength of feeling. This is about protecting not just a place, but a shared sense of belonging and responsibility for future generations.' www.saveourshipston.org



Celebrating people who make a difference

Mayor Tony Booth's Civic service became a celebration of community and volunteering as he introduced the annual Mayor's Community Recognition awards. These recognise individuals and organisations who give their time to help and support others, and Tony identified four recipients whom he said have greatly impressed him during his time as Mayor. Diane Wildish (pictured) was one award-winner for her work with young people in town. She was recognised along with Lee Cooper, Christopher Townsend and the Shipston First Responders. Turn to page 8 to read more about their work and why Tony chose them.



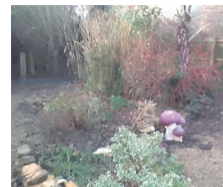
Making Shipston their home

Some housebuilding developments are very welcome in our community! Jacey Jackson hopes you are letting housemartins build their nests in your eaves and looking to the skies for the arrival of the swifts. More details on page 9.



Transforming the Sensory Garden

Shipston's Sensory Garden, a quiet little gem at the end of Mayo Road, has been transformed over the last couple of years, thanks to volunteers.



From this...



...to this!



...and this!

'They have worked hard to restore and replant this area of tranquility, despite some thoughtless people damaging, and even stealing from, this garden,' says town councillor Hilary Kelly, who would love to know more about the history of the garden – little is known about its origins.

Additional helpers are more than welcome, says volunteer Wendy Nursall: 'You can give as much or as little time as you can spare.' She can be contacted on 07713165511 wendy.nursall@hotmail.co.uk

We can fix it!

A young Shipston resident delighted to have her bicycle mended was one of the first customers at Shipston's new Repair Café when it opened its doors on the second Saturday in April. As well working on many other personal items brought along on the day, volunteers repaired a Moses basket stand for the Bluebell Baby Unit at Warwick hospital.



The Repair Café is open every second Saturday (except August) from 10am-2pm at the Ellen Badger Hub. There are electricians, woodworkers, mechanics, fabric repairers, bike menders, furniture repairs and some multi-task workers. With refreshments, friendly faces and some truly excellent cake, it's well worth a visit for the community spirit alone.

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Mayor's column

Hello Shipston and welcome to my final column, reflecting on a busy year before I hand over the chain to our new Mayor in May. I know! How fast has that gone?

Last year was one of celebration and commemoration, punctuated by the 80th anniversaries of VJ Day and VE Day. My D-Day Darlings Charity civic event was a highlight of my year as Mayor, helping to raise money for my nominated causes, the RBL and Shipston Youth Club.

My priorities have been to highlight all that is good about our Shipston community and especially those who give up their time to volunteer and help others. My Mayoral Civic Service at St Edmund's church was always going to be a celebration of community and an opportunity to recognise just a few of those special volunteers in our town who provide an exceptional service and make a positive difference in the lives of others. I took the opportunity to introduce the annual Mayor's Community Recognition awards and I was proud to present them to recipients who really stood out for me in the last year: Lee Cooper, Diane Wildish, Shipston First Responders and Chris Townsend (see report on page 8).

My wife and I have enjoyed attending the many events that the town puts on including the Proms, Bookfest and the many fetes. There are so many volunteers and charity organisations, like the Lions and Rotary, who work tirelessly to make these events happen. Shipston has such a strong character and identity that we should fight to retain. It bonds our community together especially when challenged!

I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting with local business owners, understanding their thoughts on the future and writing their short stories in the Forum to provide some focus on our independent businesses and encourage us all to shop locally. We have a strong eclectic mix of fascinating shops and eateries in town for your enjoyment.

There are positive changes happening in our schools too! We are starting to see more joined-up thinking between the High School and Primary School and there is much to look forward to as investment is made and new facilities are introduced for the benefit of pupils as well as the whole community. It's been a pleasure to work with both schools this year and I thank them for their support. Thanks also to the High School for helping me to introduce the Mayor's Award at the school's annual awards evening, won last year by Ella Steane for her volunteering work in the community.

So that's it! My year is almost over! I've loved being your Mayor and I have enjoyed all the events and experiences that my wife and I have had the privilege to attend and share with the community. I would like to thank everyone who has been there to support us. I look forward to returning to the council's cheap seats and continuing to work for Shipston's future alongside my fellow councillors.

The ongoing trials and tribulations of the Mayor's activities will



continue to be recorded for posterity and for your enjoyment on the Mayor of Shipston Facebook page.

Finally, I wish the new Mayor of Shipston every success for the year ahead.

TTFN

Tony Booth
Mayor of Shipston

News from Shipston Town Council's March meeting

Open Forum

Richard Taylor from the Shipston Charity asked if anyone might have the time to attend meetings twice a year. The charity distributes money to people in need.

Blue Light update

PC Hammond wanted to remind drivers not to leave cars with windows open in the good weather. A shoplifter, and the person who vandalised trees on the Campden Road, have been dealt with. A new PCSO has been appointed to town. The Shipston First Responders attended 43 callouts in April.

Environment and flood management

SAFAG's proposed repairs and upgrades were approved. Cllr H Kelly reported that 12 people came along to the monthly litter pick, the highest turnout for some time. The director of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust was impressed by the recent initiatives at Cornmill Meadows and has made suggestions for the next few years.

Planning

Existing objections to be upheld on plans for 34 dwellings at Hansen Farm.

General Purposes

Further outline ideas have been raised for the use of the Twin Chapels as a reflective space. The grass maintenance contract is up for renewal and will be advertised.

Finance

The budget for 2026/7 has been reviewed and was approved.

Councillors' reports

Councillors attended the Civic Service, the Rivers Day, the SOS Shoulderway Lane protest, the historic poster auction and the opening of the Repair Café. Cllr Howarth reported that the Rural Enterprise Hub meeting was well attended. Cllrs Benjamin-Smith and Passingham assessed the unfinished green spaces on the Orbit development.

Trees in verges

Would you like a tree outside your house? The Town Council's Environment Working Group is looking for verges where residents would like to see trees. If you live near a verge you think would be suitable, please let Hilary Kelly know (Hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org) and the EWG will approach Warwickshire County Council on your behalf.



A Mayor's Year

Just some of the events that Tony Booth attended in his official capacity.



MEETING FOR SHIPSTON MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENTS – WEDS 17TH JUNE 2026, 7.15PM



We are currently planning the agenda for this year's meeting which will take place as usual at the Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston.

More details to follow.
Please reserve the date in your diaries!

DO YOU LIVE IN SHIPSTON

(IF SO YOU COULD APPLY FOR A GRANT)



SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR EDUCATION CHARITY GRANTS FOR 2026/27 ARE YOU A SHIPSTON RESIDENT UNDER 25 YEARS OLD?

You can now apply for an **Educational Grant** to support you if you are due to undertake an Apprenticeship, Professional or Trade qualification or follow a Further or Higher Education course. If so, you can apply for a **Grant** for the 2026/27 year.

Application forms are now available from the **Shipston Library**.

Or write to **The Clerk to the Trustees, Mr D Squires, Pinnegar House, 49 Telegraph Street, Shipston CV36 4DA** enclosing a stamped addressed envelope or email ds@pinnegards.com for an Application form.

COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 29 AUGUST 2026

Sponsors who help the Proms happen

Shipston, are you ready for a night of Glitter, Glam and Groovy Vibes? If so, check out the opening night of the Proms on Friday 19 June. The Townsend Hall will be host to our Studio 54 Disco night. Details on The Proms Facebook page and The Shipston Noticeboard.



Meanwhile, here is an important introduction to some of our generous sponsors, without whom the Proms could not go ahead. The Proms is a non-profitmaking organisation, and the rising costs of venue hire, security, licensing etc. mean that our sponsors are a vital resource in keeping the Proms going.

Headline sponsors



Sheldon Bosley Knight estate agents have been serving the local community since 1843 and employ over 240 land and property professionals. Their services include residential sales and lettings, as well as rural and land management and block management. During the last 12 months staff have been involved in many charities and fundraising initiatives in and around Shipston, raising over £13,000 in 2025. The Proms is proud to be recipients of SBK's generosity for the Proms 2026.



Ryse 3D is an award-winning 3D printing company which was awarded the Kings Award for Innovation for their high-performance production grade printing. They also specialise in 3D scanning and reverse engineering for the aerospace, automotive, defence and other industries, and can supply parts in as little as 16 hours. Ryse 3D is an innovative, creative, and technologically advanced business based in Shipston and the Proms is delighted to have them as sponsors.

Spotlight sponsors

Go HR provide practical and flexible solutions designed specifically for small businesses. This can be a full-service HR support or giving businesses the tools for self-support. Whatever a business requires, GOHR can provide it.



Sydenhams, formerly Shipston Building Supplies, can supply everything you need from your DIY and gardening projects, through to major building works. They have several branches throughout the south Midlands and the south-west and the Shipston team are always ready and willing to give advice on anything related to your indoor and outdoor projects.



Thirst Edition, Shipston's Micro Pub, has generously agreed to sponsor The DropOuts, the headline band for the last Night of the Proms party in the square. Those of you familiar with this venue will know it is an essential and frequent live music venue in the town.



Thank you also to the organisers of the vintage posters auction held at The George on 31 March for their generous donation.

Friends of the Shipston Proms are reminded that their subscription of £25 is now due and can be sent to David Squires, Pinnegar House, 49 Telegraph Street, Shipston on Stour CV36 4DA, cheques payable to Shipston Proms or via BACS payment sort code 30-98-26 A/C no 64454968. Friends of the Shipston Proms is always looking for more members. Application forms are available by email from ds@pinnegards.com. or post at the same address enclosing an SAE.

The Proms runs 19 June to 4 July. All the event info you need is here: www.shipstonproms.org



Co-ordinated flood action

SAFAG has begun a three-year rolling programme to visit the approximately 860 interventions (ponds, bunds, leaky woody dams, tree and wetland areas) installed upstream of Shipston. It will review their operational effectiveness and identify any repairs or upgrades required. Between April 2025 and March 2026, we inspected 338 interventions, beating the target of 278, and plan to get to a further 290 in the next 12 months.



SAFAG is one of several organisations now active in the Stour catchment area, the better-known examples being the Environment Agency, Severn Rivers Trust, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and a few other Flood Action Groups. There is now a consensus that a dedicated Project Officer (full or part time) would bring together the various interested parties to better coordinate any planned activities. SAFAG will make representations at a meeting on 13 May to Warwickshire County Council Councillor Dale Bridgewater and the WCC Flood Team. For further details of SAFAG's activities, please visit the website www.safag.org.



Latest plea from SOS Save Our Shipston

Please keep your vital donations coming in, says SOS Save Our Shipston. Its fundraising continues, so it can pay its legal advisers and specialists who are gathering crucial evidence to use in objections to the Fell Mill planning application. By the time you are reading this, the application may well have been submitted.



It is vital to get in as many relevant planning-based objections as soon as it is possible to object. SOS will alert everyone on its emailing list (sign up on website, especially if you

don't do social media), and post the update on social media and on the website. SOS will also be holding further public meetings, workshops and a sponsored walk round Fell Mill. Keep your eyes peeled for information about these activities and the narrow time window for submitting views.

www.saveourshipston.org
 @SaveOurShipston
 @SaveOurShipston
 Say No to additional 3000+ houses



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

Please go online and type in the link below:

[gofund.me/tall.bear.form](https://www.gofundme.com/tall.bear.form)

To donate directly:

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

Shipston Medical Centre news

Refurbishment works at the Badger Crescent site which started in April are due to be completed during summer 2026. With parts of the building now over 30 years old, this investment helps us continue to provide safe, modern care for our patients.



Shipston Medical Centre

During the works, the front entrance to the medical centre will not be in use and there will be very limited parking on site. Patient access to reception will be through a new entrance to the left side of the building. There will be limited access to patient toilets, so please use the facilities at the Ellen Badger Hospital if required. Medication can be collected from our 24-hour collection machine at the front of the building, or there will access to the dispensary via the right hand side of the building. The majority of patient appointments during the renovation period will be at the Ellen Badger Hospital, level 1.

The work will improve clinical facilities, create better space for patient care and support more modern ways of working. We'll remain fully open throughout, and will do everything we can to minimise disruption, including keeping services running, using technology where helpful and giving clear signage and guidance.

You can help by checking messages from us carefully, and noting the location of your appointment as it may be either at the Badgers Crescent Medical Centre OR the Ellen Bader Hospital. Allow extra time for your appointment. We truly appreciate your patience and support.

Open conversation encouraged

Residents are warmly invited to attend a Dying Matters event on Saturday 16 May, aimed at opening up honest, supportive conversations around end-of-life planning, funerals and bereavement.

The free event at the Ellen Badger Community Hub from 10am-1:30pm is open to everyone. Whether you are planning ahead for yourself, supporting a loved one, or simply have questions you've never had the chance to ask, this event offers a welcoming and relaxed space to do just that.

The morning will feature a series of informal Q&A sessions, focusing on topics such as preparing for the end of life, understanding funeral arrangements, and navigating bereavement. Representatives from a range of local organisations will also be on hand throughout the event to offer guidance, share information, and answer questions in confidence.

Organisers stress that no question is too big or too small. The aim is to normalise conversations that are often avoided, helping people feel informed, reassured and supported. The Ellen Badger Community Hub offers free on-site parking, and no booking is required.

DYING MATTERS

Everything you are dying to know ... planning ahead for end of life

Saturday 16th May, 10am - 1pm

The Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston on Stour

What happens to my digital footprint after my death?

What does the dying process look like?

Representatives from:
 MIND
 R Locke & Son
 St Edmund's Church
 Shipston Home Nursing
 Shipston Medical Centre
 SHWP
 Sunrising Natural Burial Ground
 The Warwickshire Celebrant
 The Will Guys
 Tidy Mind Tidy Home.
 And others....

Talks with Q&A
 10.30am: **End of Life Care**, what to expect and how to plan.
 Jan Flynn SMC, Anna Briggs SHN
 11.30am: Let's Talk about **Funerals - funeral myth busting.**
 Rev. Sarah Edmonds Maguire,
 George Locke

What is Power of Attorney and how can I organise it?

Free, 'drop in' event
Free refreshments and parking

How can I find bereavement support in the community?

Regular Events

Monday

IT Help!: 10am-12pm Shipston Library (appointment only)

Story Stomp: 10am, Shipston Library.

Shipston Community Warm Hub: 10am-12pm, 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.

The Stour Toy Library: 11am-12noon at Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub

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

The Stour Toy Library: Stay and Play: 9.30am-11am, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub. <https://borrow.shwp.org.uk/>



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.

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, The White Horse

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

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 11am-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 07456 578467

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: May 2026

2nd 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

3rd 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.

5th Bereavement Café: 11am-1pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub first Tuesday of each month

5th Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month

5th & 19th '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

6th Shipston on Stour WI: Meetings held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7.00pm. For more information contact: Gill Smith – Telephone 07759 232899

6th & 20th Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

8th Lions Cinema: H is for Hawk. See ad on page 16

9th-10th Shipston Home Nursing: Plant Stalls. See ad on page 10

9th Repair Cafe: Ellen Badger Community Hub, 10am - 2pm

9th Stour Singers: Rossini – Petite Messe Solennelle. See ad on page 16

11th Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

12th Stour Community Awareness Network (SCAN): See ad on page 7

12th Stour Valley Lions Meeting: 6.30pm for 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, second Tuesday of the month

15th 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

15th Shipston Music Society: Chloe Chang, Shuwei Zuo, Charles Matthews. Contact Laurie Grove: 01608 662998. See ad on page 16

16th Dying Matters: See article on page 5

18th Holiday at Home: See ad on page 10

21st Drop-In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. Every third Thursday

26th Shipston U3A: See ad on page 7

26th 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 Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

28th-30th Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society: See ad on page 16



(Formerly Senior Citizens Action Network)

Come and join us! We are a friendly group who meet every other month to share ideas and learn more about our local community services.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th May 2026

Speakers: Emma Daniell, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire

At: Townsend Hall, 52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AE

10am for free refreshments. 10.30am start, 12 noon finish.

If you require transport to the meeting, VASA may be able to assist. Call 01789 262889 or email transport@vasa.org.uk.

**Shipston on Stour area u3a
Registered Charity no 1170969
Tuesday May 26 2.00pm at
the Townsend Hall**



Alain Rouveure will talk about his long term relationship with Nepal that started in 1979, with his social work looking after disadvantaged children. He talks of how he met talented craftsmen and women that produce for his Gallery. The profits from sales help finance Health and Education of the many disadvantaged children which helps make sure they grow up in a good environment and are safe from traffickers.

Admission Members free Visitors £2

MAY 2026



Charity No. 1192236

Contact details for activities in Shipston on Stour

Warm Hub, Toy Library and Bereavement Cafe 01608 691129 rowena@shwp.org.uk
 Strictly Fitsteps 07764 496947 michellefitsteps@gmail.com
 Seated and Standing Tai Chi 07808 921899 juliarieves211@gmail.com
 Pilates for Beginners 07854 289446 suebotting@outlook.com

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
1st Week	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30 ★	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 ▲	Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45 ● Bereavement Cafe 11 - 1 ★	Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00 ★	Seated Tai Chi 9:30 Standing Tai Chi 10:30 Booking require ● Indoor Curling 2 - 3 ●	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Cooking with Wendy. Booking required ★ Toy Library 11 - 12 Annual Membership £5 ★ Eating Disorder Support Group 7 - 8:30 ★	Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15 ●
2nd Week	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30 ★	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 ▲	Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45 ●	Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00 ★	Seated Tai Chi 9:30 Standing Tai Chi 10:30 Booking require ● Indoor Curling 2 - 3 ●	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Cooking with Wendy. Booking required ★ Toy Library 11 - 12 Annual Membership £5 ★	Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15 ●
3rd Week	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30 ★	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 ▲	Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45 ●	Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00 ★	Seated Tai Chi 9:30 Standing Tai Chi 10:30 Booking require ● Indoor Curling 2 - 3 ●	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Frailty Nurse Drop in Sessions ★ Toy Library 11 - 12 Annual Membership £5 ★	Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15 ●
4th Week	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30 ★	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 ▲	Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45 ●	Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00 ★	Seated Tai Chi 9:30 Standing Tai Chi 10:30 Booking require ● Indoor Curling 2 - 3 ●	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Bereavement support from SHN ★ Toy Library 11 - 12 Annual Membership £5 ★	Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15 ●

Venues

Community Wellbeing Hub @ Ellen Badger Hospital CV36 4AX

Townsend Hall. CV36 4AE

Scout Hut. CV36 4EW

KEY

£

○

Free

★

Need to book. Waiting list



Focus on Shipston business: Home

Home, founded by Lucy Cooper, first opened its doors in Linton, Cambridgeshire, in 2019. Using her retail management experience in Laura Ashley and Habitat and her extensive buying experience, Lucy began selling a range of home interiors and gift items.

When Covid struck, Lucy decided to close the shop and return to her Warwickshire roots and Shipston where she recalled a strong community spirit and independent shops, each offering something unique, making it the perfect place for a new beginning.

Once settled in Shipston, Lucy reopened Home in Sheep Street, focusing on beautiful living, thoughtful gifts, and great design. She has successfully introduced a small selection of



clothing and this has helped to enhance the range on offer.

Today, Home has evolved into a carefully curated boutique, offering a blend of stylish clothing, accessories and homeware bringing together quality, individuality, and a true sense of home.

Lucy is joined by Helen, who works two days a week and

is a familiar face in our town. Together, they have created a welcoming space that feels as much about community as it does about what's on the shelves.

Home has also developed a strong presence online, particularly on Instagram (@homeandyou_uk) and Facebook (Home & You). These platforms reflect the day-to-day life of the shop: sharing new arrivals, styling ideas and small moments from behind the scenes.

Many familiar faces follow along to keep up with what's new, while others discover Home for the first time and are inspired to visit Shipston and explore the town.



This is one of Mrs Mayor's favourite shops due to its eclectic mix of products and it blends in perfectly with all the other beautiful independent shops in our unique town. Please pay this lovely shop, and Lucy, a visit and enjoy browsing the amazing range on offer. You won't want to leave.

Tony Booth

The recognition they deserve

Mayor Tony Booth was delighted to introduce the new annual Mayor's Community Recognition awards and present them to four worthy recipients.

Lee Cooper devotes much of his time working with young children with special educational needs such as autism, creating a safe and exciting world for them through football. 'His contribution and the positive difference that he makes in their lives and those around them is truly inspiring,' said Tony.



Tony presented Diane Wildish with her award for her support of the young people of Shipston for over 20 years, saying: 'Diane is instrumental in the establishment and success of the girl guides and brownies since opening the first Rainbows group in 2007. She has travelled the world in her role and has recently been commissioner for Kineton Division. She attends many local events with her girls and supports many fund raising activities within the community.'



A team award went to Shipston Community First Responders, a lifesaving team of dedicated volunteers serving our community to help save lives and keep patients safe until an ambulance arrives (which can sometimes feel like an eternity). They also provide free community lifesaving training as well as installing and managing a huge network of defibrillators around the town and surrounding villages. A member of the team himself, Tony said: 'I value and respect everything that my colleagues do and it was a pleasure to provide them with the recognition they deserve.'



The final award went to Christopher Townsend who, over a 17-year career as an on-call firefighter, has with his crew kept the town safe. Tony said 'I believe I speak for the town when I say how sorry and shocked we all were to lose the lifesaving cover that your team provided to us. We thank Chris and his crew for the service that they provided to our community.'



Tony also thanked all the other people and organisations in Shipston who freely sacrifice their time to support our community and those in need.

Historic auction raises funds for local causes

An auction of 25 posters from Shipston's past raised over £5,750 for local causes. In a recreation of a traditional country auction, the event at the George Townhouse attracted keen interest. Around 100 people came to view the posters throughout the day before the 6pm auction. The posters, dating from between 1918 to 1933, were not only decorative, but revealed echoes of the town's past, such as the extensive business premises let to the India and China Tea Company in Sheep Street and the osier bed of willow for wicker work – now Shipston Excelsior Football Club grounds. They listed fascinating detail about life in those days, including furniture like a boudoir pianoforte, farm implements from a fruit evaporator to 9hp steam engines, and animals for sale, from 'staunch and active' carthorses Prince and Darling to a cocker spaniel.



The hammer which fell on successful bids originally belonged in 1842 to Wm Bull, auctioneer and then proprietor of The George. This time it was in the hands of Robert Harper, whose grandfather Henry and father Bob, together with John Bosley and Frank Parsons, preserved this remarkable Bosley & Harper collection over the years. Robert was assisted by daughter Emily, making this the fourth generation on the rostrum. A catalogue, sponsored by The George Townhouse, of the highly collectable early 20th century posters is available at Shipston Museum.



Funds raised will go to Shipston Home Nursing, SOS Save Our Shipston, Shipston Educational Society, Shipston Museum, Shipston Proms and Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership and others. Speaking on behalf of SOS, Alice Free said this was 'a wonderful example of how our community comes together for the good of our residents in our historic market town whose spirit we strive to preserve.'

Look up to the skies

Above the heavy, grey clouds of a wintry April shower, I caught my first sounds of the twittering of house martins, newly arriving in Shipston.

Do you ever wonder why they bother to make the long and hazardous journey from Africa every year to come to a country with such inhospitable conditions? It is, of course, the rise of the sex hormones (that great driver of all natural life) which propels them to reproduce. Instinctively they know that as spring turns towards summer, the longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures will produce more insect food for their offspring. They return every year to their same colony area, to build, rebuild or repair their nests and for that they need plenty of soft mud – which is found in field margins, brought about by the April rains! It all works together so well.



The remaining posters from the considerable Bosley & Harper Collection have been donated to Shipston Museum.



Museum ready for summer season

Shipston Museum opened its doors to an enthusiastic response this Easter, with visitors queuing on opening day, a wonderful testament to the community's appetite for local history. The season is now in full swing, and both regulars and first-time visitors are welcomed to stop by on any weekend or Bank Holiday Monday through to the end of September.



Look out for the free pop-up talks this summer: intimate 15-20 minute sessions that offer the perfect opportunity to delve deeper into our displays—from Roman artefacts to the Tramway's 200-year legacy—and to ask questions about local history more generally. Whether you're curious about a specific exhibit or want to know more about



Shipston's past, our knowledgeable speakers will be on hand. Dates and times will be posted on the Facebook page, with the first Tramway200 talk on Saturday, 9 May at 2.30pm.

Shipston Museum is entirely run by volunteer Trustees and a dedicated band of supporters. Over the coming months, it will be sharing background information about each Trustee on its social media pages, so you can learn more about the passionate individuals who give their time to preserve and share our heritage and make the Museum possible. Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply looking for an enriching local activity, Shipston Museum welcomes you. Find us on Facebook or Instagram for updates.

Swallows are usually the first to arrive, but they are not as communal and more rural in character, so you are less likely to come across them in the town.

Swifts are very different in their needs and characteristics and are normally the last of these three migrating birds to arrive: in Shipston that's usually early to mid-May. News came in during Easter week of a sizeable flock over the Pyrenees heading towards Northern Europe. And there were already sitings of single, ambitious birds over locations in the South of England. So it's time to look up to the skies with hope in our hearts.

If you have any of these birds nesting on your house, please do your best to accommodate them for the nesting season. House martins can cause a bit of a mess, but it's a small price to pay for the privilege of nature choosing to live so close to us.

Jacey Jackson

HOGLETS "A beautiful and hilarious show for children."

WOOD OWL & the Box of Wonders



THE HALL, CHERINGTON STOURTON AND SUTTON-UNDER-BRAILES (CV36 5HG)
 Sunday 10 May, 2:00pm

£14.00 (Standard) / £10.00 (Under 16)
 BOOK NOW: 07775 765572 or info@thehallevents.org.uk or for online tickets visit liveandlocal.org.uk or scan the QR code
 Pre show refreshments from 1:30pm & after show. Running time approx. 40 mins no interval.

RECYCLE ME TAKE A PHOTO

SHIPSTON HOME NURSING LOTTERY FUNDED ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

LIVE & LOCAL



All the Fun of the Fair

is happening at 

Holiday at Home

 on May 18th 

in the Townsend Hall

10 - 2.30pm 

Cost £13

Bookings to Rosemary 01608 662584

Quizzes, crafts, puzzles and games, a 2 course lunch, entertainment and all refreshments

A Churches Together in Shipston project

Charity Plant and Home Produce Sales

Sponsored by  **NFU Mutual** CENTRAL SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE

 SHIPSTON HOME NURSING HOSPICE CARE AT HOME

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May

The Shipston stall will be held at:

Gibbon's Field, New Street (behind the Scout Hut)

Additional stalls will be popping up in Barcheston, Brailes, Cherington, Ettington, Great Wolford, Idlicote (on May 23rd), Kineton, Long Compton, Tysoe (tbc), Wellesbourne, Whatcote & Whichford

Please see our website for specific locations

www.shipstohomenursing.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1162586

Sports news

Shipston Cricket Club: The new season is just about to start and we're looking forward to welcoming lots of people down to London Road to either enjoy some sun and a few drinks or to join us for a game. We will always welcome new members. We are also enjoying the start of All Stars, Dynamos and junior cricket sessions on Friday nights from 6pm. The bar is open to help parents have the perfect start to their weekends. What better way to finish a busy week than by watching your children play cricket while you enjoy a couple of beers in the sunshine?

It all starts with... 

We all play at:	
Shipston Sports Club, London Road	
Session dates:	
Friday 1st May to Friday 19th June	
Session timings:	Ages:
6pm - 7pm	5 - 11
Sign up at:	Contact:
ecb.clubspark.uk	Shipstoncc@hotmail.com



Sign up today at allstarscricket.co.uk

OFFICIAL PARTNER OF ALL STARS CRICKET

To get in touch about joining the club, contact us at Shipstoncc@hotmail.com

To sign up for All Stars or Dynamos go to: <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/>

Shipston Primary School

Mount Cook Residential

Just before Easter, Year 5 visited Mount Cook where they engaged in a range of outdoor activities such as abseiling, via ferrata and rock climbing. The children showed real enthusiasm throughout the trip and were very brave about taking part in the adventurous activities. We are really proud of the children's teambuilding skills and care for each other in their rooms and activity groups. We had an excellent time and can't wait to go again next year! It was lovely to meet and spend time with children and staff from Acorns and Brailes during the three days. Thanks to Mrs Molson, Mr Mogg, Miss Cunneen, Mrs Kroner and Mrs Clarke for giving up their time and leaving their own families to go away with the children and to Mrs Molson who organised the residential.



Easter Service

On the last Friday of term, we enjoyed visiting St. Edmund's Church to hold our annual Easter services. Many thanks to those who were able to attend and support in walking the children to and from church. Congratulations to the children of Pelicans class who led the service so well. It was lovely to be able to welcome Mr Dan Rushworth, who will be the new Headteacher

at Shipston High in September, along to our service. Mr Rushworth handed out our Key Stage 2 Ambassadors of Learning and Shipston Spirit Awards. We look forward to working closely with him and the High School in the future. Many thanks to Mr Mogg for organising the music during both services and to everyone at St. Edmund's for hosting us.



The Messarani Project

Before Christmas, Mr Brookes (Fearne in Year 5's dad) spoke to us about The Messarani Project. This involved people from his company working with a school in Tanzania to help them to develop their facilities. He invited us to become involved by meeting children from the school virtually, sending Christmas messages and recording songs which we sent over to Africa. Mr Brookes recently came into school to share an update on the project. We will be keeping in touch with the school and looking for further ways of helping each other to learn about our different cultures. We were so impressed by what he and his colleagues had done we awarded him his own Citizenship Ambassador of Learning Award.



Shipston High School

Shipston High School is starting the summer term of 2026 by reflecting on the hard work, generosity, and achievements of its students, staff, and wider community. Last term was filled with enriching activities, inspiring trips, and charitable efforts that highlight the school's commitment to providing meaningful opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Our Year 11 students have also shown great levels of focus and determination throughout the last term as they continue their preparation for the summer exam season, which begins in May.

Students across the school have taken part in a wide range of trips and hands on learning experiences designed to bring their studies to life. Year 10 pupils recently enjoyed a standout visit to The Dough House in Stratford-upon-Avon, where they explored the craft of traditional pasta-making before preparing their own dishes, including fresh mushroom and ricotta tortellini and homemade tagliatelle with a rich tomato and garlic sauce. These experiences, delivered in partnership with local businesses, help students develop practical skills, confidence, and a clear understanding of how learning connects to the real world. The Technology Department expressed its gratitude to The Dough House for its support and looks forward to further community collaborations after Easter.



The school has also shown an impressive commitment to charitable work this year. Through events such as Children in Need and Red Nose Day, students and staff have demonstrated exceptional generosity, raising a total of £4,643 for charity so

far. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Richard from Stratford Fine Foods, whose generous donation to our recent rewards party was very much appreciated by students and staff alike.

With secondary school offers now released, Shipston High is preparing to welcome its new cohort of Year 7 students.

Transition information and key dates will follow shortly, and staff are very much looking forward to meeting the new intake as they begin their journey at the school.

Shipston High School extends its gratitude to all staff for their dedication and care, and to students for their continued enthusiasm and positive contributions. With so much already achieved and more exciting projects on the horizon, the school looks forward to an inspiring summer term ahead.

Silver stories

The High School is launching an exciting new initiative. Silver Stories aims to build connections between students and older adults in the community, with students reading a short extract over the phone each week. The initiative supports literacy and communication skills while offering companionship and a friendly voice to older individuals who may benefit from it. The school is currently seeking volunteers from the older community who would like to take part. Anyone interested—or anyone who knows someone who might be—can contact info@shipstonhigh.co.uk or Head of English, Amber Hendriksen, ahendriksen@shipstonhigh.co.uk.



Women's Institute

With branch membership growing, a social evening is a welcome chance to get to know new members. The meeting on 1 April was a convivial evening of drinks, nibbles and an Easter quiz giving members a chance to sit together and chat over brain challenging questions about Easter and its many traditions and rituals.

The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday, 6 May when Dr Alison Foster will be talking about Toxic Trees, Poisonous Perennials and Wicked Weeds, in the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Visitors are always welcome and hopefully will become full-time members. A strawberry tea garden party is planned for 6 June.

Find out more about the WI during a recruitment drive on 9 May at the Old Bank in the High Street.



Shipston Music Society

We were delighted to welcome back George Wilkes, a British cellist who has performed in Europe, USA and, of course, in the UK. He has received invitations to renowned festivals including the Nume Festival in Italy and the Santander Festival in Spain. He has appeared with the Chipping Campden Festival Orchestra and, as a chamber musician, has collaborated with many distinguished artists. George completed his bachelor's degree at the Royal Academy of Music and is now pursuing a master's degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. During his studies he received the Frank Britton Award and was nominated by the Academy for the NPS Grant Award towards the purchase of a new instrument. Since graduating he has taken on several contemporary music projects including premiering a work by Ryan Wigglesworth with the Knussen Chamber Orchestra at Snape Maltings and appearing in a full performance of his own composition Black is the Colour at the Shapalov Festival in Ghent.... and so to Shipston-on-Stour!

Once again the pianist for our evening was our own Charles Matthews whose expertise in the art of the accompanist is legendary! The programme began with Beethoven's Seven Variations on Bei Mannern weiche Liebe fuhien (Mozart: The Magic Flute) – with examples of imitation between cello and piano and finishing with a lively performance of the Scherzo. This was followed by Waldestille (Wood Stillness) by Hamilton Harty. As the name suggests this piece included sections of smooth legato melody interspersed with outbursts of very energetic pizzicato passages. Next came Sonata No.2 by Martinu in which the lively finale brought us to the interval for refreshments. The Prelude by Moeran (a work that reflects his English/Irish roots) was a perfect choice to begin the second part of the evening with the main melody being a wonderful example of George's legato playing. We were then brought back to reality with the Cello Sonata No.2 in D minor by Faure which begins with a lively Allegro followed by a more serene Andante and a very energetic Allegro comodo to bring to an end our evening of musical delights performed by two excellent exponents of the cello and piano.

Shipston SCAN

Firstly, to clear up any confusion, we now call ourselves Stour Community Awareness Network but this is just a new name for what was Senior Citizens' Action



Network. We no longer make a big issue of the age limit – we try to make our talks interesting to all age groups. Please come along and give us a try.

Our March meeting was somewhat of an anticlimax. The intended speaker had the wrong date in his diary so didn't arrive. Fortunately, Councillor Hilary Kelly was in the audience and gave us an impromptu talk about various aspects of Green Shipston. The talk was fascinating – thank you again, Hilary.

The meeting on Tuesday 12 May in the Townsend Hall will be a return visit of Emma Daniell, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire. Emma's talk will concentrate more on the proposed changes to the structure in policing. This is something of interest to us all. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 10am and the talk will begin at 10.30am. We normally finish around noon. And there is no charge at all. If you'd like to know a bit more, please ring me on 01608 662998.

Laurie Grove

Stour Valley Lions

The Stour Valley Lions 2026 Shipston Gold Cup Race Night in March was a winner! It raised a tremendous £1,950, all to be donated to Shipston Youth Club for its project to build and equip a new clubhouse.

The final race between the winning jockeys of the previous races and the President of Stour Valley Lions, was won, most



appropriately, by the jockey riding for the Youth Club. The owner of the most valuable horse came away with winnings totalling £161.

Amateur Dramatics Society. Refreshments were provided by Laken's Mobile Bar, along with delicious ice cream from Bee and Ridgeway. Thank you to them all, and to everyone who came.

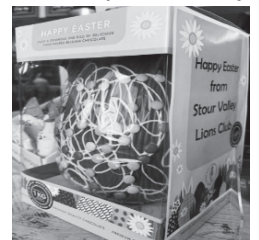
The Easter egg raffle raised £1,300, which will be donated to Stour Valley Lions' charities. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets or lotto squares.

Rotary's Easter Event

We were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress to the Children's Easter Event on Easter Saturday. They judged the Easter bonnet competition, drew the winners



of the Easter egg raffle and joined in with the children's activities. Lots of children had a wonderful morning, decorating (and eating) Easter biscuits, making and decorating an Easter basket (with a chocolate egg inside), making Easter cards, planting sunflower seeds and finding out how an Aquabox can turn dirty water into clean drinking water.



The winners of the Easter egg raffle were Georgina Beaumont, Diane Wildish and Allison Allan. A special thank you to Margaret Gill for sponsoring the Cadbury creme eggs for the cuckoo in the nest competition.

Probus

Canals are sometimes described as the fastest way to slow down. Ironically, our talk was delayed by a pothole-induced puncture to our speaker's car, the modern way to reduce speed. We are grateful to Roger who entertained us so well despite his difficulties!

At their peak, the canal system extended over 4,000 miles, with the majority centred in the Midlands. Today, only about half of that network remains. In the 18th and 19th centuries, canals were the motorways of their time, transporting heavy goods such as coal, bricks and wheat. The arrival of the railways rapidly replaced canals for freight transport. By the end of the Second World War, much of the canal network had become redundant, with many filled in or clogged with rubbish.

While this early history may be familiar, Roger expanded upon the detailed heritage of the canal era. The architecture can be magnificent. A journey on the Pontcysyllte Viaduct—the world's highest and longest aqueduct—is both thrilling and awe-inspiring. Locally, Hatton Locks, nicknamed the staircase to heaven, is an engineering wonder. Hundreds of fine warehouses, stables and lockkeeper cottages were built, each unique, some circular, or castellated, or boasting distinctive barrel roofs as at Lawsonford, near Stratford. Tunnels, taking up to ten years to construct and lined with millions of bricks, are still in use today.

Life aboard canal boats was harsh for working families, marked by cramped and unsanitary conditions. Surprisingly, this environment fostered a tradition of vibrant artwork, with bright colours and motifs such as roses and castles maybe reflecting a yearning for better things.

Finally, modern canal engineering excellence can still be found. In Scotland the Falkirk Wheel raises up the Forth & Clyde Canal to the Union Canal by 35 feet in only five minutes, using the same electric power as it takes to boil a kettle!

If you feel Probus could appeal to you, then why not give us a try? 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.

Shipston Bellringers

We were delighted to ring at both Shipston and Honington on Easter Sunday. We also rang a quarter peal at Shipston for the annual Civic Service – 43 minutes of nonstop ringing which incorporates several quite complicated methods. Sarah and Len have been running practices around the local churches for the North Cotswold branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association of Bellringers and the Four Shires Guild respectively in their roles as Guild Officers. Some of our ladies also went on a tower tour where they visited a few churches in one day and tried out the bells in all of them.

Our new recruits have made good use of the teaching bell to learn the basic techniques and have progressed to ringing rounds

on Saturdays with the more established ringers. Several of our other ringers recently went to Lighthorne church to practise some techniques using the simulator. This involves a screen showing five virtual ringers (who keep perfect time and never make a mistake!) all of which helps the sixth ringer to practise any method they want to, using simulated sound. The sixth real bell can be tied, making the practice a silent one to the outside world! It's an amazing piece of software and at our AGM we decided to investigate the feasibility of getting something similar for the Shipston training bell.

If you are interested in learning the unique way that church bells are rung or maybe joining our team, please do get in touch on shipstondistrictringers@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Celebrating nature

Ever wondered which butterflies and birds have returned to us for the summer? Can you name them? Want to find out what moths are busy pollinating our flowers while we are fast asleep in bed or what wildlife lives in the gravel of the river Stour? Why should we care about hedges? Upset by litter? Or you may prefer to learn from books. Shipston will cater for all of these during 6-14 June as the town joins a million people celebrating Great Big Green Week – playing our part in making our neighbourhood a better place for ourselves and wildlife.

Stourvale Action for the Environment (SAFE), supported by a team of local knowledgeable activists who love our town and the surrounding countryside, will be out and about during GBGW and YOU are invited. All but one of the events are free and children are very welcome with a responsible adult.

Stourvale Action for the Environment (SAFE) Great Big Green Week 2026 Accompanied children welcome. All events free unless otherwise stated			
EVENT	VENUE/Contact Details	Date	TIME
FILM: <i>The Power Station</i> An entertaining look at an attempt to turn a London street into a community-owned, solar-powered 'power station'. (£2.50)	Talton Lodge Talton Lodge, Newbold on Stour, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8UB Phone: 07962 273417	Thursday 4 th June	6.30pm
Exhibition of Environmental books	Shipston Library, Church St. CV36 4AP	6 th -13 th June	Library opening hours
Demo/join in testing and kicksampling river water	Shipston Riverside Car Park, CV36 4AW	6 th June	2.30 -3.30pm
Moth trap count	St. Edmunds Churchyard, Church St., CV36 4AP. Contact Hilary Kelly 01608 662491	6 th June	8am
Community litter pick	Meet New Clark House, West St. Shipston. Equipment provided. Hilary Kelly 01608 662491 ///sprains.golden.coconut	6 th June	10-11am
Watch and learn. Experts from Warwickshire County Records Office identify plants and Mike Slater identifies butterflies.	Cornmill Meadows London Rd. Main entrance CV36 4HZ ///dislodge.wonderfully.pounces	7 th June	From 10am
Bird walk with Stephen Hartley. <u>Booking required</u> contact Stephen 07858 689523	Cornmill Meadows Main entrance CV36 4HZ ///dislodge.wonderfully.pounces	9 th June	9am start
Foraging Walk with Katie Beswick	Meet at Little Bird Shop, The Alleyway, Telegraph St, CV36 4AF	9 th June	6-7.30pm
Shipston 'People Planet Pint' How you can make Shipston more sustainable.	The Horseshoe Pub, Church St, Shipston, CV36 4AP. Booking essential on Eventbrite.	10 th June	6pm
South Warwickshire Action Network for Wildlife: Hedge Assessment Walk followed by sociable gathering.	Meet at The Plough Inn, Stretton-on-Fosse GL56 9QX (Walk uneven not wheelchair accessible)	10 th June	6.30-8pm
Repair Cafe	Ellen Badger Hub Shipston	13 th June	10-2pm
Green Book Talk	Shipston Library Contact Julie Hudson: ejjoolsjools@gmail.com	18 th June	11am

County Council

This week I seem to have had an education week! I started out with an invitation from the Chair and joint acting heads on Shipston High. Anyone who knows me will be aware that I have had my worries about Shipston High School, as have many of you. However, I can tell you that we had a really useful meeting, agreed on lots of community interaction and reset our relationship. I am really excited that we have a new head, Dan, joining in September from Campden. The future of the school looks bright and I would encourage anyone who has doubts (and I have had lots of conversations with you) to have another look! I then had the pleasure of interviewing for a new Head at Wilmcote Primary, part of the Stour Federation MAT which I chair. We seem to be attracting great candidates for jobs, which again reflects on how well our MAT is doing.

You know I have mentioned the Reablement service before? Well, if you want to apply to work for the service (hint of encouragement here) you will be working for a CQC OUTSTANDING organisation with an amazing workforce! 72% of people who use the service need no further intervention after the six weeks, staying at home and getting on with life! This is absolutely my vision of adult social care: it works and gives us longer term life at home!

District Council

Every month at the District Council we hold an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It sounds desperately dull, but it's actually one of the few opportunities councillors get to properly question the organisations we work with. Last month it was the turn of Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Seccombe, to present his annual report. He started by reminding us that his role is due to be abolished in around two years as part of the Government's local government reorganisation. Despite that rather uncertain future, the Commissioner still had plenty to report on. And while it can often feel locally as though crime is on the rise — particularly after recent spates of car thefts and burglaries in Shipston — the wider picture across Warwickshire is more encouraging.

We were told that overall crime in the county has been falling since 2017. Burglary, vehicle crime and criminal damage are all down. The main area of growth is something most of us won't see happening outside our front doors: cybercrime, fraud and online exploitation. To tackle this, the Police and Crime Commissioner has been investing in digital forensics, specialist cyber investigators and regional partnerships. It may sound rather detached from traditional beat policing, but it's an increasingly important part of modern crimefighting.

Funding was one of the more sobering topics. Warwickshire has experienced the largest fall in police funding per head in England and Wales, all while supporting significant population growth. And yet, despite that, officer numbers have risen. Since 2016, the force has gained around 300 officers, bringing the total to 1,130 — the highest it has ever been.

Response times were also discussed at length. Councillors shared concerns raised by residents who felt police responses had been

Even more excitingly, the SEND parent support group is starting up and I hope to be at the second meeting (this was supposed to be a quiet week...) maybe to chew the fat about the Education White Paper.

I am on the Board of the Cotswolds National Landscape (previously Cotswolds AONB) and we will be talking nature recovery this week. We only have a small bit of the area, but we are also surrounded by it. Probably one of the most protective things we get from it is the proximity of the potential big development site on the other side of the river. The impact on the CNL has to be considered!

Whilst writing this, we've had bright sun, sharp shower, bright sun again! Happy May!

Do phone, email, grab me for a coffee. I'm always here for you.

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

077489 68712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk



too slow. The Commissioner acknowledged this, but also pointed to improvements. Average immediate response times have fallen from over 16 minutes at the end of 2024 to about 12 minutes by March this year, and 94% of 999 calls are now answered within 10 seconds.

It's worth remembering, too, that preventing crime isn't just a job for the police. The District Council plays a quiet but important role through its community safety work and the Safer Streets initiative. A very visible example of this is the CCTV cameras in Shipston and Stratford, monitored 24 hours a day from a control room run by the District Council. Anything suspicious is flagged straight through to the police.

From crime prevention to community spirit, it was a real pleasure to see Shipston's new Repair Café officially open at the Ellen Badger in April. I was delighted to be involved on the day, welcoming people, directing them to the right repairer and helping with the tea and cake.

The volunteers were fantastic: woodworkers, electricians, PAT testers, bike repairers and stitchers all giving up their time and skills. Many items were fixed on the spot, and where that wasn't possible, people were given advice and encouraged to come back next month. The Repair Café is a brilliant example of neighbours helping neighbours — saving money, reducing waste and strengthening our community. If you haven't been yet, it's well worth a visit.

Dave Passingham

District Councillor, Shipston South

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



Your town councillors



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General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair

e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



Richard Walters, Deputy Mayor

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Gerry Kelly

Planning Committee Vice Chair

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e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



Ian Cooper

Finance Working Group Chair

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Paul Tesh

Planning Committee Chair

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Jo Barker

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Vanessa Benjamin-Smith

SAFAG Chair

e: vanessa.benjamin-smith@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vivien Walden

e: vivien.walden@shipstontowncouncil.org



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
Samaritans	116 123
Local police (non emergency)	101
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood:	
PC1508 Sid Hammond – 07967 303185	
PCSO Katie Brooks – 07870 978973	

Churches of Shipston:

Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	07951 064778
Methodist Church	01295 257193

Shipston-on-Stour Town Council

New Clark House, West Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4HD

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County Council Contact:

Councillor Jo Barker

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District Council Contacts:



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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.

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.

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA

CLAIRE FOY BRENDAN GLEESON

H IS FOR HAWK



After losing her father (Brendan Gleeson), Helen (Clare Foy) finds herself saved by an unlikely friendship with a stubborn hawk named Mabel.

Certificate 12A

TOWNSEND HALL
Friday 8th May, 2026 at 7.30pm
 Tickets on sale from The Flower House,
 Shipston for cash £6.00, or pay on the door,

SHIPSTON Music Society

Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England)
 www.shipstonmusic.org.uk



Supported by:



MAY CONCERT
Chloe Chang (French horn)
Shuwei Zuo (violin)
Charles Matthews (piano)

Programme
 Saint-Saëns Morceau de concert (horn and piano)
 Debussy Masques (piano)
 Strauss Sonata (violin and piano)
 Interval
 Brahms Trio (violin, horn and piano)

Friday 15th May, 7.30pm
 Methodist Church, 52 New Street, Shipston-on-Stour
 Tickets £10 on the door
 or in advance from E.H. Spencer
 Free entry to Shipston Music Society members
 New members always welcome
 Information: ph 01608 662998



SHIPSTON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENT
A COMEDY OF MANNERS BY STEVEN MOFFAT



THE UNFRIENDLY

28th 29th & 30th May 2026
 7:30pm, The Townsend Hall, Sheep St
 Shipston On Stour

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETSOURCE AND
 FROM JOHN LYNE HARDWARE. £10

Presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books



Stour Singers

Saturday
9th May 2026
7.30pm

Rossini:
Petite Messe Solennelle

Musical Director:
Alex Silverman

Piano:
Lynn Arnold
Rachel Bird

Accordion:
Yuliia Humeniuk



ST EDMUND'S CHURCH
SHIPSTON ON STOUR, CV36 4AP
TICKETS £20*
EARLY BIRD PRICE £18.50

* accompanied under-18s free

Proud members of **making music**

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers>

