



# Shipston Forum



June 2026

## Meet the new Mayor



*New Mayor Richard had a busy start to his year in office, attending a Shipston Museum talk (pictured with Bekky Hillman); going to the Duck Race and meeting Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Emma Daniell – all in his first week.*



At 35, Richard Walters is thought to be Shipston’s youngest-ever Mayor. Since arriving in town five years ago, a place they felt they could ‘take root’, Richard and his wife Becky have thrown themselves into the civic life. Richard joined the Town Council where he has been an active member of the general purposes working group. His work has included helping secure official recognition of Shipston Cemetery as a Commonwealth War Graves site and supporting the installation of a new memorial commemorating one of the cemetery’s five world war casualties.

An ex-Reservist, Richard is a member of the town’s Royal British Legion, and Becky, who was a regular soldier specialising in bomb disposal, has organised the Poppy Appeal for Shipston and surrounding villages.

In his day job, Richard is head of operational excellence at Shoosmiths solicitors having previously worked for the Ministry of Defence. Richard has a Masters in medieval history and an impressive wine qualification (WSET level three). He is also a keen rugby fan – supporting Gloucester, where he grew up – and is often to be seen out walking his two springer spaniels Leto and Freya.

## Proms’ licensing rethink

The traditional Proms Ibiza on Stour dance night will be replaced by two smaller events, after some quick lateral thinking by the Proms committee following the refusal of a licence for the full-scale 1,000-strong event. Ibiza Light and Ibiza Night, each with maximum numbers of 499, will take place at the Hub on 27 June.



*Photo credit: Chris Roberts  
Wider View Visual Media*

Stratford District Council (SDC), despite a well-researched, positive presentation from a Proms committee member, refused to grant a licence for the Ibiza on Stour event on the grounds that the venue was not considered suitable. This was despite full

support from Shipston Town and District Councillors, our MP, and members of the public. The refusal was based on concerns raised by the Environmental Health officer, who referred to the noise impact on nearby residential properties, quoting a single complaint received from one Shipston resident over the years.

The committee investigated alternatives while asking for support from the community, gathering over 300 signatures on the High Street in three hours, with an equal number online. On 28 April SDC granted the reduced events licence using The Hub’s own licence.

## Double win for Rafi

Cornet player Rafi Gil-Keeling, eight, won two trophies at the Oxford & District Brass Band Association contest: one in the ‘Slow Melody’ under-nine class and another for being the youngest contestant – for the second time! He went on to play the piece, Gluck’s Che Faro, just a few hours later at a Stour Concert Brass concert at St Edmund’s Church, where he also performed with the Shipston Training Band. Rafi has been taking cornet lessons since September 2025 with Shipston Brass Academy.



## Litter pickers



The monthly litter pick was boosted last month with the help of a clean-up gang from Low Furlong care home. The drive to keep Shipston tidy has now involved people between the ages of 4 and 92. ‘It just goes to show

how everyone can help,’ says organiser Hilary Kelly. ‘If you’re interested in litter-picking, whatever your age, please come along to the Council Office in West Street at 10am on the first Saturday of the month. We usually collect rubbish for an hour and then have some refreshments upstairs in the Council Chamber.’

## In the news

The SOS Save our Shipston campaign drew the attention of the national media last month, after a journalist from the *Observer* visited the town and spoke to residents about their fears for ill-planned and outsized development. See more on page 4.



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## Mayor's column

Five years ago, we moved to Shipston and immediately fell in love with this town – because of its people. From the moment we arrived, I was struck by the warmth, kindness and generosity that really do define this community. Shipston is an incredibly welcoming place. It is a town where people know one another, look out for one another, and where newcomers have countless opportunities to get involved in the life of the town.



What makes Shipston special is that its character is entirely self-determined. No distant government plan, fashionable blueprint or outside body dictates what this town should be. Shipston is what it is because of the people who live here, care for it, volunteer for it, invest in it and fight for it. There is a fierce sense of local pride and identity here, and rightly so.

That matters all the more at a time when so many decisions affecting our communities can feel remote and uncertain. Whether it is the Local Plan, Local Government Reorganisation, or ongoing planning concerns people, many residents understandably feel anxious about preserving what makes Shipston unique. My belief is that the best safeguard for this town will always be the strength, confidence and involvement of its people.

The real strength of Shipston lies in its volunteers, community groups and local businesses. In the clubs, charities, churches, societies and organisations that quietly sustain community life every single day. And equally in our brilliant independent businesses, the shops, cafés, pubs, and tradespeople who give the town its life, energy and identity.

Our recent Town Meeting really showcased the remarkable breadth and depth of voluntary organisations we are fortunate to have here in Shipston. And even in the short time since then, we have seen more examples of the energy and community spirit that make this town what it is - we've had the first ever Veterans' Breakfast at Low Furlong, the return of the Ibiza Night, and the Town Band's Spring Concert all demonstrating the sheer variety of community life we enjoy here. These things do not happen by accident. They happen because people step forward, give their time, and care deeply about this town and one another. They are exactly the sort of things we must seek not only to preserve, but to grow.

Both our voluntary sector and our local businesses are facing immense pressures and hardships. Rising costs, uncertainty and changing times weigh heavily on both. Yet they continue to serve, to employ, to support and to bring life to our town. During my year as Mayor, they are the people and organisations I hope to champion at every opportunity, because they deserve not only our gratitude, but our active support.

I also want to pay tribute to Tony Booth who has set what feels like an *impossible* example to follow, not only as Mayor, but as one of the true titans of this town. His commitment to the chain

has been extraordinary, but so too is his service as a Community First Responder and his wider dedication to Shipston life. The enthusiasm, energy and sheer joy he has brought to this role will be my guide in the year ahead.

**Richard Walters**  
Mayor of Shipston

## News from Shipston Town Council's May meeting

Every year in May, the Town Council meeting agenda takes a departure from business-as-usual. It's Mayor-Making time!

On 11 May, Richard Walters was proposed as the new mayor by Tony Booth and was unanimously voted into office by the Town Council members. Richard read the declaration of office, promising to fulfil the role to the best of his ability in the forthcoming year. In a speech, which you can read on this page, he said the outgoing mayor was an 'impossible example to follow' for the enthusiasm and joy he has brought to the role.



*Tony Booth awards Richard the chain of office.*

When it came to choosing the deputy Mayor, there were two candidates this year, who had each prepared a short speech.

Cllr Vanessa Benjamin-Smith said she had been a councillor for the past year and had shown her commitment by being on the environment and finance working groups and becoming chair of SAFAG. She has also been involved in BookFest for the past two years and is an allotment holder. As a resident of one of the new estates, she felt she could make a positive step to seek greater participation from residents and to make the deputy role more visible.

Cllr Michelle Kelly has been involved in the staffing, finance and general purposes working groups in her three years on the Council. She has lived in the town for 19 years and been secretary to the Proms for the past five years, also volunteering as a marshal for town events. She pledged to work hard to retain the town's fundamental values during the changes it currently faces.

Cllr Kelly was voted in as Deputy Mayor.

For the rest of the meeting, the Council confirmed the members of each working group and discussed one planning application - no representation.



*Michelle Kelly is deputy mayor.*



*Richard makes his wife Becky Mayoral consort.*

## A year in office

In Tony Booth's valedictory address to the annual town meeting at the end of April, he highlighted some of the innovations of his year in office. Along with a commitment to attending local events and representing the town at county level, some new initiatives marked his term.



- Instigating the Mayor of Shipston's Facebook page. With over 300 followers, this has helped to communicate council and town matters and allow the community to interact directly.
- Introducing the Mayor's Community Recognition awards to recognise the invaluable contribution of all those volunteers in Shipston who give up their valuable time and energy to support our many organisations and causes.
- Engaging with local schools, and instigating a High School community award to recognise students who make a voluntary contribution in the community and live according to the Shipston Spirit.
- Highlighting our local independent shops and businesses with a regular column in the Forum.
- Supporting two key local causes, the Royal British Legion – which commemorated significant VE Day and VJ Day anniversaries – and the Youth Club, where the Council is supporting the building of a new hub.

## Save our Shipston

April and May was a busy time for Save Our Shipston. We had an excellent turnout at the Annual Town Meeting, with over 60 attendees hearing about SOS and the great work of many other voluntary groups, with people giving up their time and expertise for the residents of Shipston. What a wonderful place to live!



SOS showed it has strength in numbers at the Annual Town Meeting.

The big news is that we hit the national press with an excellent full page spread in the *Observer* on Sunday 26 April which covered our plight and the huge issues we are having with infrastructure already. Thanks to Olivia Hatch for facilitating this coverage for us.

The article can be read online:

<https://observer.co.uk/news/national/article/everyone-is-so-scared> and on our website <https://www.saveourshipston.org/press>

We have had meetings with our barrister and the five specialists we are employing to gather evidence to use in our objections for when the Fell Mill application comes in. At the time of writing, it still hadn't appeared – but keep an eye out, it might have by the time you are reading this.

We have put further road banners up, so no matter which direction people come into Shipston, they will see how to keep up with the campaign.

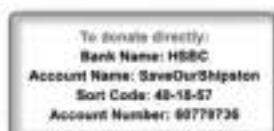
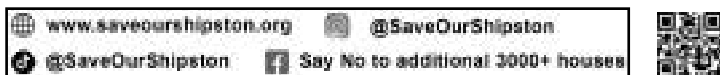
More people have asked to receive our monthly email update, so we hope there are very few people unaware of what Shipston is facing. If you want to receive emails, or know others who might, click the contact button on our website.

We have ongoing plans for further public information and events such as a sponsored walk to be run once the Fell Mill planning application is in.

In May, the SOS teamed up with a group from the English Civil War Society to raise awareness of the developers' rerouting plans for our two important historic long-distance paths: Centenary Way and Shakespeare Way. The details and photos of that event will appear in the next edition of the Forum.

As always, we are still keenly fundraising to cover our legal and professional advice so please continue to donate by getting a badge (from Morrisons, Little Vins, Little Bird Shop or Larks Meadow Farm) or donating direct to GoFundMe or our bank account. It is all very gratefully received and will help us defend our town from this unsustainable development.

Thank you yet again all who have already generously contributed.



## ... And they're back

I breathe a sigh of relief as I write this in the middle of May. Shipston's first swifts were heard high overhead on 1 May, and they gradually homed in on their nesting locations over the first Bank Holiday weekend. I saw the first entry of a swift to join its mate in one of the boxes in my colony on 7 May – the earliest I've ever seen them! They've been feeding up and resting over the lakes and wetlands around Brandon Marshes before settling down to the real business of breeding.

Unfortunately, sparrows took advantage of one box just before the swifts took their rightful occupation, but I'm hoping the swifts will succeed in ousting the squatters! Swifts need to find their own nest site undisturbed

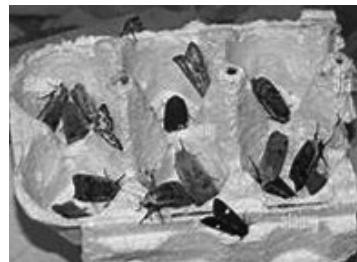
year after year. Once they've found a suitable place, it's theirs for life. Just a little hole into a soffit or under a roof tile, with a small space behind it, is all they need. As swifts never touch down (except in the breeding site), but live entirely on the wing, they find their nesting material high in the air – small feathers, little strands of grass or fluff blown upwards in the wind. They ask for little and do no harm to human homes, making far less mess than house martins or bats.

Purpose-made nest boxes or retrofitted nest bricks or soffit boxes can help swifts who find themselves homeless because of house renovation or reconstruction work. Our national swift population has plummeted over recent years because of re-roofing and house repairs, where homeowners were unaware of the presence of swift nests.

Please get in touch if you would like more information about swift nesting. My annual Evening Swift Walk is a good opportunity for you to find out more. This year it will be on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** – see the advert on page 7. Early booking is advised as numbers are limited. Jacey Jackson: [swifts@2jays.co.uk](mailto:swifts@2jays.co.uk)

## Join the moths for breakfast

Want to find out what moths there are in Shipston? Everyone is welcome to come and have breakfast with the moths that will have



Moths are attracted to a light at night and will hide amongst the eggboxes.

stayed overnight on the egg cartons by the moth trap in St Edmund's churchyard, Church Street, CV36 4AP on 6 June at 8am. This is a free activity and children are very welcome. No need to book, but for catering purposes it would be helpful to know if you plan to come. Hilary Kelly 01608 662491.

## Wild flower identification

On 7 June, as part of the Shipston Great Big Green Week activities, members of the Warwickshire County Records Office are coming to Cornmill Meadows, London Road CV36 4HZ from 10am to identify the wildflowers we have growing there. If you're interested, come along to see what's in flower now. A free activity, no need to book. Stay as long as you wish.



# Great Big Green Week


Events organised by Stourvale Action for the Environment (SAFE)

Accompanied children welcome. All events free unless otherwise stated.

EVENT	VENUE/Contact details	Date	TIME
Film: The Power Station £2.50	Talton Lodge, Newbold on Stour, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8UB Phone: 07962 273417	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30pm
Exhibition of Environmental Books	Shipston Library, Church St. CV36 4AP	6-13 <sup>th</sup> June	Library opening hours
Demo/join in testing and kick sampling river water.	Shipston Riverside Car Park, CV36 4AW	6 <sup>th</sup> June	2.30 -3.30pm
Moth Trap Count.	St. Edmunds Churchyard, Church St., CV36 4AP. Contact Hilary Kelly 01608 662491	6 <sup>th</sup> June	8am
Community Litter Pick	Meet New Clark House, West St. Shipston. Equipment provided. Contact: Hilary Kelly 01608 662491 //sprains.golden.coconut	6 <sup>th</sup> June	10-11 am
Learn as experts from Warwickshire Records Office identify plants	Cornmill Meadows, London Road, main entrance CV36 4HZ /// Dislodge. Wonderfully.Pounces	7 <sup>th</sup> June	From 10am
Bird walk with Stephen Hartley	Cornmill Meadows, London Road, main entrance CV36 4HZ /// Dislodge. Wonderfully.Pounces Booking Required contact Stephen Hartley 07858689523	9 <sup>th</sup> June	9am start
Foraging Walk with Katie Beswick	Meet at Little Bird Shop, The Alleyway, Telegraph Street Car Park, CV36 4AF	9 <sup>th</sup> June	6-7.30pm
Shipston 'People Planet Pint'	The Horseshoe Pub, Church St, Shipston, CV36 4AP. Booking essential on Eventbrite.	10 <sup>th</sup> June	6pm
Hedge Assessment Walk	Meet at The Plough Inn, Stretton-on-Fosse GL56 9QX (Walk is uneven underfoot: not wheelchair accessible). Followed by sociable gathering.	10 <sup>th</sup> June	6.30-8pm
Repair Cafe	Eileen Badger Hub Shipston	13 <sup>th</sup> June	10-2pm
Green Book Talk	Shipston Library Contact Julie Hudson; ejjoolsjools@gmail.com	18 <sup>th</sup> June	11am

## Activities timetable

# JUNE 2026



SHWP

Charity No. 1192236

**Contact details for activities in Shipston on Stour**

Warm Hub, Toy Library and Bereavement Cafe 01456 81102    kowen09@wp.org.uk  
 Strictly Fitness 07754 49647    nichole@stapes@gmail.com  
 Seated and Standing Tai Chi 01808 931899    julie@we211@gmail.com  
 Plates for Beginners 07954 359445    sueboeing@outlook.com

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
<b>1st Week</b>	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30 ★	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 ▲	Strictly Fitness 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 (Book Membership 15) ● Caring Dementia Support Group 7:00 - 9:30 ★	Plates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15 ●
<b>2nd Week</b>	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30 ★	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 ▲	Strictly fitness 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 (Book Membership 15) ●	Plates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15 ●
<b>3rd Week</b>	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30 ★	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 ▲	Strictly Fitness 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 Holly Nurse Drop in Sessions ★ Toy Library 11 - 12 (Book Membership 15) ●	Plates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15 ●
<b>4th Week</b>	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30 ★	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 ▲	Strictly fitness 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 9-9 ● Toy Library 11 - 12 (Book Membership 15) ●	Plates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15 ●

**Venues**

Community Wellbeing Hub @ Eileen Badger (Monday CV36 4AF)

Townsend Hall, CV36 4AE

Scout Hut, CV36 4EW

**KEY**

£
Free ★
Need to book. Working for ▲

## 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: June 2026

**2nd Bereavement Café:** 11am-1pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub first Tuesday of each month

**2nd Shipston Library Reading Group:** 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month

**2nd & 16th 'Dance for Joy' Monthly Circle Dance Group** in Stretton on Fosse 2.30 – 4pm. First and third Tuesday of each month. Dances from around the world – all taught from scratch. Please contact Geri Hunting [geraldinehunting@icloud.com](mailto:geraldinehunting@icloud.com) or 07968 338848

**3rd Shipston on Stour WI:** How to pack the ultimate Capsule Suitcase by Jackie Allen. Meetings held every first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road Shipston on Stour CV36 4DR at 7.00 pm. For more information contact: Gill Smith – Telephone 07759 232899

**3rd & 17th Stour Valley Stitchers:** 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

**5th Lions Cinema:** Song Sung Blue. See ad on page 16

**6th Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Children's equipment available

**7th Lego Church:** 10.30am, first Sunday of the month during morning service at St Edmund's. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact [rector@shipstonchurch.org](mailto:rector@shipstonchurch.org).

**7th Honington Open Gardens:** See ad on page 10

**8th Town Council Meeting:** 7pm, New Clark House

**9th Stour Valley Lions Meeting:** 6.30pm for 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, second Tuesday of the month

**10th People, Planet, Pint:** sustainability drinks. 6pm. The Horseshoe Pub. Come and hear what is going on in Shipston and see how you can join in to make Shipston more sustainable. 1st 10 drinks are free. Booking essential on Eventbrite. Shipston-on-Stour - Small99's People, Planet, Pint™: Sustainability Meetup Tickets, Multiple dates | Eventbrite

**14th Newbold Village Hall Tramway200 Talk.** See ad on page 10

**17th Shipston Medical Centre:** Patients Meeting. See ad on page 7

**18th Drop-In Clinic:** For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. Every third Thursday

**19th Royal British Legion Social Evening:** The Shipston on Stour Branch gathers for a social event on the third Friday of each month at The Horseshoe, starting at 7:30pm. Additionally, every other month, the Branch Committee meets on the third Friday at St Edmund's Church from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, before joining the social gathering. If you are interested in Branch events or enquiring to join the Branch, please contact the Branch Secretary, Ali at [ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community](mailto:ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community)

**19th Shipston Music Society:** Lucy Elston and Laurence Matthews. See ad on page 16



**21st Whichford & Ascott Open Gardens:** See ad on page 7

**21st Shipston Town Band with Stour Concert Brass – Proms Concert.** See ad on page 16

**23rd 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.

**25th Local Quaker Meeting for Worship:** St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

**27th Veterans' Breakfast Club:** See ad on page 7


**Meeting for Shipston Medical Centre patients**

Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 7.15pm  
Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston

TOPICS

**'Medical Centre Updates'**

**'Working Together To Support Healthy Ageing'**



CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE:  
Shipston Medical Centre GP, Business and Nurse Partners  
The SMC Frailty Team, PPG, District Nurses, the Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Shipston Home Nursing

Any prior questions? Please contact:  
Carole Nossiter, PPG Chair [shipstpppg@gmail.com](mailto:shipstpppg@gmail.com)

**No need to book - just turn up on the night!**



## VETERANS' BREAKFAST CLUB

Supported by the Shipston-on-Stour Branch of the Royal British Legion

**Full English Breakfast:**  
**£5 for RBL Members**  
**£7.50 for Non Members**



**Low Furlong**  **27th June** Armed Forces Day UK

**09:00 - 11:00**

- ✓ All ages welcome
- ✓ Come on your own or bring a mate
- ✓ No pressure, just good food and chat.
- ✓ Stay for five minutes
- ✓ or the full morning

To help us plan for numbers, please book your place in advance

Contact Clare on **07940 786755**  
or email [clare.cuthbert1510@hotmail.com](mailto:clare.cuthbert1510@hotmail.com)





### Whichford & Ascott Gardens Open

Sunday 21st June 1.30 - 5.00pm

Eight gardens will open:

*Ascott Lodge • Belmont House • Lenticulars*

*Murton Cottage • The Old Rectory • Pear Tree Cottage*

*Plum Tree Cottage • Whichford Pottery*

Combined entry: Adults: £7.50 and Children free.

Home-made teas in aid of St Michael's Church, plant stall, raffle - win a Whichford Pottery voucher.

### *Shipston Action for Swifts*

### *Evening Swift Walk*

**Friday 3rd July 2026**  
**7:00 - 9:45pm**

A gentle, guided walk around Shipston to watch and learn more about swifts.  
A revised route this year!



These migratory birds are in serious decline and need our understanding and help if they are to continue to bring joy to our Summer evening skies



This event is **Free of Charge** but numbers are limited  
Book early to avoid disappointment

For more details  
Email : [swifts@2jays.co.uk](mailto:swifts@2jays.co.uk)

## Bring on Shipston Proms!

Shipston Proms Music Festival supports a wide programme of over 40 events, many of them free to attend. It's through the financial support of our wonderful sponsors and money collected from raffle tickets and event bucket collections, plus the sale of the few ticketed events like Ibiza, that the free events can go ahead. This includes the Last Night of the Proms Street Party in the town square on 4 July.



Photo credit: Chris Roberts  
Wider View Visual Media

This year we open with two events. On Friday 19 June, Shipston Music Society presents performers at the Methodist Church, while at the Townsend Hall, there is the Studio 54 vinyl disco, where fancy dress will be rewarded, so get your 1970/80s glad rags on.

Saturday 20 June is Pub Trail Day, starting at 2pm with Escapade at The Black Horse; finishing with Chantelle at 9pm at The White Horse, with performers at all Shipston's excellent pubs in between.

Traditional favourites also return, including Mrs Porter's Chamberpot pourri at St Edmund's Church on 24 June, with a mix of singers and musicians. June 29th sees local hero Greg Brice taking time out from his UK-wide schedule to perform his distinctive blues at Thirst Edition. The Young Musicians concert at Barcheston Church is back on 30 June and 3 July brings you Songs from the Shows at the Townsend Hall.

### Ibiza

The new look Ibiza events (see story on page 1) will be on 27 June, with Ibiza Light from 12 noon to 4pm and Ibiza Night running 7-11pm. Tickets available online, as well as for other events, so keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for confirmed dates and details. It is anticipated that tickets will sell out fast.

These are only a fraction of the 40 plus events on during the Proms fortnight. Come along, grab a drink, have a listen, have a dance, sing along. See you there!



Photo credit: Chris Roberts  
Wider View Visual Media

## A new footbridge for Shipston



updated to help walkers to keep to the correct routes and the bridge stile has been made easier to cross in wet weather. Cotswold National Landscape help WCC to maintain paths, stiles and bridges across much of south Warwickshire. For more information see [www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk](http://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk)

A popular walk for Shipston residents has been improved. Cotswold National Landscape volunteers have installed a new footbridge on the footpath from Barcheston to Willington where it crosses the brook, part of the long distance Shakespeare's Way path. The replacement bridge was supplied by Warwickshire County Council. Signage and posts have also been

## Dam fine work

SAFAG members, pictured, had an opportunity to learn or refresh their skills under the watchful guidance of Mike McCarthy as they completed a dam repair and upgrade on Batsford Estate at Aston Magna. Branches from the woodland area were cut to size with a battery-operated recip saw. Five large dams were upgraded, raised and repaired and an existing natural one modified into a structured leaky dam. In addition, a new (replacement) dam was installed on the watercourse which leads to Knee Brook.



left to right, Katharine Rutherford, Richard Harvey, Paul Neal, John Fedorowycz and John Dinnie.

## Follow the yellow welly trail!

The RNLI will be holding a street collection on Saturday 20 June in Shipston, and there will be a yellow welly trail round Shipston for children to follow. Get a form from the George Townhouse RNLI room for £1 and look for the yellow welly posters on seven different shop windows in the town. Put the letters together to make a word and return your form to the George for a small prize. There will be an RNLI information table in the post office for the whole of June, giving details of the work of the volunteer lifeboat crews and lifeguards in saving lives at sea. Lots of leaflets, please come and help yourself. Please support our work and help us save people in danger of drowning. Jenny Plenderleith

## How Lions' Den makes a difference

Stour Valley Lions distributed just over £7,600 to 15 organisations when successful applicants to its Lions' Den were announced at the end of April. The

scheme gives funds to deserving local organisations in the Stour Valley area using money raised from events such as Race Nights, Bingo Nights, Easter Egg Raffles and Film Nights. Thanks to the Lions' Den 2026:



**Brailes Community Speedwatch** will be able to create a School Safety Zone, with advisory 20 mph signage, to make it safer for children and other vulnerable road users to cross the road outside Brailes Village School.

**Shipston Bookfest** will hold five events during Shipston Bookfest to support literacy in Shipston Primary School and to promote creative careers to Shipston High School students.

**Holiday at Home** (below) will be able to hire the Townsend Hall to alleviate loneliness and isolation in the elderly with four events a year that include refreshments, quizzes, crafts, a two-course lunch and afternoon entertainment.



**Talk Dementia** (right) will have extra funding for its support to families and dementia carers in South Warwickshire and the North Cotswolds, through six dementia cafes.



**Riding for the Disabled** (below) has help with the ongoing costs of providing horse riding, and non-riding activities, for both adult and child riders of all disabilities at its stables in Compton Verney.



**Ilmington Bowling Club** will be able to replace the plastic sheeting which covers the changing, seating and viewing area.

**Shipston Sports Bowls** will have a more protective and secure unit for storing the maintenance equipment: the current storage facilities are no longer fit for purpose.

**Shipston Angling Club** will be able to purchase a heavy-duty gazebo which can be used at events such as The Duck Race and Fish and Frolics, along with lifebuoys and safety aids.

**Shipston on Stour Residents' Association** will purchase a defibrillator for the Herdwick Gate and Herdwick Fold developments.

**Carers 4 Carers** will continue its carer wellbeing programme, with funding to cover the costs of meetings, a newsletter and support calls.

**Long Compton Flood Action Group** will be able to publish a newsletter to keep residents informed of the flooding issues and proposed solutions.

**GLOSS** (right) will cover the costs of room hire, refreshments, speakers for its meetings that aim to help with women's physical and mental health.

**Blackwell Village Hall** will have a new, under-counter fridge and two two-ring electric hobs.

**Tredington Playground** will have two goal posts, a penalty area and a basketball net.

**Ilmington C of E Parent Teachers' Association** will have 15 balance bicycles and 15 helmets for the Early Years Class.





**Saturday mornings  
10.30-12.00**

**St Edmund's Church, Church Street, Shipston**

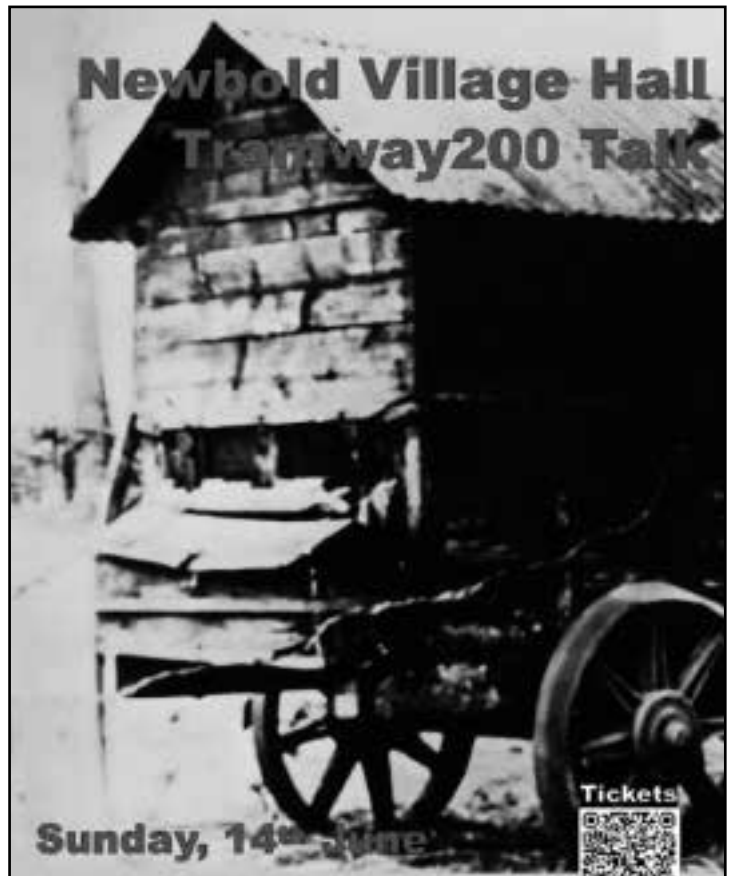
We are open to anyone.  
No referral or voucher needed.

Donations of basic items can be left in the church porch  
between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Saturday.  
There's also a collection point in the Co-op and Tesco.

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

[www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank](http://www.facebook.com/ShipstonFoodBank)  
 [www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.shipstonfoodbank.org.uk)

# Newbold Village Hall Tramway200 Talk



**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**2:30pm**

**CV37 8TU Adults £5**

Tickets



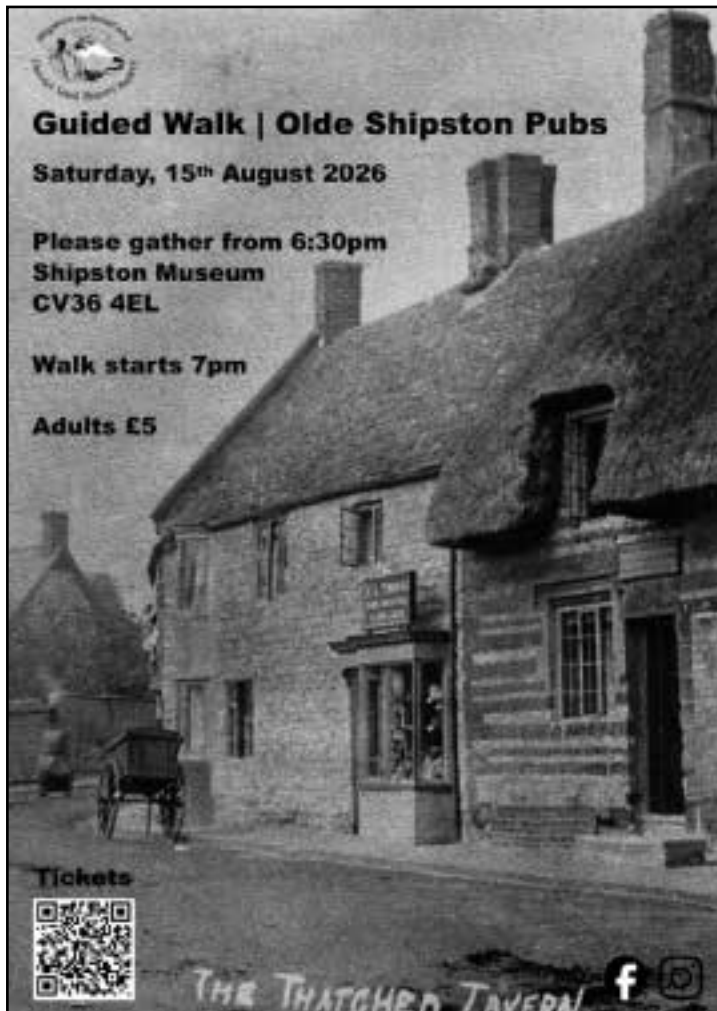
## Guided Walk | Olde Shipston Pubs

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2026

Please gather from 6:30pm  
Shipston Museum  
CV36 4EL

Walk starts 7pm

Adults £5



Tickets



THE THATCHED TAVERN



## Honington Gardens - open

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1:30-5:30**

Combined entry £6 per person – children FREE

**Teas served on the village green,  
FREE parking**



*Plus*



**Classic Car  
Display**

At Honington Hall

## Shipston Primary School

### Welcome back, Mrs Clarke!

We are delighted that Mrs Justine Clarke has returned to Shipston Primary in her position as our school SENDCo. Many of you will remember Mrs Clarke from her years of dedicated work teaching in school, including leading Reception so well. We are so pleased that she has chosen to re-join us in a much needed role to support our children, parents and staff across the school to help us ensure that our SEND children are well supported.

### Reception visits the allotments

Our Reception classes enjoyed a wonderful springtime visit to the Shipston allotments. The children had a fantastic time exploring the plots and discovering the fruit and vegetables growing. We spotted rhubarb, potatoes and leafy chard, as well as small seedlings keeping warm in the greenhouses. Beyond the vegetables, the children were delighted to meet the chickens and admire the budding apple trees. It was a brilliant opportunity to ask insightful questions about growing our own food. Back in the classroom, we spent the rest of the week creating some wonderful descriptive writing about our trip. We have also planted our own sunflowers – how high will they grow?

### Year 6 Experience the Blitz

Year 6 enjoyed a trip to Coventry Cathedral and the Blitz Museum as part of our topic Britain at War. The children explored the Old and New Cathedral, learning about the events that took place during the Second World War. We also explored the Blitz Museum; where the children learnt about how people lived during the war, what school life looked like and Anderson shelters.



### Marvellous Manners

Some of our children, led by Beatrix in Year 6, presented an assembly asking all the children to show 'Marvellous Manners' around school, and especially in the Hall at lunchtime. We want our children to develop great habits that they can be proud of whenever they meet someone, and developing 'Marvellous Manners' is a great start towards becoming a successful person.

## Shipston High School

As the summer term gets underway, life at Shipston High School continues to move at a vibrant pace. This month has once again offered a wide range of enrichment opportunities and marked several important milestones for our students. As always, the energy and enthusiasm of our pupils, staff and wider community have been central to all that we have achieved.

Our Year 11 students have now begun their GCSE examinations, and we are immensely proud of the dedication and resilience they have shown over the past five years. They have approached the challenge of external examinations with maturity and determination, supported closely by staff, families and the wider community. We are confident that their hard work will be reflected in the excellent outcomes they deserve.



We were very pleased to welcome local primary headteachers alongside our new headteacher, to continue developing strong partnerships focused on providing high quality sporting and educational experiences. These collaborations are contributing positively to our transition programme, with Year 6 pupils taking part in a variety of 'moving up' events, including a STEM day, sporting activities and inflatable obstacle courses.

The new Sports Hall continues to progress steadily, with much of the steel substructure now in place. This exciting development represents a significant investment in our facilities and will offer outstanding opportunities for both our students and the wider community for many years to come.



Our pupils have continued to represent the school with pride and skill across sporting fixtures including football, rounders and rugby. Highlights include participation in the finals of a Rugby 7s tournament held at Northampton Saints, where Shipston High School was one of only a small number of state schools represented.

Educational visits have also continued to enrich pupils' learning experiences. These included a Key Stage 3 Religious Education and Philosophy visit to the Swaminarayan Mandir in London, an RSC workshop and theatre tour in Stratford-upon-Avon, and the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition. Each of these experiences has helped to broaden pupils' horizons culturally, physically and academically.

## Veterans' Breakfast

Low Furlong Care Home hosted a remarkable community event on Saturday 25 April 2026 as it marked ANZAC Day with its first Veterans' Breakfast Club, an initiative led by Clare Cuthbert, Shipston RBL Branch committee member and part of the Low Furlong team. Clare's vision was simple but powerful: to celebrate the veterans who call Low Furlong home and to strengthen the bond between the Royal British Legion and the wider Shipston community.

Around 35 people, including resident veterans, their families, and local supporters, enjoyed a freshly cooked breakfast and the chance to share stories, memories, and camaraderie in a warm, welcoming atmosphere that truly reflected the spirit of the day.



A moving live bugle performance provided a moment of reflection, honouring the significance of ANZAC Day and those who have served.



The event, proudly supported by the Shipston branch of the Royal British Legion, raised £100 to help fund future activities for local veterans. Thanks to the enthusiasm shown by residents

and visitors alike, the next Veterans Breakfast Club has already been confirmed for Armed Forces Day on 27 June. This initiative stands as a shining example of how the RBL continues to play an active, meaningful role in our community, bringing people together and ensuring our veterans remain recognised, connected, and celebrated.

## Stour Valley Lions

April was a busy, successful and interesting time for Stour Valley Lions as we raised just over £1,600 from our Bingo Night in the Townsend Hall and from the popular film night where we showed *The Choral*, starring Ralph Fiennes. The film is a historical drama, set in Yorkshire during World War I, where a town's community comes together to form a choral society. The next film night is on Friday 5 June. Look out for our book sale, 9.30-1pm at the Scout Hut on Saturday 6 June. All funds raised will be donated to Stour Valley Lions' charities.

Stour Valley Lions always welcomes new members. If you're interested in joining or you'd like to help Stour Valley Lions with their events, please email enquiries@stourvalleylions.club or call us on 0345 833 2835. We meet at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Rd, Shipston, 6.30 for 7pm, on the second Tuesday of each month.



## Shipston WI

Dr Alison Foster gave a fascinating talk to Shipston WI entitled 'Toxic Trees, Poisonous Perennials and Wicked Weeds'. Dr Foster has a chemistry degree and was involved in pharmaceutical research. However, over time she developed an interest in botany and gardening and eventually retrained in horticulture. She was able to apply chemistry to the study of plants together with their cultivation. Alison is now involved with Plant Heritage, which is the home of the national plant collection.

It was somewhat disconcerting to learn that almost all the plants in our gardens are potentially toxic if ingested in large enough quantities. This is due to alkaloids which are present in all plants, and is self-defence on the plant's part: it needs to make itself repellent to predators. In the main it is the seeds that are toxic – wisteria, lupin, the spindle tree. The potato family is very big and has surprising members all of which are potentially poisonous if misused. Bulbs are poisonous: lily-of-the-valley, hellebores, forget-me-nots, viburnum – the list is immense. The leaves of many plants cause an unpleasant reaction in grazing animals, and sap can cause a skin rash. But before we all pave over our gardens and buy plastic flowers, a huge amount is needed before harm would ensue. And many toxic plants have therapeutic value. Foxgloves (*digitalis*), yew which is used in cancer treatment, belladonna – the list of harmful plants that have a medicinal application is almost endless.

Alison's advice to all gardeners is to know what is growing in the garden and keep a record. Always wear gloves, cover cuts, wear long sleeves, wash hands after gardening and never eat anything before washing one's hands. This is the advice to all students at the Oxford Botanic gardens. Alison's biggest bugbear is television gardeners who never wear gloves! This would be easy to do and would set a national example!

Business continued after the tea break. Members voted that a resolution calling for more accessible toilets for women will be forwarded to the national WI Annual General Meeting. On 9 May there will be a recruitment drive at The Old Bank in the High Street. A Strawberry Tea is proposed on 6 June for members, family and friends. And it is hoped to visit Waterperry Gardens during the summer.

WI Member Pam Harrison is looking for sponsorship to provide a refuge for vulnerable women. She proposes to drive a tank if she can find one! The next meeting will be on 3 June when Jackie Allen will be demonstrating how to pack the ultimate capsule suitcase.

## Probus

Edward Lear, A Man of Many Talents  
by Howard Robinson



It is remarkable that a room full of retired Probus members were able to recite from memory at least the first two verses of a nonsense song *The Owl and the Pussycat!* Such is the influence of Edward Lear, most famous for his nonsense songs and numerous limericks.

However, the main thrust of Howard's talk was to throw light on Lear as a man of extraordinary wide and serious talent, not just for nonsense songs, but as an artist. Born in 1812, he was

the penultimate child of 21 children, of whom 13 survived. His mother, unsurprisingly, died early! Edward was largely brought up by an older sister. His sister recognised his talent in drawing, especially of birds, and by the age of 16 he was making money from their sale. At 20 he sold a collection of his animal drawings to the Earl of Derby and four years later embarked on the first of many trips to Europe and then Egypt, Palestine and Jordan. He made coloured drawings during his journeys which he reworked later, sometimes as plates for his travel books. The accuracy of his botanical drawings drew praise from experts, and his ability was thought great enough to be asked to teach drawing to a daughter of Queen Victoria. He also composed and published 12 musical settings of Tennyson's poetry.

The limericks were to entertain children and were his party piece, but Howard maintained that Lear's true genius lay in his artistic ability. His paintings and drawings have value and about 5,000 still exist. However, Probus members remain limerick fans: 'There was a Young Lady from Ryde...!'

Could Probus appeal to you? Then give us a try as our guest? Guests enjoy a free lunch and no initial commitment to join, entirely your choice! Please contact Tony Joint on 07711 310272 or email: [tonyjoint73@hotmail.com](mailto:tonyjoint73@hotmail.com) for further details.

## Townsend Hall AGM



We are a small group of trustees tasked with ensuring the smooth running of this busy community hall and would very much welcome the support of anyone with a few hours to spare, either on a voluntary basis or with a view to becoming a trustee. If you already attend any of the various activities held in the hall and would like some input as to how the hall is run, please join us on 7 July @ 7pm. Jenny Glover, Chairman.

## Shipston Kurlers

Shipston kurling team had a return match against Ilmington kurlers. The result was so close there had to be a recount, but finally Shipston were declared the winners, by one point! The match finished with the teams sharing tea and cake and planning for the next match.



## Community activities

Community activities at the Ellen Badger Hospital continue to grow in popularity, with a range of wellbeing and support sessions available for local residents this June.



The Bereavement Café takes place on Tuesday 2 June from 11am to 1pm, offering those experiencing grief the opportunity to meet with like-minded people in a welcoming and supportive

environment. The session provides a chance to talk openly about bereavement and the feelings that come with loss.

The popular Toy Library continues to attract families from across the area. Its Tuesday Stay and Play sessions, held from 9.30am to 11am, provide a smaller, relaxed setting for young children and their families. Each week includes a different activity designed to engage little ones, while adults can enjoy refreshments and conversation. Thursday sessions, from 11am to noon, also remain well attended. Both sessions are held at the Ellen Badger Hospital.

Meanwhile, the Warm Hub, running from 10am to noon on Mondays and Thursdays, continues to expand, with increasing numbers attending each week.

Seated Exercise Classes are also proving increasingly popular. Volunteer instructor Sarah Chapman has recently completed specialist training in Preventing Falls, thanks to funding support from the Stour Valley Lions and Shipston Town Council. As a result, a third Monday session is now being introduced to meet demand.

Places for the class promoting falls prevention are limited. Anyone interested is asked to contact Rowena on 01608 691129 for further information. See the programme of activities on page 14 for more information.

## Age Concern outings



Age Concern runs outings on a Wednesday from 2pm until around 5pm. All are open to all older people living in the Shipston area. We use the Shipston Link Bus, a community bus service run by volunteers for all our outings. We pick up and drop off at Rainbow Fields, The Driftway, Shipston. CV36 4BU. Please note that the bus is not wheelchair accessible. 'Trippers' should be able-bodied and independent, although they are welcome to bring a carer along. In the event of overbooking, priority will be given to those with limited access to private transportation. The cost is £5, payable when booking. If you are unable to attend, please call and a refund will be offered at the discretion of the Trustees. Please book by the Friday before the date of the trip by calling Penny Varley on 07486 452099.

Outings so far have included a visit to Batsford Arboretum in May. Upcoming dates are: 10 June – Fosseyway Garden Centre, Moreton in Marsh; 8 July – Warwick Garden Centre, Stratford upon Avon; 9 September – Matinee film, Tysoe Village Hall; 14 October – The Valley, Evesham.

## Help the school help the community

Could you help students from the High School help the community? As part of its annual Enrichment Week, students are on the lookout for opportunities to support community projects and learn from people willing to spend time demonstrating their craft, hobby or creative activity, or to give a presentation or workshop on their profession, sport or local interest. It's a great opportunity for students to give back, and learn about the local community while broadening their experience and building confidence.

If you are able to support the High School students in any way, or would like to discuss ideas, please contact [info@shipstonhigh.co.uk](mailto:info@shipstonhigh.co.uk)

## County Council

Excitement time...it's the June edition of the Forum. Summer is coming, the holidays will soon be here, and all the village shows are coming. This year I am planning on attending all, so lots of fun and pray for good weather please!

I am confused by planning at the moment...masses of opposition from many to having houses built but huge support for covering the same sort of area with solar panels. Facts: they need replacing at vast cost every 25 years and should you need to reclaim the land underneath at any time – say to grow food – then the soil will be totally depleted. But hey-ho let's feel good about the 0.5% carbon we put in the atmosphere reducing at the same time as we impoverish ourselves! Rant over!

I went to the second meeting of the SEND parents' group – thank you for the welcome. I am in awe of what you do for your kids, and I want to make sure that we as a county do our very best too. I read the White Paper, but you all definitely knew as much as anyone! Experts by experience are so important in informing everything I do: thank you.

## District Council

By the time you read this, Regulation 19 of the South Warwickshire Local Plan will have been published. This is the version where we see which parcels of land that had been put forward in the Preferred Options stage have been included for development, and which have been taken out. Just to remind everyone, although this plan has already been five years in the making, the government moved the goal posts 18 months ago, by increasing the number of houses that we, as a district have to build in the next 25 years, to 28,000. This is an eye-watering amount when we only actually have around 65,000 houses at the moment. There is no doubt that the district officers and administration had a difficult hand to play working out where all these houses have to go. However, Dave and I strongly believe that the only way of accommodating such an increase in development, whilst adhering to all the positive policies that were in the Preferred Options stage, is by creating two or more new settlements.

We were therefore very disheartened by the Reg. 19 version we have seen (as of the second week in May). Long Marston is the only new settlement that remains, out of the eight that were put forward. And this is reliant on getting funding for a South West relief road around Stratford. This means that apart from the 4,500 houses assigned to Long Marston, all the rest have to be bolted on to existing towns and villages.

In Shipston we have to be thankful that we no longer have the status of a Strategic Growth Area. There is a new term though, that has been created in the last six months – a Local Growth

Area. In the list of the parcels of land put forward, there is no Fell Mill, but all the other parcels that currently have planning applications remain, except the three around Darlingscote Road. This amounts to 600 new houses in the next 25 years. This of course is more than current infrastructure can cope with, but spare a thought for the actual Strategic Growth Locations: Bidford, 3,000; Southam, 3,000; Stratford, 3,000; Henley, 2,000; and Wellesbourne, 1,800.

We know what this 'bolted on' development does for communities, that is why there was a steer away from the 'dispersal' model to a 'sustainable transport and employment model'. Now Dave and I must decide whether to vote for this plan or not. The alternative is no plan, and that may be even worse.

Following the vote at Full Council on 8 June, there is a six-week period for representations from 12 June to 2pm on Monday 27 July. This publication stage is really just about the soundness and legal compliance of the plan, rather than comments. We will update next month with some guidance about this next stage.

### Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

077489 68712 | [jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk)



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### Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North

07752562114 | [olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk)



## Your town councillors



### Richard Walters, Mayor

e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Michelle Kelly, Deputy Mayor

e: michelle.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Tony Booth

*General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair*

e: tony.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Gerry Kelly

*Planning Committee Vice Chair*

t: 07471 687720

e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Ian Cooper

*Finance Working Group Chair*

t: 01608 663785

e: ian.cooper@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Paul Tesh

*Planning Committee Chair*

t: 07711 433566

e: paul.tesh@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Jo Barker

t: 07748 968712

e: jo.barker@shipstontowncouncil.org  
(for town and county matters)



### Hilary Kelly

*Environmental Working Group Chair*

e: hilary.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Chris Howarth

e: chris.howarth@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



### 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
<b>Local police (non emergency)</b>	<b>101</b>
Shipston Police Safer Neighbourhood:	
PC1508 Sid Hammond – 07967 303185	
PCSO Katie Brooks – 07870 978973	

### Local police (non emergency)

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

### General Enquiries

t: 01608 662180 e: enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org



### Town Clerks

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](mailto:forum@shipstononline.org) or, if you don't have email access, on 07989 530069

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

### Forum copy deadline:

#### Second Monday of the month

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

The Shipston Forum is produced monthly by the Town Council.

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



# 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](mailto:ds@pinnegards.com) for an Application form.

**COMPLETED FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY 29 AUGUST 2026**

**STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA**



**Lightning and Thunder**, a Milwaukee husband and wife Neil Diamond tribute act, experience soaring success and devastating heartbreak in their musical journey together.

**Certificate 12A**

**TOWNSEND HALL**  
**Friday 5th June, 2026 at 7.30pm**  
 Tickets on sale from The Flower House, Shipston for cash £6.00, or pay on the door. Drinks, Chocolate and raffle.




**Lucy Elston (soprano) and Laurence Panter (tenor)**  
 with Charles Matthews (piano)  
 in a programme of arias, songs and duets and from the worlds of opera, musical theatre and even contemporary pop!

Friday 19th June, 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

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[www.shipstonmusic.org.uk](http://www.shipstonmusic.org.uk)



present

# PROMS CONCERT

with

## SHIPSTON TOWN BAND and STOUR CONCERT BRASS

**Sunday 21 June, 3pm**  
**Townsend Hall**  
 52 Sheep St., Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4AE

**ADMISSION: £10**

[WWW.SHIPSTONBAND.CO.UK](http://WWW.SHIPSTONBAND.CO.UK)