



Shipston Forum



August 2026

The music's over!

Shipston Proms drew to a spectacular conclusion on 4 July as the town square became a full-on music venue. As ever, the traditional Last Night was all about rock, featuring Orange River Remedy, the Texan Peacocks and the DropOuts. The evening completed a magical two weeks of music with something for everyone, from dance and disco to jazz, folk, opera, musicals, and concerts by young people.



New events for 2026 included a musical comedy night, a dance fusion event, a Talton Lodge Feast with music from the Albert George Collective, the Cotswold

Distillery session with the Wldflwrs, and a Studio 54 opening night 70s disco. Other highlights were the Saturday Pubs Trail with live music at seven pubs throughout the day until late into the evening, and the sold-out Ibiza on Stour with four DJ sets which was a huge success. Songs from the Shows at the Townsend Hall saw local rising star Henry Clarke and other young people give renditions of songs from musicals such as *Les Miserables*, *Oliver*, *My Fair Lady*, and other popular theatre productions and films.

It all added up to 32 events over two weeks, with 21 of them free to attend. The Shipston community turned out in force at every one of them.

The delighted organisers are already looking ahead to Shipston Proms 2027, and wanted to thank many people including headline sponsors Sheldon Bosley Knight and Ryse 3D, plus the spotlight sponsors Go HR, Thirst Edition, and Sydenhams Builders Merchants, the Soundwave and Melodymaker sponsors, local businesses, and the Town Council which supports the event year on year.

See centre pages for more pics and relive those rhythms all over again!

Headliners for the BookFest

The next big event in town is the Shipston's own book festival, now entering its third year. This year top names include the broadcaster



Alexander Armstrong and bestselling author and actress Caroline Quentin (pictured). Shipston BookFest runs from Friday 18 to Sunday 27 September.

Read all about it in the centre pages!



Local plan – get involved

The South Warwickshire Local Plan, setting out the long-term vision for how land in the area will be used, has been taken to the next stage. A consultation period has now opened, and residents are encouraged to look at the plans and engage in the consultation. Make your views heard! Comments can be made on the legality, viability and deliverability of the Plan until 8 September. More information is available on the South Warwickshire Local Plan website at <https://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp>. See page 14 for our County and District Councillors' responses.



All change in local government

Warwickshire is to have two unitary authorities. Stratford District and Warwick District will combine as South Warwickshire Authority, and elections will be held next May. 'Splitting our historic county is sad, but financially will be better for us in the south,' says our local County Councillor Jo Barker, while District Councillor Olivia Hatch called it 'good news for democracy.' Local MP Manuela Perteghella, who had been campaigning for a South Warwickshire unitary since the beginning of the Local Government reorganisation process said it would 'deliver the best value services for people across my constituency and respect the geography of the area.'

Sports champs!



With a dramatic deciding penalty shoot-out, the Shipston Under-8s football team delivered an outstanding performance to win the Evesham Tournament. 'Playing nine matches in very warm conditions, they showed excellent determination, teamwork and resilience throughout the day,' says proud coach Guy Richards.

Shipston-based Peacock Gymnastics Academy finished seventh out of 33 qualifying clubs at the NGA National Finals in Liverpool, returning home with 13 medals including seven golds.



Congratulations to Zac Kethelyi, Boys Level 1 All Around National Champion and Eligh Patterson, third in Boys Level 1 All Around National; Layla-mai Burton who was Girls Level 1 National Beam Queen; and Isla Holley, Girls Level Bronze National Bars Queen. All attend Shipston Primary School, while Emily Cox, highest-level qualifier at Platinum, is at Shipston High School.

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Mayor's column

As another busy month comes to a close, I have once again been reminded just how fortunate we are to live in a town where people continually step forward to support one another, whether through volunteering, fundraising or simply taking the time to bring our community together.



One chapter has come to an end at Shipston Town Council as we said a sad farewell to one of our Town Clerks, Debs Hardiman. Over the past few years Debs has been at the heart of so much that happens in our town, providing steady advice, professionalism and an unwavering commitment to Shipston. On behalf of the Town Council, I would like to thank Debs for everything she has done and wish her every success and happiness in the future.

While we are saying goodbye to one valued colleague, we are also looking forward with excitement. Following a strong response to our recruitment campaign, we are delighted to be welcoming a new Deputy Clerk and a new Administration Officer to the Town Council team. It has been encouraging to see so many talented people wanting to work for Shipston, and I know our new colleagues will play an important role in supporting both the Council and the wider community in the months and years ahead.

By the time this edition of the *Shipston Forum* reaches you, we should also have a much clearer understanding of the progress of both the South Warwickshire Local Plan and Local Government Reorganisation. These are two of the most significant issues affecting the future of our town. While Shipston Town Council is a statutory consultee, and the tier of local government closest to residents, it has very limited influence over how either process ultimately progresses. The Council continues to engage proactively with elected representatives and officers at every level of local government to ensure we fully understand the implications for Shipston and to make the strongest possible case on behalf of our community.

My mayoral duties have continued to take me across South Warwickshire. It was a privilege to support the Mayor of Warwick's charity football match, an excellent event which raised both money and awareness for prostate cancer. Community events like these show how local councils work together not only to represent their towns but also to champion causes that affect so many families. I also had the honour of attending the civic service in Alcester. Civic services are an opportunity for neighbouring towns to come together, celebrate public service and recognise the many volunteers who help make our communities such wonderful places to live. The retiring collection supported Alcester Day Care, a charity providing invaluable support to people living with dementia and their families, and it was inspiring to see such generosity.

Closer to home, Armed Forces Day was marked in perhaps the most fitting way possible by joining Shipston Royal British Legion's Veterans Breakfast at Low Furlong. Rather than a grand ceremony, it was an opportunity for veterans to come together, share stories, enjoy good company and reflect on a lifetime of service. It was a privilege to spend time with those who have given so much in the service of our country.

July also brings one of the highlights of our town's calendar, Shipston Proms. I was delighted to attend events throughout the **week**, culminating in the spectacular Last Night of the Proms. It is impossible not to feel proud of our town when you see the extraordinary effort that goes into making the festival such a success. The Proms simply would not happen without the dedication of the committee, performers, sponsors and the army of volunteers who give up their time year after year. My sincere thanks go to every one of them for creating another memorable celebration for residents and visitors alike. It was also wonderful to meet so many people who stopped to introduce themselves and share their own stories of what makes Shipston what it is.

As always, if you see me out and about, please do come and say hello. One of the greatest privileges of serving as your Mayor is meeting the people who make our town what it is, and I always enjoy hearing your ideas, experiences and stories.

Richard Walters

Mayor of Shipston

News from Shipston Town Council's July meeting

Environment

Cllr Barker raised concerns about fire risk in Cornmill Meadows during this very dry summer. Council will investigate getting fire beaters and installing larger warning signs. Council agreed to get quotes for solar panels for New Clark House, with the possibility of redistributing surplus energy to those in fuel poverty.

Planning

With the South Warwickshire Local Plan due to be discussed and published imminently, it was agreed to publicise the consultation period running from 21 July to 8 September and encourage participation. (see *front page*). The planning committee will prepare a response on behalf of the Council.

Finance

Expenditure approvals were given for: run-off guttering at the Sports Club; a fire risk assessment, structural engineer and a building control fee for Youth Club; Annual Governance and Accountability Return preparation support; insurance policy and CCTV bill. Council approved Freedom of Information and website policy, along with updated GDPR policy. The Lawns2Mow contract has been approved for a further two years. Council agreed not to adopt any more **opens** spaces.

Blue light report

PC Hammond reported on youth disturbance following the last Proms event. Around 70% of those involved were from Shipston, he said, and the police are working with the High School to identify those involved. He has met with the Proms organisers to discuss ways of making improvements.

Crime: with car key thefts in the local area, significant leads are being followed. A risk assessment has been done of sites vulnerable to possible occupation by travellers.

Shipston has a third PCSO. Fay Brown has begun the role, working full time.

The response car now has a defibrillator, thanks to Shipston First Responders.

Councillors' reports

Cllr Hilary Kelly arranged for five groups of Y10 students to work on various activities during the High School's Enrichment Week. The possibility of getting trees to provide shade in children's playground at Sports Club will be investigated. Councillors agreed that the Proms was a success and will write to thank the organisers.

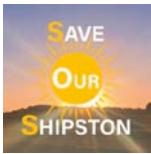
Stratford District Council

Cllr Passingham reported that the infrastructure schedule listed for the SWLP includes a MUGA at the High School and an expansion of the Leisure Centre to include a gym, as well as cycle and bus improvements.

Save Our Shipston

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting news on all the planning applications that have been submitted to date, and we are also still waiting for the developers to submit the planning application for the 1,150 houses proposed at Fell Mill. We will need as many objections to the Fell Mill planning application as possible once that comes in, so stay tuned. That development could well go ahead unless we fight hard against it.

You may be aware that the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) has now entered its next phase. In the event the SWLP passes a final scrutiny by the Council in December and the government inspector next year, that plan will come into force



in 2028. The developers who have swooped in on Shipston all want to get their applications in and passed before the SWLP comes into force, so our town is still incredibly vulnerable to all the development being currently proposed, regardless of what is stated in the draft SWLP!

Keep in touch via our website, social media and sign up for emails.

www.saveourshipston.org

[@SaveOurShipston](https://www.instagram.com/SaveOurShipston)

[Say No to additional 3000+ houses](#)





To donate through **gofundme**

Please go online and type in the link below:

gofund.me/tall.bear.form



Scan me with your phone camera!

To donate directly:

Bank Name: HSBC

Account Name: SaveOurShipston

Sort Code: 40-18-57

Account Number: 60770736

Activities timetable

AUGUST 2026



Health and Wellbeing Partnership
SHWP

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	julieareeves211@gmail.com
Pilates for Beginners	07854 289446	suebotting@outlook.com
Disordered Eating Drop in Clinic	0203 4880890	sarah@gutreaction.co.uk
Eating Disorder Support Group	07810 605947	hannahemes@yahoo.co.uk

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY			
1st Week	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 9:30, 10:30 or 11:30 CANCELLED	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30 Disordered Eating Drop in Clinic 5:30 - 6:30	Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45 Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00 CANCELLED	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 7:00 - 8:30	Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15
2nd Week	Warm Hub 10 - 12 Seated Exercise 9:30, 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 9:30, 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 9:30, 10:30 or 11:30	Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30	Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45 Parent Carers Support group	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 Singing Down Memory Lane 11:00 - 12:00

Venues

Community Wellbeing Hub @ Ellen Badger Hospital CV36 4AX

Townsend Hall. CV36 4AE

Scout Hut. CV36 4EW

KEY

£

Free

Need to book. Waiting list

Medical Centre advice

Staying well in summer



With temperatures this summer of above 30°C, we'd like to remind everyone how important it is to take extra care during periods of very hot weather.

Hot weather can affect anyone, but babies and young children, older adults, pregnant women and people with long-term health conditions are at greater risk of becoming unwell.

To help stay safe in the heat:

- Drink plenty of fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty. Water is the best choice, and it's important to avoid becoming dehydrated.
- Stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day (usually between 11am and 3pm) where possible.
- Keep your home cool by closing curtains or blinds in rooms that face the sun and opening windows when it's cooler outside.
- Wear loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing and a wide-brimmed hat if you're outdoors. Don't forget sunscreen with a high SPF.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day and, if you do exercise, try to do so early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are lower.
- Check on family members, friends and neighbours, particularly anyone who is elderly, vulnerable or living alone.

Be aware of the signs of heat exhaustion, which include headache, dizziness, excessive sweating, muscle cramps, feeling sick and tiredness. Moving to a cool place, drinking water and resting will usually help. However, if symptoms do not improve within 30 minutes, or someone becomes confused, loses consciousness or has a very high temperature, seek urgent medical advice as this could be a sign of heatstroke.

Many medicines should continue to be taken as prescribed during hot weather, but some can increase the risk of dehydration or make you more sensitive to the heat or the sun. If you have concerns about your medication or your health during periods of hot weather, please speak to a member of our team or your pharmacist.

By taking a few simple precautions, we can all stay healthier and safer during the summer months.

Help protect your child against measles

Following a rise in measles cases across the UK, the NHS is running a national campaign to help ensure that children are fully protected against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). The campaign aims to make sure that any children who have missed one or more doses of the vaccine have the opportunity to catch up.

If your child is aged between 1 and 5 years and is missing one or more MMR vaccinations, you may receive an invitation from the practice to book an appointment. We will contact eligible

families on several occasions to help make it as easy as possible to arrange vaccination.

NHS England is writing directly to the parents and guardians of children aged 6 to 11 years who are recorded as missing one or both doses of the MMR vaccine. If you receive one of these letters, please contact the practice to arrange an appointment.

If you believe your child has already received both doses of the MMR vaccine elsewhere, please let us know so we can ensure their medical record is up to date.

The MMR vaccine is safe, effective and provides long-lasting protection against three serious infectious diseases. Two doses are needed for the best protection.

If you have any questions or would like to check your child's vaccination status, please contact the practice and our team will be happy to help.

Cricket club report

Both senior teams have enjoyed positive starts to the season, coming out on the right side of some high scoring fixtures during June and placing themselves in a good position to achieve success by the end of the season. The seconds have seen the blossoming of several of our youth players, particularly all-rounder Ashley Ireland who has been taking wickets and scoring runs, narrowly missing out on his first senior century when he scored 99 against Leek Wooton. Our T20 team has qualified for the knockout stages of that competition.

Shipston Excelsior FC

We have unfortunately suffered further vandalism at the club, with both the stand and dugouts being damaged once again. We are now trying to raise funds, not only to repair the damage, but also to install CCTV cameras to help prevent this from happening in future. Any donation, no matter how small, would be hugely appreciated and will go directly towards improving the security and facilities for everyone who uses and supports the club. Thank you for your continued support.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/repair-vandalism-and-install-cctv-to-prevent-it-happening>

Shipston Community First Responders

In addition to responding to emergency calls, Shipston Community First Responders run CPR and defibrillator awareness training for local organisations and members of the public. Here they give some useful advice:



If you're with a patient who is unresponsive, call 999 and ask for ambulance. The call assessor will tell you exactly what to do to start performing CPR on the patient.

The priority for a patient in cardiac arrest is to immediately start effective CPR. To do this:

- Check the area is safe for you to approach the patient.
- Check for a response from the patient by shaking them gently.
- Lift the patient's chin to open their airway.
- Check for breathing by listening and looking for signs of normal breathing (approximately 2-3 breaths in ten seconds).
- Call 999 and ask for ambulance, put your phone on loudspeaker.
- Start chest compressions, 50-60mm deep and at a rate of 100-120 per minute.
- The ambulance service may advise you where the nearest public defibrillator is and give you the code for the door. This may not be the site that you think is closest. A second person can go to collect the defibrillator and starter kit.
- DO NOT STOP CPR while the defibrillator is being collected.
- Switch on the defibrillator and follow the spoken instructions.
- Continue CPR until the defibrillator asks you to pause, a paramedic asks you to stop or the patient starts breathing normally.

If you have collected one of our defibrillators, whether it has been used or not, please keep the equipment in a safe place and call 01608 656918 or email aed@shipstonfirstresponders.org as soon as possible and we will arrange collection from you and get it ready for use again.

To enquire about a CPR awareness course, please contact us on training@shipstonfirstresponders.org.

Shipston Community First Responders maintain a network of 68 public defibrillators, of which 19 are in Shipston and the remaining 49 are in the surrounding villages.

Keep cool at the Toy Library

Looking for somewhere cool to take the little ones this summer? Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership's Stour Toy Library is running throughout the summer months from the air-conditioned Ellen Badger Hospital, every Tuesday from 9:30-11am and Thursday from 11am-12 noon. You don't need to be a member to pop in and see what's on offer, but if you'd like to borrow toys, annual membership is just £5. We've seen a lovely rise in grandparents joining recently, so if you've got grandchildren visiting for the holidays, this is a great way to keep them entertained without the toy cupboard overflowing at home!

Alongside this, our newly named Community Hub is also open over the summer, offering a cool, comfortable space, a friendly welcome and good refreshments. You'll find it running Mondays and Thursdays, 10am-12 noon.

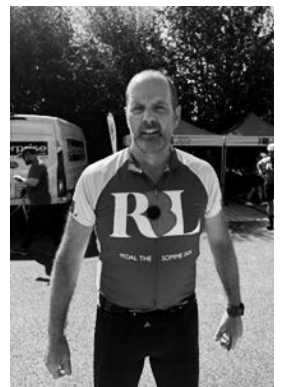
Veterans' news

Low Furlong Care Home hosted a warm and well supported Veterans' Breakfast Club on 27 June, bringing residents, local veterans, and members of the Shipston community together in celebration of Armed Forces Day. The morning was marked by camaraderie, conversation, and a shared commitment to honouring those who have served. The event raised valuable funds for the Shipston Branch of the Royal British Legion, thanks to the generosity of attendees and supporters. Special thanks go to Low Furlong Care Home and Clare Cuthbert for this fantastic initiative that ensures veterans in our community remain connected, recognised, and supported. The next Veterans' Breakfast **Club be** on 19 September. See *ad on page 16*.



Peddalling the Somme

In July, Martin Corby, a committee member of the Shipston RBL, successfully completed the 2026 Pedal the Somme charity ride, a hard four-day ride blending physical endurance with reflection. He raised an impressive £1,455 in support of the RBL's work with veterans, serving personnel, and their families.



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

Rated 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 0-5 years: 9:30am-11am every week including during the school holidays. Badger Valley Children's Centre, Tileman's Lane. Free. 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

Baby Time for 0 to 1 years: Thursdays, 10 to 11.30 every week including during the school holidays. Badger Valley Children's Centre, Tileman's Lane. Free. Book via Eventbrite.

Story Stomp: 10am, Shipston Library

Community 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 Sue Taylor 01608 664490

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: August 2026

1st 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

2nd 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.

4th Stour Community Awareness Network (SCAN): Manuela Perteghella, MP for Stratford upon Avon. Townsend Hall, 10am for free refreshments, 10.30am start

4th Bereavement Café: 11am-1pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub first Tuesday of each month

4th Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm first Tuesday of each month

4th & 18th '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

5th & 19th Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

6th Shipston Library Coffee Morning: Featuring talks from local authors and local interest speakers. Free to attend, no booking required. Free refreshments available. 1st Thursday of the month, 10-11am.

8th Repair Café: 10am-2pm. Ellen Badger.

10th Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

11th Stour Valley Lions Meeting: 6.30pm for 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, second Tuesday of the month

15th Sunflower Judging: See ad on page 16

20th Drop-In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. Every third Thursday

21st 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

24th Holiday at Home

25th 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.

27th Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

28th Singing Down Memory Lane: 11:30 – 12:30 Ellen Badger. Free.



Shipston Town Council
are looking for a cleaner.
3hrs- once a week.

Please email
clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org
with your application.

Please note- This is for established cleaning businesses with insurance only.

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

Come and see some wildlife at **Holiday at Home**



on
August 24th



in the
Townsend Hall
10am—2.30pm



Cost £13

Bookings to Rosemary 01608 662584

**Quizzes, crafts, puzzles and games,
a 2 course lunch, all refreshments and a
display from**

Cotswold Falconry Centre



Holiday at Home is a project run by
Christians Together in Shipston and supported by
the Lions.

Free Meditation Taster Session

Discover the transformative power of Meditation and Mindfulness

An opportunity to attend a free, no-obligation taster session for the upcoming course:
Meditation and Mindfulness for Health and Wellbeing.

This secular, practical course gives you everyday tools to:

- **Reduce stress** and mental overload
- **Sharpen focus** and concentration
- **Manage pain** and navigate emotions
- **Build self-awareness** and respond instead of react

The Details

1. Free Taster Session

- **When:** Wednesday 2nd September | 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- **Where:** The Well-Being Space, Ellen Badger Hospital
- **Cost:** FREE
- **What to expect:** Explore the core benefits of mindfulness and meditation, experience a short guided meditation seated in chairs and preview the 4 week course curriculum. No prior experience is required.

2. Follow-On 4-Week Course

- **When:** Wednesdays | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Starts the following week)
- **Where:** The Well-Being Space, Ellen Badger Hospital
- **Cost:** £80 per person

Book Your Space

Spaces are limited. To book your free taster spot or find out more, contact:
Emma Bayliss - elhughes@outlook.com

Shipston Proms 'a triumph'

'A magical two weeks' 'a triumph!' say the delighted organisers. Here are some photos that record this varied fortnight of music in the town.



Misspent Ukes at Songs from the Shows



Generation Jones at The Horseshoe, part of the Pub Trail



Enjoying Ibiza Night



Greg Brice and Jack Thomas at Thirst Edition



Studio 54 70s Disco Night



Folk Night at the Black Horse



Mrs Porter's Chamberpot Pourri at the Church



Open Mic Night at the Black Horse



Conservation corner

Let's make a hedgehog highway

Shipston is lucky to have hedgehogs living in several areas. However, every year, hedgehogs are killed or injured on roads as they travel around a mile every night. We can help reduce this by making it easier for them to get around safely.



Safe passage for a hedgehog!



Oscar at work

Hedgehog holes cut in fences allow them to travel between gardens without needing to use the road. So the more holes we can make around Shipston, the safer our hedgehogs will be. Shipston carpenter Oscar Wilson has offered to help and will make a hole in a fence for free. Do check with any neighbours first! As the size of hole cutter needed is difficult to use, it's best to get the job done professionally. Oscar can be reached on 07354 082975 or enquiries@wilsoncarpentryrestoration.co.uk

Heidi Ellis

An amazing swift season

Any minute now, the swift chicks that have only recently fledged will be off to Africa and we won't see them again until June next year.

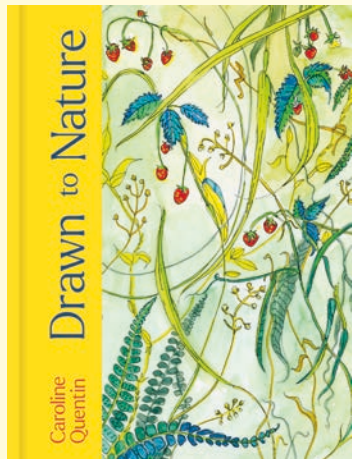
The annual Swift Walk was fully booked again this year, with walkers able to observe swallows' nests and a sizeable number of house martins before going on to see the natural swift nest sites in the eaves of various locations, and to watch the swifts coming in to roost in their colony boxes. These remarkable birds swoop and scream at breakneck speeds, entering their nests with astonishing accuracy, carrying food in their throat pouch for the chicks, all caught in flight.

It has been exciting to watch the juveniles prospect for vacant nesting places for their own breeding next year or the following one. I haven't known a swift season as good since 2014.

There is a supply of nest boxes available to help colonies to expand, made by the Men's Shed Group in Moreton in Marsh. Please get in touch if you have or know of a suitable location to install a box or two. It all bodes well for the future, and it would be wonderful to think that our work over the past few years has helped to stem the decline of this fabulous, iconic species. Jacey Jackson. swifts@2jays.co.uk

Bookfest

Shipston Bookfest returns from Friday 18 to Sunday 27 September, bringing bestselling authors, poets and local talent to venues across the town, alongside a full programme of events for children and families. The festival opens on Friday 18 September with a panel featuring Kate Riordan and Claire Quinn discussing their psychological thrillers set in atmospheric locations.



On Saturday 19, bestselling author and actress Caroline Quentin visits to discuss her book *Drawn to Nature*, a beautifully illustrated celebration of the outdoors. The day also includes a wine masterclass with Paul Declerck at Sheldon's Wine Cellars (complimentary glass included), and an evening pairing the Local Author Showcase with a new Community Book Swap.

Sunday 20 opens with a family event featuring Nicola Baker's charming Whistledown Farm series, followed by an evening of live poetry with performer Bassie Gracie and local poets.

Midweek highlights include environmental writer Fred Pearce for S.M.E.'s Green Book Talk, and the popular literary quiz at Thirst Edition on Thursday 24.

Friday 25 sees the literary lunch return, this year at The Bower House with James Macdonald Lockhart, followed by a crime panel that evening.

Saturday 26 is our busiest day: a journal-making workshop with Mallory Journals; Matthew Rice discussing *A Year in the Garden*; a science and wellness talk with Dr Helen Pilcher; our Sci-Fi Panel, and a family event with Alexander Armstrong.

The festival closes on Sunday 27 with adventurer Charlie Walker discussing *On Thin Ice*, and A K Blakemore on *Doom Painting*, her retelling of the 14th-century Peasants' Revolt.



Charlie Walker

Alongside the adult programme, Bookfest maintains its commitment to younger readers. Authors and performers including Ben Davis, the Brothers McLeod, Cat Weatherill and Memorhyme visit Shipston Primary and High Schools throughout the week, and Calypso Kids returns for a family session on Sunday 27.

Full event details, ticket information and updates are on the Bookfest website. Some events have limited capacity, so early booking is recommended.



Writing competition

Shipston Museum is collaborating with Shipston BookFest and Shipston & District Literary Society with a Tramway200 writing competition. Enter with up to 750 words of poetry or prose inspired by the 200th anniversary of the Stratford to Moreton Railway. For more details and images to inspire you, visit the Museum (weekends 12-4pm) and see the SMT200 Facebook page for details. The closing date is 5 September, with select readings to feature on Sunday 20 September at Shipston Bookfest.

Tramway200 | Verse Writing Competition

Shipston Museum, Shipston BookFest and Shipston and District Literary Society invite you to join us in verse ~



*Stratford to Moreton
A rail-road revolution of sorts
Waggons hauling coal from the Midlands
Horse-drawn, and with it great hope*



*Two hundred years on we so cherish
A quietly forgotten age
Penn a verse to remember
Our quaint olde tramway - pioneering the iron waye*

This year, Shipston Museum has a significant focus on **Tramway200** as we mark the 200th Anniversary of Stratford to Moreton Railway opening in 1826.

Verse has recorded significant moments of this early, pioneering railway. Please penn a verse and we will gather the contributions for addition to the unfolding history of Shipston and district. Your submission should be ~

- ~ Poetry or prose
- ~ Up to 750 words
- ~ Inspired by The Stratford to Moreton Railway

For images and inspiration, please pop into Shipston Museum (open weekends 12 noon to 4pm) or visit the Tramway200 FaceBook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/SMT200>

Entry categories ~ on 5th September 2026
up to 12 years; age 13-17 years; and +18 years.

Deadline ~ Typed entries to be received please by 5th September 2026 - two hundred years to the day since an immense crowd welcomed the first train of horse-drawn waggons into Moreton Wharf. Please email your entry along with name, date of birth, address and telephone number to:

enquiries@shipstonmuseum.co.uk

Select readings will go on to feature at a poetry live event on the evening of Sunday, 20th September 2026 at 7:30pm as part of **Shipston Bookfest**.

SHIPSTON Music Society

making music

mad harpist's TEA PARTY

A relaxing hour of music for all the family with Manon Browning

Saturday 12 September
at 3 p.m.
in Shipston Methodist Church,
52 New Street, CV36 4EN.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and
home made cakes from 2.30
and after the concert.

Admission £10,
school age children free.

If you would like to know more please
contact Laurie Grove at 07779151947

Charity number 1146459

Registered Charity No. 1162586

10k FUN RUN / WALK
WALTON HALL
Sunday 18th October
Walton Hall, CV35 9HG

Adult advance entry: £20 (run), £10 (walk)
Child advance entry: £5 (age 16 and under)

Pre-registered runners will be electronically timed

Medal included and hot roll at the finish line!

Registration: 8.45am Start: 10am

Online entry closes midnight 9th October

By kind permission of Sir Andrew Hamilton and Walton Hall
For more information email fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk

SHIPSTON HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES
PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO OUR

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 17th September, 2026

The evening will commence with the Headteacher's presentation at 5.30 p.m.
(which will be repeated at 7 p.m.)
followed by an opportunity to view the school until 7.30 p.m.

OPEN MORNING

Thursday 24th September, 2026 9.00-10.30 a.m.

"Pupils are at the centre of school life at Shipston High. They uphold the school's values of learning, respect, ambition and achievement in their actions."
Ofsted July 2023

"Pupils show positive attitudes towards learning. This is clear through their written work and the pride they have in their achievements."
Ofsted July 2023

If you have any queries our contact details are:
Telephone: 01608 661833 e-mail: info@shipstonhigh.co.uk
Address: Darlingscote Road, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4DY Website: www.shipstonhigh.co.uk

Shipston High School

A busy and successful end to the academic year.

As we rapidly approached the end of another academic year, there were certainly no signs of slowing down at our school. The final weeks of term were packed with exciting opportunities, memorable experiences and strong community partnerships that continue to enrich the lives of our students.

One of the highlights of the term was Primary Rounders Tournaments, which brought together pupils from our local primary schools for a fantastic afternoon of sport, teamwork and healthy competition. It was wonderful to see so many young people enjoying themselves and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship throughout the event.

We were delighted to welcome 135 Year 5 pupils from our partner primary schools for a STEM Sustainability Day. Working in teams, pupils tackled a sustainability challenge inspired by our recycling project celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday. Using recycled materials, including plastic bottles collected during our recycling initiative, the pupils designed and created innovative solutions while developing their science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills. Their creativity, enthusiasm and problem-solving abilities were truly impressive.

Our transition programme for incoming Year 6 pupils has also been a great success. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the pupils through a variety of activities designed to help them feel confident and excited about joining us in September. During our Activities Evening, pupils experienced a range of subjects and enrichment opportunities, including making naan pizzas, building and programming robots, exploring watercolour art techniques and taking part in football activities. This was followed by our successful induction day, and we are looking forward to welcoming pupils back in the final week of term for our annual Inflatables Evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to say just how fantastic our primary pupils have been throughout every event. They have approached each opportunity with energy, positivity and

exemplary behaviour, and we cannot wait to see them begin the next stage of their educational journey with us.

Our Year 10 students have also made us incredibly proud during their recent work experience placements. Feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, with students demonstrating professionalism, maturity and a willingness to learn. Following this, our Year 9 students participated in a Careers Day, gaining valuable insight into future pathways and opportunities available to them.

We concluded the year with our much-anticipated Enrichment Week, providing students with a variety of experiences beyond the classroom. The week began with 'Get Inspired Day', where students had the opportunity to learn a new skill. On 'Get Involved Day', students gave back to their local communities through a range of service activities. 'Get Active Day' saw students competing in Sports Day, while 'Get Wild Day' encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones and embrace new challenges. Finally, 'Get Messy Day' brought the year to a colourful close with our exciting Colour Run.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the organisations, businesses and community groups supporting our Enrichment Week and the many events that have taken place throughout the year. Your generosity, expertise and partnership provide invaluable opportunities for our young people, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

Finally, as Mr Larkin and I conclude our time as Acting Headteachers, we would like to thank our students, staff, parents and the wider community for the encouragement and support we have received. It has been a privilege to lead the school during this period, and we are proud of all that has been achieved together. We now look forward to welcoming Dan Rushworth as Headteacher in September and are excited about the future of the school under his leadership.

On behalf of everyone at the school, we wish you a happy, safe and enjoyable summer break.

Ms Allsworth

Shipston Primary School

Year 4 Camp-out

Year 4 had an over night adventure recently when they camped on the school field. The adventure started when they returned to school at 6pm after everyone else had gone. After dropping their things in their tents, they enjoyed an evening of activities including a nature treasure hunt, rounders, making 's'mores in Forest School, parachute games, football and a water fight. Many thanks to Mr Nelson, Mr Jeffrey, Miss Sabin and Mr Hughes for helping to set the tents up and to Mr Moorby, Mrs Proud, Miss Buckley, Mrs Hart, Miss Digweed, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Wisdom for giving their time and making this wonderful memory happen for the children.

Bon Voyage, Year 6!

As well as their traditional end of year musical performance (this year it was 'Porridge' based around a variety of fairy tales), wheels days, swimming and ice cream, our Year 6 pupils celebrated the end of their primary school journey with an unforgettable trip to the West Midlands Safari Park. The excitement kicked off right from the start as we drove through the safari, getting up close and personal with some incredible wildlife. The adventure continued on foot during the walking safari, where the children

explored the discovery trails and learned about fascinating exotic animals. The children also had a great time braving the theme park rides! It was the perfect way to celebrate their time together, creating lasting memories as they prepare to take their next big step into secondary school.

Year 5 STEM Day

Our Year 5 children enjoyed a fantastic day at the High School before the end of term, making bottle rockets and generally learning more about science and engineering whilst having the chance to explore all that the High School can offer them in the future.

Goodbye Mr Roberts, hello Mr Grana!

The end of term marked the end of Mr Roberts' time at Shipston Primary. After 30 years in education and 11 very happy years at Shipston, it is time to retire. Mr Orlando Grana will be taking over as Head in September. He was appointed at Easter and has been working closely with Mr Roberts and the rest of the school leadership to ensure that there is a smooth transition and that our lovely school continues to be one where children are welcomed, thrive and succeed. Mr Roberts is opening The Lilypad Bookshop in Ashley's Alley, so hop in and see him.

Shipston Archers

Shipston Archers is a well-established club that meets twice a week at Brailes village hall. We welcome new members and offer a free Have a Go taster session and coaching



for anyone who wants to try our sport. You don't need your own equipment - we have plenty you can use and you can rent it later if you decide to take up archery. We take new archers from the age of 10 and have fully licensed coaches to help you learn. We will be at both the Brailes and Ilmington shows this year, so come and meet us there and have a go.

We look forward to meeting you soon! Any questions? Drop us an email at shipstonarchers@gmail.com or have a look at our website www.the-shipston-archers.com.

Shipston Rotary

Shipston Rotary club members Bob Armstrong, Mark Barnes and Gerald Newell joined a team of Rotarians collecting money at Morrisons in Stratford for the Kwale Eye Hospital in Kenya. Mark has been working at the hospital on his trips to Kenya to visit family at least twice a year since 2021. He says: 'The Kwale Eye Hospital, founded by one woman and now employing 65 local people, has delivered over 45,000 sight-restoring operations and runs outreach and education programmes in East Africa. Our aim was to raise enough money to buy all the renewable equipment used to perform eye operations at 'cataract camps' in remote areas. Our target was £850, but through a pledge of £500 from the club and the Morrisons collection we have been able to send £908. A wonderful achievement!'



For the 12th year running, 40 people from support groups in Shipston and Low Furlong residents headed off to Weston Super Mare on 29 June for a lovely day of sunshine, fish & chips and ice creams.

President of Shipston Rotary Fay Ivens was delighted to present a cheque for £10,000 to the Chairman of the Youth Club trustees, Rev. Daniel Pulham, towards the refurbishment costs of the new Youth Club.



On Saturday 15 August, the Rotary will be out and about measuring sunflowers in gardens that have been entered into its annual Tallest Sunflower competition. There is still time to enter for a chance of winning a £10 Amazon voucher, in two classes, under-11s and over 11s. Contact Fay Ivens on 01608 662133 or email fivens13@gmail.com

Stour Valley Lions



After a range of fundraising events, it was a great



pleasure for Duncan Cashmore, the President of Stour Valley Lions, to present a cheque for £4,047.85 to Daniel Pulham and Tony Joint from Shipston's Youth Club. Duncan also presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Tony Joint in a recognition of his invaluable, long-standing and fantastic support.

The June book sale raised £500. The proceeds will be allocated to Stour Valley Lions' charitable organisations.



Benches

Stour Valley Lions have placed benches in various locations around Shipston. Some of the benches are ageing and we are considering replacement options. Would you like to sponsor



a bench in memory of loved one by dedicating a bench to them? The bench would have a brass plaque engraved with details engraved of the person you wish to remember. Each bench would cost £700. See contact details below.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 8 August. Bingo 6.30-10.30pm. Townsend Hall.

Saturday 15 & 22 August. Summer raffle ticket sales. Coop.

Friday 11 September. Film Night. 7pm for 7.30. Townsend Hall.

Saturday 12 September. Book sale. 9.30am-1pm. The Scout Hut.

Save the date!

On 12 September from 12 noon-5pm, Charles Hanson, who appears on Bargain Hunt and who works for Hansons Auctioneers will give a brief talk about his experience on Bargain Hunt and

then he will carry out valuations on items brought in by members of the public. Further details to follow.

Stour Valley Lions always welcomes new members! You can contact us on enquiries@stourvalleylions.club or call us on 0345 833 2835.

Probus visits the Motor Museum



The British Motor Museum at Gaydon houses the world's largest collection of British cars, spanning the entire history of the British motor industry beginning with the bicycle which really started it all in the 1890s: the Starley Rover. This was the first modern bicycle as we know it today, with equal-sized wheels and chain driven by pedals. It was so successful that a new company was formed, taking the name of 'Rover'.

The collection includes the very first Land Rover, the first Morris Minor (both from the same year, 1948), the first Mini and the last Rover Mini Cooper, the first Range Rover, and much more of historical importance. There is also a collection of experimental gas-turbine vehicles built by the Rover company. Familiar names abound: Austin, Morris, Riley, Wolseley, MG (some very sleek prototypes here) Triumph, Lotus, Hillman, Jaguar, Reliant and more.

After lunch we explored the Jaguar Heritage Centre, with an imposing array of Jaguars and many very familiar models, including the iconic E-Type, the racing D-Types, various XK models, and the ubiquitous Mark 2, used in many a police drama on television.

A most satisfying and enjoyable day, with good company of our friends and colleagues.



If you feel Probus could appeal to you, then why not give us a try as our guest? Enjoy a free lunch and no initial commitment to join, entirely your choice! Please contact Chris Skeath on 01608 661561 or email cmskeath@hotmail.com for further details.

Women's Institute



Many Shipstonians believe that Shipston is the centre of England and, therefore, can claim to be as far from the sea as it is possible to be. At the meeting of the Women's Institute held on 1 July, the seaside came to Shipston. The theme of the evening was 'Oh I do like to be beside the seaside'.

Members came sporting sunhats and sunglasses and enjoyed an evening of bingo, ice cream and a lot of laughter. President, Julie, deserves congratulations for valiantly playing her part as bingo caller for the evening.

The garden party on 16 June was very successful and raised welcome funds. It was a glorious day and Julie thanked Anne and her husband Roger for making their garden available and for the hard preparation work involved.

Events for the summer include a trip to Waterperry Gardens on 1 August ~~and the WI will be involved in the Community Fun Day planned by the Town Council.~~ The next meeting will be on 2 September when the talk will be about historic crime. New members and visitors are welcome at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm.

Townsend Hall

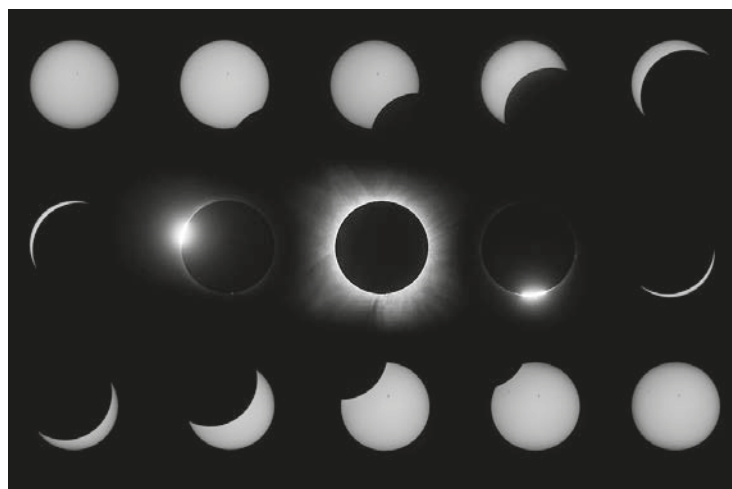


A date for the diary! Friday 9 October will see Kim Cypher's Funky Latin Jazz Party at the Townsend Hall. An uplifting, vibrant show full of positive energy and feel-good vibes, it is a welcome return for one of the country's most exciting saxophonists, vocalists and composers Kim Cypher, together with her band of top UK jazz musicians.

Astronomical Society



Two cosmic events will be happening this August, starting with a total eclipse of the sun on 12 August from 18:27 BST. Totality is visible in Greenland, Iceland, the North Atlantic, Spain and Portugal, but in Warwickshire we will be treated to a 90% eclipse at 19.13 BST before last contact at 20.06 BST. Daylight will noticeably dip, and you might even hear birds singing, they are assuming it is twilight! Please do not look directly at the sun without proper protection, which means solar eclipse glasses, or a telescope with a solar filter or a dedicated solar telescope. More information from <https://ukeclipse.com>.



The Perseid meteor showers peak and are best observed in the evening or the early hours of the morning of the 13th. They are most comfortably observed lying on a sun lounger and looking north. With a bit of luck, you will see meteors (shooting stars) emanating from the Perseus constellation.

If these get you interested in the night sky, find out more about the Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society from <http://www.astro.org.uk>.

County Council

As you may have seen, I put a newsflash out when the decision was made to split Warwickshire into two unitary authorities. So now we are firmly in the South Warwickshire Council - what next? Well after a couple of days to cogitate this is what I have come up with. Steve Reed, the Secretary of State in charge of local government reform, used to lead Lambeth Council, so as a former Brixton resident I know him well: a total metropolitan and not a lot of understanding of the English counties! Splitting our historic county is sad, but financially will be better for us in the south. We think that the election will be in May 2027, to what is known as a shadow authority. We think that it will probably be on the basis of existing wards. We will be made up of Stratford and Warwick District Council areas. We haven't got a clue when the election of the entire new council will be, but rest assured that I will continue to represent you using all my years of experience whatever happens!

District Council

As I write on 16 July, it has been a momentous 24 hours for South Warwickshire — from a major council decision on the Local Plan, to England's World Cup semi-final, and finally news about the future structure of local government in Warwickshire.

Yesterday, we spent nearly five hours in the District Council chamber at Elizabeth House. The main item on the agenda was whether to proceed with the South Warwickshire Local Plan to the Regulation 19 stage. The day before, I had written a speech explaining why I expected to vote in favour of the Plan. Shipston is no longer proposed as a Strategic Growth Area; the Fell Mill and Shoulderway Lane land parcels have not been included; and, for the 612 possible new homes, there is reference to more primary school provision, buses to Stratford every 20 minutes, and a community garden. I agree with many of the policies the Plan aspires to, and I recognise that having a planning policy in place gives us greater protection from endless developer speculation. I am also sympathetic to the Planning Authorities' predicament: central government has required us to increase our housing stock by 40% over the next 25 years. However, when taking the whole District into consideration, I could not vote for this solution. If there had been a settlement with a railway station, and if Long Marston were not dependent on a Stratford Western bypass, then I would have supported it. But a Plan that risks locking in car dependency across the district for decades to come, and blighting the communities of Bidford, Wellesbourne and Southam, could not get my vote. The Plan did, however, pass

In other news, I am working cross party and with all health providers to save the role of Healthwatch for Warwickshire which the Labour government has wound up.

School's out for summer. If you are tearing your hair out about next year – transitions or SEND issues – please get in touch. I am around most of the summer for a cuppa and a chat!

Can I make a further plea that we do our best as locals to pause a beat before we react online (the Noticeboard) or even in person? The hot weather has made us all a bit grumpy, but maybe we can restore normal Shipston behaviour? Just have a think about your impact.

Big hugs to all of you.

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division
077489 68712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk



by a majority, so it will now proceed to the Regulation 19 stage. Comments can be made on the legality, viability and deliverability of the Plan until 8 September. More information is available on the South Warwickshire Local Plan website.

After the meeting, I hot-footed it to the pub to watch England bow out of the World Cup. I loved watching this team progress to the semi-finals. They have represented such a positive image of this country: a multicultural, cohesive team that has inherited the Southgate pride and culture of standing up to racism, and that embodies how enriching immigration can be for Britain. These footballing role models matter, especially at a time when casual racism and hate crime incidents are increasing. If you witness or experience any hate incident, there is a Warwickshire-based organisation that can offer support: Report a Hate Crime - Warwickshire Hate Crime Partnership.

Finally, this morning brought welcome news: Warwickshire is set to have two unitary authorities. The Government announced that Stratford District will combine with Warwick District, and part of Warwickshire County Council, so all council matters will be under one roof. This is good news for democracy, and the move towards a South Warwickshire Authority begins next May.

Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North
07752562114 | olivia.hatch@stratford-dc.gov.uk



Letters

Home produce

I wonder if any long time residents remember the Shipston-on-Stour Self-Sufficiency Group? I was recently given a *Home Produce Book* written by them dated 1985. It was produced by Betty Bryan. I am planning to donate the book to our Museum, but it would be lovely to have some more information to send with it!

Bridget Smith alisonbridgetsmith@googlemail.com

RNLI thanks

A big thank you to the people of Shipston on Stour and neighbouring villages for helping us raise just over £700 on our collecting day on 20 June. A special thank you to the George Townhouse for letting us use the Garden Room, Turners Vegetable Shop for looking after our collectors, Sarah Taylor for checking the 'books' and the Post Office for letting us use their table for RNLI information, as well as to the various shops for letting us put up Yellow Welly Posters. Shipston is such a friendly town, let's keep it that way.

Jenny Plenderleith

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



Vanessa Benjamin-Smith

SAFAG Chair

e: vanessa.benjamin-smith@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vivien Walden

e: vivien.walden@shipstontowncouncil.org



Vacancy

Useful contacts

Community Links Transport

01789 264491

Shipston Library:

0300 5558171

- 24/7 renewal line

01926 499273

Highways customer services

01926 412515

Severn Trent Emergency Line:

0800 7834444

Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme (VASA)

01789 262889

Shipston Leisure Centre

01608 662354

Shipston Medical Centre

01608 661845

- Out of hours

111

Shipston Link (local transport)

01386 593446

Shipston Recycling Centre

01926 412593

Stratford District Council

01789 267575

Townsend Hall

07514 704057

Warwickshire County Council

01926 410410

UCHW Hospital

024 7696 4000

Warwick Hospital

01926 495321

Samaritans

116 123

Food Bank

07386 352456

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

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 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.



Who can grow the
Tallest
Sunflower?
Judging on
15th August

Shipston on Stour Rotary Club
To enter contact Fay Ivens
01608 662133



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  **Saturday 19th September**  **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

Booking essential – please reserve your place by Monday 20th July for catering purposes.
Contact Clare on 07940 786755
or email clare.cuthbert1510@hotmail.com

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