



Shipston Forum



September 2026

Book now for Bookfest!



Shipston Bookfest is back! Bringing bestselling authors, poets and local talent to venues across the town, this year it will feature broadcaster Alexander Armstrong, artist Matthew Rice, and acclaimed novelist AK Blakemore. New this year are dedicated crime and sci-fi panels

and there is a full family programme for the festival which runs from Friday 18 to Sunday 27 September.

Opening weekend kicks off with a psychological thrillers panel (Kate Riordan and Claire Quinn), followed by Caroline Quentin on *Drawn to Nature*, and the local author showcase paired with a new community book swap. Sunday brings a family event with Nicola Baker's *Whistledown Farm* series and an electric evening of live poetry with Bassie Gracie.

Midweek, environmental writer Fred Pearce headlines SAFE's Green Book Talk, and the Literary Quiz returns to Thirst Edition. Friday 25 sees the Literary Lunch at The Bower House with James Macdonald Lockhart, followed that evening by *The Plot Thickens*, a crime panel with Tim Sullivan, Guy Jenkin and MRG Davies.

Saturday 26 is the festival's biggest day. After a journal-making workshop with Mallory Journals, Matthew Rice discusses *A Year in the Garden*, before science writer Dr Helen Pilcher uncovers the 'nocebo effect' – the placebo's evil twin, and the surprising ways our minds can make us ill. Families are in for a treat with Alexander Armstrong, and the evening



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closes with *Beyond the Stars: Three Legends of Modern Sci-Fi*, a rare gathering of genre giants Peter F. Hamilton, Christopher Ruocchio and Adrian Tchaikovsky.

The festival closes Sunday 27 with adventurer Charlie Walker (*On Thin Ice*) and then AK Blakemore discussing *Doom Painting*, her epic and striking retelling of the 14th-century Peasants' Revolt.



Throughout the week, authors including Ben Davis, the Brothers McLeod, Cat Weatherill and Memorhyme will visit local schools, with Calypso Kids closing out the family programme on Sunday 27.

Some events have limited capacity, so booking is recommended. Full details and tickets at shipstonbookfest.org.



Wow flowers!

We had a lot of sun this summer, but some Shipston gardeners managed to conjure up even more from their green fingers. Entrants to Shipston Rotary's sunflower competition achieved some amazing heights with their blooms this year. Mabel Rivett, aged 5, managed to grow hers to a giant 10ft 1 inches – and she wasn't even the winner! See more radiant photos on the centre pages.



A helping hand



Ever wondered how Shipston's weekly foodbank works? The service offers groceries, essential items and fresh produce to those in need, as well as a friendly welcoming place where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

In our centre pages, the team takes us behind the scenes on a Saturday morning. See pages 8/9.

Local Plan reminder

Housing and infrastructure is a hot topic in Shipston. If you want a say in the way we live and work between now and 2050, you have until 8 September to engage in the South Warwickshire Local Plan proposals. The Local Plan aims 'to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and the right type and number of homes and employment sites' are delivered across the area for the next two-and-half decades. It sets out the policies that will be used to make decisions on planning applications for major schemes for new homes and schools as well as for smaller projects.

Go to the website to find out more and how you can comment. <https://southwarwickshire.oc2.uk/document/168>



In this issue

Shipston's sewage problem – page 3

Volunteers wanted! – page 4

A morning in the life of the Food Bank – pages 8

Cornmill Meadows – five years on – pages 9

Get into classical music the fun way – page 12/13

Mayor's column

One of the great privileges of serving as Mayor is being invited to so many events that showcase the very best of our town and the people who make it special. This month has been full of those moments.

It was a real treat to officially open the Shipston Lodge Summer Fête.

It was wonderful to see residents, families and volunteers enjoying such a fantastic afternoon together, and it was a reminder of just how much dedication goes into organising community events like these. I would particularly like to pay tribute to the Stour Valley Lions, whose members continue to give so much of their time to support our community. Whether organising events, raising money for local causes or simply lending a helping hand wherever it is needed, they are an organisation that quietly makes Shipston a better place to live.

Another real honour was officially opening The Lilypad Children's Bookshop on Sheep Street. Seeing a new independent business open its doors is always something to celebrate, but there was something especially uplifting about welcoming a bookshop to our town. Owners Glyn and Emma-Jane Roberts have created a beautiful space that I know will inspire children to discover the joy of reading for years to come. It also feels like perfect timing as we look ahead to another excellent Shipston Bookfest. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a well-supported festival in a town of our size, and I hope residents will enjoy the programme and continue supporting our newest independent retailer long after the festival has finished.

Away from Shipston, I was delighted to attend the Battle of Evesham Festival as a guest of the Mayor of Evesham. As someone with more than a passing interest in medieval history, it was a fascinating day. Seeing one of England's most significant medieval battles brought to life through such high-quality re-enactment was both entertaining and educational, and a reminder of how history continues to connect communities across the region.

As memorable as those events were, two moments this month have stayed with me more than any others because together they say something important about the character of Shipston.

The first was attending the High Sheriff of Warwickshire's Change Maker Awards, where I was immensely proud to see our own Tony Booth recognised for his outstanding contribution to the community. Many people will know Tony through his years as a town councillor, Community First Responder and youth leader. His award was thoroughly deserved and recognised decades of quiet, selfless service to others. Watching someone from our town receive that recognition on a county stage was a genuinely proud moment.

The second was rather different but no less inspiring.

A few weeks ago, I received a handwritten letter from Luna, a ten-year-old resident of Shipston. Having already gathered support



from her neighbours, she wrote to me with thoughtful ideas about improving one of our play areas. I was incredibly impressed not just by the quality of her ideas, but by the confidence she showed in deciding she wanted to make a difference to her town.

It struck me that, despite the difference in their ages, Tony and Luna represent exactly the same spirit. One has spent decades serving his community; the other is only just beginning her journey. Both saw something they cared about and decided to do something about it. That, to me, is what community is all about.

Shipston has always been a town where people step forward. Whether it is volunteering, fundraising, organising events, supporting neighbours or simply speaking up for something they believe will improve our town, it is those countless acts of service that make this such a wonderful place to live. As Mayor, I am lucky enough to see those acts of kindness and commitment every week, and they continually remind me why I am so proud to represent our town.

As summer continues, I hope many of you will enjoy everything that is still to come, particularly Shipston Bookfest, and I look forward to seeing you around our brilliant town.

Richard Walters

Mayor of Shipston

News from Shipston Town Council's August meeting

Environment

Following the theft of the water butt from the sensory garden, volunteers have decided against adding a tool shed. A proposal to engage Midland Tree Care for restoration work on Riverside will go to the finance committee. Expenditure for SAFAG materials was also approved.

Planning

Cllr Tesh reported no further updates in terms of pending applications for developments, although WCC has requested further information about traffic flow. Archaeological trial pits being dug at the proposed Fell Mill site will need to be evaluated and then fed into the environmental statement.

The Local Plan is expected to be published in mid-December, and all councillors were reminded about the consultation period which closes on 8 September. Cllr Barker is to look into whether the hoardings around the new Sainsbury's are in line with regulations re advertising.

General purposes and communications

Urgent tree surgery work at the cemetery is to go ahead, along with a town tree survey. A proposal for planting of six trees at the Sports Club is also to be taken further. An annual audit of Council-controlled playgrounds will go ahead. The Council will seek funding options for the use of the twin chapels, with an outline plan for its use as a wellbeing/craft venue.

Finance

A small working group will be set up by the end of August to oversee the end of the Hub lease, due to expire at the end of 2027.

Council agreed to a proposed application for CIL infrastructure planning for an all-weather pitch, involving the Council, Football Club and High School.

Stratford District Council

Cllr Passingham has been surveying trees in town with a Tree Protection Order and considering which additional trees should be given a TPO. He will get agreement of landowners and come back with a full list.

Warwickshire County Council

Cllr Barker highlighted how the collection of unwanted fridges and freezers has stalled due to a lack of facilities at national level, and her concern that it will mean an increase in fly-tipping.

Can our sewage system cope?

Councillor John Williams has been looking into the issue of sewage capacity in Shipston:

Many residents assume that Shipston’s Fell Mill facility functions as a fully self-contained sewage treatment plant capable of processing all our local wastewater on-site. However, data recently obtained directly from Severn Trent under an Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) request paints a very different picture: Fell Mill relies heavily on a large-scale tankering operation to haul raw sewage away by road.

The figures reveal a dramatic surge in road transport off-site. In 2020, the facility recorded 161 tanker trips removing 3,182 cubic metres of sewage. By 2025, that volume had more than doubled to 314 trips taking away 6,407m³.

In total, between 2020 and mid-2026, 1,352 heavy tanker loads—carrying over 27.5 million litres of sewage—have been trucked out of Shipston to distant processing sites.

With multiple planning applications proposing new housing developments across the town, these numbers highlight a critical issue: our local infrastructure is already struggling to cope.

If new housing is approved without major investments in local wastewater/sewage processing capacity, the additional load cannot be treated on-site. Instead, it will simply drive up the number of heavy tankers navigating our local roads.

Rather than relying on continuous road haulage as a temporary patch, Severn Trent must focus on investing in proper permanent infrastructure and expanding treatment plant capacity to ensure the town’s system can actually handle current and future demand.

This information was obtained using an Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) request. Like Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, EIR gives any resident or community group the legal right to request environmental and utility data directly from providers like Severn Trent, free of charge. It must be answered in 20 days. EIR@severntrent.co.uk



Blue Light

Cllr Booth highlighted how call-outs for Shipston First Responders had risen in the heatwaves. A new defibrillator has been installed at Ilmington village shop, bringing the total to 65 in the area. The First Responders will hold more public training sessions at the Ellen Badger soon.

PC Hammond’s report showed an increase in car and car key thefts locally, with thefts from outbuildings also on the rise. He advised reporting on Warwickshire Connected, the police’s free messaging service.



Sensory Garden

Y10 pupils did some tidying up at the Sensory Garden during the last week of the summer term as part of their Community Enrichment Day and we thank them for their hard work.



Sadly, there has been more vandalism at the garden with the water butt (installed last autumn) and compost bin lids being stolen. The theft was reported to the police. It is very disheartening for the volunteers who give up their time to look after Shipston Town Council’s garden. I can understand when people who help say to me ‘Why should I bother?’ Then, in late August, the water butt turned up again. Thank you to whoever returned it.

Hilary Kelly

Looking ahead: events in October

Jazz at Townsend Hall

Jazz lovers will be excited to know about the Kim Cypher concert on 9 October at the Townsend Hall. Doors open 7pm. Firmly rooted in her love and passion for funky saxophone and jazz greats such as Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday, Kim’s music covers a wide variety of styles including jazz, Latin, swing, reggae and funky grooves. Her all-round ability as a saxophonist, vocalist, composer and band leader, renowned for her lively, entertaining stage presence set Kim apart as a unique performer, described as ‘a rare musical treasure’ by Jazz FM’s David Freeman who has been a big champion of Kim’s music and who compered her *Catching Moments* album launch in 2024. <https://kimcypher.com/>

People’s Emergency Briefing

SAFE will be hosting the People’s Emergency Briefing, a film screening and discussion on the climate and nature crisis, at St Edmund’s Church on 8 October at 7pm. Nearly 2,720 of these screenings have now been held across the UK. The aim is for communities to come together, to brief themselves about the climate emergency, and to create the support needed to urge the government to stage a live broadcast. <https://www.nebriefing.org/peb>



Finding out about SAFAG

In July, Mike McCarthy delivered a presentation on SAFAG's history, current activities and ongoing objectives at an information session for volunteers and Shipston Town Councillors. This was followed by a visit to Woodlands Farm in Long Compton to inspect the range of interventions such as leaky dams, ponds and a wetland area.



Left to right, Trevor Bradnam, Dick Faithfull, Mike McCarthy, Hilary Kelly, Heidi Ellis, John Fedorowycz and Paul Neal at Woodlands Farm, Long Compton. Behind the camera-Vanessa Benjamin-Smith.

Samaritans: volunteers wanted

The Samaritans organisation we know today was founded by one man, Chad Varah, in 1952, and the need for our service is still as relevant today. Appalled at the suicide rate, Varah offered a free service for anyone in his parish who needed a confidential safe space where they could talk through troubles that were impacting their lives. Quickly inundated, he invited some women from his pastoral connections to volunteer their time to listen to those who needed to talk. These women were the first Samaritan volunteers. They listened without interrupting. They had no message and did not preach or judge.

The Samaritan Freephone line – 116 127 – is manned 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Every seven seconds a Samaritan will answer a call for help and last year we received over five million calls. We still follow the principles of listening without judgement.

Volunteering with Samaritans is an opportunity to make a real difference while gaining valuable skills and experience.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Samaritan, please call us on 01789 332545 or go online www.samaritans.org/support-us/volunteer/become-samaritans-listening-volunteer/. A new volunteer information session and welcome event at Tyler House, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6TY is taking place on Wednesday 16 September, 7-8.30pm. If you would like to help us in other ways, through fundraising or awareness-raising then please do not hesitate in contacting us on the Stratford number. We also provide talks to schools, community groups and services to business. Samaritans are ordinary people, just like you, doing extraordinary things every day.



Toy Library seeks volunteers

The Stour Toy Library is growing, and we're delighted to see more families making use of the sessions, *writes Rowena Webb from Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership*. As it continues to develop, we need your help! We are looking for more volunteers who can give just a few hours a month to help support the Toy Library sessions. Whether you have previous experience or simply enjoy spending time helping your local community, we'd love to hear from you.

The Toy Library sessions currently run on Tuesdays from 9.30am-11am and Thursdays from 11am-12 noon. If you are able to volunteer a few hours each month, please contact rowena@shwp.org.uk to express your interest.

Meanwhile there are plenty of new activities, services and opportunities helping residents stay active, cool and connected at the Ellen Badger Community Hub. An additional Seated Exercise Class will be run on Mondays at 9.30am, with a particular focus on fall prevention. It is a little more physical than our existing sessions, incorporating more standing exercises alongside seated activities. It is a great opportunity to build strength, improve balance and confidence, and stay active in a friendly and supportive environment. Places need to be booked in advance. To book your place, please email Rowena on the email address above.

During the summer months the Community Hub was rebranded as our Cool Hub – and it has been hugely appreciated by local residents, by providing a welcoming place to escape the heat, stay cool and spend time with others. It has been wonderful to see the community coming together and making the most of this valuable local resource. The Community Hub runs every Monday and Thursday from 10am-12 noon.

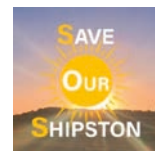
The Repair Cafe is back this month, after taking a well deserved rest for August. If you have an item to repair, please come along on 12 September from 10am-1pm where one of our volunteer repairers will be able to help.

All these activities are only possible thanks to the support of local residents, volunteers and community partners. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our sessions soon!

A little digging at Fell Mill

The developers are currently carrying out work to fulfil requirements made by Stratford-on-Avon District Council in response to their scoping document.

Archaeological assessments are underway, carried out by Rubicon Archaeology, a professional archaeological company. A geophysical survey was carried out before they started digging 32 archaeological trenches across the fields. We were told that they are particularly interested in finding evidence of Roman and Iron Age settlement. Any significant finds will be reported to Shipston's Historical Society, and material recovered from the site will eventually be passed to Shipston Museum once it has been analysed. We have been told that nothing significant



has been found so far. So, for now, we wait and see what — if anything — these 32 trenches reveal.

Some of you may also have noticed a large tripod-like structure with a generator beside it in the fields. The geologist overseeing this work explained that they are taking soil samples from different locations and at different depths to establish the mineral content of the ground. As he put it, there is a difference between what developers believe the mineral content of the soil to be and having actual samples from the site to provide the evidence.



We are still waiting for determination on the planning applications submitted all those months ago. As soon as we hear anything, we'll let you know.

Meanwhile there are two important ways to make your views heard. One is open right now. The South Warwickshire Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation is an important opportunity for people to have their say on the future of development across South Warwickshire. The consultation is open until 8 September,  so if you haven't already responded, there's still time.

The big one yet to come in is the Fell Mill planning application. We don't yet know when it will be submitted. But when it is, we will be ready, and we'll be letting you know exactly what is proposed and how you can object. In the meantime, the more people who know about Save Our Shipston, the better. So please tell your friends, family and neighbours about us and encourage them to sign up for our emails.

PS: if you occasionally see our posts on Facebook via the Shipston Notice Board, only to lose them as newer posts appear, please follow the **Save Our Shipston** pages directly. That way you won't miss an update when it matters.

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



To donate through **gofundme**  Scan me with your phone camera!
 Please go online and type in the link below:
 gofund.me/tall.bear.form 

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

Shipston Medical Centre

Refurbishment update



We're pleased to let our patients know that we are now entering the final stages of our refurbishment project. The front entrance to the practice has reopened, and dispensary services are once again available from the front of the building. Patient toilet facilities at the front of the practice are also back in use. However, due to essential works to the internal flat roof, we are unable to use part of the clinical corridor for a little while longer. This means our reception team will remain in their temporary location down the left-hand side of the building. Please follow the signs within and around the building that direct you to reception and other services. We expect the vast majority of the works associated with this phase of the refurbishment project will be completed by the middle of September.

Thank you to all our patients for their patience, understanding and support whilst these works have been taking place. We'd also like to thank our team, who have adapted to many different working environments over the past few months, and our contractors, who have worked hard to minimise disruption and have been as considerate as possible of the needs of the practice and our patients.

Patients visiting the practice will notice that only part of the building has been refurbished. This is because of the funding available for this phase of the project. We remain committed to improving the remainder of the building and will continue to explore future funding opportunities to enable further refurbishment work as and when funding becomes available.

As many of you will know, Shipston Medical Centre now provides services from two sites: Shipston Medical Centre and our consulting rooms on the first floor of the Ellen Badger Hospital. In general, more routine and planned care—including many pre-bookable appointments and proactive reviews—is likely to take place at Ellen Badger Hospital, while more urgent, same-day appointments are more likely to be held at Shipston Medical Centre. However, there are exceptions, and appointments may be booked at either site depending on the clinician, clinic and type of appointment.

When you receive your appointment confirmation, please check carefully which site you need to attend. Our text messages will clearly state either Shipston Medical Centre or Ellen Badger Hospital. Unfortunately, we continue to see patients occasionally attend the wrong site. We do our best to contact patients if we become aware of this in advance, but checking your appointment location before you travel will help to ensure your appointment runs smoothly and starts on time.

Thank you once again for your continued support as we complete this important investment in the future of Shipston Medical Centre.

Regular Events

Monday

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

Community Hub: 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub

Core Balance to Promote Falls Prevention: 9.30am-10.15am, Ellen Badger Hospital. Free

Seated Exercise Class: 10:30am or 11:30am, Ellen Badger Health and Wellbeing Hub

Story Stomp: Ages 2-4 10am, Shipston Library.

Pickleball: 1:30pm-3:30pm, Townsend Hall.

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

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



Strictly Fitsteps Fab: 10am, Townsend Hall

Rhyme Time: 10.30am, Shipston Library

Dementia Café: Shipston Lodge, 10.30am-12pm

Age Concern Lunch Club: Stour Court 12pm. Contact Jill Case 01608 662226

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

Let's Play for 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.

Community Warm Welcome: 2pm-4pm, Shipston Methodist Church, New Street (Sep-Mar) free refreshments, games, jigsaws or just company and a chat

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.

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 stoursingers@gmail.com

Friday

Pilates for Complete Beginners: 9.30am Townsend Hall

GLOSS: Crafty Coffee Morning: 10am, The George Townhouse

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: September 2026

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

1st Shipston Library Reading Group: 2pm-3pm 1st Tuesday of each month

1st & 15th 'Dance for Joy' Monthly Circle Dance Group in Stretton on Fosse 2.30 – 4pm. 1st 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

2nd Shipston on Stour WI: Meetings held every 1st 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

2nd & 16th Stour Valley Stitchers: 10am-1pm, The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

5th 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

6th Lego Church: 10.30am, 1st Sunday of the month during morning service at St Edmund's. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact rector@shipstonchurch.org.

8th Stour Community Awareness Network (SCAN): See ad on page 7

8th Stour Valley Lions Meeting: 6.30pm–9.30pm; The Lion in Tredington, 2nd Tuesday of the month

11th Shipston Town Band: Adventure in Brass. See ad on page 16

11th Stour Valley Lions Cinema: The Devil Wears Prada. See ad on page 10

12th Repair Cafe: 10am - 2pm Ellen Badger Community Hub. 2nd Saturday of the month

12th Stour Valley Lions: Charity Book Sale. See ad on page 10

12th Stour Valley Lions: Free Antiques, Jewellery, Fine Art & Watch Valuations. See ad on page 16

12th Shipston Music Society: A mad harpist's tea party. 3pm, Shipston Methodist Church. Adults £10, school-age children, free. See article on pages 12/13

14th Town Council Meeting: 7pm, New Clark House

17th Drop-In Clinic: For the over 65s. 10am-12pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub. Every third Thursday

17th Shipston High School: Open evening. Headteacher's presentation: 5.30pm & 7pm. School viewing until 7.30pm. See ad on page 11

17th Cherington Village Hall: Stratford Comedy Club. 8pm. £14 pp. Contact 07775 765572

18th-27th Shipston Bookfest: See article on page 1

18th 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

18th Shipston Music Society: The Amberg Trio. See ad on page 16

19th Royal British Legion Veterans' Breakfast Club: 9am-11am, Low Furlong. Booking essential. Contact Clare 07940 786755. See ad on page 7

22nd 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

22nd Shipston U3A: The Press Baron's Trilogy – Episode 2. See ad on page 10

24th Shipston High School: Open morning. 9am-10.30am. See ad on page 11

24th Local Quaker Meeting for Worship: St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

25th Singing Down Memory Lane: 11.30am - 12.30pm Ellen Badger Community Hub, free to attend. Last Friday of the month

26th Cantamus: Dawn to Dusk. See ad on page 16

29th League of Friends of Shipston on Stour Hospitals: EGM. See ad on page 7



(Formerly Senior Citizens Action Network)

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th September 2026

Speaker: Representatives from County, District and Town Councils on Local Government Reorganisation

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

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

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

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

- ★ All ages welcome
- ★ Come on your own or bring a mate
- ★ No pressure, just good food and chat

Saturday
19th September

09:00 – 11:00

★ Stay for five minutes or the full morning

Booking essential – please reserve your place by Monday 14th September for catering purposes.
 Contact Clare on 07940 786755 or email clare.cuthbert1510@hotmail.com

Shipston on Stour Branch

Unfortunately we can only take cash payment on the day. ♥ Amazing raffle prizes up for grabs! ✨

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS OF THE SHIPSTON ON STOUR HOSPITALS

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2026 - 6.30 to 8.00 p.m.

at THE ELLEN BADGER

Members, old and new, are invited to attend the meeting to approve changes to the Constitution which takes account of the NHS services now on offer within the Shipston on Stour district since the closure of inpatient facilities at the Ellen Badger Hospital. The meeting will also bring you up to date with our current activities.

We need the support of at least 15 members (plus the committee) at this Extraordinary General Meeting in order to continue our efforts to support the Health Services in the Shipston on Stour area.

Please confirm your attendance, if possible, to Ingrid Heritage (Hon. Secretary/Treasurer):

- via e-mail at: heritage.ingrid@yahoo.com, or
- telephone 07598141948, or
- write to 3 The Sheldons, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4RG.

If you require copies of the old Constitution plus alterations before the meeting, please let Ingrid know.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU



Vacancy in the Office of Town Councillor

For the Shipston North Ward of Shipston on Stour

An election has not been called so the Town Council is entitled to fill the vacancy by co-option.

If you would like to be considered for co-option, or would like further information, please email the Deputy Town Clerk at:

deputy.clerk@shipstontowncouncil.org

A Saturday morning at Shipston Foodbank

By the time most of us are enjoying a leisurely Saturday breakfast, volunteers at Shipston Foodbank are already hard at work.

9am The first deliveries begin to arrive: surplus fresh produce from local supermarkets, store cupboard essentials, toiletries and household items, together with fresh vegetables and eggs from our much-loved local greengrocer.



Every tin, packet and carton is checked, labelled with its best-before date and carefully sorted. Before long, the rear of the church is a hive of quiet activity as donations are unpacked and organised.

9.30am Essential food bags are assembled, each containing everyday staples such as rice, pasta, tinned food and toilet paper.



Nothing is wasted if it can be avoided. Food with the shortest shelf life is packed first, while anything close to, or just beyond, its best-before date is placed in a box in the church entrance for anyone to take. Good food should never go to waste.

10am Fresh fruit and vegetables are arranged on tables in the foyer. Every week is different, depending on what has been donated. Customers are encouraged to choose what they can use, whether that's cooking it that day or freezing it for later. Volunteers are always happy to share ideas for making the most of unfamiliar ingredients.



10.30am The doors open.

People are welcomed into the waiting area and invited through two at a time, creating a calm, friendly atmosphere where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.



Each household receives up to two bags of essential groceries, together with any additional items they need, such as shampoo, coffee or cooking oil. They are also free to choose from the fresh produce available that morning.



The Foodbank offers more than food. Revd Sarah can help people access a range of grants and emergency funding, while Cllr Jo Barker can put people in touch with local support services and help them find longer-term solutions to the difficulties they are facing. Sometimes the most important thing we can offer is simply someone who will listen.



As the morning continues, volunteers keep a running shopping list of items that are running low and note any special requests, particularly for families with young children or those with allergies and other dietary requirements.



12 noon The doors close and the tidying begins. Remaining non-perishable stock is counted and stored, while surplus bread and vegetables are collected by a local farmer to feed to their chickens, ensuring as little as possible goes to waste.

Any remaining short-dated food is once again placed in the church entrance for anyone who can make use of it.



Another Saturday morning draws to a close. Behind the scenes, dozens of volunteer hours have been given freely, generous donations have been shared wisely, and several households in the Shipston area can face the week ahead knowing they will not go hungry.



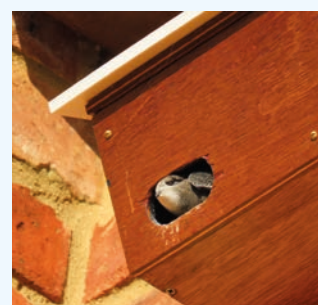
One thing that makes Shipston Foodbank different is that we do not require referrals or vouchers. If you need help, whether it is a one-off emergency or support over a longer period, please come and see us.

We do ask that the Foodbank is used as an emergency top-up rather than as a family's complete weekly shop. Our catchment area is Shipston on Stour and the surrounding villages. Please encourage neighbours who are struggling to seek our help, and suggest that friends or relatives living further afield contact their own nearest foodbank so that our supplies remain available for local people in need.

Every donation, every volunteer hour and every act of kindness help ensure that no-one in our community has to face hunger alone.

A final 'swift' word

Our local swift expert, Jacey Jackson reports that our swifts have departed, although more staying on into August than usual, after windy wet weather at the start of their season forced delayed the onset of their breeding period.



The heatwaves brought a proliferation of insects, and the parent birds were able to feed their growing broods without hindrance from buffeting winds and rain. Excitingly, some of the young swifts have prospected some of the 11 sponsored nest boxes at the Old Brewery. Spring 2027 will reveal if they will return to make Shipston their breeding location.

Wall to wall sunshine

Growers of all ages excelled themselves this year in Shipston Rotary's annual sunflower growing competition. Spurred on by the sunny conditions, the sunflowers seemed to outgrow expectations. Winners receiving Amazon vouchers were Joshua Allen (under 11) and Robyn Pelwenkhan (11 years and over). Here are some of the top blooms.



Left to right, Susan Perry - 7 ft. 8 in, Beau Radbourne - 7 ft. 6 in, Laila Derbyshire, Dennis Reynolds & Janet Miller - 7 ft. 5 in.

Cornmill Meadows – five years on

It's been five years since Cornmill Meadows was officially designated a local wildlife site by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, so this is a good chance to reflect on all the work achieved by volunteers and enjoyed by the community.

One of the first of many activities that volunteers helped with was one bright, but cold winter's day. We were thrilled that over 40 volunteers turned up on that Saturday morning to help plant about 900 whips down Meadows Way, the main track down from London Road. A mixed community orchard was then planted at the top end of Hill Meadow and this is its third season. This year's drought has meant there is not as much fruit as we would have hoped.

Shipston Brownies and Rainbows helped us to create a bug hotel in Hill Meadow and bat and bird boxes have also been installed. There are two corrugated sheets laid on the ground to attract invertebrates who like to shelter under them.



Monthly guided bird walks have seen or heard 50 species in the past year. Surveys by Warwickshire Butterfly Conservation have shown that eggs have been laid in the new hedge.

Trees donated by Shipston residents have been planted in the lower part of Hill Meadow. A dead hedge was created using the brash when an old hedge was professionally laid to promote new growth for nature's wildlife corridor. In River Meadow, after the creeping thistle had mostly been removed, a group of volunteers planted wildflower seeds after the field had been harrowed. A scrape and butterfly bank were also created to further increase biodiversity by adding new habitats. Unfortunately, with no rain in the summer, the scrape remained empty, unlike other years when we've seen the Pig Brook in flood.

After remedial work to the footpath at the top of Meadows Way, we are hoping it will not get so muddy this winter.



We believe Cornmill Meadows is a real asset to the town and enjoyed by many people. What do you think, and what would you like to see there in the future? Please let Hilary Kelly know.



Joshua Allen age 10 - 10 ft. 3 in.



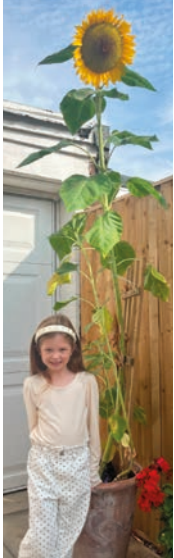
Robyn Pelwenkhan - 9 ft. 9 in.



Beatrice and Lily Taylor - 6 ft. 3 in.



Libby Warner - 11 ft. 7 in.



Dotty Cunningham - 6 ft. 9 in.

Shipston Museum

As September draws to a close, Shipston Museum will be shutting its doors until next spring, bringing an end to another fascinating season. If you haven't yet visited our summer displays, time is running out! The Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays.

This is your final opportunity to explore the Romans in the Stour Valley, with artefacts spanning four centuries of provincial life. Discover how the pioneering Stratford to Moreton Tramway transformed the region 200 years ago, brought to life through authentic period objects and a spectacular Lego model of Shipston Station. And meet the Hidden Stories of remarkable local figures, from Victorian novelist Harriet Bannister to brewing entrepreneur William Turner, whose legacies shaped the community.

We can also reveal our Winter Talks Programme 2026/27. Advance tickets are available from Eventbrite by scanning the QR code.

Shipston Museum Winter Talks Programme 2026/27

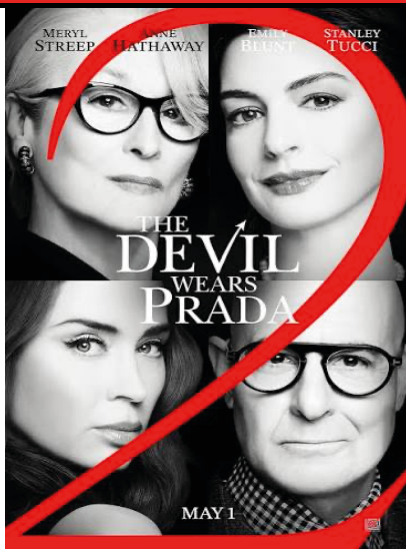
- Nov 21st Shipston Union Workhouse Tales
- Jan 9th 50yrs. The Shipston Museum Story
- Feb 20th Whitchurch Excavations
- March 6th The Battle of Edgehill

2.30pm The Townsend Hall. Tickets £5. Eventbrite and on the Door.



Museum

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



Andy Sachs reunites with Miranda Priestly as they navigate their career amid the decline of traditional magazine publishing.

Certificate 12A

TOWNSEND HALL,

Friday 11th September, 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.

SHIPSTON ON STOUR AREA u3a

Registered Charity No 1170969

TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2026,
2 pm TOWNSEND HALL

The Press Barons Trilogy –
Episode 2
A talk by Martin Gower



Following the astounding success of Alfred and Harold Harmsworth in launching the Daily Mail in 1896 and the Daily Mirror in 1903, Episode 2 continues the story and welcomes four other press barons who shaped the future of some of the best known and still published newspapers of today. It is an amazing story of growth, creativity and brilliant financial management revealing some real heroes from unlikely backgrounds.

Martin spent over 30 years in the newspaper industry in the UK, Ireland and the USA, the last 15 in managing Director/CEO positions.

Free entry for u3a members

Visitors are welcome - £2 to include refreshments

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Singers
Est. 1975

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from September-May
7.30-9.30pm
Shipston Primary School
CV36 4BT

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Musical Director
Alex Silverman

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music



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Our Community

STOUR VALLEY LIONS CLUB

CHARITY
BOOK SALE

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SATURDAY
12TH SEPTEMBER 2026



10:00AM – 1:00PM



THE SCOUT HUT

NEW STREET
SHIPSTON ON STOUR
CV36 4EW

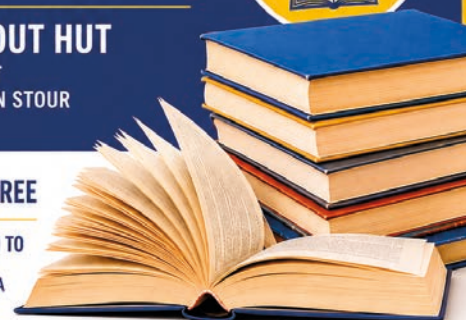
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LIONS CHARITIES
IN THE LOCAL AREA



Lions Clubs International
WE SERVE

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

119826

Shipston Primary School

We're delighted to welcome all of our children and families back to school on Thursday, 3 September. It is an exciting time for Shipston Primary as we greet returning pupils, welcome our new Reception cohort, and officially mark Mr Grana's start in his role as Headteacher.

Our staff and building team have been hard at work throughout the summer holidays. Work included the replacement of flat and pitched roofing to improve weather tightness, which will still be ongoing during the Autumn Term, and new fire safety doors. At Shipston Primary, we already have The Dovecote, a specialist inclusion base, and we are pleased to announce that we will be opening an internal inclusion base this month. We have been working on this project for several months, and the DfE guidance on inclusion bases published in June cements our thinking that this is the right direction of travel. These internal inclusion bases will support children with SEND, or those requiring support for behavioural or pastoral reasons. Depending on their individual needs, children might access the base for a specific period of time or on an ongoing basis. We have also created two calming rooms to support children across the school. We were lucky that our FOSP fundraising throughout the year has allowed us to have a canopy built over the Year 1 outdoor area, so the year group can utilise this space throughout the year as part of our continuous provision.

Shipston High School

As the new Headteacher at Shipston High School, I'm delighted to welcome our new intake and their families this September. We are all very much looking forward to get to know you both as students but more importantly as individuals. This year will be an exciting one for us all as we work together to ensure Shipston High School offers the very best education, pastoral care and personal development for its students. This term will start with our local 7km walk with our Year 7s, so we can all begin getting to know each other really well and build those bonds which will be so important over the years to come. If you see us out and about at the weekend, do stop and say hello! Later in the term, our new intake will have the choice of a trip to watch the England rugby team play at Twickenham or a day out to the Science Museum in London to inspire their curiosity.

Partnership with families and the wider community will sit at the heart of our thinking. We are exceedingly ambitious for all that we can achieve together and we have been very grateful for the collaboration and support of our primary partners. We are looking to build on this relationship so that students in our community get the very best provision right through their years in education. We also want our community to get the very best from Shipston High's

For our returning parents and children we will be holding Curriculum Evenings to share our knowledge-rich curriculum designed to ensure children know more, remember more and can apply more. However, it is the enrichment and powerful moments created by our dedicated and hardworking teachers that make lasting memories which we are excited to share with you. These sessions will also begin with a welcome from Mr Grana and take place on 16 and 17 of September. Our new Reception Curriculum Evening will be on 23 September. We look forward to seeing you all there.

For families preparing to move on from Nursery and start school in September 2027 we welcome visits throughout the year but will be holding specific Prospective Parent Tours on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 October (9.30-11am), as well as Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 November. These events require booking with the school office. More information can be found on our school website or you can contact the school directly.

Finally, following the great success of last year's Shipston Bookfest, our school will once again be taking part in a range of inspiring literary activities, including author visits and trips to the local library. With this year designated as the National Year of Reading across the UK, there has never been a better time to foster a lifelong love of books!

students and we hope everyone benefited from their industry and enthusiasm during the enrichment week at the end of July.

Our Open Evening is on Thursday 17 September, so please make the most of the opportunity to come and meet us and get a feel for the ways in which the school is changing. High standards will drive high-quality learning and we will foster a culture in which everyone has opportunity and everyone can thrive. On a personal level, I very much look forward to working with my staff, our students and with you all to ensure Shipston High is a school you are proud to have at the heart of your vibrant community.

Dan Rushworth



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 SCAN

At our July meeting Ray Coyte from Shipston First Responders gave a talk covering a variety of topics. He began by explaining what First Responders do. They are only sent to category 1 and 2 calls – life threatening issues and emergencies. They have three jobs: get there quickly (nearest ambulance hub is Warwick), keep the patient alive and start resuscitation if necessary.

Next followed some statistics. In June 27,000 hours were lost by ambulances and paramedics (two per ambulance) by West Midlands Ambulance Service waiting to transfer patients to A&E. More women than men die from cardiac arrests, partly because of the assumption that only men suffer from heart problems. 60% of cardiac arrests happen to men over 65 and heart disease kills around 460 people per day.

Prompt treatment is the best way of ensuring cardiac arrests are not fatal. Ray then demonstrated CPR on 'Annie' – dummies used for this always have this name whether male or female. Effective CPR means the person giving it will be exhausted after about ten minutes so a team is essential. A demonstration of how to use a defibrillator followed. The pads need to be applied to bare skin and a reluctance to do this on women is another cause of their higher death rate.

An overview of illegal drugs followed and then came more statistics, this time about 'blocked' hospital beds which cost the NHS £2.7bn per year.

Ray then turned to the Respect form. This is a document available from GP surgeries which is legally binding on all medical professionals. On it, the patient is able to say what they wish to happen in case of emergency.

Some good news to end included strides being made with AI to improve all areas of treatment; robotic surgery which can be performed remotely, 24/7 and more accurately; the development of mRNA drugs has a lot of potential for treatments; and progress is being made with dementia treatment and drugs to help manage the onset of dementia.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8 September when representatives of the Town, District and County Councils will talk about Local Government Reorganisation. The meeting will be in the Townsend Hall, Sheep Street CV36 4AE. Refreshments at 10, talk at 10.30 and finish around noon. All are welcome – there is no charge. Ring Laurie Grove on 07779 151947 for more information.

Stour Valley Lions

Young Carers' Festival 2026

Twenty-five young carers from across the country, came together for a weekend to enjoy a well-deserved break from their caring responsibilities in a festival delivered by YMCA Fairthorne Group in partnership with The Children's Society.

The weekend combined respite with meaningful participation. Alongside a recreational programme including fairground rides, archery, live entertainment, and watching football on a large outdoor screen, the young carers were supported to talk about their lives, identify what needs to change and to contribute



directly to national awareness activity. Young carers returned with new friendships, stronger confidence, positive memories and a clearer sense that their experiences matter.

The festival was supported by local donations. David Allsopp from Thirst Edition donated £1,500, Stour Valley Lions £1,000 and Shipston Rotary £500. It was a great privilege for Stour Valley Lions to be able to contribute to this extremely important event.

Other successful events this summer included the Shipston Lodge Fete, supported by the Stour Valley Lions, where our President was very pleased to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Shipston Lodge for their invaluable support in raising funds for local charities. The Stour Valley Lions Bingo Night, on 8 August raised just over £900 for Lions' charities.



Coming up, look out for the Grand Summer Raffle Draw at 7pm on Saturday 5 September, at The White Horse.

On Saturday 12 September from 12 noon to 3pm Charles Hanson will give a brief talk about his experience on TV's Bargain Hunt and then carry out valuations on items brought in by members of the public. £5 entry. There's also our film night on Friday 11 September and a book sale on 12 September.

Probus on the road



For the summer weeks Probus members decamp from our regular base at Shipston Sports and Social Club. Those of us who are not taking adventurous breaks in foreign lands, or perhaps engaged in holiday grandparent duties, take to the road and meet up at hostelrys in and around Shipston.

Our first venue in August was an excellent informal lunch at the Red Lion Inn, Long Compton. In addition to fine food, we managed to fill potholes and solve all the world's problems at no extra cost! This was followed by a meeting at the Eight Bells in Chipping Campden and on 4 September, we will be at the Norman Knight, Whichford. We then return to our regular meetings, at Shipston Sports and Social Club, starting on 18 September when we will have a formal speaker.

Could Probus appeal to you? Then give us a try! Please contact Chris Skeath for further details on 07887745218 or email: cmskeath@hotmail.com.

Shipston Music Society



Our 2026/7 season gets under way on Saturday 12 September at 3 pm when the whole family will be welcome at a Mad Harpist's Tea Party. Refreshments and homemade cake will be available from 2.30 and again after the concert. The 'Mad Harpist' is Manon Browning who played for us at very short notice last September. The concert will last just an hour and we will be treated to some seriously good harp playing.

If you think 'classical' music isn't for you, this is your chance to give it a try. Last year Manon's programme included jazz and Welsh folk songs so there should be something to appeal to



every taste. Admission is £10 to include refreshments. Free for those of school age. Pay on the door.

The regular season starts the following Friday, 18 September, when we shall be entertained by the Amberg trio: cello, clarinet and piano. See ad on page 16.

Annual membership costs £56 and entitles you to come to all seven concerts and one talk without further payment. If you're doubtful you may have a taster by coming to one concert (cost £10) – if you like what you hear, keep hold of your ticket and we will deduct £10 from your subscription. Our full 2026/7 programme can be seen on our website: <https://shipstonmusic.org.uk/2026-7-programme/>.

To find out more, just call Laurie Grove on 07779 151947 or complete the contact form on the website. We look forward to welcoming you.

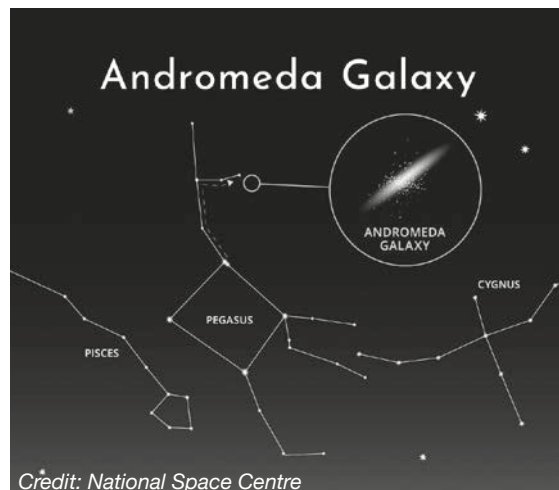
Astronomical Society

This month member Adrian Wakeham is writing about stargazing.

As the nights start to lengthen, my wife thinks my evening dog walks are an excuse to meet a secret woman. In one sense, she's correct. I'm going to see Stella – well, several of them as stella is Latin for star.

Most of my astronomy is done whilst dog walking, either naked eye or with a small pair of 8 x 20 binoculars, and a star pointer (to show other dog walkers or my daughters what I'm looking at).

With naked eye astronomy you'll be pleased to hear (as will the rest of south Warwickshire) I keep my clothes on. To get the best from your night vision, which also helps with binoculars and telescope



viewing as well, you need time. It takes around 20 minutes, in conditions which are as dark as possible, to get your best night vision. One bright light, a car headlight or an external security light reduces your night vision immediately. Astronomy apps on your phone can also affect it. Most apps offer a night viewing option, where everything is in red light, or you can get a red film coating. A lot of head torches offer a red-light option. Red light does not affect your night vision.

Another useful tip is to use averted vision. This is to put the object you are viewing to the edge of your field of view. This makes use of the rod cells in your retina at the back of your eye, which are much more sensitive in low light conditions but only produce black and white images. This technique is also very effective when using binoculars as well.



NB alcohol reduces the effectiveness of our eye's night vision, so avoid that tot of whisky to keep you going!

Once you've got your night vision, you need to know what to look for. This is where apps, such as Stellarium, come into their own (make sure, as mentioned before, it's on night mode). It will show the stars and constellations you are looking at. It will tell you where the planets and star clusters are and other interesting things like the International Space Station. The old fashioned versions of an app are planispheres. These are star charts consisting of two circular disks that rotate on a central pivot: the bottom disk displays the night sky, while the top disk features a window that shows the visible stars and blocks out the stars that are currently below the horizon. Learning the position of the stars and constellations helps guide you across the night sky. This is the method I use by choice.



Credit: telescopewatch.com

The Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society meets every first and third Tuesday at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. Our speaker on 15 September is Dr Benjamin Gampertz from Birmingham University with a talk about gravitational waves. For more details go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chair, John Waller, john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

Cantamus

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of beautiful choral music in the idyllic rural setting of The Hall, Stourton on Saturday 26 September at 3pm.

Cantamus

Our September concert, devised by new Musical Director Matthew Smallwood, features a wonderful mix of a cappella songs that will lift your spirits or melt you away. You will hear timeless masterpieces from legendary composers like William Byrd and Hubert Parry. We will also perform stunning, modern pieces O Radiant Dawn by James MacMillan and Frank Ticheli's Earth Song. To top it off, we are bringing some jazz flair to the stage with the famous George Gershwin tune I Got Rhythm and the bright, joyful Country Gardens – the funny version!

With so many styles and even more surprises in store, and interspersed with carefully chosen readings by Anne Hume, there is something for everyone to enjoy. There will be home made cakes in the interval. Many of us are excellent cooks when we aren't singing.

Tickets are available via the website or at the door at £16 to include tea and cake. For more information go to www.cantamus.org.uk

County Council

There was something southern European going on in our household this summer. Closing blinds, getting up early when it's cool - well we're trying, walking slowly and taking a siesta! We went to Scotland and rejoiced in rain! I confess to being on a go-slow this summer and am considering air con to help my productivity in my office.

September will see me get my act together - promise.

What has been bugging me this past month, is the unbelievably stupid and sometimes wilful behaviour of people starting fires. I did not need a government warning to tell me not to use a disposable BBQ (we've all seen the scorched grass they leave, right?) but maybe some people need the state to tell them how to do everything. I hope the misuse of the warning on mobiles doesn't lead to people ignoring really life threatening, local warnings as was intended with this system. As with everything else at the moment, it seems that crossing your fingers and hoping is as good as it gets. Not only the weather, but the state of jobs for young people, economic nervousness generally and another Healey as Chancellor has a feel of the 70s about it. Flares, anyone?

Now time to get grumpy on your behalf.

We have work starting on how South Warwickshire is going to be shaped and run: councillors will be at the heart of this. I confess I was concerned that officers were pressing ahead with more than just the administrative changes! Thankfully we will be involved, and so can you be. Please do contact me with ideas and wish lists for what we want S Warks to be. Where should the new council be run from? What are YOUR priorities? This sort of reorganisation is generational, so let's get the best solutions for us, just like the 70's - or not!

In terms of representation there will be elections next May to the 'shadow council', of two councillors per existing division. I am looking at this as an exciting change. I've had a stern word with myself to get on with it!

District Council

As I sit down to write this, we are currently sweltering through our fifth 'heat dome' of the summer. With this year on track to break global heat records, it is safe to say we are all adjusting to a very different reality. The tragic loss of a local gardener in a wildfire near Chipping Campden was a painful wake-up call that these rising temperatures affect every single one of us.

Extreme heat combined with a distinct lack of rain means our local farmers are facing a tough road ahead. It shows just how urgently we need to build sustainable, local food networks right here in our own backyard.

To help get more home-grown food onto local plates, Olivia and I have been working across party lines to support community-led food projects. The great news is that the District Council has just launched the Healthy and Sustainable Food For All Grant. This fund offers grants to non-profit groups and local organisations setting up low-carbon food initiatives across our area.

We are hoping to fund projects that focus on a few key goals:

- Improving access to nutritious, affordable, and sustainable food.
- Boosting cooking skills, confidence, and nutritional know-how.
- Cutting down on unnecessary food waste.
- Building stronger relationships with local growers and shopkeepers.
- Bringing neighbours together to tackle social isolation through volunteering.

I have finally got Highways coming to look at crossings in Shipston. I sorted it with the previous local highways officer, but I have a new one to persuade. The next round of dropped kerbs will be ordered too. I hope to get them done on Campden Road - maybe even coinciding with the other footpath work!

It's been results fortnight as I write and I hope all our young people have achieved what you need. Take heart and take a pause whatever your outcomes. Good luck too with your next phase. The annual nightmare of using the bus to get to Kineton School (and back again) is ongoing. I've heard from several families. If you haven't been in touch, and are struggling let me know. It is a ludicrous situation particularly for 6th formers. Conversations are being had...

Upcoming over the winter is our Warwickshire Covid Lockdown enquiry: one day on what we got right/wrong, could do better and any other useful input so that any pandemic response needed in future will be better informed by our local evidence and understanding. This will be backed by a body of evidence in a meaty report, across all services. If you have questions or comments let me know!

For a while, I've been thinking about a Job Club - helping with confidence in applying for jobs and acting as a funnel for local jobs. If you are interested, then tell me. CVs? Job applications? LinkedIn? I'd better update mine!

As the summer ends, I hope you've all managed some downtime and relaxation. For once I'm looking forward to it being cool enough to wear a jumper.

Get in touch. Come for coffee. Back to weekly surgeries, but always available on the phone.

Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

077489 68712 | jobarker@warwickshire.gov.uk



This could mean setting up a community fridge or pantry, starting a neighbourhood veg patch, creating an affordable food-sharing scheme, or running workshops on seasonal cooking and reducing waste. Improving our food system is important if we want Shipston and our surrounding villages to weather future climate swings. If your group has a bright idea brewing, contact the Council's Social Inclusion team at the District Council: socialinclusion@stratford-dc.gov.uk.

On a completely different note, the District Council is currently upgrading to a new and improved Housing Register for those on the housing waiting list. The old housing list is temporarily closed to new applicants while the switch is made. Anyone already on the waiting list will be invited to re-register when the fresh portal goes live on 15 September. Applicants should re-apply within the first six weeks to hold onto your original start date! You can find full details online at stratford.gov.uk/homes-properties/home-choice-plus.cfm.

Please rest assured that these housing system updates will not interrupt emergency support. If you or someone you know is facing homelessness, please contact the Council directly at 01789 260 126 or 01789 267 575 (or email homeless@stratford-dc.gov.uk). For urgent help outside regular office hours, call 01789 267575.

Dave Passingham

District Councillor, Shipston South

07752 562114 | dave.passingham@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



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.

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**DONATIONS OF £5 IN AID OF
STOUR VALLEY LIONS**

DATE
Saturday
12th September
2026

12 noon - 3pm

ITEMS CAN BE LEFT FOR AUCTION ON THE DAY

TOWNSEND HALL
52 Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour,
CV36 4AE

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SHIPSTON
Music Society

The Amberg Trio

An evening of music for
cello, piano and clarinet



Friday 18th September 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 07779 151947

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making music
celebrating & championing
community music

Cantamus

Directed by Matthew Smallwood
presents

"Dawn to Dusk"

A medley of seasonal songs and readings.



Saturday 26th September 2026
3pm

The Hall, Stourton, CV36 5HG

Admission £16
including tea and cake



Raffle on the day

SHIPSTON TOWN BAND

ADVENTURE IN BRASS

CONDUCTOR: PAUL WHITMORE

An exciting evening featuring favourites
from film, television and pop.

Friday 11 September - 7.30pm
BRAILES VILLAGE HALL
Castle Hill Ln, Upper Brailles, Banbury OX15 5AS

TICKET: £8 (+fees) IN ADVANCE - £8 ON THE DOOR - Under 18s FREE

SCAN THE QR CODE



TO BOOK

www.shipstonband.co.uk

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