



# Shipston Forum



October 2026

## A Bookfest to remember

From poems in the pub to celebrity conversations and family events, the town was abuzz with books over two jam-packed weekends in late September as Bookfest returned for its third year.

Actress, broadcaster and bestselling author Caroline Quentin drew a full house at Townsend Hall for *Drawn to Nature*, her illustrated celebration of the outdoors. In conversation with Caroline Mills — whose recent book *This Is Not Our Land* charts 30 years of farming in the Cotswolds — Quentin talked about how the natural world has carried her through life's transitions.



Author Nicola Baker's *Whistledown Farm* series was the focus of a family afternoon hosted in partnership with Warwickshire Libraries — just one of the events for children and families. Writers and creatives visited Shipston's schools throughout Bookfest week to inspire the next generation of readers, writers and creative thinkers. *More pictures and reports on page 8.*



## Save a life

A new 'Save a Life – Stour Valley' campaign is being launched by Stour Valley Lions Club and Shipston Community First Responders to give people the skills and confidence to respond in a life-threatening emergency. They will run free CPR and defibrillator awareness training for people across the Stour Valley in a year-round programme.



Photo credit: Chris Reed

Ray Coyte, Diane Johnson and Tony Booth (Shipston Community First Responders), local MP Manuela Perteghella, Tim Cronin, Community Response Manager at West Midlands Ambulance Service and Paul Macpherson and Graham Thomas (Stour Valley Lions).

Local MP Manuela Perteghella will attend the first free training session at the Ellen Badger 6.30pm on Friday 16 October – which is also National Restart a Heart Day. More sessions will be lined up at the Ellen Badger and there are plans to take the training to village halls and local communities.

Shipston Community First Responders maintain a network of 70 defibrillators across the Stour Valley, making potentially life-saving equipment available to the community and West Midlands Ambulance Service. Local defibrillators are currently being activated, on average, twice a month to assist people experiencing potentially life-threatening emergencies. Knowing how to perform CPR and how and when to use a defibrillator can give someone the confidence to act in those vital first minutes before professional help arrives. Training is completely free and is suitable for local individuals, community groups, societies, Parish Councils and other organisations.

Would you know what to do? Don't leave it to someone else. Learn the skills that could help save a life. To find out more, arrange training or register your interest, please contact Stour Valley Lions on 0345 833 2835 or email: [enquiries@stourvalleylions.club](mailto:enquiries@stourvalleylions.club)

## Protecting the town

Even through our very dry summer the Shipston Area Flood Action Group (SAFAG) were preparing for the inevitable winter rains by checking and repairing the flood defences in the River Stour's tributaries. A work party of Katharine Rutherford, Paul Neal, Heidi Ellis, James Law and Mike McCarthy (shown, left to right, with John Fedorowycz behind the camera) braved the August heat to carry out repairs and upgrades to the 'leaky woody' dams on the Sib brook near Sibford.



## Prize-winning allotments

Congratulations to New Street allotments for being awarded first prize at the Moreton Show. Allotment holder Nicola McArthur (left) picked up the award from the show's general secretary Esther Watts.



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## Mayor's column

Traditionally, August and September are quieter months in local government. With summer holidays, fewer meetings and a brief respite from the usual council calendar, there is often an opportunity to catch up, take stock and reflect on the months ahead.



This year, however, has been rather different.

The Government's decision to pause local government reorganisation has thrown plans into uncertainty. The proposed South Warwickshire Unitary Authority will seemingly not come into being when we had anticipated, and elections to Stratford-on-Avon District Council are now expected to go ahead in May 2027. For those who follow my Facebook page, you will have seen that this decision, alongside developments surrounding the South Warwickshire Local Plan, prompted me to reflect on Shipston's relationship with the authorities that have governed it over the centuries.

There is something rather familiar about our town finding itself at the mercy of decisions made elsewhere. From medieval disputes over tithes and obligations to more modern arguments about planning and local government, Shipston has a long history of asserting its identity and interests in the face of decisions taken by distant authorities. The names and institutions may have changed, but the tension between local knowledge and decisions made elsewhere remains remarkably familiar.

Yet, for all our independence, Shipston has never been an insular town. Indeed, one of the great pleasures of serving as Mayor has been the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with neighbouring towns and villages.

Over recent weeks, I have had the pleasure of attending the Coleshill Music Festival, the Mayor of Evesham's Ball and a charity event for the Mayor of Whitnash. Each occasion was an opportunity not simply to enjoy the hospitality of our neighbours, but to meet fellow councillors, exchange experiences and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing our respective communities.

I have also met representatives of charities already working in Shipston, as well as others looking to establish a presence here. These conversations are a reminder that civic events are about rather more than chains of office and ceremonial engagements. They provide opportunities to make connections, share ideas and bring people and organisations together for the benefit of our residents.

It is reassuring, too, to discover how many of the concerns we face in Shipston are shared by our neighbours. Whether discussing the pressures on local services, the importance of protecting our town centres or the challenges of maintaining community facilities, there is much to be gained from sharing experiences and learning from one another.

Closer to home, I was also delighted to attend the Royal British Legion Summer Fete at Low Furlong. Despite some truly shocking weather, the event was conducted excellently, with organisers, volunteers and visitors refusing to let the rain dampen their spirits. It was a wonderful expression of the resilience, good humour and community spirit that characterise Shipston. We may not be able to control the weather, but we can certainly decide how we respond to it!

Our own history offers a wonderful illustration of this interconnectedness. The recent Tramway celebrations were a reminder of Shipston's historic connections with the wider region. I was unfortunately unable to attend, but I am particularly grateful to Councillor Tony Booth for representing both me and the town in my absence.

The tramway was more than a means of transport. It was a physical expression of Shipston's connections with the surrounding countryside, its neighbouring communities and the wider commercial life of Warwickshire and beyond. For centuries, our town has been a meeting point, a market town and a place through which people, goods and ideas have travelled. Our position on the borders of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire has helped shape the character of Shipston and its relationship with the wider world. It is a history worth remembering as we consider our future.

We should be proud of Shipston's distinctive identity and determined to ensure that our town's voice is heard in decisions that affect it. But that pride need not come at the expense of cooperation with our neighbours: quite the opposite. The relationships we build with other towns, councillors, community organisations and charities strengthen our ability to represent Shipston and create opportunities that might otherwise pass us by.

Whatever the future holds for local government, I hope we can continue to approach it with the same spirit that has served our town for generations: independent in outlook, proud of our heritage, but always ready to work with our neighbours.

Shipston has always known who it is. That has never meant forgetting who its neighbours are.

**Richard Walters**

**Mayor of Shipston**

## News from Shipston Town Council's September meeting

### Environment

Repairs to the church wall are expected to be finished shortly, and the General Purposes Working Group will look into future care to prevent ivy encroachment.

Concern was raised about a crumbling structure across the river at Cornmill Meadows, the responsibility for which is to be confirmed. Tree planting at Riverside Park will commence once the ground is soft enough.

## Planning

Cllr Tesh reported that there had been no updates on any major planning applications and that the Fell Mill development application has still not been submitted.

All planning applications can be viewed at <https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/>

## Finance Working Group

Council voted to approve the draft Heads of Terms for the Youth Club building and authorise these to be sent to Daniel Pulham.

Council voted to adopt the Freedom of Information Policy. A timetable for the budget was approved.

## Town Councillor reports

Cllr Hilary Kelly attended the community event on the field on Nason Way.

Cllr Booth attended the 200 year anniversary of the Tramway, stepping in for the Mayor, Richard Walters, with a ceremony at

Shipston Museum attended by the Stratford Upon Avon Mayor and our local MP, Manuela Perteghella.

## District Council

Cllr Hatch circulated a flyer about her petition to make water companies statutory consultees. Cllr Passingham gave an update on an event held to bring new estates together as a community. He also advised Councillors that the funding for the Neighbourhood Plan has been granted for Parish and Town Councils.

## Blue Light update

PC Hammond reported an increase in dwelling break-ins with access being gained through patio doors, with cross-border organised crime gangs suspected. CCTV has identified three shoplifting incidents, one violent crime incident and one incidence of criminal damage.

## Ellen Badger Hospital

The sustainability manager has sought funding for a community garden at no cost to Shipston Town Council.

## Medical Centre refurbishment update

We are pleased to say that the majority of the planned work is now done. As the final significant internal building work to the flat roof is completed, we will be able to move our reception team into a modern reception area (below) at the front of the building.

We are awaiting a confirmed date for an important upgrade to the electricity supply to the Medical Centre. Our existing supply will be upgraded to a three-phase electricity supply, which is more appropriate for the needs of a modern healthcare building. We currently expect this work to take place in early October. There may be a short period during these works when the electricity available within the Medical Centre is restricted. This could mean that we need to rearrange some services at relatively short notice or provide them from a different site. We will do everything we can to minimise disruption and will keep affected patients informed.

## What has the refurbishment achieved?

Although it has been a challenging few months, the work has delivered some important improvements to the Medical Centre.

We now have modern accessible toilet facilities, as well as a new purpose-built dirty utility/sluice area. Our waiting area, reception, initial consultation and duty examination room have also been refurbished to provide modern healthcare facilities which

better meet current infection prevention and control standards.

Upstairs, the offices in the front half of the building have also been refurbished, providing a much-improved working environment for our practice team.

Unfortunately, the rear half of the building remains largely as it was. This



refurbishment represents the first phase of a much larger project, and the funding currently available has only enabled us to undertake the work completed during this phase. We hope that further funding opportunities will allow us to continue improving the remainder of the building in the future.



## Check the location

Once this phase of the refurbishment is fully complete, patients should be aware that our services will continue to be provided at both the Medical Centre and the Ellen Badger Hospital. The use of both sites is not simply a temporary arrangement while the building work is taking place. It is therefore important to check which site your appointment is at before travelling. You can find the location of your appointment in the NHS App and in the text message we send to remind you about your appointment. Please take a moment to check the location before setting off, as different appointments and services may be provided at different sites. Please don't assume that your appointment will be at the Medical Centre, even if this is where you have usually attended in the past. Taking a moment to check your appointment location before you travel will help make sure you arrive at the right place and on time.

Once the electricity upgrade and the remaining reinstatement works are complete, we hope that will mark the end of this phase of the refurbishment.

Thank you again for bearing with us throughout the building work and for your patience when services, entrances and facilities have needed to change. We are delighted to be reaching the final stages and to be able to provide our patients and staff with significantly improved facilities.

## New footbridge for Shipston

A popular walk for Shipston residents has been improved. Cotswold National Landscape volunteers have refurbished the footbridge at Fell Mill where it crosses the River Stour as part



of the long-distance Centenary Way path towards Honington. The old bridge planks had rotted and new timber was supplied by Warwickshire County Council. Signage and posts along this path have been updated to help walkers to keep to the correct routes. The bridge forms part of a circular walk from the main bridge in Shipston across to Fell Mill and back again over the Stour to come out at Springhill Close on the Stratford Road.



Cotswold National Landscape helps WCC to maintain paths, stiles and bridges across much of south Warwickshire. For more information see [www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk](http://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk)

## Memorable matinee

On Wednesday 9 September the curtain went up for the first Age Concern Shipston matinee film in the comfort of Tysoe Village Hall. A packed hall laughed, drank tea, ate biscuits and indulged in local ice cream, while watching the heartwarming film Mothers Pride. It was such a great afternoon we are already planning our next one, so watch this space to find out more. There will be a warm welcome to everyone. To find more information on what's available from Age Concern Shipston please visit our website [www.ageconcernshipston.org](http://www.ageconcernshipston.org) or pick up one of our leaflets.



## People's Emergency Briefing film

Thursday 8 October 7.30pm, St Edmunds Church CV36 4AP

What's happening with climate and nature, and what does it mean for everyday life in the UK? Join SAFE (Stourvale Action for the Environment) for a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing – a 50-minute film bringing together nine leading UK

scientists and experts with the latest evidence and why it matters for things like extreme weather, food security, health, and the cost of living.

The film will be followed by a short discussion.

The People's Emergency Briefing is not a party political initiative. It exists to help create a tipping point towards the action now required. You can help make it happen. We want to reach out to all residents and find ways to listen to each other and work together.

There will be refreshments available from 7pm before the briefing begins at 7.30pm.

To book a free ticket scan the QR Code or

[https://app.tickettailor.com/login?redirectTo=/event/ev\\_8976029](https://app.tickettailor.com/login?redirectTo=/event/ev_8976029)



## SAFAG report

The heat and a steep hill made carrying out repairs and upgrades to leaky wooden dams on the 'Sib' brook near West Town House at Sibford in August a challenging task, especially carrying the tools and equipment. These obstacles, along with water and mud, were overcome with good teamwork and some lateral thinking, resulting in a successful completion of the planned work by the team pictured on page one. It has provided useful hands-on experience for the team, which will augur well for future SAFAG workdays. In-house repairs and upgrades are a far more cost-effective alternative to using a contractor.

At the end of August, local MP Manuela Perteghella

attended a meeting of the SAFAG core team of Vanessa Benjamin-Smith, Mike McCarthy and John Dinnie at NCH. Also present were STC Councillor Hilary Kelly and Lindsey Walker, Chair of Save our Shipston and Clerk to Barcheston and Willington Parish Council. Mike McCarthy delivered a presentation on SAFAG's history, projected plans and future opportunities. Following a general discussion on a range of local issues, the group visited the key town locations which have been affected by localised flooding, as well as the bottom end of Fell Mill Lane to highlight the concerns about developing that site.



## Learn to play a brass instrument this autumn

Ever dreamt of playing a musical instrument but never got around to it? Beginners and aspiring musicians of all ages are invited to come along to the Shipston Town Band's Brass Academy. A wide range of brass instruments are available for anyone interested in taking part, with weekly tutoring from experienced musicians and a programme tailored to the needs of each individual participant. It's open to all so give it a go! Sessions at the Academy cost £10. For more information or to reserve a space please email: [academy@shipstonband.co.uk](mailto:academy@shipstonband.co.uk) or call 07841 111138.

Autumn activities

From a fast-growing racket sport to family sessions and friendly community cafés, residents in and around Shipston-on-Stour have plenty of reasons to get out and about this autumn, thanks to activities provided by Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership.



Free weekly pickleball

The Stour Health and Wellbeing Partnership is introducing a weekly pickleball session at Townsend Hall. Players can take to the court every Tuesday between 6pm and 7pm, whether they are picking up a paddle for the first time or already know the game. The sessions will be free during the first few months, so residents can try the increasingly popular sport in a friendly community setting. Charges will apply later, with details to be confirmed in due course.

Bereavement Café back in action

After its summer break, the Bereavement Café is once again meeting at the Ellen Badger on the first Tuesday of every month, from 11am-1pm. The café provides a welcoming peer-to-peer space where people can talk about losing a loved one and share their experiences.

Repair Café

The Repair Café also returned in September and continues to draw strong interest. Its next session is on 10 October from 10am-2pm, with the final repair bookings taken at 1pm.

Toy Library welcomes more families

Meanwhile, the Stour Toy Library continues to attract young families and grandparents keen to borrow toys for children under four. The service offers children fresh things to play with while helping households spend less and avoid filling their homes

with seldom-used toys. Families can visit on Tuesdays from 9.30-11am and Thursdays from 11am-12 noon. There is no membership requirement for visitors, while an annual borrowing membership costs £5. A special session for older siblings will also take place on a Tuesday during the October half-term at the Ellen Badger Hospital Community Hub, from 9.30-11am. It will provide an inclusive morning for the whole family as younger children explore the Toy Library.



Regular events at the Ellen Badger Community Hub

SHWP's programme at the Ellen Badger Hospital Community Hub combines affordable activities, practical support and opportunities to meet others. Residents can drop in for conversation, refreshments or information about services in the area.

Community Hub

The Community Hub opens every Monday and Thursday from 10am-12 noon, offering a comfortable place to stop for refreshments, chat to others and learn what local support is available.

Parent Carers Support Group

On the last Tuesday of each month, from 9.30-11am, parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can join an informal support group. The gathering offers a chance to exchange experiences, make connections and find additional support.

Singing Down Memory Lane

Singing Down Memory Lane meets on the last Friday of each month from 11am-12 noon. Everyone is welcome to enjoy an hour of songs, memories and company, and no singing experience is required.

OCTOBER 2026



SHWP

Charity No. 1192236

Contact details for activities in Shipston on Stour

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 | <div>Hub 10 - 12 Preventing Falls. 9:30</div> <div>Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30</div> <div>Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30</div> <div>Disordered Eating Drop in Clinic 5:30 - 6:30</div> | <div>Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45</div> <div>Bereavement Cafe 11 - 1</div> <div>Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00</div>      | <div>Seated Tai Chi 9:30 Standing Tai Chi 10:30</div> <div>Booking require</div> <div>Indoor Curling 2 - 3</div> | <div>Hub 10 - 12 Cooking with Wendy. Booking required</div> <div>Toy Library 11 - 12 Annual Membership £5</div> <div>Eating Disorder Support Group 7:00 - 8:30</div> | <div>Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15</div>                                                   |
| 2nd Week | <div>Hub 10 - 12 Preventing Falls. 9:30</div> <div>Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30</div> <div>Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30</div>                                                         | <div>Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45</div> <div>Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00</div>                                         | <div>Seated Tai Chi 9:30 Standing Tai Chi 10:30</div> <div>Booking require</div> <div>Indoor Curling 2 - 3</div> | <div>Hub 10 - 12 Cooking with Wendy. Booking required</div> <div>Toy Library 11 - 12 Annual Membership £5</div>                                                      | <div>Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15</div>                                                   |
| 3rd Week | <div>Hub 10 - 12 Preventing Falls. 9:30</div> <div>Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30</div> <div>Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30</div>                                                         | <div>Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45</div> <div>Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00</div>                                         | <div>Seated Tai Chi 9:30 Standing Tai Chi 10:30</div> <div>Booking require</div> <div>Indoor Curling 2 - 3</div> | <div>Hub 10 - 12 Frailty Nurse Drop in Sessions</div> <div>Toy Library 11 - 12 Annual Membership £5</div>                                                            | <div>Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15</div>                                                   |
| 4th Week | <div>Hub 10 - 12 Preventing Falls. 9:30</div> <div>Seated Exercise 10:30 or 11:30</div> <div>Pickleball 1:30 - 3:30</div>                                                         | <div>Strictly Fitsteps 10 - 10:45</div> <div>Parent Carers Support group.</div> <div>Toy Library Stay and play. 9:30 - 11:00</div> | <div>Seated Tai Chi 9:30 Standing Tai Chi 10:30</div> <div>Booking require</div> <div>Indoor Curling 2 - 3</div> | <div>Hub 10 - 12 Bereavement support from SHN</div> <div>Toy Library 11 - 12 Annual Membership £5</div>                                                              | <div>Pilates for Beginners 9:30 - 10:15</div> <div>Singing Down Memory Lane 11:00 - 12:00</div> |

Venues

Community Wellbeing Hub @ Ellen Badger Hospital CV36 4AX

Townsend Hall. CV36 4AE

Scout Hut. CV36 4EW

KEY

£

Free

Need to book. Waiting list

## 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 Dobbins 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: October 2026

**3rd Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment and refreshments provided. Children's equipment available

**4th Lego Church:** 10.30am, 1st Sunday of the month during morning service at St Edmund's. For school age children. Please bring an adult. Contact rector@shipstonchurch.org.

**6th Bereavement Café:** 11am-1pm, Ellen Badger Health & Wellbeing Hub 1st Tuesday of each month

**6th Shipston Library Reading Group:** 2pm-3pm 1st Tuesday of each month

**6th & 20th '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

**7th Shipston on Stour WI: Clare Shivlock from Warwickshire Willow.** Meetings held first Wednesday of the month in The Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road Shipston, CV36 4DR at 7pm. New members and visitors welcome. Contact: Gill Smith 07759 232899

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

**8th People's Emergency Briefing:** Film screening and discussion. St Edmund's Church. 7pm See ad on page 7.

**9th Kim Cyphers Funky Latin Jazz Party:** Townsend Hall, from 7pm. See ad on page 16.

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

**10th Libby's Charity Bingo:** See article on page 8.

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

**13th Stour Valley Lions Meeting:** Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Shipston, at 6.30 for 7.00pm, 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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

**15th Fish & Chip Social Evening:** Cherington, Stourton Village Hall. Takeaway from 5.30pm. Eat in 6pm-8pm. Bar available. Every 3rd Thursday. See ad on page 7.

**16th Save a Life Stour Valley:** See ad on page 10.

**16th Royal British Legion Social Evening:** The Shipston on Stour Branch gathers for a social event on the third Friday of each month at The Horseshoe, starting at 7.30pm. Additionally, every other month, the Branch Committee meets on the third Friday at St Edmund's Church from 6.30pm to 7.30pm, before joining the social gathering. If you are interested in Branch events or enquiring to join the Branch, please contact the Branch Secretary, Ali at ShipstonOnStour.Secretary@rbl.community

**16th Stour Valley Lions Cinema:** The Christophers. See ad on page 16.

**16th Shipston Music Society:** AGM including performance by Shipston Shanty Group. See ad on page 7.

**18th Shipston Home Nursing:** 10K Run/Walk at Walton Hall. See ad on page 10

**19th Shipston and District Local History Society:** 7.30pm, Black Horse. See article on page 12

**27th GLOSS (Great Ladies of Shipston and Surroundings).** A social group for women to have fun and make friends. 7.30pm- 9.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. The 4th Tuesday of every month (except December). All ladies welcome. Entry £2

**29th Local Quaker Meeting for Worship:** St Edmund's Church, last Thursday in the month at 2.30pm, followed by tea/coffee, biscuits & chat

**30th Singing Down Memory Lane:** 11.30am - 12.30pm Ellen Badger Community Hub, free to attend. Last Friday of the month

**30th GLOSS Halloween Bingo:** See ad on page 10

## Every Tuesday 2-4pm

**WARM WELCOME** at Shipston on Stour Methodist Church in the side room.

**Entrance to church from New Street, CV36 4EN, has steps or rear entrance on Old Road on the flat.**

**Free hot drinks and biscuits.**

**Games, jigsaw, magazines or just come for a chat.**

The Methodist Church



**Come  
and  
join us!**



# People's Emergency Briefing

*On the climate and nature crisis*

## Shipston on Stour

Film screening and discussion

St. Edmund's Church  
Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7.00 pm  
All welcome!

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[www.nebriefing.org](http://www.nebriefing.org)

**FISH & CHIP SOCIAL EVENINGS**  
DELICIOUS FISH & CHIPS FROM  
THE CATCHY FISH VAN

**3RD  
THURSDAY!**

- ~ Take-away available from 5:30pm ~
- ~ Hall Bar & eat-in 6pm to c.8pm ~
- ~ Come for chips, stay for a chat! ~

*Every 3rd Thursday of the month (not Aug & Dec)  
& look out for occasional 'extras' on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays!*

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**The Catchy Fish**  
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**The Hall**  
Cherington Stourton Sutton-under-Brailes



**Shipston Music Society**  
Friday 16th October Methodist Church  
Shipston-on-Stour



**Shipston Shanty Group**

raising funds for Shipston 1st Responders

**7.30-8.30pm followed by our AGM**

Tickets £10 on the door or in advance from E.H. Spencer

Free entry to Shipston Music Society members

New members always welcome for information: ph 07779 151947

Registered Charity No: 1146459 (England) | [www.shipstonmusic.org.uk](http://www.shipstonmusic.org.uk)



## Libby was the winner!

Here's another chance to admire Shipston's tallest sunflower. We mis-captioned a photo in last month's report and so failed to give full credit to Libby Warner, the winner of the aged 11 and over category in Shipston Rotary's Sunflower competition. Sincere apologies to Libby. Here she is with her glorious sunflower which reached all the way up to an incredible 11ft 7 inches – and was in fact the tallest flower of all!



Libby is also helping to fundraise for Move with Me, which provides community activities for adults with learning disabilities. Her big bingo night is on 10 October, and her mum Jackie would be delighted to accept donations for bingo and raffle prizes at the Post Office where she works.

# It's BINGO Time!

12

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**Help Libby raise money for...**

## Move with me

Community Activities

Providing enjoyable, accessible activities for adults with learning disabilities to stay active, meet new people, and feel confident and connected within their community.

## Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October

**Venue:** The Hub, Pittway Avenue, Shipston on Stour, CV36 4DQ

**Doors open - 6.30pm**

**Eyes Down - 7.30pm**

**We're looking for Bingo prizes and Raffle prizes - any donations would be hugely appreciated.**

**Donations to Jackie at Shipston Post Office**

## Bookfest: the first weekend

The Forum had to go to press before the final days of Bookfest, but here are some snapshots from the first weekend.



The festival began at St Edmund's Church with a thrillers panel pairing Kate Riordan with local debut novelist Claire Quinn. The two discussed their two psychological thrillers, the writing process and techniques used to make atmosphere, setting and characters do as much work as plot.

Saturday evening turned the spotlight on home soil with a Local Author Showcase and the festival's first Community Book Swap – a new addition for 2026. Six authors: Sara Fox, Becky Jones, Darran Gough, John Horton, Karen Storey, and Kerry Williams were interviewed by Peter Buckman, a veteran of the publishing industry.



Keen writers honed their skills at the Writing Craft Workshop, before the evening closed with pints and live poetry from performer Bassie Gracie and Joost Lohman at the White Horse.

Shipston Bookfest would like to sincerely thank all partners and sponsors for their support, with special thanks to the Stour Valley Lions, Friends of Shipston Primary, and Shipston High School who all support the Bookfest's important Schools programme. Shipston Bookfest will return in late September 2027.



## Shipston Shanty Group

A little girl can now enjoy taking part in sports at school, thanks to a donation from the Shipston Shanty Group. The performers have raised more than £5,000 for charity. Having donated £4,250 to the Shipston Community First Responders, they are also supporting other special causes. ‘We’re proud to have been of help,’ says Noel Nickerson, adding: ‘Many thanks to the Horseshoe pub, where the photo was taken, and to everyone who supported us. We enjoy our performing and fundraising and it seems Shipstonians do too!’ For information about the Shanty Group contact Nick on 07538 703215 or Del on 07596 461679.



## Low Furlong Summer Fete

Despite challenging weather, the Low Furlong summer fete was a resounding success, highlighted by the enthusiastic involvement of the care home residents themselves. Many hosted their own stalls, chatted with visitors, and enjoyed the chance to welcome the community to the event which raised funds in support of the Royal British Legion.



The event also celebrated the strong and growing connection between Low Furlong and the Shipston RBL — a relationship that continues to flourish thanks to the dedication of Clare Cuthbert, who has become the driving

force behind many of Low Furlong’s community focused initiatives, helping to bring residents, veterans, families and local supporters together in meaningful and uplifting ways. An example is the hugely popular Veterans Breakfast Club, which will next take place on Saturday 7 November.

## RBL receives notice from Men’s Shed

The Royal British Legion’s community noticeboard in the Bury has been fully refurbished and reinstated, thanks to the skilled craftsmanship of Southam Men’s Shed. Based in the grounds of Galanos House, the Men’s Shed is a community run workshop dedicated to practical craftsmanship, social connection, and mental wellbeing. It brings people together to combat isolation, share skills, and contribute to meaningful local projects, from crafting and repairing items for schools and charities to supporting community groups across the region. The noticeboard restoration was led by Gary Downs, Treasurer of the Shipston RBL Branch, and the work reflects the Shed’s ethos: practical skill, community impact, and friendship.

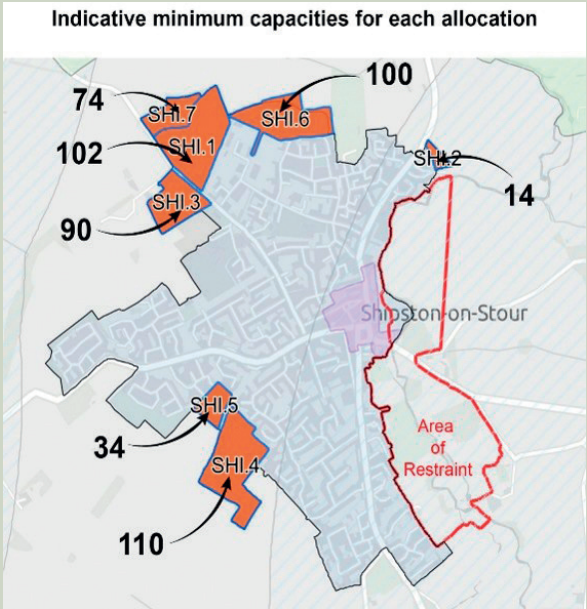


## Keeping watch on threatened developments

SOS – Save our Shipston is still waiting for determination on all the planning applications submitted. As soon as we hear anything, we’ll let you know.



The South Warwickshire Local Plan Regulation 19 is in its next phase of development. In its current form, the Plan excludes any planned development at Shoulderway Lane and Fell Mill. The map below shows the current SWLP at Regulation 19 and the number of houses for each site SH1-SH7. If it passes through the next stages unchallenged, it will become law in 2028.



- |                                         |                          |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| SH.1 North of Darlingscote Rd – 102     | SH.2 Springhill - 14     |
| SH.3 South of Darlingscote Rd - 90      | SH.4 Hanson Avenue - 110 |
| SH.5 Oldbutt Road - 34                  | SH.6 Tilemans Lane - 100 |
| SH.7 North West of Darlingscote Rd – 74 |                          |

### Large developments still threatened

However, before the SWLP becomes law in 2028, Shipston is still threatened with the development at Shoulderway Lane – the planning application is waiting determination at SDC (and is overdue!). In addition, the Fell Mill developers will be submitting their planning application for 1,150 houses anytime now. Both developers will be hoping to force planning permissions through before the SWLP has any legal weight.

Keep in touch so you know the minute the Fell Mill planning application comes in by joining our social media pages and our email list and check our website. Please tell your friends, family and neighbours about us and encourage them to sign up for our emails.

And 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.

### Follow us:

 [www.saveourshipston.org](http://www.saveourshipston.org)

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

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

 Say No to additional 3000+ houses



And, as always, thank you for your support, donations, photographs, messages and for keeping an eye on what is happening at Fell Mill. We will keep you posted.

To donate through **gofundme**

Please go online and type in the link below:

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

To donate directly:

Bank Name: HSBC

Account Name: SaveOurShipston

Sort Code: 40-18-57

Account Number: 60770736



**STOUR VALLEY LIONS CLUB**  
Serving Our Community

**Shipston Community First Responders**  
Helping to save lives in the Shipston area

# SAVE A LIFE

STOUR VALLEY



**LEARN**  
LIFE-SAVING  
CPR TECHNIQUES



**UNDERSTAND**  
HOW TO USE  
A DEFIBRILLATOR



**HELP**  
KEEP OUR  
COMMUNITY SAFE

## FREE CPR & DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

For local residents, community groups, societies and organisations.  
No experience needed – everyone is welcome.



**Friday 16 October 2026**  
6.30pm



**Ellen Badger Hospital**  
Shipston-on-Stour

More people. More skills.  
A safer Stour Valley.

For more information or to book a place:  
Tel: 0345 833 2835 or  
email: [enquiries@stourvalleylions.club](mailto:enquiries@stourvalleylions.club)

# HALLOWEEN BINGO

**SHIPSTON TOWNSEND HALL**  
**FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER**  
DOORS OPEN AT 18:30  
EYES DOWN AT 19:30

## PRIZE FOR BEST FANCY DRESS







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](mailto:fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk)

# Stour Singers

Est. 1975

**Rehearsals every Thursday**  
from September-May  
**7.30-9.30pm**  
Shipston Primary School  
CV36 4BT

## Sing With Us!

**Musical Director**  
Alex Silverman



**TRY US FOR FREE**

**NO AUDITIONS**





**FUN AND FRIENDSHIP**



To find out more visit our website at [stoursingers.org.uk](http://stoursingers.org.uk),  
scan the QR code or contact [stoursingers@gmail.com](mailto:stoursingers@gmail.com)





Proud members of



## Shipston Primary School

It has been a wonderfully busy and vibrant start to the autumn term at Shipston Primary School. Our children have settled brilliantly into their new year groups, and we have already had so much to celebrate across sports, the arts, and community connections.

### KS2 cluster athletics champions!

On Thursday 17 September, children from across Key Stage 2 represented Shipston Primary at the Cluster Athletics Competition held at Kineton Primary School. Competing against several local schools, our pupils took part in four core athletic disciplines: sprint, long run, throw, and long jump.

Every single child displayed fantastic sportsmanship, determination, and team spirit. When the points were totalled, Shipston Primary were crowned overall champions! Huge congratulations to all our young athletes for their outstanding achievement and for bringing home the trophy.

### Bookfest connections

Throughout September, our school was filled with a love of reading as part of the local Shipston Bookfest. We were thrilled to welcome visiting authors into school to read with the children and share the magic of storytelling.

Our Years 5 and 6 classes enjoyed a fantastic visit to the High School for their dedicated author sessions, while a selection of pupils from across the school visited our neighbours at Shipston Lodge to share poetry with the residents. Connecting generations through reading was a truly heartwarming experience for everyone involved.

### Prospective Parent Open Mornings

Are you looking for a Reception place for September 2027, or new to the local area? We would love to show you around our wonderful school family! We are holding dedicated Prospective Parent Open Mornings on: Monday 5 October, Tuesday 6 October, Monday 2 November, Tuesday 3 November.

For further details or to book a place on a tour, please visit our school website or contact the school office directly—we look forward to giving you a warm welcome.

### Looking ahead: High School collaboration

Building on our strong partnership with Shipston High School, our Key Stage 2 pupils will soon be attending an exciting Culture Day at the High School. The children will immerse themselves in a rich variety of workshops and activities, ranging from fine art to modern foreign languages.



The poster features a photograph of three children smiling. To the right is the school crest, which includes a book, a ram's head, a tent, and a bear. Text on the poster includes 'THE STOUR FEDERATION', 'LEARN GROW SUCCEED TOGETHER', 'MULTI ACADEMY TRUST', and 'Shipston-on-Stour Primary School'. The main title is 'OPEN MORNINGS' in large, bold letters. Below it, the dates are listed: 'Monday 5<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October' and 'Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2026'. A circular inset shows a group of children sitting on the floor. The text 'Welcome and Tour 9.30-11.00am' is prominently displayed. An invitation follows: 'You are warmly invited to join us for a tour to see the school in action, meet the Senior Leaders and talk through any questions you may have.' At the bottom, contact information is provided: '01608 661266', 'admin5206@welearn365.com', and 'www.shipston.warwickshire.sch.uk'. There is also a social media icon for Instagram with the handle 'shipstonprimaryschool'.

## Shipston High School

September has started incredibly positively for students and staff at Shipston High School. We had our busiest ever Open Evening welcoming children and families from across the catchment area and beyond. Feedback was incredibly positive and parents commented on the wonderful atmosphere in the school and the first class facilities we have right on families' doorsteps. What was even more pleasing were comments from current Shipston High parents about what a difference our new praise and behaviour strategies have been having on students' learning in lessons.

Dozens of Shipston High guides played host to families as they toured the school, scores of others helped out in departmental zones and two brave Year 7s spoke to hundreds about their first two weeks at school!

### Inaugural hike

Year 7 have made a fantastic start at Shipston High and you may have seen us on our inaugural 7km hike across the countryside and around Honington. Much fun was had by all and friendships were fostered. Other trips so far this term, include the Drama & REP department trip to watch 'Death Note the Musical' at the Barbican, as well as an Army residential for a select group of Year 11s.

### Creative writing

The English department has been celebrating Bookfest with special activities for lower school students, and Year 5 and 6 students from Shipston Primary joined the department for a creative writing masterclass. They were a pleasure to have working with us for the day. We look forward to a busy term and year ahead of collaborative work with our primary feeder schools in English, Maths, STEM subjects and, of course, PE.

## Shipston SCAN (Stour Community Awareness Network)



We held an extra meeting in August when the speaker was our Member of Parliament, Manuela Perteghella. Manuela was one of 335 new MPs elected in 2024 – more than half the total number of 650 – and the 585th woman MP. She is also Stratford's first woman MP and first Liberal for over 100 years.

In a wide-ranging talk Manuela explained the induction process for new members and some of the procedures of the House of Commons. She also spent time discussing the physical state of the Palace of Westminster quoting eye watering amounts for the cost and timescale for renovations. Manuela spends Friday to Sunday each week in the constituency and the rest of the week in London.

Manuela then turned to some of her constituency interests with particular reference to Shipston. She is supporting bringing back beds to the Ellen Badger Hospital following the redevelopment. She has campaigned for the cleanliness of local rivers and tackling sewage issues. It was raised that this was a particular concern in Shipston with capacity in respect of new and proposed development. She is supportive of her colleague, the MP for Cheltenham, who has proposed the Sunshine Bill where all new built homes will have solar panels fitted.

Finally, Manuela dealt with questions from the audience. Topics covered included her views on whether there should be a minimum age for MPs; the situation with the former BHS building in Stratford-upon-Avon; the services offered currently at the Ellen Badger Hospital compared to what was available before; lack of public transport from Shipston and the surrounding area to Stratford and Warwick Hospitals; lack of access to NHS dentists; reducing the welfare bill; child benefit/two child limit on Universal Credit and disparity in access to free emergency eye treatment across different counties.

Manuela came across as an enthusiastic and committed MP. This was an enjoyable and informative morning.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 10 November. The speaker will be Marilyn Chalmers who will be talking about Assistance Dogs. The ways in which dogs can help humans these days are extremely varied – do come along and be amazed. The talk will be preceded by our AGM. As always, start at 10am for refreshments, AGM and talk at 10.30am and finish around noon. The venue is the Townsend Hall and there is absolutely no cost. Please ring Laurie Grove, 07779 151947, if you'd like to know more.

## Shipston on Stour and District Local History Society



Exciting news for history enthusiasts in our community. After three decades, gatherings of the Shipston on Stour and District Local History Society have been revived. The aim is to bring together those passionate about understanding and celebrating the heritage that has shaped our town and district.

The Society launched with its inaugural meeting on Monday, 21 September at the Black Horse Inn. From October onwards, the Society will meet on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 7.30pm for a focused talk on local history topics, followed by sociable discussion. These gatherings are free to all society members and volunteers, creating an accessible space for people of all knowledge levels to engage with our shared past.

Whether you're fascinated by Roman settlements, industrial heritage, the lives of local figures, or have an interesting historical topic of your own to share, the Society offers a genuine community of like-minded individuals.

Membership forms will be available at the meetings, or you can join in advance via the website at [www.shipstonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.shipstonmuseum.co.uk) or by emailing [enquiries@shipstonmuseum.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shipstonmuseum.co.uk). If you're curious but not quite ready to commit, you're warmly invited to attend a monthly meeting as a guest. It's the perfect way to meet current members and trustees, and to discover whether the Society is right for you.

Whether you're a longtime resident or newcomer to Shipston, pop along to learn about and share local history.

## Shipston WI



Adam Wood gave us a fascinating insight into crime in and around Shipston in years gone by.

Adam is a crime historian who became interested in the subject as a child after discovering that his great-grandfather had seen the body of one of Jack the Ripper's victims. Some of the events he covered featured family names that are still prominent in Shipston today such as Badger, Townsend and Sandford. He explained the origin of some of the well-known phrases still in use today such as 'turning the screw' which referred to tightening the handle on the crank machines used as devices for hard labour to deter re-offending. 'Money for old rope' comes from the prison practice of oakum-picking, where inmates, usually women, pulled apart old, tarred ship ropes into loose fibres to be reused as caulking. He concluded his talk with a story about a Chipping Campden man called William Harrison, who in 1660 vanished one night with the rents he had been collecting. Only his hat and bloodstained neckcloth were found. His servant was accused and confessed to murder and robbery, also implicating his mother and brother. The three were tried twice and they were all condemned and hanged. Then in 1662 Harrison returned to Chipping Campden with a story of robbery, kidnapping and having been shipped out of England bound for America, then captured by Turkish pirates, and sold by them as a slave. Even today the full story is not known.

Business continued after the tea break. Everyone was thanked for their contributions to this year's Chairs' Challenge charity drive for The Esther Project with special thanks to Pam Harrison who raised over £500 by taking part in a sponsored Tank Drive Challenge.

Shipston WI took part in the Communities Together Fun Day on 12 September at Herdwick Fold Open Space, with a stall selling

cakes and preserves. The focus of the day was to bring residents together, encourage people to embrace community life and get involved in activities locally.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 October when we welcome Clare Shivlock from Warwickshire Willow. New members and visitors welcome at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road at 7pm.

## Shipston Music Society

Our 2026/7 programme began on 12 September with a short one hour recital by harpist Manon Browning. Manon's aim was to demonstrate the versatility of the instrument which she did in a programme of music from the sixteenth century to the twentieth, not all originally composed for the harp. The music was hugely enjoyed by an audience which included many newcomers to the Music Society. We hope to see at least some of them again. Committee members provided plenty of delicious homemade cakes which added to the enjoyment of the afternoon. This was an experiment which we will almost certainly repeat.

The first concert of the regular season, on 18 September, featured the Amberg Trio playing music by, amongst others, J S Bach, Mozart, Nino Rota and Paul Reade.

Our next session is on Friday, 16 October, when we shall start with an hour's jolly singing from Shipston's own Shanty Group. Their aim is to raise money for Shipston First Responders. The Society will make a contribution to this valuable service and there will be an opportunity to donate. The music will be followed by the Society's AGM.

Admission for non members of the Society is £10. Tickets are available in advance from E H Spencer in town or on the door. The ticket cost will be offset against your subscription if you subsequently decide you would like to become a member of the Society. Just keep hold of your ticket.

If you'd like to know more about the Society, please ring Laurie Grove on 07779 151947.

## Stour Valley Lions

After very successful sales of raffle tickets in the Co-op in Shipston and at Ilmington Show, and generous donations from people enjoying their evening in various Shipston pubs, the Stour Valley Lions' Summer Raffle raised just over £1,900, which will be donated to Shipston Youth Club. With many thanks to everyone who donated so generously and



congratulations to the winners from the prize draw which took place at the White Horse in Shipston on 5 September.



## Dates for your diary

Friday 16 October

Film Night 7pm for 7.30pm - Townsend Hall.

Friday 13 November

Film Night 7pm for 7.30pm - Townsend Hall.

Saturday 21 November

Book Sale – Scout Hut

## New Members

Stour Valley Lions always welcomes new members. If you're interested in joining, or you'd like to help Stour Valley Lions with their events, please email [enquiries@stourvalleylions.club](mailto:enquiries@stourvalleylions.club) or call us on 0345 833 2835. Monthly meetings take place at the Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road, Shipston, at 6.30pm for 7pm, on the second Tuesday of each month.



## Remembrance Sunday

This year's Remembrance Sunday parade and service will take place on Sunday 8 November, arranged as ever by the Shipston Branch of the Royal British Legion (SRBL), working hand-in-hand with the Town Council, local Police, the Lions, St Edmund's Church, the Town Band and our dedicated bellringers. Look out for details of the day in next month's Forum as well as on social media channels of the SRBL, St Edmund's and the Town Council, as well as on the RBL noticeboard in The Bury. If you know someone who isn't online, please do pass this information on. Don't forget there will be temporary road closures in place from 9am-12.30pm to facilitate the parade on Sunday 8 November.

Armistice Day will be marked with a special ceremony at the Gyratory Memorial Garden, to honour those who gave their lives in service. The community is invited to gather for a two-minute silence at 11am.



## County Council

I write on the equinox, so from now on the days get shorter, coinciding with a week of wall-to-wall meetings culminating in WCC Full Council. We have a packed agenda and lots of notices of motion. Most of the time with these there are a lot of amendments, some friendly and some not. It allows members to promote particular ideas and passions through their groups. My group is seeking a new approach from WCC to make the planning process tougher when considering infrastructure demands coming out of the Local Plan. This is undoubtedly a debacle which will cost us all dearly if we do nothing! We are also joining Labour to promote civility in public life – while, I might add, remaining robust! The Greens are bringing forward rainwater harvesting, which we also think is not a bad idea. (In fact I am about to put a tank in my garden to capture all the useful water which falls on our roof for reuse. Note to self: check planning permission!) Restore are bringing one on the use – or not – of inclusive language.

We will discuss the Youth Justice Plan, which we have not scrutinised yet. I shall be asking questions and hoping we tighten it up a bit so we know that the money spent is achieving its aim.

## District Council

On a Wednesday in mid-September, Mark Bywater (yes that is his name), the manager of Waste Water Recycling in South Warwickshire, which includes our very own Fell Mill Treatment Plant, spent three hours showing eight of us exactly what happens to our poo when we flush the toilet. If this doesn't interest you, then maybe skip to the end of the article, as we all became official sewage nerds and found it fascinating.

Ilmington, Stretton, Cherington, and Nethercote (next to Great Wolford), all have their own treatment plants. But if you live in Newbold, Halford, Honington, Willington, Barcheston, as well as the whole of Shipston, the first port of call for the contents of your toilet is Cauldewell pumping station. This is from where, if you look on any of the sewage maps eg. Sewage Map.co.uk, you can see frequent sewage spills into the Stour. Severn Trent have made improvements to this pumping station; spills reducing from 51 instances in 2024, to 29 instances in 2025. But the last time we had heavy rain – 27 August, it spilled for 22 minutes from 7.45pm to 8.22pm. In an ideal world, rainwater wouldn't get into our sewage system. All new developments separate rainwater and sewage, but they are then connected to our existing sewage network. Any property built before the 1970s almost certainly combines the two, and that is one of the reasons we have so many combined sewage overflows that leak sewage into our rivers. There are, of course, areas in the country that can't cope even in dry spells, but Shipston isn't one of those, at the moment.

After Cauldewell, all sewage is pumped up to Fell Mill. The first thing that happens is that all the rubbish is removed. This is mainly plastic, in the form of sanitary products, wet wipes, contact lens stuff, etc. This gets taken off to be incinerated. The dirty water then goes into the primary settlement tanks. Chemicals are added at this point so that solids coagulate and sink to the bottom. This 'sludge' needs further treatment to decompose

We have a serious issue with Education, Health and Care Plans or EHCPs. Extra staff have been brought in to deal with the backlog of approaching 500 plans. Only 9% are being completed within 20 weeks which is just not acceptable to children, families and schools. The entire system is due to be changed in 2029 – we await the government plan – but this is not helping nervousness about the system. I hear from a lot of parents about EHCPs, CAMHS and diagnosis delays and I am determined to keep the pressure up to improve things. Where children are triaged early, their outcomes are so much better. We all know this, and as ever, if we get it right, early will be cheaper in the long run as there is less potentially time lagged damage to undo. This is one of my soapbox issues! Also, families, if you want help with any of this area to do with education and health – I am your woman!

In case you missed it – and why would you notice – local government reform has been paused so we have District Council elections next year! See you on your doorstep soon!

Surgeries resume – usually Thursday 10am at various hostelryes – now I am back from holiday time. Let me know if you want to meet!

### Jo Barker

County Councillor, Shipston Division

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



and remove other smaller traces of pollutant, and this doesn't happen at Fell Mill. Around one or two tankers a day get taken away, sometimes as far as Sperrall near Studley to where it can be treated. It is either turned into agricultural fertiliser, or biodigested with the resulting gas used in the grid.

The then slightly less dirty water is trickled over the four humus tanks. These are the big round tanks that are filled with stones three metres deep. As the water seeps through it is biologically treated, getting rid of most of the ammonia and nitrogen. After another settlement tank, this nearly clean water goes through the eight reed beds. It is then tested before being released into the river. The ammonia and phosphate levels are being monitored 24 hours a day. When we were there the water being released into the Stour had 4.52 mg/litre of ammonia, and 0.43 mg/litre of phosphates. This is well within the permitted levels.

The Severn Trent workers were incredibly generous with their time, answering all our questions, including one about why were there so many tankers coming over a period in the summer, including at night. The answer being the Nethercote Treatment plant was temporarily out of action, so the sewage they were unable to treat was being tanked over to Fell Mill. And another about what happens when there is a power cut – generators and extra tankers will arrive within two hours. Mr Bywater even had answers about how to increase capacity at Fell Mill, although of course, when this is done rests with those in charge of investment. To risk repeating myself: this has to be done before any more development.

### Olivia Hatch

District Councillor, Shipston North

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



## Your town councillors



**Richard Walters, Mayor**

e: richard.walters@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Michelle Kelly, Deputy Mayor**

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**Tony Booth**

*General Purposes and Communications Working Group Chair*

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**Gerry Kelly**

*Planning Committee Vice Chair*

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e: gerry.kelly@shipstontowncouncil.org



**Ian Cooper**

*Finance Working Group Chair*

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**Paul Tesh**

*Planning Committee Chair*

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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*

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**Chris Howarth**

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**John Williams**

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



To request posts on the council's Facebook page, contact enquiries@shipstontowncouncil.org

### 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.

## Shipston-on-Stour area u3a

Join a lively community of likeminded people where you can

Share your skills knowledge and experience

Learn from others make friends and have fun

Allotments, Art, or Current Affairs  
Pilates, Poetry or Photography

Take part in some 40 activity groups where you can pursue your hobbies and interests, or discover new ones

To find out more visit our website [www.sosau3asite.uk](http://www.sosau3asite.uk)  
or contact our membership secretary  
[membership@sosau3acommitee.org](mailto:membership@sosau3acommitee.org)

**We look forward to welcoming you**



52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire. CV36 4AE  
Charity No. 522997

Townsend Hall, Shipston, presents...  
On Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026  
**Kim Cypher's FUNKY LATIN JAZZ PARTY**



*"A Latin jazz party that exudes love and happiness" - Lance Liddle - Bepop Spoken Here*

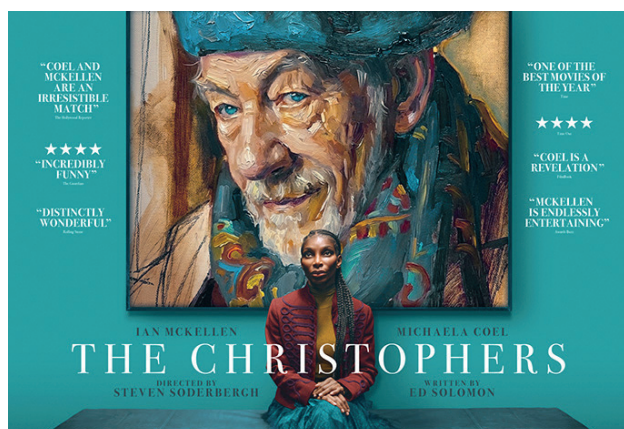
|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Featuring:       |              |
| ❖ Kim Cypher:    | Sax & Vocals |
| ❖ Rich Hughes:   | Piano        |
| ❖ Chris Cobbson: | Guitar       |
| ❖ Mike Green:    | Bass         |
| ❖ Mike Cypher:   | Drums        |

Doors / Bar Open 19:00 for 20:00  
Tickets £18 in advance; £20 on the Door  
From the Flower House, 3 Market Place,  
Shipston and online via  
[ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall](http://ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall) or  
[townsendhall.co.uk](http://townsendhall.co.uk)



Tickets are for general admission. For a table reservation of 4 or more people, phone Peter on 07711-562317

## STOUR VALLEY LIONS CINEMA



Certificate 15

The children of a once famous artist hire a forger to complete some old unfinished canvases, hoping they will receive some inheritance when he dies.

**TOWNSEND HALL, SHIPSTON**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2026 at 7.30 pm**

Tickets on sale from The Flower House, Shipston,  
for cash £6.00 or pay on door

**Drinks, Chocolate, Raffle.**

## SHIPSTON TOWN COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS

Shipston Town Council is inviting grant applications for the 2027/2028 financial year. Grants support a wide range of community initiatives across the town, delivered by voluntary groups and charities.

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

Any voluntary group or charity based in Shipston, or those who actively work in the town.

#### WHAT CAN GRANTS FUND?

Applications must be for specific projects, such as purchasing equipment or supporting a planned event.

**£250 - £2,000**

Grants typically range from £250 to £2,000. Larger sums may be awarded for certain causes.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE

**31 OCTOBER 2026**

#### APPLICATION PACKS

New Clark House West Street Shipston on Stour  
Warwickshire CV36 4HD  
[emily.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org](mailto:emily.booth@shipstontowncouncil.org)  
01608 662180