



# Shipston Forum

The community newsletter for Shipston-on-Stour

April 2013

## New Youth Shelter to be installed this month

Shipston's youngsters will soon have a new place to gather and socialise thanks to the combined efforts of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, Shipston Town Council, Stratford District Council and the youngsters themselves.

As previously reported (Shipston Forum, March 2013), the shelter concept was agreed as a priority at a recent Community Forum meeting.

Following the award of a larger than expected grant from the town council last month, PCSO Andy Steventon was tasked with finding out what type of shelter young people really wanted, and finding a suitable solution within a budget of £5,000.

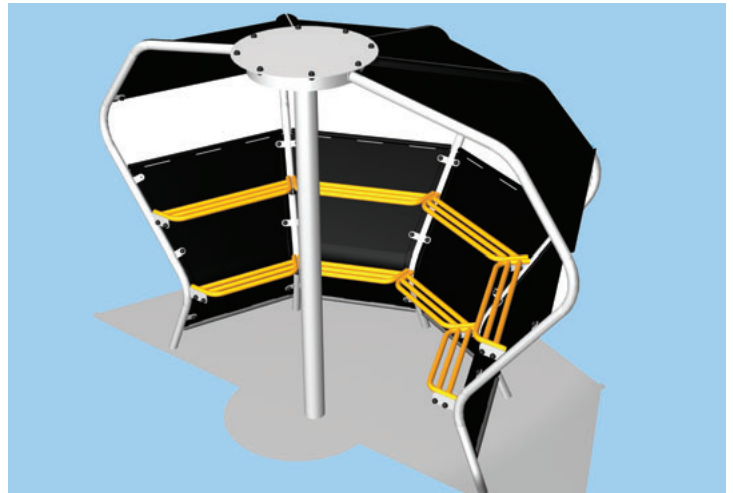
After discussion with students at the High School and youngsters in the town, it became clear that the shelter needed to be inviting and weather-proof, while avoiding a closed structure that would restrict visibility and accessibility.

Following careful research and some impressive bartering by Andy Steventon, a new shelter has been purchased from Sutcliffe Play and is due to be installed mid to late April. The structure has been custom made and finished to match the existing materials at the Skate Park, where the shelter will be installed.

Andy Steventon said "I have been overwhelmed by the amount of support and the speed with which we have been

able to progress this project. I'm delighted we have been able to find the right solution for Shipston's youngsters and would like to thank everyone who has helped this project come to fruition."

Mayor, Fay Ivens, added "Shipston Town Council is very pleased to have been able to fund this shelter as part of our commitment to improving services for younger people. We hope to see the shelter put to good use in the coming months."



*The new shelter has been designed in black and yellow to fit with the existing skate park equipment*

## Potholes beware – Town Councillors are on the warpath

Shipston Town Councillors are to conduct a thorough assessment of the roads in Shipston after repeated complaints about potholes and blocked drains. The town has been split into ten segments, with most councillors taking on at least one section.

Armed with maps, the councillors will be recording any hazardous potholes that present a danger to road users or which could damage cars or bicycles. The results will be collated by the Town Clerk and fed back to Warwickshire County Council's Highways Department for urgent action.

Mayor, Fay Ivens, said "although we accept that the recent weather conditions have damaged the road surfaces, the number and severity of potholes and blocked drains around Shipston has got out of hand. Despite repeated efforts to get these problems fixed, progress has been slow. We hope that this thorough assessment will encourage the county council to take the necessary action."

Although the audit will focus on potholes, blocked drains and other highways issues will be recorded where possible. In the meantime, residents are encouraged to continue reporting potholes via the county council website at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/potholes](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/potholes) or by calling 01926 412515.

## Councillors seek a solution for Turbine Blading employees

After operating for almost 40 years in Shipston, Turbine Blading looks set to close with the loss of 64 local jobs. Recognising the impact of the potential closure on the town, a group of town and district councillors and representatives from Stour United Businesses met senior executives of the parent company, General Electric (GE), to discuss options.

GE acknowledged the workforce is highly skilled, loyal and productive and that Shipston is considered a good location. However, a downturn in the market has led to a capacity problem. *Continued on page 2*



*Community representatives organised talks with Turbine Blading*

## Mayor's column

It is hard to believe that my year as Mayor is nearly at an end.



The petition against the Streetlight turn off has gone from strength to strength. Along with fellow town councillor, Mel Trapp, we intend to deliver the petition to Shire Hall later this month, asking Warwickshire County Council to redebate the light switch off in our town. A big thank you to everyone who has helped with the campaign.

I had my last Meet the Mayor session on Friday at Shipston Primary School. Over the past year I have had the pleasure to meet many pupils and listen to the inspirational ideas and views that they have of the town where they are growing up.

It was a pleasure to be invited along with Cllr. Ian Cooper to judge the Shipston Climate Challenge to 'Design the ultimate eco-home' organised by Transition Shipston. The four teams, including one from Shipston High School, certainly rose to the challenge with their environmentally friendly designs.

Many congratulations to the Wool Fair committee on organising a fundraising Barn Dance which proved to be a fun filled evening for everyone.

We were delighted to be invited by Stour Valley Lions to their Annual Senior Citizens Party last Saturday. This was enjoyed by all of the 130 guests – the entertainment along with the delicious tea was first class.

On Red Nose Day, I was delighted to wave 17 year old James Harris off on his 15 mile fundraising bike ride – well done James.

At the invitation of the Chairman of Warwickshire County Council we were proud to represent Shipston at his dinner for civic heads at Shire Hall, Warwick.

**Fay Ivens**

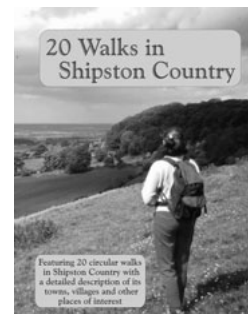
## Enjoy 20 local walks, all in aid of charity

A new 96-page guidebook describing twenty walks in a wide swathe of countryside surrounding Shipston, has just been published for the exclusive benefit of Shipston Home Nursing.

Centred on Shipston, this guidebook features walks varying in length between two and ten miles, all but one of which start from an inn. The guide also contains a forty-page section describing the towns, villages and other places of interest in 'Shipston country'.

The guidebook has been compiled by Peter Titchmarsh in memory of his wife, Janet, and is his way of thanking all the Shipston Home Nursing staff for the many months of loving care that they gave her. Peter has lived in this part of the world almost all his life and his love of its countryside, and its towns and villages is revealed on almost every page of the book.

Priced at £6, *Walks in Shipston Country*, with its twenty maps and ninety colourful illustrations, is available from Shipston Medical Centre, Waterstones in Stratford-upon-Avon, all the pubs mentioned in the book and direct from Rebecca Mawle on 01608 674929. All proceeds will be for the benefit of Shipston Home Nursing.



## Knitters needed – we're 30 squares from success!

This year's Wool Fair challenge is to create a fabulous pure wool blanket, which will become a unique prize in the raffle at the event.

The blanket is progressing well but 30 more squares are needed before it can be completed. If you're handy with a pair of knitting needles, please get involved by knitting 8"x8" squares in any pattern (cable, plan, rib, garter stitch etc) using wool in neutral colours such as brown, beige or cream. Please take your finished squares along to Shipston Needlecraft in Sheep Street.

Don't forget to put the 27th May in your diary and hunt out the raffle tickets – the blanket could be yours!



## Road safety rigour continues

Following its commitment to tackle road safety (March 2013 Forum), Shipston Town Council has agreed additional steps to improve the safety of pedestrians on Stratford Road.

Warwickshire County Council has confirmed that a traffic survey will be undertaken on the Stratford Road before Easter. Alongside the survey, Shipston Town Council will make every effort to secure funding for illuminated slow down signs on both sides of the Stratford Road, including applications to the two developers due to build developments on the edge of the town, an application to next year's county council member fund, and a request via Stratford District Council for Section 106 money.

In the meantime, councillors agreed to fund a temporary 'know your speed' sign for 12 months at Stratford Road, visible to traffic coming into the town.

## Councillors seek solution for Turbine Blading employees (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1) GE has confirmed that it is open to written offers for acquiring the business, which would see the land retained for industrial use. Any such offers should be sent to GE's Business Development Section as soon as possible.

The group of community representatives were given assurances that should staff be made redundant, offers of redeployment would be considered and the fullest possible careers advice would be provided.

At the time of going to press, no further details had been announced but the group intend to meet with GE again once the future of the plant becomes clear. Mayor, Fay Ivens, said "our meeting was productive and left GE in no doubt as to the impact closure will have on Shipston. I sincerely hope that an alternative solution can be found."

### March's hot topics

**Recycling removal:** The recycling bins at the Sheldon Bosley Hub have been removed following consistent dumping of household rubbish. Residents are urged not to take any recycling or other rubbish to the Hub from now on, as it will not be collected.

**No butts:** Following concerns raised by Jackie Warner about cigarette butts mounting up outside the Falcon, the Town Clerk will write to all pubs to remind them to keep the pavements outside their properties clean.

**Stratford Road development:** A number of residents raised concerns about the planned development of 15 houses on the Stratford Road. Specifically, there were fears that the new dwellings would be too close to existing properties on River Way, that some would be built too close to the floodplain and that many existing gardens will be overlooked by the new verandas proposed. Town Councillors expressed sympathy with the issues raised, although the site does already have outline planning permission. After some discussion, councillors voted to support the planning application.

**Forum fury:** Councillors and members of the public expressed concern that delivery of the Forum was becoming increasingly patchy. The Forum should be tucked inside the Midweek newspaper and delivered on the last Tues or Weds of the month. The newspaper group has taken some action to resolve known issues but residents are encouraged to continue reporting non-deliveries to the Town Clerk. Please call 01608 662180 if you haven't received a copy. Spare copies can be collected from New Clark House or downloaded via [www.shipstononline.org](http://www.shipstononline.org). In the meantime, the Communications Working Group will consider alternative delivery options.

**Parents' parking:** Following complaints from the police, Shipston Town Council will write to Shipston Primary School to request that parents be encouraged to park more courteously, particularly on the Driftway.

**Slow progress with Orbit:** Concerns were raised by town and district councillors that Orbit residents were experiencing problems in getting the housing association to solve issues such as lack of hot water in some properties.

### Campaigning for Shipston

**Neighbourhood Plan:** Councillors were joined by a small number of members of the public at a drop-in session on 9th March. Feedback is being collated alongside previous input and a report will be submitted to the next Steering Group committee meeting.

**Tackling Turbine Blading:** District and town councillors, alongside Stour United Businesses representatives, met with the key decision makers at Turbine Blading to understand the reason for the plant's planned closure (see page 1).

**Part-night street lighting:** Part-night street lighting will begin in Shipston on 1st April. Town councillors remain strongly opposed to the plans and are still collecting signatures for a petition which they hope to present to Warwickshire County Council at its March Full Council meeting.

### Town Council business

**Asbestos report:** Town Councillors voted to fund an asbestos report for the Sports and Social Club prior to work being undertaken to install new beer pumps.

**Shipston Charities reappointed:** Shipston Charities is a small charity managing a group of ancient charities dating back to the 1500s. Their focus is on alleviating poverty within Shipston. Following a request by the charity, STC has reappointed Richard Taylor and James Little as its two nominative trustees.

**Drainage works:** The new drainage system is now in place at the Shoulder Way Allotments and has already alleviated the flooding problem being experienced by a neighbour.

### New Clark House Update



#### All change at the Co-op

Shipston's larger Co-operative Food Store is planning a major refit. The store manager has informed us that the improvements will see the existing store stripped back to a shell, with long term issues such as the flooring and chilling cabinets given a complete overhaul.

Due to the extensiveness of the refit, the store will need to close for a period of approximately 12 days. At the time of going to press, the store anticipated closing on the 20th April, reopening on the 2nd May.

Arrangements have been made to provide Paypoint services at the smaller Co-Operative Store for the duration of the temporary closure.

Should you have any concerns or queries about the temporary closure, please contact the main store on 01608 661953.

#### Annual Town Meeting

The Town Council's annual meeting will take place on the 18th April. The meeting provides an opportunity for the council and community groups to report on their achievements over the last 12 months and receive feedback and queries from the public.

If you are the Chair of a local group and would like to have your annual report included, please send it to [clerk@shipstononline.org](mailto:clerk@shipstononline.org) or drop a hard copy in at New Clark House.

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting and we hope to see as many residents attending as possible. Please join us at 7pm at the High School.

#### Allotment fees

Allotment fees are due this month. Please pop into the office on weekday mornings to settle your account, if you haven't already.

#### Georgina Beaumont:

Town Clerk  
01608 662180  
e: [clerk@shipstononline.org](mailto:clerk@shipstononline.org)



## Shipston Youth Club to hold its first AGM

Twelve months on from the threat of closure, Shipston Youth Club is to hold its first 'new-look' Annual General Meeting, to which everyone is invited.

The AGM will be held at the Youth Club, behind the High School, at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 15th May. As well as providing an update on achievements to date, the organisers will be showcasing what the club is currently doing and its plans to raise funds in the future.

Daniel Pulham, Chair of the Youth Club Committee, said "we are really excited about being able to share our progress with everyone, and get input on our plans for the future. Most importantly of all, though, the AGM will give us an opportunity to say thank you for all the support we have received."

Overall, Shipston Youth Club is currently catering for around 90 youngsters. Special activities in March included cooking pancakes and some very lively drama workshops run by Kate and Tim Guest from the Caramba Theatre Company. These have been a great deal of fun for everyone – including youth workers and volunteers, and have helped encourage creative and performance skills. Sessions are planned in the near

future for Thai Boxing (youngsters will be padded so no danger of injury) and Street Dancing. In the meantime, the normal club activities of pool, table tennis, table football, and active Xbox games remain very popular.

For more information about the Youth Club, visit [www.shipstononline.org](http://www.shipstononline.org), click 'Clubs and Societies' then 'Shipston Youth Club', or contact secretary Richard Baldwin on 01608 662178.



*The Youth Club has proved popular since the reopening ceremony last year (pictured)*

## Students speak out for Shipston

A team of students from Shipston High School have just won the Stratford-upon-Avon and Shipston-on-Stour heat of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition. The three students from Year 9 at the school won the intermediate competition with their speech on 'The Apocalypse Now is Overpopulation'. To win, the students from Shipston had to see off stiff competition from other teams including a team from King Edward VI School in Stratford.

Within their chosen topic, the team explored the plight now facing the planet, with a mixture of seriousness and humour. The adjudicators especially praised the team members for the way they worked together to deliver a highly polished, amusing and eloquent presentation of their topic.

The winning team was presented with certificates by Colin Black, President of Shipston-on-Stour Rotary Club.



*The winning team display their certificates*

## Lions support specialist baby hospice

Stour Valley Lions recently focused their attention on the youngest members of society when they welcomed speaker, Kirstie Nichols, from Zoe's Place Trust, a baby hospice based in Coventry. Kirstie explained that the trust runs the only baby-specific hospice in the UK. It provides 24 hour palliative care to children aged 0 to 5 years, and specialist one-to-one care to children who suffer from life limiting and life threatening conditions.

The Trust covers the Coventry and Warwickshire area and provides regular short-term care to the children, to enable their parents to have a much-needed break. The trust's annual running costs are £75,000 and they rely totally on donations from public support.

Following Kirstie's briefing, Lion President, John Cavana (pictured) presented Kirstie with a cheque donation for £250 from the club. For more details, or to donate, visit [www.zoes-place.org.uk/coventry](http://www.zoes-place.org.uk/coventry).



## Calling all young gardening enthusiasts!

Don't miss your chance to enter Shipston in Bloom's first young persons vegetable gardening competition. The choice of growing area is up to you, be it tub, plot, bucket, but it needs to be an area of no more than a metre.

Shipston in Bloom wants as many young people as possible to get stuck in to growing vegetables for entry into its allotment competition to be held on Monday June 3rd. The choice of vegetables is up to the you – and don't forget you get to eat your produce too!

So come on give it a try. Find a space in the garden or a suitably-sized container and start planning your produce. Entry forms will be available from next month.



## Shipston Primary School

Shipston On Stour Primary School



### All booked up

A lifelong love of reading was clearly evident at Shipston Primary School as pupils, parents and teachers shared their favourite stories as part of Book Week.

This year the school's focus was on reading for pleasure and as a social activity. At the start of each day, mums, dads and other family members came into class to read and share a wide range of books with the children.

Parents weren't the only adults to share their favourite tales, as the week also saw the hugely popular 'Teacher Swap' where books such as Hairy Maclary, The Hobbit and Robin Hood were read to classes by different members of staff. A



key highlight of the week however, was 'paired reading' where older pupils and their younger peers chose books to read together.

Head of Federation Christian Hilton said: "It was wonderful to see the care, nurture and engagement of our older pupils towards our younger ones. Feedback from the children concludes that they are serious about their reading: they enjoyed Book Week more this year than last because there was more time for reading and less time spent dressing up as characters."

The week was perfectly rounded off with bedtime stories and hot chocolate in class.

The school's focus on reading continues with the popular Accelerated Reader online reading system and in April children's authors Alex T Smith and Lou Kuenzler will be visiting the school.

### Floorball Finals

Shipston Primary's sporting success continues as the Girls' Floorball Team reached the final of the Cotswold League.

In an extremely tight finish to the competition, there had to be a three-way play off to decide the final places. Shipston beat Willersey 3-1 but lost to St David's in the final match. Well done to the girls' team for finishing as runners up.

## Shipston High School

### Bumper admissions for 2013

Shipston High School is pleased to report that once again it is fully subscribed for its new intake of Year 7 students for September 2013. Demand for places has been high but it has still managed to offer places to every student in the local area expressing a first choice preference for the school whilst still maintaining its small school ethos.

### Redevelopment update

Since the report in last month's Forum, plans for the complete redevelopment of the school site have been moving on apace. The school is continuing to work with its architect on plans for the new teaching block, which it hopes to begin this summer (subject to planning permission).

The school has also been hard at work establishing contacts with a range of local and national organisations as part of the drive to build the new community sports hall. Particularly pleasing has been the groundswell of support it has received from every direction.

### Festival of Languages 2013

On 5th March students in Year 9 took part in a "Festival of Languages" event jointly organised by the Modern Foreign Languages department and the University of Warwick. Students were treated to a presentation "Why Study Languages?" where they discovered the benefits of learning a foreign language at GCSE and beyond for future careers.

Students then followed workshops in Spanish and Chinese or French and Japanese. They spoke about famous sports stars in French, practiced comparative sentences in

Spanish and they even learned some practical skills such as Origami in Japanese. It was a very interesting and enjoyable event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

### Year 11 Residential Netball trip

On Friday 2nd March Shipston High School's Year 11 netball team took a trip to Condover Hall in Shropshire. They played five matches against other teams who had travelled from across the country including Wales, Kingham and Birmingham, winning two before losing their Goal Attack to injury. In addition to netball, the girls had the opportunity to take part in Body Zorbing, High ropes, Lazer maze and tunneling. The weekend proved to be a great success.





## Wool Fair Barn Dance delights even the sceptics!

Last month's Barn Dance raised an impressive £500 for the Shipston Wool Fair, as well as delivering a successful night out.

Barn Dances may not immediately appeal to everyone, but on this occasion, even the most reluctant guests could not resist heading on to the dancefloor and ended up having a fantastic night. The band treated guests to a range of music, from the Gay Gordons to the more genteel, Pride and Prejudice-style numbers.

The Townsend Hall was transformed with Olympic bunting, ambient lighting,

gingham tablecloths and the ideal band. As well as music and dancing, a wonderful ploughman's supper was included, prepared by Maria Cave of Mrs Brown's Tea Rooms. At the end of the evening, many were asking "when will the next one be?" – a sure sign of success.

The Wool Fair Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the fundraiser, proceeds of which will be ploughed into ensuring the Wool Fair on the 27th May is a fantastic day for all the family.



*Take your partner by the hand...*

## Yee-haa! Get in the country spirit in aid of Shipston Proms

June and July will see Shipston once again hosting a two-week long series of musical events, culminating in a 'Last Night of the Proms' event in the town centre.



To get everyone in the mood for music and to raise vital funds for the two-week event, Shipston Proms is hosting a country music fundraiser featuring the celebrated Knoxville Highway.

From 8pm on Saturday 27th April, The Sheldon Bosley Hub will be taking guests on a journey through the heart and soul of country music, taking in Johnny Cash, Hank Williams right through to The Eagles and modern country, including a sprinkling of blue grass and Mariachi!

Dancers and listeners alike are promised a night to remember and it's all for a good cause. Tickets cost £7.50 – see the ad on page 16 for more details.

## Meet, Make and Eat a local lunch in Shipston

Transition Shipston is inviting everyone to join in a "Local Lunch" from 11-2 on 20th April at the Townsend Hall.

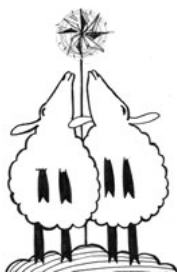
The "Local Lunch" will showcase some of the great locally produced and available food that is out there, to share skills and recipes, and of course to enjoy a sociable and delicious lunch out.

Visitors to the event will have the opportunity to sample some local produce, get involved in some 'mini-making workshops', contribute to our 'Recipe Sharing Wall' for the chance to win a prize, eat some of the wares they have helped create, or simply relax and have a bite to eat!

Bread, pizzas and soups will be made on the day, using locally produced ingredients as much as possible. Entry to the event is free and food will be available to buy at £1 per portion in the 'all-ages-friendly' eatery.

Don't forget to bring along your favourite recipe to add to the recipe wall - there will be a prize for the best entry and everyone is encouraged to photograph the recipes to then use at home.

For more details about this hands-on, family-friendly event, visit [www.facebook.com/transitionshipston](http://www.facebook.com/transitionshipston) or call Erry on 07775 765572.



## Stour Enterprise Centre throws open its doors

The Stour Enterprise Centre is holding an open day on the 19th April for anyone running a business or interested in setting up a business.

The drop-in event will enable anyone interested to find out about the workshops that run at the centre, such as social media training, writing for business and support for start up and growing businesses.

There will also be two short presentations at 10.30am and 1.30pm on what the centre is doing together with mini-presentations on topics such as dreadful sales strategies for 2013 - a lighthearted look at how to get sales strategies right in your business!

The Stour Enterprise Centre is run by volunteers to help grow enterprise in

the Stour Valley area. Pop in to the 2nd Floor, Astech Mill, 50 Stratford Road, on the 19th April to find out more, or call 01608 629693.



*Previous events at the Stour Enterprise Centre have attracted a range of businesses and entrepreneurs*

**Regular events:**

- Mon Citizens Advice Bureau:** Mornings, New Clark House. To book a free appointment, call 01789 200136
- Mon Shipston Duplicate Bridge Club:** 7pm for 7.15pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Rd, Shipston-on-Stour. Call Penny Law 663871
- Tues Stroke Club:** Alternate Tuesdays (2, 16, 30). 10am-12pm Room No 2, Ellen Badger Hospital.
- Tues Rhyme time for under 2s:** Alternate Tuesdays. 10:45am Shipston Library. Free. Contact: 661255
- Tues Age Concern Lunch Club** at Stour Court. Contact: Stella, 686224
- Tues Bingo:** Alternate Tuesdays (extra bingo date 30th April). Doors open 6.30pm. Eyes down 7.30pm. Sheldon Bosley Hub. Contact: 661886
- Tues Shipston on Stour Rotarians:** Halford Bridge Hotel, 7.30pm. Contact Adrian Ramskill 0797 656 6525.
- Weds St John's Ambulance:** Adults division. Meet at Shipston Fire Station, 7pm. Contact: Josie Bayliss, 684834
- Thur Shipston Stitchers:** 10am to 3pm, alternate Thursdays (4, 18). See page 10 for details.
- Thur Age Concern Lunch Club** at Rainbow Fields Contact: Diana 01789 740627
- Thur Safer Neighbourhood Team:** Fortnightly (4, 18). Public surgery, 2.30pm to 3pm. New Clark House, West Street.
- Thur Age Concern gentle exercise and relaxation class:** 2:15-3:15pm, Rainbow Fields. Contact Leigh, 665995
- Fri Walks over fields with friendly group.** Leaves Old Mill car park at 10am. Contact: Marlene, 663616
- Fri Bridge** 10.15am – 12.15pm Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact Val Young on 01608 238754 or 07516 091786
- Fri Shipston Probus:** alternate Fridays (5, 19)
- Fri Age Concern Lunch Club** at Stour Court. Contact: Linda, 662290

**There are lots of regular classes on at the Townsend Hall. They include: line dancing, badminton, short tennis, yoga, ballet, Calypso kids music, Little Kickers, Zumba, modern jazz dancing, t'ai chi and circuit training. For details, visit [www.townsendhall.com](http://www.townsendhall.com) or call Lisa Bryan on 07800771368.**

**April Diary**

- 2 Multiple Sclerosis Society 'Drop in' meeting:** 10.30am at the George Hotel. Contact: Ann Bartlett 666161
- 3 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 10am-4pm, The Coach House, Church Street, Shipston (opposite the Library). Books include fiction, children's, cookery, gardening, art etc. To donate books contact Lion David Squires on [pinnegards@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:pinnegards@tiscali.co.uk)
- National Organisation of the Widowed:** Lunch. 12pm. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- Shipston-on-Stour Women's Institute:** Cotswold Curiosities by Alan Winterburn. 7pm, Catholic Church Hall, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Jane Hanks 664519
- 4 Story Stomp:** Storytelling for 2-5 year olds. 10.30am, Shipston Library. Free. Contact: 661255
- 5 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-4pm. Details as above.
- Chamber of Commerce Business Advice Surgeries:** Free advice sessions by appointment at Stour Enterprise Centre, Astech Mill, Stratford Road. 1pm – 4pm. To book, call 629693
- Shipston Dementia Resource and Support Cafe:** Sister Gaye Calleja talks about the Ellen Badger Day Unit (re-arranged). 2pm-3.30pm, Stour Court, Old Road. Contact: Barbara Smith 662433

- Royal British Legion – Shipston Branch:** Spring Draw, Horseshoe Inn. Contact: Mike Dobbin 664636
- 6 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-2pm. Details as above.
- Shipston Town Council Monthly Litter Pick:** All welcome. Meet at New Clark House, West Street at 10am. Equipment & refreshments provided. Contact: Fay Ivens 662133 or [fayivens@aol.com](mailto:fayivens@aol.com)
- 8 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group:** Outing. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684
- Shipston Town Council Monthly Meeting:** 7pm, New Clark House. All welcome. Contact: Georgina Beaumont 662180
- 9 Shipston Flower Club:** 'Champagne Afternoon Tea' by Julia Mitchell. 7.30pm, Shipston Primary School, Station Road. Non-members welcome. Contact: 01295 788099
- Stour Valley Lions Monthly Meeting:** 8pm, The George Hotel, Shipston. All welcome.
- 10 Shipston and District Gardening Club:** Gardens I Have Photographed by James Kerr. 7.30pm, Catholic Church, Darlingscote Road. Contact: Tony Mitchell 666933
- 12 Stour Valley Lions Cinema presents 'Skyfall':** See ad on page 9
- 13 Mayor's Surgery:** 10am, High Street
- 15 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group:** The Medical History of Shipston by Dr. Guy Harris. 2pm, Stour Court. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684
- 16 Shipston University of the Third Age:** Launch Meeting. See ad on page 8
- Shipston Arts and Crafts Society:** Art & Design in Theatre and Television by Lynda Kettle. 7.30pm, Catholic Church Hall. Contact: Penny Law 663871
- 17 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 10am-4pm. Details as above.
- National Organisation of the Widowed:** Meeting. 10.30am-12pm, Coach and Horses. Contact: Barbara Bean 663230
- 18 Shipston Town Council Annual Meeting:** All welcome. See ad on page 16
- 19 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-4pm. Details as above.
- Dementia Carers Drop-in Support Group:** New group meeting at New Clark House, 10am-12pm, the third Friday of each month. Contact Barbara Smith 662433.
- Stour Enterprise Centre Open Day:** 10am-3pm, SEC, Astech Mill, Stratford Road. Drop in anytime to find out what services and courses are available for local businesses. Free.
- Shipston Music Society:** "Harp & Songs" by Margaret Knight. 7.30pm, Methodist Church. Contact: 663207
- 20 Stour Valley Lions Book Sale:** 9am-2pm. Details as above.
- Shipston Rotary:** Blood Pressure Day. The George Hotel. Confidential free check by medical practitioners.
- Meet, Make and Eat a local lunch:** 11-2, Townsend Hall. See page 6 for details.
- 21 Shipston Home Nursing:** Spring walk, jog or run in the grounds of Walton Hall, Wellesbourne, CV35 9HU. 10.30am. £5 Adults, £3 Children. Contact: Gilda Gardner 01789 740083 or 07970 177951 and Rebecca 01608 674929 or 07932 043111
- 24 Shipston and District Literary Society:** 'Happy Birthday, Bill!' Professor Carol Rutter. 7.30pm, The George Hotel. Contact: Mary Edwards 01789 450737 or Malcolm Pollard 663482
- 27 Shipston Proms Country and Western Night:** See ad on page 16
- 28 Flowers Band in concert:** For details see ad on page 16
- 29 Stour Valley Visually Impaired Group:** Trip to India by Noel ('Nic') Nickerson. 2pm, Stour Court. Contact: Shirley Pilkington 662684





THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

**Retired? - Semi Retired?**

## **The Third Age: a time of creativity and fulfilment!**

**Shipston U3A Launch Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> April at 14:00 at the Townsend Hall, Shipston on Stour.**

**Just come along and find out more!**

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

The U3A is a national organization for older people who are no longer in full time work.

By joining you will become part of a dynamic, outward looking organisation which enables you to share many educational, creative and leisure activities, as well as monthly meetings. Activities are organised mainly in small groups that meet regularly, often in each other's homes.

Some groups are more cerebral or aesthetic such as Bridge, Music, Chess, Art, Dance, Science, Nature or a Foreign Language; others more physical e.g. Walking, Boules and Cycling.



## **KNOW YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE**

High blood pressure can lead to strokes and other life-threatening illnesses.

A blood pressure check is quick, simple and pain-free and could be a life-saver

**on Saturday 20th April  
at The George Hotel**

**Shipston Rotary nurses will be providing free blood pressure checks all morning.**

Last year they checked about 75 people and almost everyone was fine but for those with raised blood pressure, the early warning gave them the opportunity to seek further advice.

*No need to book – just turn up!*

Shipston Rotary, supporting the community and helping the Medical Centre.



Shipston Rotary

## **Cotswold Walk**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**7 mile walk with spectacular views**

Enjoy walking over the wonderful footpaths and bridleways of the North Cotswolds. Besides taking in beautiful countryside, the walk goes alongside Hidcote Manor a well known National Trust property. Bring a picnic or join us for refreshments in Ebrington village hall at the halfway point.

If you are on holiday, Stratford on Avon, Shipston on Stour, Chipping Campden and Broadway are no more than 20 minutes drive. We are in easy reach of many holiday destinations in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, West Midlands and Gloucestershire.

**refreshments ~ toilets ~ marshals ~ first aid**

**£5 adults .....£2 schoolchildren**

Walkers may start at any time between 10am & 2pm  
Commence at Foxcote Hill, Ilmington, Nr Shipston on Stour, CV36 4LD  
Signposted from A429 & A3400 ~ Free Car Park

**For further information please go to:-**

<http://1060.org.uk/content/rotary-cotswold-walk>

**Or Contact:- Avryl 01789 740047**

**or email [nigel872@btinternet.com](mailto:nigel872@btinternet.com)**

### **Sponsors:-**

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**tel: 01608 663456**

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**Specialists in maintenance, building,**

**plumbing and heating**

## **Shipston Sports Bowls**

**Coming up to retirement?**

**Recently retired?**

**Not sure what to do with your time?**

**Why not try Bowls!**

**Fresh air, gentle exercise,  
good company.**

**Everyone is welcome, all ages.**


**Equipment and coaching provided.  
Bowling begins mid April so now is the  
perfect time to give it a go!**

**For details call**

**Tony on 01608 666929  
or Pete on 07917 410895**



STOUR VALLEY LIONS – APRIL FILM (12A)



**SKYFALL**  
007

**SHIPSTON HIGH SCHOOL**  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at 7:00 pm  
Advance Tickets £3.50 (£4 on door)

From: R. Clarke Electrical, 27 High Street, Shipston On Stour.  
Or Lion Judith Jackson. Tel: 01608-661148  
Raffle and Refreshments

In aid of St David's Church  
Newbold-on-Stour with Armscote



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May  
10 am – 12.30 pm

**Newbold  
Plant Sale**

St David's Churchyard

Great Variety! Great value!

Tombola Refreshments Produce Stall



Plant donations greatly appreciated  
Please contact Gilly Marsden 01789 459168  
or deliver to Church on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 3 – 7 p.m.



**SHIPSTON MUSIC  
SOCIETY**

*Presents the welcome return of*


**Margaret Knight**

*Harp and Songs*

**Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm at**  
*Shipston Methodist Church*  
*Guests Welcome £5.00*

*For further details ring 01608 663207*

**Caring for a Person  
with Dementia?**



Following a successful open meeting in February,  
there will be a 'drop-in' meeting open to family  
carers of people living with dementia

**on Friday 19th April**  
**10.00am – 12.00 noon**  
**New Clark House, West Street**  
**Shipston-on-Stour**

Please feel free to call in at any time during  
the morning. Light refreshments available.

We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month  
17th May 17th, 21st June, 19th July, 16th Aug,  
20th Sept, 18th Oct, 15th Nov & 20th Dec.

**If you are interested in volunteering  
to support this group please contact**  
**Barbara Smith on 01608 662433**  
**or Carl Watkins 01608 663808**

THIS GROUP IS SUPPORTED BY GUIDEPOSTS TRUST  
AND THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

### Stour Valley WI

In the hope of avoiding the worst of the winter weather in January, we do not now meet until February and so Wednesday the 13th was our first get together in 2013, and yes, it was still snowing!

Our new President, Mrs Jean Cass, welcomed 17 out of our 20 members who had braved the elements to enjoy a busy afternoon.

Our speaker was Mrs Staite who gave us a fascinating talk on "The History of Fragrance". Back to the days when perfume was a solution for the wealthy against very nasty smells, she told us that few perfumes now use ingredients from animals like civet oil, musk and ambergris and those that do, are very, very expensive.

Some perfumes brought back nostalgic memories, many of which are no longer made. Some are still available but not necessarily produced by their originators having been taken over by larger companies and commercially produced.

At tea time we celebrated a 90th birthday and arranged our monthly luncheon venue. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month – new members welcome.



place to visit. Gordon Russell settled in Broadway - his furniture was and still is a possession of pride.

We asked about Chipping Campden - not near main road and railway connections. Mrs Hartsiotis said that the movement lasted only six years, because it was isolated. However, it still has a world famous silver workshop with the same family Hart - and a very good Ashby Museum! It was quite a change for us to hear of the Arts & Crafts from a business angle. Interesting.

The Society meets on the third Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Catholic Church Hall. On 16th April we welcome Lynda Kettle to tell us about Art & Design in Theatre and Television. Do join us, you will be most welcome.

### Stour Valley Lions

See page 4 for details of our latest meeting.

#### Presentation to Lion members

Lions District Governor Paul Anstie also attended the business meeting and presented Stour Valley Lions Club member Graham Williamson with his Ten Year Membership certificate and pin and David Squires with a certificate and pin for membership extension. Well done Graham and David.

#### April Film

On Friday the 12th April the Lions monthly film, which is held at Shipston High School will be the new James Bond film 'Skyfall'. This film has received rave reviews and we are sure that our regular audience of supporters will enjoy the film.



### Shipston Stitchers

We are a friendly group of hand sewers who meet (alternate Thursdays) in the Catholic Church Room to sit and sew in an informal, relaxed atmosphere. The group has been meeting for over 20 years and we are enjoying the newly extended church room - so light and warm and more spacious.

Among our group are beginners and more experienced embroiderers. Our work ranges from cross stitch kits to advanced artistic creations working at our own pace.

New members are always welcome so if you are interested in joining us, we meet from 10am - 3pm alternate Thursdays. The current cost is £3.50 each time you attend which includes hot drinks. So, just bring a packed lunch and don't forget your sewing - whether it's something you've been meaning to finish or you want to start something new, we look forward to seeing you - just turn up. The April meeting dates are the 4th and 18th. For more details, contact Kath on 01608 663486

### Shipston Arts & Crafts

In February, Mrs Kirsty Hartsiotis from Cheltenham Museum gave a lecture on the Arts & Crafts Movement in the Cotswolds. This talk had a different and practical angle compared with previous lectures we have enjoyed.

Mrs Hartsiotis spoke of the craftsmen settling near main roads and railways because they, as already established in London, needed good delivery systems for their work made in the Cotswolds - William Morris, Gordon Russell, etc. Gimson settled in Leicestershire and we were told that the National Trust have purchased his home there. Kemscott, the home of William Morris, has long been a

### Shipston Music Society February Meeting

Our concert was given by "Stringbeans" Sue Lord, Ian Vorley, Emma Hooper and Beth Porter, a string quartet based in Bath and consisting of two violins, a viola and cello.

This quartet proved to be something a little different however, with an unusually varied programme. The concert opened with El Choclo, a tango by Villoldo and followed with the well-loved Salut d'Amour by Elgar. Quartette in C by Mozart suitably demonstrated the individual and excellent talents of these musicians. The mood then changed with La Java Bleue by Vincent Scotto, a song originally made popular by the French singer and actress Marguerite Boulc'h and so reminiscent of 1930s jazz. The jazz genre was continued with Every Time We Say Goodbye by Cole Porter. The second half opened with Handel's Largo, then we were introduced to the Folk idiom with Dance Tunes from John Playford's Dancing Master. Playford was a 17th century composer and this was one of his best known compositions, consisting of four dances, Granny's Delight, Jack's Maggot, Happy Marriage and Staine's Morris.

We were then entertained with Gershwin's Someone to Watch Over Me, I've Got Rhythm and God Only Knows (Beachboys). A nearly full house showed their appreciation of this talented group, for such an entertaining evening.



### Noye's Fludde

In June 2013, the Orchestra of the Swan and Shipston locals are joining forces to perform Noye's Fludde, a children's opera, lasting just over an hour, it is based on the story of Noah's ark.



We are recruiting string players of all ages and abilities, and female singers who would be interested in performing as the Gossips. The Gossips are Mrs Noah's friends who mock Noah's ark-building project and these roles are appropriate for any female, of secondary school age and above, who is interested in singing and/or acting. All those involved will have the opportunity to work with a professional conductor, director and vocal director.

Rehearsals for these groups are as follows:

- **Strings** – Monday 10th June & Monday 24th June, 6 – 7.30pm, Shipston High School
- **Gossips** – Monday 29th April, Monday 10th June & Monday 17th June, 7pm – 8pm, Shipston High School

Performers must also be available for daytime rehearsals on Saturday 22nd June and the afternoon of Friday 28th June. Performances of Noye's Fludde are taking place on Friday 28th June (7:30pm) and Saturday 29th June (3pm & 6pm).

For further details, contact Frances Bridgewater at [noyesfluddeshipston@gmail.com](mailto:noyesfluddeshipston@gmail.com). Further updates will be published in the Shipston Forum.

### Shipston Senior Citizens Action Network (SCAN)



A group of 35 people met on a bitterly cold 12th March at the Townsend Hall.

The group was saddened to hear that the founder Chairman of Shipston SCAN, Brian Taftt, had died. Brian had been instrumental in developing SCAN into a vibrant organisation and continued to provide much help and support until his recent illness. Members expressed their condolences to his family.

The group had a very interesting talk from Barbara Bean the Shipston representative of the National Organisation of the Widowed. Barbara said the group is not a counselling or advice service but provides friendship, someone to talk to who has gone through similar things and the opportunity to share experiences. The group hold regular meetings with like-minded people, they have days out, walks and holidays. The group is open to both men and women who have lost partners. If you would like further information please contact, Barbara Bean on 01608 663230.

The next SCAN meeting is on 14th May at the Townsend Hall, coffee and biscuits provided from 10am. There is no charge to attend and all over 50's are very welcome. We hope the subjects for discussion on that day will be Road Safety and First Responders.

### Shipston on Stour & District Angling Club

Membership of the club runs from the 1st April to 31st March each year and the 2013/14 season membership book is now available. There is no joining fee, no waiting list, and at £25.00 (£15.00 for OAP & £10 Junior) offers excellent value for money for 365 days on the doorstep fishing each year.

Club membership books are available now for collection from:-

Membership secretary Rob & Janet Oakey 13 Green Lane, Shipston On Stour - 01608 662639

Club membership allows you access to fishing along approximately four miles of the beautiful River Stour right on your doorstep. Our club waters start from the upper Stour at Willington then down to Shipston Sports Club, Shipston Bridge, Fell Mill, Honington Bridge, Halford Hill all the way to Halford Bridge.

In addition we have three lakes at Aston Magna available for all year round fishing. The lakes are part of Batsford Estates. The club has worked hard on a project to transform this venue over the last 5 years from a derelict lake into a beautiful natural environment. Lake one is being turned into a junior silver fish lake. Lake two is a pleasure lake with a thriving rudd, tench, crucian carp and small mirror carp population. Lake three is a large 22 peg lake with mainly carp to 6lb. Whether you are at school, at work or retired, the club waters has something for everyone.

#### Celebrating our 60th season - dates for your diary

Our 60th year celebrations include a 3 day Weekend Festival of fishing on July 26th, 27th and 28th. In addition, in partnership with Shipston Sports Club we have planned three evenings of fun and celebrations which will be available to the whole community. Please keep 26-28th July free and look out for further updates in next month's Forum.

You can also keep up to date by visiting [www.shipston-angling.co.uk](http://www.shipston-angling.co.uk). Please contact Stuart on 07543 613350 if you or your organisation want to be involved in the festival.

### Shipston Town Management Partnership

Regretfully, the Shipston Town Management Partnership (STMP) has ceased to exist. The Partnership was initiated as a Community Interest Company under a Government initiative to further particular projects relating to local areas, which were not the immediate responsibility or were not of interest to local councils, but were important to a local town or area. The flaw in this concept is that the final decision usually lies with the local authority.

Despite the support of many local organisations and individuals, and despite popular and practical projects being put forward, it has been difficult to make any impact on the various authorities who ultimately make the decisions in local affairs. It is a great pity that the skills offered by those involved in STMP could not have been recognised and used in long-term projects which would have been useful to Shipston.



### Shipston on Stour WI

A good number of members turned out to hear Arthur Low tell how he became a world swimming champion at the age of 75! Arthur is a Shipston resident so was known to most of his audience, but very few were aware of Arthur's achievements.



Arthur has been swimming all his life, having demonstrated a precocious talent as a youngster. His swimming has taken him all over the world, but until recently, a gold medal always evaded him. So, after re-examining his training methods and many hours in the pool, 2010 saw Arthur achieve his lifelong ambition. Arthur told the meeting "If you are satisfied with coming 2nd and 3rd, you always will – you must aim for the top". It worked for Arthur!

Shipston WI will be helping with the production of Noyes Fludde in June as part of the Shipston Proms, the Walking, Reading, Knitting and the Wine Groups are all meeting during March and the Shipston branch is taking part in a countywide competition at Stoneleigh.

The next meeting is 3rd April at 7pm in the Catholic Church Hall, when Alan Winterbourn will talk about Cotswold Curiosities.

### Shipston Amateur Dramatic Society

Shipston's Am Dram Society is a thriving, friendly group of all ages, ranging from 10 to 92 and new members are always welcome. If you would like the opportunity to take part in presenting live theatre to the residents of Shipston-on-Stour and beyond, then come and join us.

We put on three performances a year, our popular pantomime in January and productions in May and October. Rehearsals are held at the Townsend Hall on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. We also have additional social events throughout the year.

You can have a go at 'treading the boards' or become involved with helping back-stage, set building, props, costumes, front of house, or join our 'techies team' and help out with sound and lighting. Whatever your forte is, you will be a welcome member of our group.

If, however, you do not have the time to perform or help with productions but would like to support the Dramatic Society, then be a valued contributor and become a Patron – as such, your name will be listed on all our programmes. For details, please visit [www.shipstondramagroup.org](http://www.shipstondramagroup.org)

### Probus

Robin Sankey is a retired judge who has, over the years, spoken to us several times about the law, but on 8th February, told us about an adventurous journey to Singapore in a landing craft just after the war. It was a familiar trip which many of us old soldiers have done by troopship, calling at Malta, Port Said, Suez Canal, Aden and Columbo. However, it took a great deal longer in a slower and less seaworthy boat with adventures all the way.



Ian Shapter is one of our favourite speakers and alas, is coming to the end of his series of six talks on the various battles in the 100 years between 1340 and 1453. No 5, which we heard on 22 February was about the battle at Verneuil. His first talk was about the Longbow and the development and skill of the archers which were key, not only to this battle, but all the others. No 6 is to be heard later in the year when the tide turns and at last, the French begin to win.

### Mad March Hares proves popular

Whether two years old or eighty-two years old, there was something to entertain all at Cantamus' 'Mad March Hares' afternoon tea party in Shipston last month.

Richard Emms, Cantamus' Director, brought a great sense of fun and energy to the programme (even sporting a rather fine pair of hare's ears befitting the occasion), and Anne Hume beguiled the audience with perfectly-timed humorous stories. The audience too took part in the programme, singing along lustily and tunelessly.

The music flowed – part-songs, folk songs, humorous ditties, melodic musings, and madrigals – as did the tea and plentiful, rather delicious, homemade cakes.

Cantamus loves to share music locally, and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to present a concert (local festivals or seasonal events for example), or a church mass. Currently, there are vacancies in the choir for tenors and a first bass, so if you are an experienced singer, who reads music well, and enjoys singing a wide repertoire, do get in touch with Richard Emms, Director, at 01608 662163 or visit [www.cantamus.org.uk](http://www.cantamus.org.uk)

### Neighbourhood Plan News by Stephen Miles

We await the formal response from the District Council on the outcome of the advertised intention to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. Also the programme for concluding the Core Strategy should become clear soon – this is important as it sets the top-down planning context.

The public event on 9 March was poorly attended, likely due in part to inadequate publicity. A lesson learned. However, the initial conversations with various town organisations shows a strong appetite for getting involved in the plan and further discussions and events are in the pipeline.

At the heart of the project is effective and meaningful community engagement. To this end a Communications Plan is being prepared. This will guide the engagement, ensure it is thorough and inclusive, and will evolve into a report to be submitted alongside the draft plan for an independent test. Please keep an eye out for updates in the Shipston Forum, on [www.shipstononline.org](http://www.shipstononline.org) and [www.shipstonnp.org](http://www.shipstonnp.org) or via Twitter – @ShipstonNP.

**For the latest on the Neighbourhood Plan, follow @ShipstonNP**

## Readers' Letters

### **Letter from Barry B Stewart [edited]**

#### **Re: Bob Reynolds' letter Forum March 2013**

Unlike the milk deliveries he is aware of, mine is delivered quietly by Mabel Farm of Ilmington.

If Bob Reynolds wants to shop at a Supermarket and save on petrol – he can have it delivered to his door! Progress to some appears to mean the destruction of Shipston's local shops.

A good example of progress is Cookies. It started out very small, slowly it is getting more stock and, hopefully, will soon require larger premises and more staff! Cookies was able to start in Shipston simply because local enterprise is not stifled by aggressive supermarket pricing competition to the detriment of local entrepreneurs.

A Supermarket in Shipston will not end the recession but it will stifle and destroy Shipston's unique shopping centre.

To anyone wanting a Supermarket, ask yourself this: what do you want your children to grow up with? A thriving local community or a desolate town square?

And if your child wants to start up a business, it certainly would not be in a rundown Shipston.

### **Letter from David Whitehead [edited]**

Firstly, supermarkets are predatory creatures - their aim is to be the sole supplier in their catchment area. They will sell products at a loss until they shut down any competition. Once that is achieved, up go the prices.

Secondly, there is the location. Are mothers with toddlers, and the elderly, without cars, going to enjoy walking up there on a cold wet day when the town centre is all but closed down?

Thirdly, even if every car in the town and surrounding area fills up an empty tank every week, which is unlikely, that is nothing near the amount of fuel to warrant the cost running a petrol station to a supermarket. The majority of traffic in this area is on the Fosse Way, all passing traffic. How will they know it's there?

Finally jobs. It's unlikely anywhere near 200 would ever be achieved, it's doubtful Tesco in Stratford employs anything like that and they're open 24hrs. This is mostly developers' and politicians' dreams.

### **Letter from James Law [edited]**

Shipston Town Council held a Planning Group meeting on Monday, 25th February. Prior notice of this meeting was put on the notice board outside New Clark House. So the Council can claim that they have complied with their obligations. I do look at the Shipston web site from time to time, but notice of the above meeting was not shown.

I understand that although members of the public can attend the meeting, they are not specifically invited. There was one item, the proposed development on Stratford Road adjacent to River Way in which I had a particular interest. However, like most of the residents of Shipston, I didn't read the notice so I didn't attend.

I believe the council members present voted in support of the application. Also, I understand that the councillors were under the impression that the proposed site was

"within the boundary of Shipston". This is totally untrue.

I have objected to Stratford District Council, but they no doubt will take little notice of my objections. It appears that local democracy only applies to those who have influence in the right places.

### **Got something to say?**

Send your letter of up to 200 words to [forum@shipstononline.org](mailto:forum@shipstononline.org)  
Letters may be edited to fit space the available.

### **Proud of My Town Special Feature: Peter Betteridge, Chairman, Sports & Social Club**

After almost a quarter of a century at the helm of Shipston Sports Club Ltd, Peter Betteridge has recently decided to step down as Chairman.

He will be leaving the club in a sound financial position, with a committed board of directors in place and boasting the strongest set of junior sections in its long history.



Pete has a strong sporting background himself, having played football for Brailes in his youth, and in later years both cricket and bowls for Shipston – he is still an active member of Shipston Bowls Club to this day. The promotion and development of local sport has always been very high on Pete's agenda; he was always heavily involved in "Sport For Youth" events and latterly, in conjunction with Shipston Medical Centre, the "Get Active" campaigns.

However, it is in sporting administration that Pete has best made his mark in the history of our town. Chairing a club with a group of ten autonomous sections is never an easy task, but Pete's drive and determination, along with a large helping of dedication and a touch of diplomacy, has enabled the Sports Club to survive when times were hard, and then to thrive and prosper when conditions have been more favourable. His tenure was not without the odd catastrophe – two major floods and a tornado which caused the clubhouse wall to part company with the building, for instance – but through it all, Pete's leadership was a cornerstone of the club's success.

Despite stepping down as Chairman, we are delighted that Pete will continue to be involved with his beloved club. We hope to see more of him at the bar (rather than behind it) now that he should have a bit more time on his hands.

Pete has been selfless in his dedication to the ongoing success of Shipston Sports Club for the best part of the last twenty five years. The Directors and members of the club would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his outstanding commitment to the role of Chairman, and to wish Pete & Gina a long and happy retirement.

*On behalf of the very grateful Directors & members of Shipston Sports Club Ltd.*

## District Council update

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking local people whether they think Stratford-on-Avon should be represented by 36 councillors in the future, seventeen fewer than the current arrangements.



The public consultation is the first part of the Commission's electoral review which will also consider changes to the number, names and boundaries of all the council's wards.

For more information and to have your say, log on to [consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk) or [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

The current phase of consultation closes on 8 April 2013. Once it has considered the evidence provided by local people and organisations, the Commission will publish its proposal on the total number of councillors in May 2013 and then begin to gather information from local people on new ward boundaries across Stratford-on-Avon.

To have your say, write to: The Review Officer (Stratford-on-Avon), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG or email [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk).

### Core Strategy

SDC hopes to have the Core Strategy ready for submission to a Planning Inspector in July 2013. The housing numbers for the district should be known by June.

## County Council update

### Bus Pass reminder

A reminder has been issued to bus pass holders to ensure that they have a valid pass on April 1.



**Warwickshire**  
County Council

New bus passes have been sent out automatically, but some pass holders may not have received them because they have moved house and it has been sent to an old address, or because the county council does not have a copy of a photograph of the applicant.

Anyone who does not have a valid pass on April 1 may not be allowed to travel, so it is important to ensure WCC has the correct information to renew each bus pass. Pass holders can get in touch by visiting the Warwickshire Direct One Stop Shop at Shipston Library or by calling 01926 418026.

### Bogus HMRC emails

WCC's Trading Standards team has been warning residents not to respond to bogus emails that falsely claim to come from HMRC relating to tax credit 'refunds'.

Warwickshire Trading Standards has received complaints from consumers who received these unexpected emails asking them to follow a link in the email to obtain their 'refund'. In reality the refunds do not exist and the emails are sent in order to steal personal or financial information.

*The above columns have not been personalised due to the forthcoming County Council elections in May.*

## Shipston Medical Centre

### Patient Survey results

Many thanks to all the patients who completed our patient survey at the end of last year. We had 318 responses, which represents comments from 2.7% of patients registered with us.

We were very pleased to hear that over 80% of patients surveyed were able to get an appointment with the GP of their choice within a week. Additionally the vast majority of those surveyed felt that the doctor they saw was very good at making them feel at ease; listening to them; assessing their condition; explaining the condition and treatment and involving them in decisions about their care. In fact 100% of respondents felt they were confident in the Doctor's ability to provide care.

Those completing the survey were asked for their comments about the things that they felt could be improved about the service we provide. There were some really great suggestions and in response we have already changed the message on our phone system. We also have plans to:

- look at whether it is possible to improve the clarity of the tannoy in the waiting room
- improve our systems for identifying patients with hearing

difficulties and visual impairment so we can be more sensitive to their needs



- improve our processes for advising patients when clinicians are running late
- continue to lobby the NHS for new, larger premises with better car parking facilities.

The presence of Bobby the cat in the waiting room was a significant theme in the feedback. Whilst we recognise that many patients enjoy his company, it is not appropriate for a cat to be in a healthcare environment, and we are concerned about the risk of patients falling over him. A significant proportion of our patients do not like cats or are allergic to them. We therefore would very much appreciate the help of all our patients in keeping Bobby out of the building.

A full report of the survey report and our patient and Community involvement report can be viewed on our website at <http://shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk/About-Us/Patient-Involvement>

**Medical Centre – t: 01608 661845**

**Website: [www.shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk](http://www.shipstonmc.warwickshire.nhs.uk)**

**Twitter - @ShipstonMC**



## Your Town Councillors


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*Proud Campaign chair*

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**Veronica Murphy, Deputy Mayor**
*Communications group chair*

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**Shipston-on-Stour Town Council**

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

**Georgina Beaumont, Town Clerk**

t: 01608 662180 e: clerk@shipstononline.org

**Something exciting to share?**

If you have a story that's relevant to Shipston residents, please contact the editor, Catherine Martin, on 01865 600262 or email: [forum@shipstononline.org](mailto:forum@shipstononline.org)

**Copy deadline: First Wednesday of every 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 to support the community and is distributed to all households. If you don't receive a copy, please contact the Town Clerk. The Forum can also be downloaded from [www.shipstononline.org](http://www.shipstononline.org)

Copies of the Talking Shipston Forum can be requested via New Clark House.

Large print copies are available to read at the Library, New Clark House and the Medical Centre.

While every effort is made to ensure information is accurate, the Town Council does 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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**Useful Contacts**

Community Links Transport	01789 264491
Shipston Library:	01608 661255
- 24/7 renewal line	01926 499273
Highways customer services	01926 412515
Shipston Volunteer Transport Scheme	01608 663122
Shipston Forum	01865 600262
Shipston Leisure Centre	01608 662354
Shipston Medical Centre	01608 661845
– Out of hours	03001 303040
Shipston Post Office	01608 661465
Shipston Town Council	01608 662180
Shipston Recycling Centre	01608 663560
Stratford District Council	01789 267575
Warwickshire County Council	01926 410410
<b>Local police (non emergency)</b>	<b>101</b>
PC Richard Grove (Beat Manager)	07977 456585
PCSO Hayley Ditchburn	07879 608696
PCSO Andy Steventon	07966 626908
<b>Churches of Shipston:</b>	
Stour Valley Baptist	01608 664876
Our Lady & St Michael	01608 685259
St Edmund's	01295 688193
Methodist Church	01608 661843

**SHIPSTON PROMS 2013**  
21 JUNE - 6 JULY  
MUSIC FOR ALL Shipston-on-Stour Warwickshire

# Country & Western Night

**Saturday 27th April**  
8pm Sheldon Bosley Hub

Tickets £7.50 from Clarke Electrical, High Street, Shipston-on-Stour  
or telephone Ron Edmunds (Scobie) on 07968 477778




**Knoxville Highway**

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS  
Orchestra Of The Swan with Benjamin Britten's Community Opera Noye's Fludde  
Fame Contest Schools' Concerts Mrs. Porter's Chamberpot Pourri Town Bands  
Young Musicians' Concert Songs From The Shows Dancing In The Street  
AND LOTS LOTS LOTS MORE


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

**Sunday 28th April 2013, 2.30pm**  
**Townsend Hall, Sheep Street**  
Shipston-on-Stour CV36 4AE  
Charity No. 522997



The internationally acclaimed  
Flowers Band in concert...

# FLOWERS BAND



Programme includes:  
Last Night of the Proms  
with soloist Ann Morris

£10.00 (£12 on the door)  
Concessions £8 and on the door £10  
01608 661394 or 0845 6801926  
pinnegards@tiscali.co.uk

Tickets are available from R. Clarke Electrical  
27, High Street, Shipston on Stour CV36 4AE  
[www.townsendhall.com](http://www.townsendhall.com)  
[www.oxboffice.com](http://www.oxboffice.com)

Tea, coffee and light refreshments.

# Stour Singers

The Cherwell Orchestra  
(leader Judy Springate)  
Rachel Bird, organ

## Vivaldi: Gloria

## Dvorak: Mass in D

with

**\*\*Lucy Roberts, soprano**  
Carris Jones, mezzo-soprano  
Julian Forbes, tenor  
Oliver Hunt, bass

**\*\*Lucy Roberts is a Philip & Dorothy Green Young Concert Artist 2012**

Conducted by Richard Emms

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 7.30pm**  
**St. Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour**

Tickets £12.50, accompanied children free,  
from choir members, R. Clarke, 27 High St. Shipston-on-Stour  
and at the door

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





## Notice of Annual Town Meeting

**Shipston Town Council invites all residents and businesses to attend the Annual Town Meeting on 18th April 2013**

Please join us for a review of 2012/2013 and to ask any questions of your town councillors.

If you are the Chair of a local group and would like to have your annual report included, please send it to the Town Clerk, via post or email by 11th April.

**Shipston High School, 7pm**

*All welcome*